

Agenda

Council Meeting

6.30pm, Tuesday 9 July 2024

Richmond Town Hall
Wurundjeri Country

www.yarracity.vic.gov.au

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.

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.

Question Time

Yarra City Council welcomes questions from members of the community.

Registration

To ask a question, you will need to register and provide your question by 6.30pm on the day before the meeting. Late registrations cannot be accepted, and you will be unable to address the meeting without registration.

Asking your question

During Question Time, the Mayor will invite everyone who has registered to ask their question. When your turn comes, come forward to the microphone and:

- state your name;
- direct your question to the Mayor;
- don't raise operational matters that have not been previously raised with the organisation;
- don’t ask questions about matter listed on tonight’s agenda
- don't engage in debate;
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

You will be provided a maximum of three minutes to ask your question, but do not need to use all of this time.

Comments not allowed

When you are addressing the meeting, don't ask a question or make comments which:

- relate to a matter that is being considered by Council at this meeting;
- relate to something outside the powers of the Council;
- are defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable;
- deal with a subject matter already answered;
- are aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- include or relate to confidential information; or
- relate to something that is subject to legal proceedings.

Addressing the Council

An opportunity exists to make your views known about a matter that is listed on the agenda for this meeting by addressing the Council directly before a decision is made.

Registration

To ask address Council, you will need to register by 6.30pm on the day before the meeting. Late registrations cannot be accepted, and you will be unable to address the meeting without registration.

Addressing the Council

Before each item is considered by the Council, the Mayor will invite everyone who has registered in relation to that item to address the Council. When your turn comes, come forward to the microphone and:

- state your name;
- direct your statement to the Mayor;
- confine your submission to the subject being considered;
- avoid repeating previous submitters;
- don't ask questions or seek comments from Councillors or others; and
- if speaking on behalf of a group, explain the nature of the group and how you are able to speak on their behalf.

You will be provided a maximum of three minutes to speak, but do not need to use all of this time.

Comments not allowed

When you are addressing the meeting, don't make any comments which:

- relate to something other than the matter being considered by the Council;
- are defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable;
- are aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or a member of Council staff;
- include or relate to confidential information; or
- relate to something that is subject to legal proceedings.

Arrangements to ensure our meetings are accessible to the public

Council meetings are held on the first floor at Richmond Town Hall. Access to the building is available either by the stairs, or via a ramp and lift. Seating is provided to watch the meeting, and the room is wheelchair accessible. Accessible toilet facilities are available. Speakers at the meeting are invited to stand at a lectern to address the Council, and all participants are amplified via an audio system. Meetings are conducted in English.

If you are unable to participate in this environment, we can make arrangements to accommodate you if sufficient notice is given. Some examples of adjustments are:

- a translator in your language
- the presence of an Auslan interpreter
- loan of a portable hearing loop
- reconfiguring the room to facilitate access
- modification of meeting rules to allow you to participate more easily

Recording and Publication of Meetings

A recording is made of all public Council Meetings and then published on Council’s website. By participating in proceedings (including during 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. **Confirmation of minutes**
6. **Question time**
7. **Council business reports**
8. **Notices of motion**
9. **Petitions and joint letters**
10. **Questions without notice**
11. **Delegates' reports**
12. **General business**
13. **Urgent business**
14. **Confidential business reports**

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 Edward Crossland — Mayor
- Cr Anab Mohamud — Deputy Mayor
- Cr Michael Glynatsis — Councillor
- Cr Stephen Jolly — Councillor
- Cr Herschel Landes — Councillor
- Cr Claudia Nguyen — Councillor
- Cr Bridgid O'Brien — Councillor
- Cr Amanda Stone — Councillor
- Cr Sophie Wade — Councillor

Council staff

Chief Executive Officer

- Sue Wilkinson — Chief Executive Officer

General Managers

- Rose Barletta — Governance, Communications and Customer Experience (Acting)
- Sam Hewett — Infrastructure and Environment
- Kerry McGrath — Community Strengthening
- Mary Osman — City Sustainability and Strategy
- Sandra Sanderson — Corporate Services and Transformation (Acting)

Governance

- Phil De Losa — Manager Governance and Integrity
- Patrick O'Gorman — Senior Governance Coordinator
- Mel Nikou — Governance Officer

3. Announcements

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

4. Declarations of conflict of interest

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. Confirmation of minutes

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18 June 2024 be confirmed.

6. Question time

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

7. Council business reports

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
7.1	Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030	9	12	Michael Oke - Sustainability Unit Manager
7.2	Keeping Yarra Flood Resilient	125	134	Kathryn Pound - Manager Statutory Planning
7.3	Play Space Strategy	171	181	Kate Yuncken - Manager City Strategy
7.4	Responses to the Victoria Government Housing Statement	316	330	Malcolm McCall – Manager Equity and Community Development
7.5	Animal Pound Services - Extension of Contract C1498	391	395	Aoife Mulligan - Manager Parking and Compliance
7.6	Gertrude and Brunswick Street Public Space Project	431	443	Susan Stanes - Senior Coordinator Design and Place Making
7.7	Mechanisms to Increase the Urban Forest on Private Land	537	547	Kate Yuncken - Manager City Strategy
7.8	Governance Report - July 2024	555	560	Phil De Losa - Manager Governance and Integrity

8. Notices of motion

Item		Page	Rec. Page	Report Presenter
8.1	Notice of Motion No.12 of 2024 - Swimmable Cities Charter	594	595	Sophie Wade - Councillor
8.2	Notice of Motion No.13 of 2024 - Housing Targets	596	596	Herschel Landes - Councillor
8.3	Notice of Motion No.14 of 2024 - Supporting Local Businesses	597	598	Edward Crossland - Councillor
8.4	Notice of Motion No.15 of 2024 - Release of Council Documents	599	599	Stephen Jolly - Councillor
8.5	Notice of Motion No.16 of 2024 - Local Liveable Street Evaluation	600	601	Amanda Stone - Councillor

9. Petitions and joint letters

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

10. Questions without notice

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

11. Delegate's reports

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

12. General business

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

13. Urgent business

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

14. Confidential business reports

Nil

7.1 Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030

Reference	D24/236472
Author	Samantha Green - Climate Emergency Coordinator
Authoriser	General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. To seek adoption of the Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027. This will ensure a continued response to the climate emergency given the expiration of the current Climate Emergency Plan in June 2024.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Council adopted its first Climate Emergency Plan in June 2020. This Plan outlined Council's climate emergency response for the period 2020-2024 including strategic objectives, priorities, targets and key actions.
3. A new draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 (CEP) and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 (Action Plan) has been developed to ensure a continued and ambitious climate emergency response. (See Attachment's 1 & 2 – *draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030* and *draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027*).
4. These draft Plan's build upon Council's recently expired Climate Emergency Plan and significantly increases the scope of Council's climate emergency response.
5. The new draft CEP is a 6-year strategic plan and the draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027, a 3-year action plan. A second 3-year action plan will be developed for the 2027-2030 period, ensuring that the actions undertaken are appropriate to the climate emergency context at that time.
6. The high-level direction of Council's work in relation to nature and circular economy are incorporated into the new draft Plan and Action Plan 2024-2027, but will continue to have separate, detailed organisational work plans. These documents thus supersede the expiring Nature Strategy.
7. Both the draft CEP and Action Plan were developed based on extensive consultation with our community and organisation (stage 1 consultation) which took place in October/November 2023.
8. In April 2024, Council resolved to undertake further community consultation to seek feedback on the draft CEP and Action Plan (stage 2 consultation). This consultation took place in April/May 2024. Refer to *Community and stakeholder engagement* section below for more detail on consultation undertaken.

Discussion

9. Community feedback on both documents was predominantly positive, including from a range of stakeholders across a range of sectors.
10. The draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 have now been updated based on feedback received, and Officers are seeking Councillor adoption of the documents.

11. Five key perspectives have been integrated into the draft CEP 2024-2030 in order to broaden our climate emergency response and act on current and emerging challenges across our community, natural environment and economy. These are:
    (a) Centering First Peoples experiences and knowledges;
    (b) Fostering social justice and equity;
    (c) The rights of young people and future generations;
    (d) The rights of nature; and
    (e) A commensurate climate emergency response.
12. The draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 recognises the scale of ambition required to appropriately respond to the climate emergency and outlines Council's comprehensive response across seven transformations aimed at bringing forth our vision of a climate-safe, sustainable and just society. These are:
    (a) In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency;
    (b) In Yarra, community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience;
    (c) Yarra is active, empowered and raising our voice together for a stronger climate emergency response;
    (d) Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero-emissions city;
    (e) Yarra is Caring for Country;
    (f) In Yarra, everyone lives and works in comfortable and climate-safe homes and buildings, supported by climate resilient public spaces and infrastructure; and
    (g) In Yarra, we are transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, reusing, repairing, sharing and recycling more and sending less waste to landfill.
13. Objectives, indicators and targets have been developed for each transformation so that Council can transparently monitor and report on our progress towards these.

Options

14. Council has two options:

Option 1

15. Council adopt the draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027, in order to ensure a continued and ambitious response to the climate emergency.

Option 2

16. Council does not adopt the draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027, noting that this means that Council will be without an existing Climate Emergency Plan and without an articulated response to the climate emergency.

Community and stakeholder engagement

17. The draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 were developed based on extensive consultation with the community and across the organisation. Stage 1 consultation took place in October/November 2023 and activities included:
    (a) Your Say Yarra (198 contributions: 93 survey responses and 105 ideas for action);
    (b) Community pop-up events (3 events);

(c) Targeted consultations with communities most at-risk of climate impacts including young people (20 events);

(d) Meetings with advisory groups (youth, business, active aging, disability, multicultural, environment);

(e) Consultations with key stakeholders via the Yarra Climate Summit, the Nature Focus Group and the Climate x Health community event; and

(f) Consultation with First Nations peoples and representatives from the Wurundjeri Council.

18. Council then undertook community consultation to seek feedback on the draft Plan and Action Plan (stage 2 consultation). This consultation took place in April/May 2024 and activities included:

(a) Your Say Yarra (63 contributions, 1400+ visits to the site);

(b) Community pop-up events (2 events);

(c) Targeted consultations with communities most at-risk of climate impacts (including community organisations representing these groups);

(d) Targeted workshops with young people including high school and university students;

(e) Meetings with advisory groups (active aging, disability, multicultural, business);

(f) Meetings with nature experts (those who attended the Nature Focus Group in stage 1);

(g) Consultations with key stakeholders and members of the Yarra Environment Advisory Committee) via the Yarra Climate Summit 2; and

(h) Consultations with Uncle Bill Nicholson from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

19. For more information on outcomes of stage 2 consultation, please refer to Attachment 3: *Climate Emergency Plan Engagement Report*.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

20. The development of the draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 connects strongly to:

(a) Yarra 2036 Community Vision, Theme 4: *Environmental Sustainability which includes as it's description: 'We are all custodians of the City of Yarra. While our skyline is growing, so are our green spaces. We are smarter in how we manage growth and use our resources and energy. We celebrate, enable and promote a circular economy'*; *and*

(b) Council Plan 2021-2025, Strategic Objective 1: *Climate and Environment which includes as it's description: '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'*.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

21. The development of a new Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 will direct Council's comprehensive response to the climate emergency over the next 6 years.

Community and social implications

22. The draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 recognises that while the climate emergency affects everyone in our community, it is having a disproportionate impact on some. This includes those in our community who do not have access to adequate housing or income, have accessibility needs or chronic health conditions, work in unsafe conditions or are marginalised due to culture, language or gender identity.

23. The draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 proposes a climate emergency response which centres justice and equity, ensuring that our entire community – particularly those at greatest risk of climate impacts – are resilient, connected and share in the benefits of our investments.

Economic development implications

24. Climate emergency action supports strong current and future economic development in Yarra.

Human rights and gender equality implications

25. The climate emergency is one of great inequity, with those least responsible for the crisis, facing the greatest impacts and having the least resources to respond to the crisis. This includes people who do not have access to adequate housing or income, have accessibility needs or chronic health conditions, work in unsafe conditions or are at risk due to culture, language or gender identity.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

26. Funding for the actions to be undertaken in year 1 (2024-2025 FY) are provided for the budget.

27. Actions proposed in Year 2 and 3 (2025-2026 and 2026-2027 FYs) will be subject to annual budget decisions by Council.

Legal Implications

28. Nil.

Conclusion

29. The draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 have been developed and refined based on extensive consultation with our community and organisation, including consultation with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation.

30. The draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 have been developed to ensure a continued and ambitious climate emergency response. The draft Plan builds upon Council's recently expired Plan, and significantly increases the scope of Council's climate emergency response.

31. The draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 recognises the scale of ambition required to appropriately respond to the climate emergency and outlines Council's comprehensive response across seven transformations aimed at bringing forth our vision of a climate-safe, sustainable and just society.

32. Officers seek Councillor adoption of the draft Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 and draft Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 so that we can ensure a continued response to the climate emergency given the expiration of the current Climate Emergency Plan in June 2024.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) adopts the Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030;

   (b) adopts the Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027; and

   (c) thanks the community for their involvement in the consultation process.

Attachments

1⇩ Attachment 1 - Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030

2⇩ Attachment 2 - Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027

3⇩ Attachment 3 - Climate Emergency Plan Engagement Report

Yarra Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030

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Acknowledgement of Country

Wominjeka.

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 and present.

Introduction

We are in a climate emergency.

The dire predictions of climate scientists are being realised at an alarming rate, with each year bringing a distressing range of broken records and natural disasters. 2023 was our hottest recorded year by a huge margin, with the preceding nine years being the warmest on record.[1] Bushfire seasons are lengthening and intensifying, threatening the lives and livelihoods of more and more people and wildlife. Many scientists argue that we are in the midst of a sixth mass extinction event, with extinctions occurring at 100–1000 times the naturally occurring rate.[2] Globally, prolonged drought, extreme weather and food insecurity are driving political instability and mass migration.

And yet, this moment of crisis is a moment for hope. For from crisis, comes transformation.

The climate and ecological crisis are an opportunity to rethink everything. To transform our relationship with one another and with the natural world, of which we are part and upon which we depend. Due to the effects of colonisation, the dispossession of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this continent, and of First Nations peoples around the world, a worldview of interdependence of all life was replaced by a worldview that separates humans from nature. This is an opportunity to critically examine the logic that drives the crisis: that the natural world is ours to extract from, that endless growth on a finite planet is possible, that financial systems can replace communities of care. We cannot address these crises with the same thinking that caused them.

In rethinking our worldview, we must also rethink the way we organise our society. We recognise the need to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and at the same time, we know that net zero is not enough. A transformation to a zero emissions society requires us to revise our human-centric worldview and remedy the fundamental inequalities of our economic system. Responding to this crisis presents an opportunity to build the kind of communities where everyone thrives, including our natural world, with safe housing for all, fair distribution of resources, and shared decision-making.

In 2020, Yarra City Council (Council) adopted its first Climate Emergency Plan (2020-2024), which outlined our ambitious response to the climate crisis.[3] To ensure this subsequent Climate Emergency Plan (2024-2030) builds on this first plan and responds to the

challenges across our community, natural environment, and economy - all of which are exacerbated by the climate emergency - Council has focused on five key perspectives. These five perspectives have informed our engagement approach and strategic thinking.

The perspectives

Centering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and knowledges

For over 60,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nations have cared for Country across this continent. In this moment of crisis, we must adopt Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge and practices to guide the way towards a regenerative relationship with our environment. The effects of colonisation, including the climate emergency, directly and disproportionately threatens the ongoing practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' way of life, including the capacity to care for country. We must act and partner with the Traditional Owners of the land that Yarra occupies, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung nation, to further build resilience to climate impacts and share in the benefits of a transition to a greener economy.

Fostering social justice and equity

People are not inherently vulnerable; it is the failures of our social and economic systems that make them so. We recognise that while the climate emergency affects everyone in our community, it is having a disproportionate impact on some. This includes those in our community who are unable to access adequate housing or income, have accessibility needs or chronic health conditions, work in unsafe conditions or who experience marginalisation due to culture, language or gender identity. Additionally, the climate emergency is one of great inequity, with those least responsible – those on lower incomes, from low and middle-income countries, and children and generations to come – facing the greatest climate and health impacts. We will commit to and advocate for a climate emergency response which centres justice and equity, ensuring that our entire community – particularly those at greatest risk – are resilient, connected, empowered, and share in the benefits of our investments.

The rights of young people and future generations

The climate emergency is an issue of intergenerational injustice. Children and young people have done the least to contribute to the climate emergency yet will inherit the worst impacts and experience disproportionate risk, both physically and psychologically. We recognise the current and future rights of every child and young person to a healthy environment and safe

climate. We will work to ensure our children and young people are represented and can meaningfully participate in decision making. Additionally, we will work towards and advocate for climate mitigation and adaptation strategies which limit the exposure of children and young people to climate impacts.

The rights of nature

As the impacts of the climate emergency accelerate, natural ecosystems are being driven towards collapse. The inherent resilience of these ecosystems is being tested by bushfires, extreme heat, and changes to precipitation patterns, among other impacts. We recognise that humans depend on functioning ecosystems for our survival, while also acknowledging the intrinsic value and rights of nature. In its climate emergency response, Council will advance the rights of nature through minimising harmful environmental impacts while acting to improve the stability and resilience of local ecosystems.

A commensurate climate emergency response

The science is clear and unequivocal; without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global heating to 1.5°C will be beyond reach. Global heating has increased at an unprecedented rate over the past decade with Australia warming faster than the global average, resulting in more extreme weather events including flooding, bushfires, droughts and storms.[4] The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change noted that "there is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all."[5] A commensurate response to the scale of this challenge requires rapid decarbonisation alongside efforts to adapt to and build resilience in the face of worsening climate impacts. In the development and implementation of this Plan, we aim to deliver a climate emergency response which is commensurate with the scale, urgency, and severity of the crisis.

Our Climate Emergency Plan

This Climate Emergency Plan (the Plan) is our assurance that we've heard the calls for climate action, and for a more equitable and just society.

We recognise the multiple, intersecting crises that threaten the stability of human and non-human life on this planet. Six of the nine 'planetary boundaries' have been exceeded, including biosphere integrity (related to biodiversity loss), land system changes, and

freshwater change.[6] Simultaneously many in Yarra and beyond are denied adequate access to food, healthcare, housing, and energy, as well as social and gender equity, threatening the social foundation of our local and global community. While no one plan can remedy all these challenges, we strive to respond to the climate emergency with an intersectional understanding of the broader context. Where possible, we will work towards mitigating our contribution to the nine planetary boundaries, while consciously contributing to a just and equitable society.

Recognising the scale of ambition required to match this moment of crisis, this plan outlines seven transformations across society which will bring forth our collective vision of a climate-safe, sustainable and just society.

Our seven transformations

1. In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency.
2. In Yarra, community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience.
3. Yarra is active, empowered and raising our voice together for a stronger climate emergency response.
4. Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero emissions city.
5. Yarra is Caring for Country. Our landscapes and waterways are healthier, greener, and more biodiverse, and our communities feel at one with nature.
6. In Yarra, everyone lives and works in comfortable and climate-safe homes and buildings, supported by climate resilient public spaces and infrastructure.
7. Yarra is transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, reusing, repairing, sharing, and recycling more and sending less waste to landfill.

At this time of collective anxiety, frustration, and suffering in the face of the climate crisis, this plan signals our role in these key transformations from now until 2030. Within this timeframe, we will deliver two three-year action plans, which will map the actions we plan to take to achieve the seven transformations outlined above. These transformations are not inevitable or easy to achieve but will be the result of united action towards a shared vision.

To move forward we need to look backwards. Around the country, Traditional Owner knowledge and practices are being adopted to inform and improve land management and

promote sustainability. The revitalisation of the *Budgj Bim* cultural landscape of the Gunditjmara people restored traditional fishing practices, demonstrating how Traditional Owners worked with the natural resources and environment in that region over the past 30,000 years and beyond.[7] This example shows how the narrative can be rewritten to rejuvenate an entire ecosystem and change the relationship between the wider community and the environment.

The land that Yarra occupies is a small proportion of the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people. Yarra sits at the lower end of the Yarra River (Birrarung in Woi Wurrung language) in a highly urbanised landscape that bears witness to the ongoing effects of colonisation. While these effects are all around us, if we are in tune with the land, we can find different possibilities. We need to change the narrative, and the way we look at our environment, adjusting our view to align with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung knowledge and practices, passed on through stories. The most astounding transformations happen right before our eyes, like the Bullum Bullum (white butterfly in Woi Wurrung) emerging from its cocoon. We see on the horizon the fruits of this endeavour - the more beautiful world we know is possible.

Yalinguth (Looking to the past)

This is Wurundjeri Country

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung nation has a history that extends over 60,000 years, to the beginning of time when the creator spirit, Bunjil the eagle, formed the Wurundjeri people, the land, and all living things.

Long ago Bunjil, the Wedge-Tail Eagle, was the headman of the Kulin. Bunjil had two wives and a son whose name was Binbeal, the Rainbow, whose wife was the second bow. Bunjil has also six other "Young Men", who were together in pairs, looking after the people for him, and carrying out his orders.

The six young men were: Djurt–Djurt, the Nankeen Kestrel and Thara, the Quail Hawk; Yukope, the Green Parakeet, and Dantum, the Blue Mountain Parrot; Tadjeri, the Brush-tail Possum, and Turnung, the Glider Possum, both of whom lived in the trees.

After Bunjil had made the mountains and rivers, and man and all the animals, he taught the men how to make weapons, how to fight with them, and how to behave with one another. When he had finished he became tired of staying upon the earth. So he gathered about him his wives and sons, and told Bellin-bellin, the Musk Crow, who had charge of the winds: "Open your bags and let out some wind." So Bellin-bellin opened one of the bags in which he kept the whirlwinds and let out a blast that blew great trees into the air, roots and all. Bunjil said, "That is not enough, let out more wind." Bellin-bellin opened all his bags at once, and a terrific whirlwind came out, and blew Bunjil and all his people to the sky where they live in plenty and look down on the world as stars.[8]

River Red Gums were dotted across the land, with an understory of grasses, herbaceous plants, and some small shrubs. Along the waterways, the River Red Gums were joined by Swamp Gums, and a rich variety of shrubs, sedges, rushes, herbs, and grasses that changed with the seasons. The Birrarung (Yarra River) supported wildlife like quolls, plains wanderers, bandicoots, bettongs, and perhaps even diprotodon, a large wombat-like marsupial the size of a hippopotamus.

The Birrarung was central to the livelihood and identity of the Wurundjeri people. The Wurundjeri respected and cared for the land which provided food, water, resources, medicine, and shelter, and knew the land intimately. They understood the ecosystems and lived their lives according to the six seasons. In cooler months they regularly camped in the higher areas, as the land near the river flooded. In warmer seasons, crops such as mirr-n'yong (yam) were ready for harvesting, birds' eggs were plentiful, and it was time to eat wildfowl, eel, fish, and game. In these ways, people and country were interconnected - providing, nurturing, and caring for each other for tens of thousands of years.

Despite resistance from Wurundjeri people, colonisation disrupted this way of life and caused devastating changes to the lands and waters. Wurundjeri people were forced from their lands, with their population suffering a dramatic decline due to frontier violence and diseases introduced by the colonists. Sacred sites were desecrated, and Aboriginal people were forcibly isolated from family, community, language, and culture, under government policies over successive generations.

Colonisation brought with it a new worldview, one which saw humanity as separate from nature, and nature as something to control. The colonisers brought industrial technologies and practices that extracted resources from the land without replenishing them. Ecosystems were altered to better align with the priorities of people and financial wealth, rather than nature. The course of the Birrarung was altered, and industrial waste began to pollute the lands and waterways. These shifts were the start of global heating and the climate and ecological emergencies.

Yarra City Council: Altering the course

Over time, Yarra City Council has taken big steps towards repairing the harm done to our environment since colonisation. Though we still have much to do, we have improved the health of the Birrarung, reduced waste sent to landfill and worked towards restoring and protecting our local biodiversity. Council is committed to its formal relationship with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung. This Climate Emergency Plan is an opportunity to strengthen this relationship by embedding Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung knowledge and practices in the ways that we care for Country, and by collaborating on and co-designing projects.

We have made significant progress in our commitments to responding to the climate emergency. Since 2001, we have achieved a 70% reduction on the emissions included in our organisational baseline inventory, despite an increasing population and demand for services. Additionally, in 2012 we became the first Victorian council to be certified carbon neutral, meaning all remaining emissions since that year have been offset to bring our net emissions to zero. The recent increase in emissions (see Figure 1) represents a recovery from COVID-19 to business-as-usual, the inclusion of additional emissions sources in line with best practice carbon accounting methods, and higher emissions calculation factors for some sources.

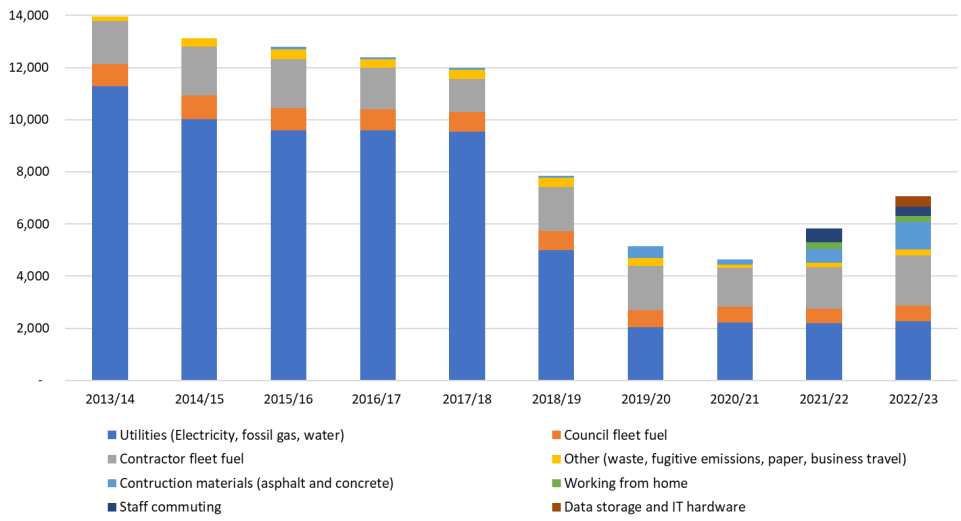


Figure 1 Yarra Council's organisational emissions trend from 2013/14 to 2022/23 [9]

Over the past decades, as our community's calls for climate action grew stronger, so too did our response. We have built partnerships locally with community organisations, businesses and industry, across other councils, and with other levels of government to maximise our impact. Additionally, we have been stepping up to support our community in taking climate action and assisting community members at greater risk from climate impacts to adapt.

Year	Yarra City Council	Yarra Community	Other
2002	Council was a founding member of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action, a partnership between nine neighbouring councils. Council joins Cities for Climate Protection – a five milestone program.	Despite the impacts of colonisation, today Wurundjeri and other First Nations people are active in the Yarra community – practising culture, performing ceremonies and passing on knowledge to younger generations.	
2005	Council delivered multiple Sustainable Transport behaviour change programs, such as ride to school day.		
2006			Al Gore launched An Inconvenient Truth and the Climate Reality Project – bringing discussion about greenhouse gas emissions and global heating into the mainstream.
2007	Implemented Travel Smart Program in partnership with business, schools, and staff.		Australia became a Party to the Kyoto Protocol, setting our first emissions reduction target.
2009	Council developed the first Waste Management Strategy.		
2010	Council established the Yarra Energy Foundation as a not-for-		

Year	Yarra City Council	Yarra Community	Other
	profit providing energy services and advice to homes and businesses. First solar system installed on Council buildings.		
2011	Council published Yarra's first Climate Change Adaptation Plan.		
2012	Council was certified as Victoria's first carbon neutral council.		
2013	Council implements first-Victorian bulk change of all residential streetlights to energy efficient alternatives.		
2014	Council initiated Victoria's first comprehensive Energy Performance Contract – reducing organisational emissions by over 2,000 tCO_2e per annum. Council becomes Australia's first certified One Planet Living council Council developed the first Waste Minimisation Strategy		
2015	Council led the development and delivery of Australia's first ever food waste avoidance program, Food Know How, in partnership with four other Councils.		
2016			Australia signs onto the Paris Agreement,

Year	Yarra City Council	Yarra Community	Other
			reconfirming emissions reduction targets.
2017	Council adopts its first Urban Forest Strategy which aims to enhance Yarra's healthy and growing urban forest, improve liveability and mitigate the impacts of the urban heat island effect.		
2018	Council declares a climate emergency. Council developed the second Waste Minimisation Strategy.		
2019	Council begins trialing a four-stream waste and recycling service, including separate glass and Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO) service, across 1,300 households in Abbotsford with great results. Over the first 12 months of the trial, 1,269 tons of glass and 102 tons of FOGO was recovered or diverted from landfill. Council acquired Australia's first electric powered tipper truck.	Yarra's first School Strike for Climate was held.	The Victorian government identified "tackling climate change and its impacts on health" as a priority area in the state public health and wellbeing plan.
2019	All Council's electricity needs met by 100% renewable power via the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project.		The Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 sets a net zero emissions by 2050 target, alongside a range of interim targets.

Year	Yarra City Council	Yarra Community	Other
2020	Council adopted its first Climate Emergency Plan in November 2022 Council adopted its first Yarra Nature Strategy. One of the four goals is to "increase the diversity, connectivity and resilience of Yarra's natural environment to resist the impacts of climate change on biodiversity values". Council rollout of a separate glass waste stream across the municipality. Since then, 7,598.51t glass has been made into new jars and bottles.		The new Local Government Act was passed, requiring Councils to prioritise consideration and mitigation climate risk, emissions reduction and the resilience of their communities and natural environments. The Act also requires Council's to consider climate change in the development of their Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plans. Victoria beat its first target - to reduce emissions 15-20% below 2005 levels by 2020 – with a cut of almost 30%.
2021	The number one strategic objective in the 2021-25 Council and Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan was the climate and environment.		
2022	Launched the Solar for Apartments Guide and Unlocking Sustainable Strata Guides to help apartment communities participate in a zero emissions, climate adapted future.		Victorian Government delivered a set of Adaptation Action Plans, seeking to drive vital adaptation action across seven essential systems.

Year	Yarra City Council	Yarra Community	Other
2023	Launched Yarra's Circular Economy Map, making it easy for people to shop for package-free groceries, repair or borrow items. Reached 537kw (~1,800 panels) solar power capacity on council-owned & operated facilities.	Reached 238kW (~800 panels) solar power capacity on council-owned, community-operated facilities.	Victorian Government strengthened its emissions target, now aiming for net zero emissions by 2045. Victorian Government announced a gas connection ban for new developments.

Yaalingbu (Today)

As shared by Woi Wurrung leader Beruk Barak, the creation story of the Birrarung river, meaning 'river of mists', goes as follows:

Two boys were playing when one of them climbed a wattle tree to find wattle-gum. He began throwing lumps of gum down to the other boy, but they disappeared. The boy noticed a hole in the ground and poked his spear into it in search of his gum. An old man sleeping beneath the ground woke up very angry and carried off the frightened boy.

The path he made became the river. When Bunjil heard the boy's cries, he threw sharp stones in the path of the old man, causing him to fall and cut himself badly. The boy escaped and ran home. Bunjil appeared before the old man and said: 'Let this be a lesson to all old men. They must be good to little children.[8]

The First People of Melbourne, the Wurundjeri have been caring for this Country since time immemorial. Their songlines have been sustained through profound and devastating changes to the Birrarung; these songlines now persist alongside significant collaborative efforts to restore and heal the Birrarung.

A collaboration involving the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation's Narrap ranger team is making strides in restoring waterways along the Birrarung river, including the Bolin Bolin Billabong. The billabong was bone dry as recently as 2017, however it now flows with water and supports a flurry of biodiverse life thanks to the rehabilitation efforts.[10]

The Wurundjeri invite all Victorians to think of the Birrarung as a complex, living system rather than a resource to be exploited. Today, we have the opportunity to renew our perspective on the Birrarung and take remedial action - as is underway in the Bolin Bolin Billabong - to reverse the damage of the past and bring the river back to environmental, cultural, ceremonial and spiritual health.[11]

Our community

Despite the devastating impacts of colonisation, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have survived, with strong connection to Country persisting. It is a testament to their resilience that Wurundjeri Elders and community members continue to share their ancestral knowledge and engage with us on their traditional lands.

The City of Yarra is home to a diverse community of approximately 103,000 people. Among these are the successive waves of refugees and migrants who have been welcomed into the community, beginning in the post-war era with our Greek and Italian communities. From the 1970s, our Vietnamese, Chinese and East Timorese communities grew, and in the last 15 years, our east African community. There is great cultural and linguistic diversity in Yarra, with 20% of people using a language other than English at home.[12]

Yarra is home to many sites of natural and cultural significance. There are 38 conservation bushland sites that are actively managed by Council, making up over 40 hectares of open space. Yarra is bordered to the east by the Birrarung and Merri Creek corridors. Across Yarra there are at least 603 different plant species, including seven threatened species. Over 275 of these species are indigenous to the area. More than 278 animal species, including 21 threatened species, rely on local habitats for food and shelter.[13]

Yarra is home to one of the largest economies in metropolitan Naarm Melbourne, with more than 16,600 businesses operating.[14] The highest employing sectors are healthcare and social assistance, professional, scientific and technical services, and retail trade. The past century has seen a shift away from heavy industry, with significant growth in small businesses and large commercial enterprises. Our community is supported by a great diversity of community service organisations, which operate to ensure the connectedness, safety, and wellbeing of our community members. Among these are Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses, community health services, Aboriginal community-led organisations, and a range of other service providers. These organisations play a pivotal role in building community health and resilience amid worsening climatic conditions.

Our community has a long history of climate and social change activism. We are also proud to host many climate and environmental groups, artists and arts organisations, volunteer

organisations and community groups all actively taking climate action and advocating for change.

Climate impacts today

While future projections of global climate change are alarming, we are already witnessing the breakdown of essential climatic functions, the collapse of ecosystems, and widespread human displacement and migration due to sudden and ongoing environmental stress. These impacts are being acutely felt in low and middle-income countries, who have contributed least to the issue.

Locally, accelerating climate impacts are placing immense pressure on the environment, threatening the health and wellbeing of our community, and interrupting the provision of essential goods and services. These climate impacts and emerging public health risks are anticipated to worsen without significant investment in climate mitigation and adaptation.

It's hot: The number of unusually hot days has increased, as have overall temperatures. Between 1981 and 2010, Yarra experienced an average of eight days each year with temperatures above 35°C. By the 2050's, this is expected to rise to between 13 and 21 days each year.[15]

- 2023 was the planet's hottest year on record by a large margin, with 2024 forecast to be hotter.[16]
- In 2022, excess deaths associated with extreme heat in Europe exceeded 15,000 across Spain, Germany, the UK, France, and Portugal.[17]
- In East Africa, rainfall has been below average in five consecutive wet seasons, contributing to acute food insecurity for an estimated 37 million people across the region.[15]
- Summer heatwaves in Melbourne now start on average 17 days earlier and are more frequent, long-lasting and intense.[18]
- In 2014, Victoria experienced its first ever four-day period above 41ºC. This led to an estimated 167 excess deaths associated with heat, corresponding to a 24% increase in the number of deaths during the week of the heatwave.[19]

It's dryer: The average annual rainfall in Yarra has declined by 100-200mm since 1950.[20]

- The millennium drought persisted from 1996 to 2010 across much of southern Australia, with Narrm Melbourne experiencing major water scarcity and strict restrictions on water use.[21]

Fires are more frequent and intense: In Victoria, the number of very high fire-risk days are increasing, and fires are becoming more intense. It is estimated that the number of days where there is a high fire risk in Narrm Melbourne will increase by 42% by the 2050's.[14]

- In 2019-2020, Australia experienced its catastrophic Black Summer of bushfires, with more than 24 million hectares burned, over 450 deaths as a result of the fires and smoke, and an estimated 3 billion animals killed or displaced.[22]
- In January 2020, Narrm Melbourne's air quality was the worst in the world due to smoke from bushfires.[23]

Weather is extreme and patterns are changing: Heavy rainfall events are becoming more frequent in Yarra, despite annual overall rainfall dropping**.**[14] Additionally, the climate emergency threatens to increase the frequency of thunderstorm asthma, which carries substantial health risks.[24]

- In 2016, Narrm Melbourne experienced the largest recorded epidemic thunderstorm asthma event, with an additional 3,365 respiratory-related emergency department presentations which led to ten deaths.[25]
- Record-breaking rain in Pakistan in 2022 led to at least 1,700 deaths, with 8 million people displaced.[14]

Mental well-being is impacted: mental health and well-being can be negatively impacted by climate-related anxiety and grief, as well as acute impacts to mental health of those experiencing extreme weather.

- Two thirds of young Australians report that climate concerns are having a negative impact on their mental health.[26]

Infectious diseases are exacerbated: a hotter and more unstable climate poses risks of increased proliferation of pathogenic diseases. There are many ways this occurs, including through an expansion of suitable climates for pathogen vectors such as insects and birds, and climate impacts such as heat increasing the reproduction rates of pathogen vectors like mosquitos.

- Research suggests there are over 1,000 ways in which the climate emergency increase risks from pathogenic diseases, with 58% of infectious diseases being aggravated by climate hazards.[27]

Who in our community is at greater risk from climate impacts?

Across Yarra, there is a spectrum of socio-economic advantage and disadvantage. While many Yarra residents experience relatively high socio-economic advantage, there is a

substantial portion of our community who experience significant disadvantage and face elevated risk from climate impacts. In our extensive consultations, we heard loud and clear that a major focus of Council should be on supporting those in the community facing the greatest risks. While we all face the same climate impacts, they affect at-risk communities more intensely and sooner than those whose incomes, abilities, residences, or other factors provide greater protection.

Communities at greater risk include:

- Community members who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness
    - People who are experiencing homelessness are acutely exposed to extreme weather. This, in combination with other factors such as social isolation, prejudice, or inadequate access to goods and services, can threaten health and wellbeing. Recent research led by The Guardian calculates the average age of death for a person who is experiencing homelessness as 44 years.[28] A notable factor in this disparity is the health impacts arising from exposure to extreme weather.
    - Yarra has the fourth highest rate of homelessness of any Victorian municipality, more than double the state average.[29]
    - “We get a number of clients who are homeless… they're particularly vulnerable to extreme weather and it can have long-term physical health ramifications for them.” Food relief organisation in Yarra
- Social housing residents
    - Community members in social housing can be at greater risk from climate impacts, particularly extreme heat or cold, due to the lack of investment in climate resilient and thermally comfortable infrastructure. Even where measures such as air conditioning are present, tenants’ incomes may limit their ability to use them. Substantial investment in increasing the climate readiness and thermal comfort of these buildings is urgently needed. These community members deserve to have the option to remain safely in their homes during extreme events, which requires investments to ensure thermal comfort and climate resilience.
    - 8% of Yarra’s population are in social housing, compared to just 2% for Greater Naarm Melbourne.[30]
    - “The impact that heatwaves were having on our young people who live in the [public housing] towers: their ability to be able to learn, their ability to be able to manage their emotions was really impacted because kids are just not able to sleep. The kids swelter and as a result they just don't sleep." - School principal in Yarra

- People who are newly arrived as refugees and seeking asylum, and culturally and linguistically diverse community members
    - Many community members in this group face barriers to preparing for and coping with climate impacts. Noting that this is a diverse group, with risk factors that do not apply uniformly, there are a range of factors which may compound exposure to climate impacts. These can include constrained financial resources, limited social connection, linguistic barriers, and an unfamiliarity with local processes, services, and climate.
    - 29% of Yarra residents were born overseas, with 4.1% reporting difficulty speaking English.[12]
    - “In my country we just have two seasons – winter and summer. Since I was young to maybe 10 years ago, but now I’m hearing about the changes and it’s very dry and not raining and too many animals dying. The animals don’t have food to eat. The government doesn’t look after the farmers and… we lose the trees and plants.” – Adult student in an English language class
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities
    - In 2021, there were 512 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members living in Yarra.[31]
    - Due to the ongoing effects of colonisation, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are disproportionately affected by climate impacts, with threats to traditional practices, cultural knowledge, and the destruction of traditional lands. Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have strong cultural connection to Country, and damage to natural environments can have a significant impact on mental, cultural and spiritual wellbeing.
    - Impacts of racial discrimination contribute to the structural and systemic inequalities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- People with disabilities, and those living with chronic health conditions
    - People with disabilities can be at greater risk of climate impacts, often sustaining higher rates of mortality during extreme weather events. This can be the result of several factors, including inaccessible emergency-related information, inadequate housing, or disrupted access to food, water, medication, and healthcare services. Additionally, extreme heat and rapid temperature changes can be a major risk for people with temperature-related health sensitivities.
    - In Yarra, 31% of the population has a long-term health condition, with 4% of the population needing assistance with daily activities due to disability.[32]

- "I live with an autoimmune disease (HIV) – whenever we get towards summer, my immune system starts to drop. I'm getting older too. It wears you down physically and mentally." – Yarra community member

- Older adults, children, and young people
  - Older adults are particularly sensitive to temperature extremes and are more likely to have additional risk factors such as living alone, experiencing underlying health conditions, and having lower socioeconomic status. The climate emergency also threatens the physical, psychological, and emotional wellbeing of children and young people, particularly regarding long-term exposure to extreme weather during the development of their brains and bodies. Heatwaves are correlated with a heightened demand for ambulance services, with considerable increases for people under five, over 65, and those from areas with higher disadvantage.[33]
  - People aged 65 years or more make up ~12% of Yarra's population, with ~3% being 80 years or older. Children under five make up 4% of our community, while those under 25 make up ~20%.[31]
  - "Many older people live in old houses that are draughty – we're equally as vulnerable in many ways [as other at-risk cohorts]. I remember at the height of the heatwave not that long ago being unable to find funding for a pensioner who lived in her own home who had cancer and needed an air conditioner." Older adult in Yarra
  - "I live in the old high rise [public housing]...When there are 2-3 consecutive hot days, children are really suffering. We go to the shopping centre to cool off. But we can't go to the shops or library at night. ... The children can't sleep, and then can't focus at school." Yarra community member
- At-risk workers
  - Climate impacts are disproportionately experienced by workers in certain at-risk sectors. Notably, those who work outside, in environments with poor temperature control, or are exposed to situational extreme weather or environmental risks such as thunderstorm asthma. These can include construction workers, gardeners, manufacturing workers, paramedics, and delivery riders.
  - Of this cohort, delivery riders face heightened risk due to factors including the physical nature of the work, cycling in extreme weather, income being linked to productivity, a lack of places of refuge, and fewer financial resources to support adaptation. Additionally, delivery riders often lack protections which other workers receive, and are incentivised to work through extreme weather (due to surge pricing from increases in demand and decreases in worker supply).
  - In Victoria, there were 917 injuries among delivery riders over the past seven years.[34] Further, 73% reported being worried about being "seriously hurt or killed" at work.[35]

- “Delivery riders recognise bouts of bad weather as meaning a lower supply of riders, and therefore a good time to go out and work. It's only when wind or rain becomes really severe that people will temporarily wait for adverse weather to die down.” Delivery rider

Potential graphic element	Annotation/quote
Social housing tower or a child	“We know that the day after a hot night is going to be a tough day." - School principal in Yarra
Person of colour	“There's no fish! Used to find lots of mussels and now there’s none.” - Yarra community member
Older person	“There’s power cost, people won't want to pay for power, so we need to think about how we financially support people even when they do have cooling systems. I've been to many places where people leave the oven door open as their heating.” – Yarra community member
Veggie garden and/or gardener	“I used to have heaps of melons but now only a few, and very late (in the season). I used to share with friends, go to temple, but now I have nothing to donate." – Yarra community member "You don’t know when you can grow your own veggies – all the gardeners are having the same problem - not only me" – Yarra community member
Person standing outside a community centre	"Most clients either walk or take some form of public transport. So if the weather is isn't agreeable, we definitely see an impact or reduction in numbers of people that come." – Yarra Food relief service professional
Person sitting on the sidewalk or sleeping on a park bench	"People experiencing homelessness wouldn't know when it was going to be hot and it would be the last thing on their mind. By the time it's a thought it is too late... Need refrigeration for medication" – Social services professional
Groups of young people	“It’s more of an emotional impact…it’s distressing. At some point the effects of climate change are going to be irreversible.” (14 y.o)

Potential graphic element	Annotation/quote
Public housing tower	“Harvest Festival at Collingwood public housing estate cancelled today because of hot weather. Food was wasted from the cancelled event and an important day for the community was missed.” – Yarra community member
Community centre	“The first thing that occurred to me in terms of climate and how it is impacting our operations… flooding in Queensland and Victoria impacts our clients because everything got expensive, clients weren't able to afford to buy them, and we didn't have as much of a supply” – Food relief service professional
Food delivery rider on their bike riding in the street	“Delivery riders, especially of gig workers, are the most exposed workers in our society. Who else is outside as often? All it takes is going outside in a day of extreme weather to see countless riders waiting out rainstorms underneath the front of restaurants, or similarly, waiting in shade when it's too hot.” – Delivery rider
Older person	“I will not go outside when it’s too hot but when its ok weather I go out visiting. It affects social life.” – Yarra community member
Person on a balcony of an apartment	“We live in an apartment, so we need a dryer to dry our clothes in winter, and we need heating and air con a lot. Our electricity bill – everything keeps going up!” – Yarra community member
Single home	“I don’t use AC because it’s expensive. Big bill when I did use it” – Yarra community member
Flying fox hanging asleep in a tree	In 2019, more than 2,000 native flying foxes in Naarm Melbourne died during a heatwave. [36]
Tree or shrub	Extreme heat is killing our trees, shrubs, and grasses. 90-100% of the trees and shrubs planted in Australian capital cities could be at risk by 2050.[37]
Tram or railway track or road	Transport is interrupted when roads and railways melt and buckle in extreme heat.
Commercial shop front or shopkeeper	Victoria’s economy is predicted to lose $179 million by 2030 from heatwaves.[38] This decade, bushfires in Australia will cost the economy $17.2 billion.[39]

Potential graphic element	Annotation/quote
Someone eating	Drought and dryer seasons impact farming and reduces the availability of affordable, healthy food.
Sports field or someone jogging	Drought, and associated extreme heat, compacts our sporting fields, leading to an increase in injuries for players or training and game cancellations.
Tree or park or creek/river	Our parks and gardens dry out, reducing greenery and further exacerbate urban heat. Water quality in rivers and creeks worsens
Pregnant woman	Bushfire smoke increases the risk of pregnancy complications including high blood pressure, gestational diabetes, low birth weight and premature birth.[40] Smoke from the Australian bushfires of the 2019-20 summer caused an estimated 445 deaths and put more than 4,000 people in hospital.[41]
Ambulance	The smoke which blanketed Naarm Melbourne during the 2019-20 bushfire season provoked respiratory issues across the state, with Ambulance Victoria reporting increases of up to 51% in calls from people needing help for breathing problems.
Is here some way to visually represent bushland beyond Naarm Melbourne? Native animals	3 billion animals - mammals, birds, reptiles and frogs - were impacted by fires including 60,000 koalas during the 2019-20 mega-fires.[22]
Person	Climate anxiety - concern for the environmental, political, and health effects of climate change – is increasing across the community, with implications for health and wellbeing.
Council building or community hall	Costs of maintaining and repairing our homes, buildings and other infrastructure are increasing because of extreme weather.
Road	Critical council infrastructure including roads and drainage, is being damaged by more frequent and/or severe extreme weather, and state and federal assistance is falling short of what is required.

Potential graphic element	Annotation/quote
A home	We are experiencing higher insurance premiums. Average home insurance premiums have risen by 52% across Southern Australia in the decade between 2007-08 and 2018-19.[42]
A fire service responder	"As extreme events increase, so will the demands on full-time and volunteer emergency service workers and agencies. There will be requirements for larger numbers of staff and volunteers to be involved in emergency response activities for prolonged periods, at increased frequencies, and responding to more extreme events. This will result in greater strains on emergency management organisations, volunteers and communities."[43]

The emission reduction challenge

Council is committed to responding to this crisis at the scale and urgency required. This means acting to rapidly reduce emissions through our operations and across the municipality. As a local government, Yarra must step up our crucial role in facilitating emission reductions in our homes, businesses, industry, and transport system, while ensuring that our community is safe, resilient, and thriving. Simultaneously, we must work to ensure that the benefits from the transition to a zero emissions society are shared equitably, and the costs are borne by those most responsible and most able to contribute.

To design programs and allocate resources with maximum impact, it is necessary to understand how and where our municipality's emissions are generated. Accounting for a municipality's emissions in a way that fairly reflects the responsibility for those emissions is not a straightforward task. In particular, there are challenges associated with capturing and quantifying the emissions embedded in goods and services consumed in Yarra but produced outside the jurisdiction. Though accounting for embedded emissions at a municipal level is challenging, Council has taken steps to expand our organisational emissions inventory to adequately reflect emissions embedded in the goods and services we consume, and we strive to continue in this direction.

Yarra's municipal emissions inventory focuses primarily on emissions derived from energy use, transport, and waste. We acknowledge that this approach significantly underplays the contribution of our residents, businesses and organisations to global heating, failing to capture much of the emissions intensive goods and services consumed in Yarra but produced in other regions or countries. At this municipal level, we will investigate opportunities to measure and reduce emissions related to goods and services consumed in the municipality, for example through construction and food-related emissions.

Council's organisational emissions

Council has made great strides in reducing our organisational emissions, most notably through sourcing 100% renewable electricity through the Melbourne Renewable Energy Project (MREP), investing in energy efficiency, and making progress towards electrifying our buildings and fleet. In 2012, Yarra was certified as Victoria's first carbon neutral council. Since this year, we have maintained net zero emissions by purchasing carbon offsets for any emissions we haven't been able to eliminate.

In 2022/23, the majority of our 7,070 tCO_2e of emissions came from the use of fossil gas (27%) in our buildings, the transport fuels from our vehicles (9%), our contractors' vehicles (27%) and staff commuting (5%) (Figure 5). Beyond working towards reducing Council's direct emissions, we also have been improving our quantification of the significant 'indirect' emissions which are embodied in the products we buy. Methods to identify and quantify these indirect emissions will continue to improve, informing our future emissions reduction strategies.

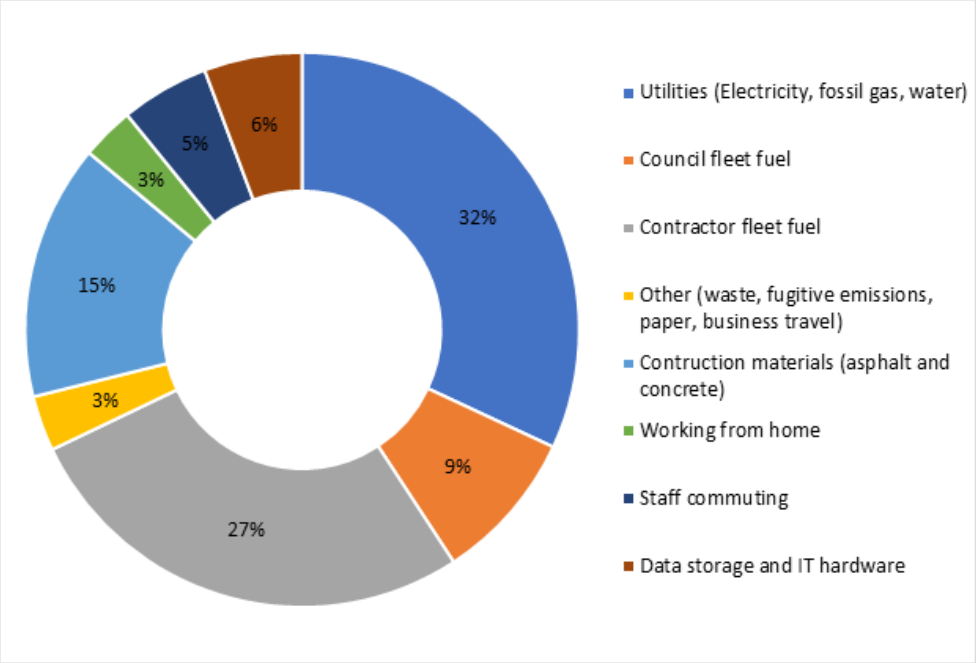


Figure 2: Yarra City Council's organisational greenhouse gas emissions profile 2022/23 (7,070tCO_2e)

Our municipality's emissions

While we have made significant progress in capturing the emissions deriving from our organisation's consumption of goods and services, at the municipal level the available data is more limited. This means the municipal inventory below is limited to emissions derived from energy use, transport, and waste.

In 2021/22 residents, organisations and industry within the City of Yarra produced approximately 1.1MtCO_2e. The largest sources of community emissions (74%) are from

residential and commercial energy use (electricity and gas) as well as from transport (15%), with the remaining (11%) arising from waste, industrial processes, and refrigerants.

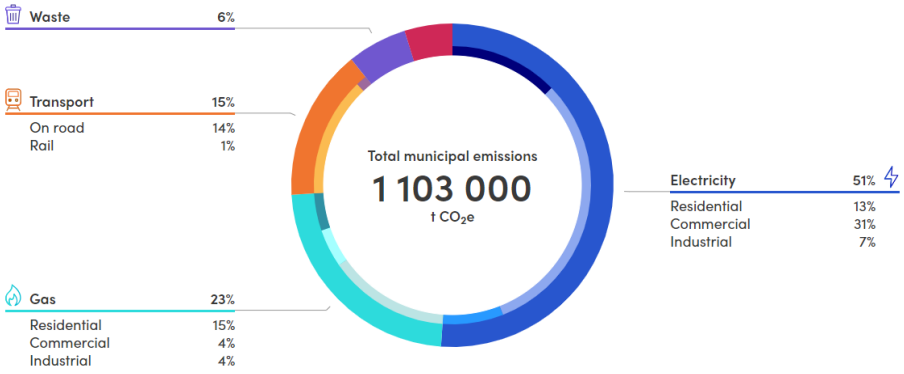
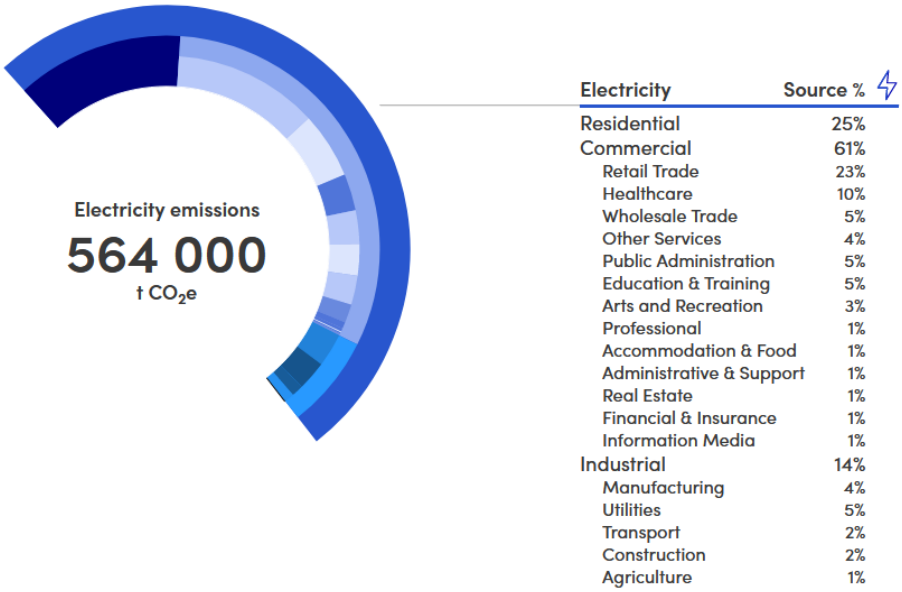


Figure 3 City of Yarra Municipal Emissions Profile 2021/22 – Snapshot Climate[44]

Just over half of Yarra's emissions are from electricity use – down significantly from just a few years earlier, primarily due to Victoria's electricity grid being increasingly powered by renewable energy. Updated renewable energy targets and significant investments in renewable energy generation are continuing to shift our electricity grid towards being powered by renewable energy. By 2035, we expect 95% of the electricity in Victoria's grid to derive from renewable energy. Fossil gas use however has remained stubbornly steady given Victoria's high reliance on gas which has historically been a cheap and abundant source of energy.

To reduce emissions, we must rapidly reduce energy consumption and accelerate the transition to all-electric homes, businesses, industry, and transport. Doing so will allow our communities energy needs to be fully met through renewable electricity generation and distribution, such that legacy fossil gas systems can be removed. This must be a major focus across the community, industry, and from all levels of government.



Electricity	Source %
Residential	25%
Commercial	61%
Retail Trade	23%
Healthcare	10%
Wholesale Trade	5%
Other Services	4%
Public Administration	5%
Education & Training	5%
Arts and Recreation	3%
Professional	1%
Accommodation & Food	1%
Administrative & Support	1%
Real Estate	1%
Financial & Insurance	1%
Information Media	1%
Industrial	14%
Manufacturing	4%
Utilities	5%
Transport	2%
Construction	2%
Agriculture	1%

Figure 4: City of Yarra breakdown of electricity emissions by subsector 2021/22 (Snapshot Climate)

Gas	Source %
Residential	62%
Commercial	19%
Healthcare	3%
Professional	3%
Retail Trade	2%
Accommodation & Food	2%
Education & Training	1%
Wholesale Trade	1%
Administrative & Support	1%
Other Services	1%
Public Administration	1%
Information Media	1%
Financial & Insurance	1%
Real Estate	1%
Arts and Recreation	1%
Industrial	19%
Manufacturing	11%
Utilities	6%
Transport	1%
Construction	1%

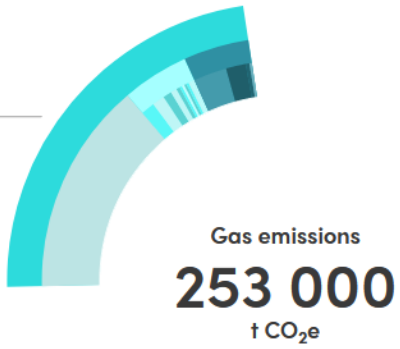


Figure 5: City of Yarra breakdown of fossil gas emissions by subsector 2021/22 (Snapshot Climate)

Targets that are ambitious and achievable

In 2023, the Climate Council released their analysis of the latest climate science which highlighted that Australia must achieve net zero emissions by 2035 for us to collectively limit global heating to 1.5°C.[45] This means the Australian Government's current plan to reach net zero by 2050, and Victoria's newly legislated target of reaching net zero by 2045, are not ambitious enough to safeguard our climate.

Australia has the technology, resources, and geography to drastically reduce our emissions, including through accelerating the transition to renewable energy, swiftly electrifying our infrastructure and transport, and shifting towards regenerative land management and agricultural practices. This transition holds the potential for a vast expansion of clean industries and jobs.

In 2020, Yarra City Council set an ambitious objective for the municipality to achieve net zero emissions by 2030. Given the current policy and economic conditions, and our learnings over the past four years, we have revised our objective in line with latest scientific findings: to reach net zero emissions as a municipality by 2035.

Impacts of animal agriculture

A major source of emissions which are not captured in the municipal emissions inventory are those associated with food consumed within Yarra. There is substantial evidence to suggest that the emissions associated with current dietary patterns - particularly the high and increasing rate of consumption of animal products - are likely to make it impossible to limit global heating to 1.5˚C, even if fossil fuel emissions were eliminated completely.[46] The emissions impacts from animal agriculture arise from deforestation for the expansion of pasture for ruminants, methane emissions from livestock, the refrigeration and transportation of products, as well as the vast amount of land and resources directed towards producing crops for livestock consumption.

Australia is now a global hotspot for deforestation, with widespread land clearing being a central driver of biodiversity loss and a key factor driving world-leading rates of mammal extinctions. Between 2016 and 2021, 2 million hectares (4.94 million acres) of bushland in Queensland has been cleared, including large swathes of habitat for koalas and other threatened species. It is estimated that more than 90% of this deforestation was to facilitate beef production.[47]

Deforestation also has significant implications for the availability of fresh water. Animal agriculture is responsible for around one-third of global freshwater consumption, and pollution associated with animal agriculture is a major source of freshwater contamination.[48]

It is widely understood that a shift to plant-based diets is a critical in responding to the climate emergency.

Much more than reducing emissions

Efforts to transition towards a zero emissions society provide a range of benefits, including improvements to health and wellbeing, economic opportunities, and the potential to minimise existing inequities and disadvantages.

Efficient, all-electric homes are more comfortable year-round and can save thousands each year on energy costs. Additionally, fossil gas appliances like heaters and stovetops emit a range of air pollutants. As a result, our indoor air is often more polluted than outdoor air, which can trigger and exacerbate respiratory conditions like asthma and allergies. This transition provides opportunities to improve health and comfort while reducing expenses, enabling our homes and community to be more resilient. Critically, we must collectively ensure that communities are empowered to make decisions about their lives, and that the benefits from this transition are shared across the community, particularly among those most exposed to climate impacts.

The transition also offers significant opportunities for Yarra's businesses and workforce to participate in decarbonisation, reduce energy costs, and become employers of choice. Yarra has the opportunity to enhance its reputation as the municipality where sustainable businesses are supported in their efforts to be renewable, circular and climate resilient.

Our climate emergency response is shaped by an understanding of our community, and where our emissions come from. We will work towards supporting those in our community most exposed to climate impacts. Simultaneously, in our efforts to limit the severity of global heating, we will prioritise eliminating the dominant sources of emissions at both organisational and municipal levels.

Yirramboi (Looking forward)

The following story was shared with primary school students by Wurundjeri elder Uncle Ian Hunter:

A long time ago, mum and dad black duck had a clutch of eggs, and they sat on them, and they all hatched. One of them happened to be a little girl duckling and the rest were boy ducklings. Mum and dad black duck called them together and they said 'Whatever you do don't swim below the waterfall. You can swim above the waterfall and when you can fly, you can fly over the waterfall, but never swim in the bottom of the waterfall.'

The boy ducklings, now ducks, flew away. But the little girl duckling stayed, and she flew right over the waterfall and then landed in the water below the waterfall. Coming out from under the water was a water rat. She wasn't afraid of him – her and the water rat became the best of friends. They dove under the water and swam on top of the water and had lots of fun together. Finally in the afternoon she thought, "I've got to go back to mum and dad." She took off out of the water, over the top of the waterfall and landed near mum and dad.

Time went by, and the duckling thought, "I need to build a nest because I need to lay some eggs too." She went into the water reeds and built her nest and laid on her eggs. The little black duck kept sitting on her eggs and when they hatched – what a surprise! They didn't look like the other ducklings. They had a bill like her. They had webbed feet like her. But they had no feathers and no wings. Instead they had beautiful waterproof fur. That's the story of how the platypus came about.[49]

The Wurundjeri people hold deep connection to and respect for the Birrarung, for Country, and for the community of living beings like the platypus. The health of these lands and waters underpin the health of Wurundjeri people, while the ecological harms done to Country are deeply felt.

This origin story of the platypus illustrates how beautiful things can come from embracing change, and from unexpected meetings. To restore and repair the harms done to Country over the past two decades, we must all embrace a new relationship to these lands and waters. This must be a joint effort, where we all accept the responsibility and collaborate towards a shared vision of the future.

What if we decided to build a better future?

It's 2030.

People told us and our community that the transformation we envisioned was impossible. They told us that it wasn't technically feasible. That it was happening too fast. That protecting the environment was a lost cause.

But together, we did it. With unprecedented collaboration and commitment across all levels of government, business, and the community, we transformed our community and our environment.

We reflected on our worldview - which saw nature as a resource for us to use – and understood that this needed to change. We were guided by the expertise of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung nation. From this understanding, we could no longer sit by idly while the environment was harmed.

Collectively, we mobilised to demand a rapid shift to zero emissions and a circular economy. It was a big task but eventually it became clear that this transition was good for workers, communities, and the environment. We swiftly set out to electrify our homes, workplaces, and infrastructure, and are increasingly powering them with abundant energy from the sun and wind. We started to show the world what a just transition to zero emissions and a circular economy could look like, with representative decision making, decent work opportunities and no one left behind. And we shared technology like advanced solar equitably across the community, so that those who previously struggled to pay their energy bills could cool and heat their homes. At this rate, it is looking like we will achieve our net zero by 2035 target ahead of schedule!

We also made our homes comfortable and resilient. We retrofitted our homes so that they are now thermally safe through extreme heat or cold. And we didn't just retrofit existing housing; new, efficient developments were built right across the municipality so that everybody has access to safe and affordable housing. With these investments, community members who were experiencing homelessness were finally able to shelter from extreme weather.

How we travel has also changed. The streets look different now, with protected bike lanes and shady trees, so that more people are cycling and walking. Major investments in public transport mean it is more accessible, affordable, and reliable. Those who drive do so in electric vehicles, which they recharge easily with cheap renewable energy. The health of our community has improved as indoor and outdoor air pollution is reduced, with rates of childhood asthma plummeting.

There are still extreme weather events locked in by past emissions, but when they happen now, the effect on our community is manageable. Our physical infrastructure is resilient, and so are our people and organisations. There are warning systems in place to alert us to extreme weather, and we make sure these messages reach everyone across the community. We are connected to each other and to the community services we rely on. Neighbourhood houses and other community service organisations are supported to continue their critical work of bolstering wellbeing and connection across our community.

Where before we were producing an enormous amount of waste, we now embed circular economy principles into everything we do. A sharing economy is flourishing, with shared ownership of things we only use every now and then. And a booming industry has emerged in the reuse, repair and resale of resources that would have been destined for landfill.

We all played a role in restoring our ecosystems, and now our biodiversity is flourishing. Threatened species have recovered. Native bird populations have expanded. Greenery and flowers are everywhere. Yarra Bend Park's grey-headed flying fox colony numbers have increased as our street trees provide ample nectar resources right through winter. Now our community has shelter from the sun under our growing tree canopy and more areas of open space. And best of all, the restored Birrarung welcomes swimmers and biodiversity alike.

Along with flourishing native plant and animal species, hundreds of food gardens have popped up all over the community. These gardens play a central role in connecting the community and ensuring that there will always be enough fresh produce to eat. Our food choices have become more considered too, and we eat more and more plant-based foods.

Council played a leadership role in many of these transitions, forming partnerships across the community and with other local governments. We continue to ensure that everyone has

a say in how our community functions. Children and young people, who once experienced the heaviest eco-anxiety, now feel empowered by the contributions they make to our society. Others who were once excluded now have a seat at the table and shape the decisions and projects affecting their lives.

The first step towards this future was taking the time to imagine the transformations that needed to happen.

Better together: The importance of government, industry, and community partnerships

Achieving these transformations requires a collective effort across all levels of government, business, and the community, in line with their level of influence, capacity and resources. Council is committed to partnerships that will help build resilience among those most in need, amplify climate action, and use resources wisely. To facilitate effective partnerships, and support the broader climate emergency movement, Council will collect and actively share information and report the results of its climate emergency work and investments.

The role of the Federal Government

In Australia, the Federal Government has the greatest opportunity, and legislative powers, to tackle the climate emergency on a systemic level, and build a climate-proof economy to keep us thriving. As of 2024, our federal targets and action are not commensurate with the level of threat posed by the climate emergency.

Australia is a signatory to the global Paris Agreement, which seeks to limit global temperature increase to below 2 degrees Celsius, while pursuing efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees. Despite this, our current Federal Government emissions reduction targets - 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050 – fall short of meeting the Paris Agreement.[50]

Australia has a long history of supporting the fossil fuel industry - an unsustainable position in a climate-damaged world. At the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 28), Australia committed to phasing out offshore financing and support for coal, oil and gas within

12 months. However, the Federal Government continues to provide subsidies to the local fossil fuel industry and to approve new fossil fuel projects in Australia.[51]

The Federal Government has produced a National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy, along with a National Health and Climate Strategy to help anticipate, manage, and adapt to climate change.

Through the Nature Positive Plan, the Federal Government has a goal of zero new extinctions. It has committed to protect 30% of Australia's land and seas by 2030, and to create a nature repair market to leverage private investment to help halt environmental destruction and regenerate nature.

The Federal Government has also established a Circular Economy Ministerial Advisory Group to guide decisions and investments on Australia's transition to a circular economy. However, no formal strategy, policy or plan has been released at the time of this plan's development.

The Federal Government must significantly and rapidly strengthen its targets and climate response to support a safe climate and Yarra's climate ambitions. Council will use all available opportunities to positively influence the Federal Government's response to the climate emergency which must reflect the scale and speed that the crisis requires.

The role of the Victorian Government

The Victorian Climate Change Act 2017 outlines the State's climate response. Victoria has taken a proactive approach to climate action, surpassing its first emissions reduction target to reduce emissions 15-20% below 2005 levels by 2020, with a reduction of almost 30%. Subsequently, the net zero target was brought forward to 2045, along with a 95% renewable energy target for 2035.[52] The Victorian Government has mandated that all new developments be all-electric, springing forward progress towards electrifying our energy consumption. However, support remains for the fossil fuel sector in the State, with a ban on onshore gas exploration being lifted in 2020.[53]

The Victorian Government's plan for a circular economy has a strong focus on recycling, but misses opportunities presented by a fully circular approach. Notable initiatives include the four-stream waste and recycling system for households (implemented by Council), the Container Deposit Scheme, investment in innovative waste management solutions, and a State-wide ban on single-use plastics.[54]

Alongside its emissions reduction work, the Victorian Government is also promoting climate resilience and adaptation. It has developed a set of seven sectoral Adaptation Action Plans, covering the built environment, education and training, health and human services, natural environment, primary production, transport, and water cycle. In addition, the Victorian Government has worked with councils and communities to develop Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategies. These five-year, practical strategies address the unique challenges and opportunities the climate emergency poses to different regions. Yarra is covered by the Greater Melbourne Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

The intersection between climate change, public health, and emergency management has been recognised at the state level. Emergency Management Victoria's vision and impact statement identifies the climate emergency as a primary factor impacting Victoria's risk profile. The Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management in Victoria 2022–28 sets out a pathway to strengthen emergency management responses, alongside adaptation efforts and investment in reducing the exposure of state-wide infrastructure and systems to climate impacts.[55] The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023–2027 identifies responding to the impacts of the climate emergency on health as a major priority and sets out strategies to respond.[56]

While there are many positive elements to Victoria's climate response, further strengthening of the targets, funding, and approach is needed to support a safe climate and Yarra's climate ambitions.

The role of local government

Local governments have legislative obligations under the Victorian Local Government Act 2020 and Climate Change Act 2017.

The Local Government Act requires Council promote the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks. We are also required to prioritise delivering the best outcomes for our community, including for future generations.

The Climate Change Act sets out objectives for our decision-making, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions, building resilience to climate change, managing ecosystems, and supporting vulnerable communities to promote social justice and intergenerational equity. The Climate Change Act also requires that we consider climate change in our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan.

The role of business and industry

Business and industry are accountable for approximately half of the emissions in our municipality and have a significant role to play in the local climate emergency response. While many local businesses recognise the implications of the climate emergency, there are significant barriers to action, including a lack of time, money, resources, or knowledge. This is especially true for small businesses whose resourcing limitations often challenge their capacity to understand and navigate decisions around reducing emissions and building climate resilience. Additionally, government policy is not strong enough to drive the level of action required.

Large businesses with substantial resources should be setting and working towards ambitious targets in line with the Paris Agreement. Community pressure to this end is likely to increase from 2024/2025, when financial institutions and large listed companies will need to commence mandatory climate reporting in Australia.[57]

Some large businesses with a presence in Yarra have committed to climate-related targets and begun reducing emissions. While several businesses have announced their target to reach net zero by 2050 or earlier, others are aiming to procure 100% renewable electricity by 2030 or earlier. While positive, these targets need to be accelerated to support Council and community's climate ambitions.

Alongside emissions reduction efforts, business and industry must increasingly focus on managing climate risks and understanding the opportunities to deliver climate-positive goods and services.

The role of community

For over a decade, our community has made clear its desire for Yarra to be a climate leader. We are fortunate to host a long list of passionate, knowledgeable, and active people, groups, clubs, and community organisations who play important roles in reducing emissions, Caring for Country, and increasing community resilience.

We recognise the critical role of community groups and organisations in fostering sustainability and social justice across Yarra. Whether it is the neighbourhood houses building more sustainable, connected and resilient communities, or our community health organisations driving better health outcomes for our diverse communities, our success in achieving the seven transformations will be underpinned by collaborative work across the community sector.

Purposeful connection and collaboration at different scales - involving neighbours, groups, organisations and government - forms the bedrock of a resilient, engaged and trusting community. When communities are heard and actively involved in issues that impact their lives, and are co-creating solutions, the outcomes are often improved. Additionally, deeper connection between community members, and with local organisations such as neighbourhood houses, can bolster a sense of solidarity. This solidarity and care is essential to improving quality of life and ensuring that mutual aid and support prevail as climate impacts accelerate.

In a world that’s already impacted by climate change, it’s going to take all of us to reach our vision of Yirramboi (the future). We all have a role to play in bringing the transformations to life. Of course, no one person or organisation can do it all. Instead, we can each play to our strengths, work together, raise our voices, support each other, grow our community connections and, ultimately, accelerate our collective impact.

Step into the future: stories looking forward

Deng arrived at the neighbourhood house, arms laden with zucchinis he was donating for local food relief. The zucchini were dripping, as was he. “Is it that hot already?” gasped Marjie. “No”, laughed Deng, “I just walked through the pop-up splash park – kids are having such a great time! I bumped into my friend there, cooling down before a hot day on the bike. He said might pop by later on.”

Deng put the zucchinis on the bench and picked up a knife to help Marjie slice up the mountain of veggies. Many locals donated or swapped their excess produce, and donated their time, too, while other locals relied upon the meals for their own nutrition – not to mention the company and connection. Like all neighbourhood houses, this place buzzed with life, and it was a lifeline to many.

Another local wandered past and emptied a bucket of food scraps into the communal compost bin and grabbed a Council map of the free, cool spaces accessible to everyone before moving off. Its removal exposed one last flyer translated into Oromo, flapping on the notice board. It was two years old, from the time when Council had supported locals in public housing to advocate for more thermally safe homes. The Youth Advocacy Group had joined in the campaign, adding a call for more cool, natural spaces on the estates. Now residents could take refuge from heatwaves in their own homes, but also enjoy the green space and mist just at the bottom of their buildings when their children needed a run around.

As Deng finished putting the veggies in a big pot, the enticing smell of onions and garlic spreading, the manager came around the corner with the Mayor. They were discussing the expansion of the community leaders program. For the last four years, Council had provided funding and resources to train up locals to be community leaders that could support social connectivity and resilience for those at greater risk from climate impacts. With more climate refugees being welcomed into the area, from different language backgrounds, there was always need for more community leaders in this successful program.

Nehemiah wandered over to Romy with his lunch, smiling. She moved over to make space on her small picnic rug - there had been a deluge the day before, but today the grass around them was almost glowing green. "Do you remember how flooded this used to get?" Nehemiah asked as he plonked himself down with barely a squelch of the ground. Since the nearby carparks had been converted to a permeable surface, with more trees planted for shade, the risk of flash flooding had been greatly reduced. He had been seeking a compliment from Romy because it was his team that removed the asphalt, but he knew that she deserved the praise equally, as it was her team that then converted some of that space into vegetation which eagerly soaked up the rainfall. In fact, it was this project that had brought them, and their teams, together.

Every job was a climate job at Council, and it felt so rewarding to be part of something so much bigger - and so much more collaborative, too! Another colleague rode past. It was a pleasure cycling beneath the canopy, and much cooler than on the roads. Since the Cool Routes project was completed, getting around Yarra a pleasure, even in the warmer months. They stopped at one of the many sheltered spots along the way to drink from a water fountain and take a seat. As they watched dozens of people go past them, they could see that their work in Strategic Transport was making a difference to the people in this City.

A child ran past them, gleefully chasing butterflies but then stopped still to watch as the butterfly landed on a Sticky Everlasting. She took her shoes off and let her soft bare feet rest on the native violets that covered the earth. The childcare educator walked over with a small group of children to see what she was looking at. “A Yellow Admiral Butterfly!” one child exclaimed. The Council childcare educator felt a rush of emotions, remembering how she had supported her children and their families to advocate to bring nature back to this park near their centre. The children had been involved in the design and planting stages, and she knew that there was more hope now than ever – this generation were so deeply connected to the land, that they would always care for it.

Collecting his cloth shopping bags, Leroy heads out his apartment door to do his weekly shop. On the way to the lift, he stops at Abel’s door, knocks and calls out “Hey Abel, it’s Leroy. I’m heading to the shops. Do you need anything?”.

Shuffling sounds come from inside before Abel’s head pops out. “I’m short on oat milk. I would appreciate you grabbing me some. Come in and I’ll give you some money.”

“Don’t worry about it, you more than pay for oat milk with those home-grown veggies you keep dropping at my door. Lucky I know how to cook hey?” Abel smiles and Leroy turns for the lift.

As Leroy steps out of the building, the sweet and earthy smells of nature enfold him. This continues to surprise him. Moving from regional Victoria a few years ago, he expected hard, hot surfaces that would make him homesick. Instead, he was surprised and delighted to see how green the city had become. He immediately felt at home and connected to the Country, which is gradually being regenerated.

Coming home, Leroy again stops at Abel’s door to deliver the oat milk. “It’s pretty hot out there” says Leroy “how are you coping in here?”

"I haven't even turned the air con on yet. This is a good apartment, especially when you put the blinds down early. Cool, even when it's hot outside" replies Abel.

Taking the oat milk from Leroy's hand, he replaces it with another laden bag. "I've been down the community garden" he says with a wink and a smile.

At the shops, Trish loads up her shopping cart, with the help of her 4-year-old, Archie. She recalls how stressed shopping used to make her environmentally conscious mother. Every purchase was a big decision. Was it designed in a way that it can be repaired and reused and then recycled at its end of life? How much packaging did it have? Would it end up in landfill? Was it ethically produced?

Nowadays, she doesn't battle those decisions. Packaging and product laws means she can confidently buy locally produced products that she and Archie need without concern. Polluting plastic and unnecessary packaging just don't exist. Regenerative style farming and local food production and distribution is becoming the norm, and like the much older days, things are made to last, be shared, repaired, and recycled when no one can use them anymore.

Riding his bike home, Archie points from his seat and delightedly yells "Bullum Bullum" at a butterfly landing to drink nectar from a blossom. Trish smiles and thinks how lucky she is live in a beautiful city where she can ride home under the shade trees and arrive home to her small but lush garden.

Turning off the path, she rides down the middle of the road, feeling safe on the one-way street. There were only a handful of EVs in sight but all along the street and side verges, there are pockets of people. Some gardening, some on their phone, some chatting, people walking, and other cyclists. A couple of kids were investigating the insect life near the swales that carried and purified stormwater. Trish and Archie shout hello to a neighbour as they roll by.

Connie stepped off the tram and walked towards the Birrarung. Even after a few years as a Councillor, she still loved the Council meetings that were held on Country by the Birrarung. It was a reminder of all the great work they'd done, in collaboration with other councils, the State Government, Wurundjeri Traditional Owners and Custodians, and a bunch of community groups.

Right up and down the length of the river, it was cleaner than it had been since colonisation. So clean that on a hot summer day, it was as full of swimmers as any local pool. Sections of the

riverbank has been specially designed so the swimmers could enjoy this special place without eroding the bank or damaging the ecosystem.

Below the surface, she knew the eels were breeding, and the fish were swimming. And above that, birds were dipping themselves into the water to cool off. She could hear the thrum of insects and noticed bats asleep high up the trees. She was proud of the way the bushland that lined the Birrarung also extended out, into nearby streets and lanes. It really was becoming like the Kakadu of the south, and a rich opportunity for everyone to learn from Wurundjeri knowledge and culture.

As she walked, Connie considered the first thing on the meeting agenda, a discussion around community health services. This was always a challenging topic as the needs of the Yarra community were diverse. During discussions and decisions like this, she was often thankful for the hard work of those that had come before her. Her generation had inherited housing stock and a municipality that really was taking steps to being climate resilient and zero emissions. A community that was connected, caring, and passionate. Without these things, she knew they'd be facing a full blown and completely unmanageable community health crisis, not just a discussion of how best to invest resources to meet community needs.

It's Monday morning and Xuan is off to work. After shouting goodbye to their two teenage kids, they step into their much-loved electric van, ready for a day of installing highly efficient solar panels.

Going to work these days was a breeze. Yes, the roads were smaller but that didn't matter because there were less cars on the road. And because all homes and businesses are electric and powered by renewable energy, they hardly had to travel outside of Yarra to get enough clients.

First stop was to pick up Beth, their apprentice. 10 minutes later, they were at their first job. They would be pulling down and replacing a very old, ineffective solar system on the local cafe. Xuan loved these jobs. They knew the shop owner would see a quick financial return on this investment, and with this new solar system, could continue to provide sustainably-produced and delicious plant-based sandwiches, cakes, and drinks.

After installing the new system, Xuan and Beth loaded the old solar system back into the van. Grabbing an ice cream for the road, they headed to Merri-Merri Solar Cycle, a local business that recycled old solar systems. It felt good to feed the local circular economy, certainly better than the guilt Xuan used to feel disposing of solar panels some years ago.

Next stop, lunch. They were close to their favourite café so they dropped in and then walked to nearby pocket park to eat. This was one of their regular lunch spots. It had everything, nice seats, good outlook, a public toilet, easy access to delicious plant-based food, and Beth's favourite, the yarning circle space.

There were often interesting people gathered here - discussing ideas, swapping cultures, and eating together. Lunching here, Beth felt her world expand. She learned new words, met people she now considered friends, and had even gathered a new client or two.

Making progress visible

In Yarra's Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030, we will transparently monitor and report on our progress towards the seven transformations, and on our delivery of actions in the action plans. We are committed to evaluating our work, and sharing what we learn. By making our progress visible and sharing our learnings widely, we intend to demonstrate that transformation is possible, acknowledge barriers and limitations, and spur climate action across the community, the corporate sector, and across other municipalities and levels of government.

Progress monitoring and reporting

We will prove our commitment to transformation by transparently tracking and reporting on progress against the action plan. This includes demonstrating how we are changing our processes to centre the climate emergency, including in our asset management, operations, service delivery and financial decision making. We will publicly report our progress against the Plan through an annual Climate Emergency Plan report, in addition to our ongoing Quarterly Community Reports.

Outcomes monitoring and reporting

Our community has shared the changes they want to see in an equitable, climate-resilient and zero emissions future. The seven transformations describe the outcomes that will lead us to Yirramboi (the future), and we are committed to delivering on them. Each of the transformations include indicators and targets which will be used to measure our progress towards these outcomes.

We will establish a means to provide accessible information to show Yarra's transformation so we can be held accountable for our progress, celebrate success, learn from what has worked well and inform decision-making.

Evaluation

The Plan will be evaluated, with evaluation reports published at the three-year mark and upon completion. The mid-term evaluation will inform any revisions to the Plan, and the development of the next three-year action plan. Agreeing when and what we will be evaluating is part of how we are demonstrating our commitment to taking bold action on the

climate emergency. It means we are dedicated to learning along the way, improving on our efforts, and sharing our learnings so others can build on our successes.

The mid-term evaluation will assess our progress towards Yirramboi through the key transformations, objectives, and actions. This evaluation will inform the next three years of delivery against the Plan, and the development of the next action plan. It will consider:

- Are we progressing as planned towards the transformations and objectives through implementation of the action plan?
- Do we require any revisions to the transformations, objectives, indicators, or actions to achieve the future we want?

Additionally, at the mid-term evaluation we will assess how well we are implementing the Plan in alignment with the five key perspectives (see Introduction). The evaluation will consider:

- Is the delivery of the Plan appropriately aligning with the key perspectives?
- Are there opportunities to further integrate the key perspectives in the subsequent action plan?
- Do we require any revisions to the key perspectives?

At the mid-term evaluation, we will develop a final evaluation approach and key evaluation questions for use at the end of the Plan.

Transformation 1: In Yarra every choice we make and every action we take responds to the climate emergency

Ambition

Acting on the climate emergency requires that we change the way we think, make decisions, and prioritise action. We must embed proactive climate responses in the ways we govern, live our lives, and conduct our work. Every choice we make today and into the future will have an impact; this is true for Council and the community.

Our community has plenty of opportunities to consider the climate emergency in the decisions they make. For example, people can act on the climate emergency by choosing to use active and public transport, consume resources consciously, shift their banking and superannuation away from fossil fuel investments, and increase plant-based eating.

For Council, consideration of the climate emergency must be embedded into all decision-making, so our assets, services, operations, and policies actively reduce emissions and build resilience against climate impacts. Acknowledging the scale of this crisis, Council is committed to making every job a climate job, meaning that each staff member will play a key role in shaping our climate response.

This new approach - where the climate emergency is considered in everything Council and community does - requires relevant, timely and accurate data so we can make informed choices towards the future we want. This data will inform important decisions like our financial management, how we allocate resources, invest in assets, or refine our service provision. Making this data publicly available will assist community members and groups in making climate-informed decisions.

To survive, adapt and thrive in our rapidly changing world, we must also learn from the Traditional Owners of the land Yarra occupies, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung nation. We are collectively responsible for the health of Country and the wellbeing and prosperity of future generations.

Making choices that consider climate implications, and investing in solutions now, will prevent considerable future harm and costs. Our individual and collective choices to reduce emissions and build resilience will create a more sustainable and just Yarra for everyone.

Objectives

1.1 Our individual and collective choices and behaviours reduce emissions, conserve resources, and build climate resilience

While addressing the climate emergency requires systemic change, individual choices matter in reducing emissions, protecting biodiversity, and creating a climate-adapted future. Individuals and groups can make choices to use active and public transport, reduce food waste, move our banking and superannuation away from fossil fuel investments, and shift to plant-based eating.

Those with the means can also invest in adaptation and build their resilience by doing things like installing double-glazing, planting shade trees, or putting in a water tank; even choosing to learn about climate change helps prepare for the future.

1.2 Every Council decision and action responds to climate emergency

Council must demonstrate leadership in reducing Yarra's emissions and building a climate resilient future. Our existing processes need to further embed climate considerations, and we will do so by ensuring that every role and member of staff at Council considers the climate emergency in the work they do. Knowing the climate emergency is a significant risk to the financial viability of local government, our risk and financial management processes must actively plan for and, where possible, minimise future costs and climate impacts.

Indicators and targets

Indicators	2030 target
Annual percentage of participants in Council climate emergency engagements who then take steps to reduce household emissions (Social Impact Tool)	75%

Indicators	2030 target
Uptake of active and public transport, reported every three years	In accordance with the Transport Strategy: • 20% increase in total number of bicycle and scooter trips by 2027 • 40% increase in total number of bicycle and scooter trips by 2032 • 30% increase in commuters walking, cycling or scooting to work by 2026 • 40% increase in commuters walking, cycling or scooting to work by 2032 • 35% increase in commuters travelling to work by public transport to work by 2026 • 40% increase in commuters travelling to work by public transport by 2032 • 25% increase in commuters travelling to work by active transport by 2030
Annual volume of rubbish produced per capita	15% reduction on baseline
Annual percentage waste diverted from landfill	80%
Annual food waste per capita	50% reduction on baseline
Annual recycling contamination rates	5% reduction
Annual progress against Council's operational and strategic climate risks reported to Audit and Risk Committee	N/A
Council progress on Climate Emergency Plan actions, reported in the Quarterly Community Report	N/A

Transformation 2: In Yarra, community members at greater risk from climate impacts are connected, supported, and empowered to build resilience

Ambition

The diversity of ages, abilities, housing status, health literacy, and cultural backgrounds in Yarra means that climate change is experienced in different ways across our community. The climate emergency highlights and exacerbates existing social injustices and inequalities.

For some community members, the experience of extreme weather is mitigated by durable, thermally comfortable housing, and leafy, green streets. Others are more exposed to the hazards of progressively worsening climatic conditions due to existing vulnerabilities, challenges and inequities. This may include community members experiencing isolation, without adequate housing or income, or who have additional accessibility needs, work in unsafe conditions, or are experiencing marginalisation and exclusion from decision making.

Among these community members - and for the community more broadly - there is a need to build collective climate resilience and empower them to shape what this looks like. Climate resilience can be understood as the ability to avoid, anticipate, absorb, adapt to, recover from and transform in response to climatic shocks and stresses, so as to mitigate the underlying drivers of risk while continuing to perform their essential functions.

Our community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme weather is shaped by our connectedness to each other and our access to information, resources, and services. The network of services which support our community - delivered by Council and a wide range of community organisations - are critical to resilience in the face of worsening climate impacts. Council needs to invest in building our operational and social infrastructure to deliver when it is most needed, while empowering communities to generate their own responses to the climate emergency.

People are not inherently vulnerable; different levels of vulnerability are created by our economic and social structures and systems, resulting in greater levels of risk for some. We

need to use our platform to advocate for changes to these systems, such that people are not disadvantaged or marginalised in ways that put them at risk. Our interconnectedness is key to climate resilience.

Objectives

2.1 Understand and support the diverse needs of our community to bolster their climate resilience

There is great diversity in the ways in which our community is at-risk from and resilient to climate impacts. People who are resilient to some hazards may be at risk from others, due to characteristics like language(s) spoken, ability, housing status, employment type, and age. We acknowledge that there are community members who are currently, or are likely to become over time, significantly exposed to climate risk. We know these people, and the nature of the risks they face, will change as the climate emergency progresses. Further, we recognise that identified strategies for supporting and empowering people and communities who are at risk will need to evolve in response to the changing context, and through engagement with community members.

2.2 Council works collaboratively with community organisations that service those at greater risk from climate impacts

Council recognises the critical role of trusted community organisations such as neighbourhood houses, Aboriginal community-led organisations, and community health organisations, in building the social infrastructure that underpins a climate resilient Yarra. Through strategic partnerships and support mechanisms, Council aims to assist Yarra's diverse community organisations to integrate climate resilience into their own operations, and increase preparedness and adaptivity among the communities which they support.

2.3 Climate resilience is embedded across Council services

We envision a Yarra where community members, particularly those most exposed to climate impacts, are prepared for, connected during, and supported to recover from chronic and extreme weather events. Council will act to embed climate resilience considerations across our assets and services, such that the services community rely on, and which underpin their resilience, are not disrupted by climate change.

2.4 Council advocates for policies and programs which facilitate climate resilience among community members at greater risk

Ensuring all community members are safe in the face of worsening climate impacts will require significant investment, by industry and all levels of government, in the physical and social infrastructure across our community. Further, systemic inequities and marginalisation from decision-making must be addressed to ensure existing disadvantages are not exacerbated by climate impacts. We will use our platform to advocate for policy interventions which improve climate resilience across the community.

Indicators and targets

Indicators	2030 target
Annual climate-related disruptions to critical Council services in excess of service-level standards	No disruptions outside of the service-level standard to critical Council services due to the physical and transition impacts of climate change
Number of Community Service Organisations (including neighbourhood houses and community health organisations) which have implemented climate resilience planning annually	All partner Community Service Organisations have developed and implemented climate resilience planning
Annual number of at-risk community members indicating confidence preparing for and coping with climate impacts	All
Annual number of at-risk community members indicating they have community members or organisations they can rely on for support during emergencies	All
Frequency with which Council uses bicultural workers/ interpreters to ensure information is available regarding climate impacts.	Interpreters and/or bi-cultural workers are used in all in-person interactions with multicultural communities about climate impacts.
Availability and comprehensibility of translated material, assessed annually	Written translations are available for all climate impact information, with translations reviewed for accuracy and comprehensibility.

Indicators	2030 target
Accessibility of climate-related communications and resources, assessed annually	Digital and hard copy information is always available, particularly at known places of low digital access (e.g. public housing estates). Hard copy information is always available at libraries and neighbourhood houses.
Annual dissemination of vouchers to community members experiencing homelessness to access pools and showers, cool places, and groceries.	Vouchers (for leisure centres, cool places, and/or groceries) are available during all periods of extreme weather to community members experiencing homelessness
Number of cool places available to community members experiencing homelessness during periods of extreme heat	20 cool places available to community members experiencing homelessness during periods of extreme heat
Reasonable efforts made to ensure all community members experiencing homelessness are aware of which cool places are available during periods of extreme heat	Information on cool places is shared in a coordinated effort through our networks of service providers
Annual number of people seeking food relief and the capacity of food agencies to meet this demand	Surveys (or other mechanisms) undertaken regularly to determine demand for food relief in Yarra, and food agencies capacity to meet this demand
Annual number of businesses providing water and cool spaces to delivery riders during periods of extreme heat	All businesses which deliver food through food delivery services provide water and cool spaces (where feasible) to delivery riders
Annual submissions to government inquires related to the climate resilience of Yarra community members	Yarra makes a submission to all relevant government inquires (where feasible) advocating for resilience on behalf of community members at greatest risk of climate impacts
Annual number of at-risk residents engaged through Yarra home and support services, who have undertaken emergency preparedness planning	All at-risk residents engaged through Yarra home and support services have undertaken emergency preparedness planning

Transformation 3: Yarra is active, empowered and raising our voice together for a stronger climate emergency response

Ambition

We are on the precipice of climate and ecological collapse. Each year is bringing worsening storms, frequent floods, devastating bushfires, and unbearable prolonged heat. The impacts on our community are intensifying, including on people's mental and physical health, homes, wellbeing and quality of life. The landscapes and wildlife we cherish are also suffering. The natural ecosystems which underpin all life are at risk of collapse due to the scale and speed of climatic changes, and the consequent extreme weather events, as well as land clearing and habitat loss.

Given the unprecedented challenge that the climate emergency poses, and the magnitude of the response required, we cannot respond to, nor solve the climate emergency alone. It is imperative that we join with others to advocate for stronger climate policies, targets and actions, and an equitable future for all.

Given these unprecedented challenges, it's increasingly clear that bold ambition and systemic change is required. Changes of this magnitude will not occur through small actions in our day-to-day lives – though these are important – nor through one organisation or one community sector acting alone. These systemic changes will be the result of thousands of us locally, and millions globally, joining together to demand, and act towards, dramatic change.

We envision a Yarra community equipped with the civic knowledge and advocacy skills to participate in a movement of people demanding stronger climate policies, targets, and actions. Alongside this, we see Council and a network of other local governments, organisations, alliances and associations, and community groups, joining this chorus and similarly demanding stronger climate policies, targets and actions. Through coming together around a shared vision and a strategic approach, we can seize this pivotal moment to change course and create a just and climate-safe future.

Objectives

3.1 Our community is actively and consistently leading and participating in collective climate action

Our community wants strong action on the climate emergency. Council has a significant role in bringing our community together, and building their capacity to lead and participate in collective climate action, to effectively advocate for change. We need everyone in our community and across Council to understand the urgency of the climate crisis, recognise that we will not all be impacted in the same ways, understand the opportunities for action, and feel empowered to contribute to, and demand, the future we all want.

3.2 Council, community, and other partners are advocating on climate emergency issues together

As the tier of government closest to the community, Council is best-placed to build partnerships with other councils, alliances, business, and community. We can use existing Federal, State and metropolitan peak bodies, other government levers, and direct action, to influence council partners, other levels of governments and industry to respond to the climate emergency. This must be at the scale, speed, and level of commitment the crisis requires and based on the most up-to-date climate science and information.

3.3 Young people are supported to engage in democratic processes and decision making

Young people have contributed the least to the climate emergency, yet will inherit its worst impacts. Many are experiencing mental health impacts from the sense of disempowerment that comes from being insufficiently included in decision making, and through the inaction, or insufficient action, of leaders and governments. Beyond simply consulting to ‘hear their voice’, we need to recognise their right to have a say in decisions that affect them, recognising that the climate emergency is about their future. Young people must have agency and a seat at the table to genuinely shape decisions and influence action.

Indicators and targets

Indicators	2030 target
Yarra participates in all relevant opportunities to influence State and Federal Government policies and commitments including: • Being members of Government Advisory Committees and Working Groups • Submissions / input to all relevant Parliamentary Inquiries and formal Policy consultation/participation • Seeking to meet at a minimum twice yearly with relevant Ministers and advisors • Grant applications to all schemes of relevance, including those that provide funding for additional open and green space.	N/A
Annual percentage of participants in Council climate emergency engagements who then join with others to take collective action	75%

Transformation 4: Yarra is a leading and prosperous zero emissions city

Ambition

To achieve Yarra's net zero ambitions and play our role in meeting Victoria's accelerated renewable energy target of 95% renewable energy by 2035, we need to show leadership in innovation and investment, prioritising and delivering programs that reduce energy use and support the transition to all-electric homes, businesses, industry and transport. We must also build partnerships and collaborations so that we can scale up our efforts and collectively advocate to government and industry for strong targets and policies to facilitate this transition.

We want to ensure the transition to a zero emissions future is fair and just, with an equitable distribution of the benefits of the transition across our community. The transition to a zero emissions future provides opportunities to improve the thermal comfort of our homes, the health and resilience of our community, and reduce household expenses. We recognise that this transition has an upfront cost, and that many in our community are currently unable to benefit from new technologies due to housing, financial, regulatory, health and social barriers. We will support the uptake of energy efficient, electric technologies powered by renewable energy across our entire community, with additional targeted support for those in our community most at-risk of climate impacts and with fewer resources to respond to these.

The transition also offers opportunities for businesses in Yarra to participate in a thriving zero emissions economy. We envisage Yarra as the destination for zero emissions and climate and circular economy focused businesses, and a workforce equipped with the skills required to bring this transition to life.

Objectives

4.1 Zero emissions homes

Council will develop, deliver, and lead on programs, policies, and support to enable Yarra homes to become all-electric, energy efficient and powered by renewable energy by 2035. Additional support and investment will be directed towards those most at risk from climate impacts and with reduced ability to adapt. Council will continue to advocate for ambitious

renewable energy targets, policy interventions, and investment to enable an equitable energy transition.

4.2 Zero emissions businesses

We envision a vibrant and connected Yarra business community participating in a thriving zero emissions economy. Council will foster an environment of collaboration and innovation to drive ambitious climate action across the business sector. Local businesses will be supported to reduce emissions through innovative energy upgrades and carbon accounting processes, and in responding to customer demand for sustainable, low emissions products.

4.3 Zero emissions transport

We are actively working towards ensuring electric and other zero emissions vehicles are commonplace, with a network of publicly and privately available chargers throughout Yarra. The transition to electric vehicles and zero emissions transport must be accessible to all community members. Additionally, advances in vehicle technology, and an electricity grid increasingly powered by renewable energy, mean that all public transport is net zero emissions.

4.4 Zero emissions organisation

As Council has direct control over our own emissions, we must lead by example in our emissions reduction efforts, and demonstrate options for overcoming obstacles hindering community emissions reductions. Guided by our Organisational Roadmap to Zero Emissions (2022), Council aims to reduce emissions from our operations to zero (without offsets) as rapidly as possible. Key areas of focus include:

- Transitioning buildings off fossil gas with a priority on energy-intensive aquatic centres
- Transitioning our fleet to zero emissions
- Working with procurement policies and our contractors to transition contractor fleets to zero emissions vehicles – priority on heavy kerbside collection trucks
- Our new electricity contract (from 2029) will continue to purchase 100% renewable electricity and demonstrate leadership in ‘next’ practice, such as time-of-use energy use that matches renewables generation.

Beyond our direct emissions, there are significant 'indirect' emissions which are 'embodied' in the products and services we purchase such as fuel, asphalt and concrete used by our contractors. Strengthening supplier requirements and supporting suppliers to reduce their emissions is therefore another key focus area for Council. As methods to identify and quantify these indirect emissions continue to improve, we commit to transparently reporting a comprehensive emissions profile which will inform our future emission reduction strategies.

To address emissions we cannot yet reduce, or eliminate entirely, Council will continue to purchase carbon offsets to achieve net zero emissions. This includes investigating how we might, in partnership with others, be involved in developing or supporting innovative greenhouse gas emissions offset and drawdown projects; projects which measurably reduce emissions, have other environmental and/or social benefits, and are in line with Council's climate emergency priorities. We will regularly evaluate this approach to ensure that purchasing offsets remains the best mechanism to achieving our commitment to net zero emissions.

Indicators and targets (by 2030)

Indicators	2030 target
Annual municipal greenhouse gas emissions	Net zero emissions by 2035 (*Noting that this ambition relies on significant acceleration of action from state and federal governments)
Annual fossil gas usage in Council-owned buildings	No fossil gas usage in Council-owned buildings by 2035
Annual installed municipal solar capacity	A doubling of installed municipal solar capacity from 2023
Annual percentage of Council-owned and contractor vehicles and equipment that is zero emissions	100% (where feasible and fit for purpose)
Annual household fossil gas usage	A reduction of 40% from 2023 usage
Annual business (commercial and industrial) fossil gas usage	A reduction of 20% from 2023 usage
Annual percentage of vehicles registered in Yarra that are zero emissions vehicles	25%

Transformation 5: Yarra is Caring for Country. Our landscapes and waterways are healthier, greener, and more biodiverse, and our communities feel at one with nature.

Ambition

An adequate climate emergency response means rethinking our relationship with nature. It means facing up to the harms caused to Country since colonisation and working towards remedying these harms with the knowledge and support of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung. It means providing ample habitat for biodiversity to thrive, and ecosystems to heal. It means ensuring that everyone in our community feels connected to the natural environment, has access to cool, green spaces and waterways, and is protected from extreme heat through nature-based interventions.

This requires a collaborative effort across Council to facilitate further innovation in our approach to urban design, open space, biodiversity, and water management, to maximise benefits for the natural environment and our community. There are profound opportunities here, whether in restoring a healthy, swimmable Birrarung in which biodiversity can thrive and community members can cool down, or in developing nature corridors which support biodiversity, facilitate connection with nature, and provide cool routes to essential services.[58]

A crucial element of rethinking and revising our relationship with nature is the decolonisation of our landscape, so that our city increasingly reflects Wurundjeri land. This means prioritising climate-resilient indigenous and native vegetation, including trees, grasses, and ground covers, which will provide suitable habitat for our native wildlife, while minimising resource-intensive maintenance practices. Simultaneously, decolonising our outdoor spaces means ensuring that the knowledge and practices of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung are embedded into land management.

Throughout these endeavors, we aim to encourage all members of our community to feel a connection to, and appreciation of, the cultural and ecological richness of this Country. We envision a collective nurturing of our precious lands and waters, and from this, nature will nurture us in return.

Objectives

5.1: Collaborate with Traditional Owners as decision-makers and partners in caring for Country

To foster social and environmental justice and improve land and water management across Yarra, it is essential to collaborate with and empower the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. This collaborative approach will facilitate opportunities to decolonise our streetscapes and public spaces through plant selection and cultural land management practices, so that our natural environment increasingly reflects Wurundjeri land. Through this partnership, all Yarra residents will have opportunities to learn about and care for Country.

5.2: Expand opportunities to access biodiverse, natural spaces in and around the places we live, work and play

Everyone has the right to experience the positive mental and physical effects of spending time in nature, and we all benefit when this right is fulfilled. Ensuring this right is satisfied requires a diverse and equitable distribution of biodiverse, natural spaces across the municipality. Guiding this work is an understanding that our diverse community requires and utilises different spaces in different ways, due to factors such as age, gender identity, physical ability, and cultural background. We aim to offer all Yarra residents everyday experiences of nature around their homes, schools, and places of work, whether in pocket parks or by a healthy, swimmable Birrarung. We will work to promote tree equity so that everyone has access to natural spaces.

A Yarra community where residents have opportunities to learn about and deeply connect with our local flora and fauna is one which cares for nature. We aspire to nurture a community in which every resident actively protects and improves our natural environment through conscious gardening, volunteering, and caring for the street trees and open spaces within Yarra and beyond.

5.3: Invest in a climate-resilient natural environment which mitigates climate impacts and improves biodiversity and urban agriculture outcomes

As climate impacts accelerate, it’s essential that Yarra’s open spaces and natural environment reduce the severity of these effects and promote resilience for the community and local ecosystems. The way we design and manage our streetscapes and natural spaces

has significant implications for the health, wellbeing and resilience of people and natural systems. Across Council, teams will continue to develop innovative approaches for managing our open spaces, so outcomes for nature and community are maximised.

Delivering this objective means green spaces across the municipality act as connective, natural bridges to improve biodiversity outcomes. These connected, natural environments also help to cool the city, mitigating the severity of extreme heat on our human and non-human residents. We will strategically implement nature-based urban cooling in areas with greater disadvantage and intensified urban heat.

5.4: Council advocates for policies and programs which improve outcomes for nature, within and beyond Yarra

The restoration of our natural environment, within Yarra and beyond, requires substantial policy changes and significant investment from all levels of government. Such transformative changes necessitate a fundamental rethinking of our relationship to the natural environment, so that the intrinsic rights of nature are respected.

Council will develop systems to ensure that ecological outcomes are considered in relevant decision-making processes. Simultaneously, we will provide opportunities for nature experts and passionate community members to scrutinise and influence Council policies and programs. We will leverage our platform to advocate for stronger environmental protection laws and initiatives, while empowering our community to advocate on behalf of nature.

Indicators and targets

Indicator	2030 target
Percentage of space allocated to canopy cover in the public realm, assessed annually	Annual increase
Native biodiversity in Council-managed natural spaces (based on annual biodiversity audits), assessed annually	Annual increase in the health of biodiversity in Class 1 and 2 vegetation sites managed as bushland (assessed via annual audits)
Annual percentage and distribution of canopy cover across Yarra	21.25% by 2040 (this target aligns with the target in the Urban Forest Strategy and will be reviewed when the Urban Forest Strategy is reviewed in 2027).

Indicator	2030 target
	New Urban Forest Strategy canopy target reflects the amount of canopy required to significantly improve biodiversity outcomes and mitigate UHI risks, or similar
Annual percentage and equitable distribution of shaded routes to essential services, schools, active and public transport	Annual improvement
Annual percentage and distribution of urban heat islands	Annual reduction
Equitable access to nature for all Yarra residents	Annual improvement
Amount of open space managed for biodiversity, assessed annually	Increase of 5% annually (currently have approx. 40ha, 5% is approx. 2ha, or 20,000m^2)
Annual number of plantings in open space areas (noting number of indigenous, Victorian native, Australian native)	100,000 plantings per year (for a range of purposes including shade/cooling, biodiversity, habitat, pollination).
Number of advanced trees, ground and understory species planted that are local native, Victorian native and Australian native, in line with DEECA 'Biodiversity revegetation with provenance mixing for climate change adaptation guidelines, assessed annually	75%
Annual number of local native trees planted specifically to provide winter foraging opportunities for threatened Grey Headed Flying Fox	200 annually
Annual number new local extinctions of flora or fauna; and number vulnerable or near-threatened species that have become endangered	0
Annual stormwater nutrient loads into the Birrarung (Yarra)	1.6mg/L nitrogen and 0.05mg/L for phosphorous in line with the ANZECC Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality

Transformation 6: In Yarra, everyone lives and works in comfortable and climate-safe homes and buildings, supported by climate resilient public spaces and infrastructure

Ambition

We must create homes, public infrastructure, and public spaces that are safe and comfortable in a climate ravaged future. This is especially critical for those in our community at greater risk from climate impacts, and those who will become at risk as climate change progresses. How well we integrate climate considerations into our built environment will influence our ability to support climate-positive behaviours, and to cope with increasingly volatile weather.

Many of the most severe climate hazards will impact on the physical safety and comfort of our homes, workplaces, and communities. In the past years, we have experienced serious heatwaves, bushfire smoke, and damage from flash flooding. For people in insufficient housing, those with chronic health conditions, older and very young people, and those on low incomes, extreme weather can quickly become life-threatening. Improving the quality of our buildings, while promoting retention and adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, will avoid those significant impacts that are already occurring, and which will become worse as the climate emergency progresses.

Our public infrastructure underpins our climate resilience and connectivity. It influences how water moves through and is consumed in our city, our access to electricity and communications, and how we get food, medical care, and other essentials. The vital services our public infrastructure provides are exposed to accelerating climate hazards it is not designed to withstand current and future climate impacts. We cannot afford to continually rebuild infrastructure as it is damaged, or regularly lose critical services. Given the significant social and economic implications of disruptions to critical services, we must design, build, and retrofit public infrastructure to meet our community's changing needs in a climate damaged world.

Public infrastructure and public spaces shape our lives, including how easy it is for us to access critical services, connect with our community and make daily choices that reduce

emissions. We must create public spaces that make it easier to safely access services, connect with neighbors and nature, foster social cohesion, and make climate-conscious choices like using active or public transport options.

Objectives

6.1 Yarra's homes and workplaces are climate-safe, resilient and thermally comfortable

Our homes, workplaces and other private buildings are often inadequate to protect us from current climate impacts, let alone more frequent and severe hazard events. We need to build and retrofit homes and workplaces to withstand our changing climate, while ensuring new developments and redevelopments do not lock-in risk for future residents and businesses. We must support those currently in inadequate housing and with vulnerabilities that increase their risk.

6.2 Yarra is building, upgrading and maintaining safe and resilient public infrastructure

Though we rely on our public infrastructure to provide essential services, it is often critically exposed to the impacts of climate change. Some of this infrastructure is managed by Council, but much of it is outside Council's direct control. Council needs to make important decisions about how and where it invests in critical infrastructure to avoid significant future costs and impacts, while working with other public infrastructure owners and operators to improve the resilience of their assets. Council must identify and prioritise the resilience of its facilities necessary to deliver the critical services that support community resilience, including health and emergency services.

6.3 Yarra's public spaces and streetscapes are connected, climate resilient and create an enabling environment for climate conscious living

As the climate crises accelerates, we need public spaces that protect us from the impacts of climate change, build our resilience, and make it easier and safer to live climate conscious lives. This means creating public spaces that reduce urban heat and provide safe and shaded active and public transport routes to our jobs, schools, grocery stores, doctors, and other services. It also means creating and expanding public spaces that connect us to nature

and each other, including parks and social spaces. Safe and welcoming public spaces will help us connect and support each other during difficult times.

Indicators and targets

Indicator	2030 target
Elevating ESD Targets Amendment gazetted in Planning Scheme	By 2026
Percentage of people reporting that their homes are adequately insulated, heated, and cooled	Increase on baseline established in 2024
Annual percentage and equitable distribution of shaded routes to essential services, schools, active and public transport	Annual improvement
Annual percentage and distribution of canopy cover across Yarra	21.25% by 2040 (this target aligns with the target in the Urban Forest Strategy and will be reviewed when the Urban Forest Strategy is reviewed in 2027).
	New Urban Forest Strategy canopy target reflects the amount of canopy required to significantly improve biodiversity outcomes and mitigate UHI risks, or similar.
Annual percentage and distribution of urban heat islands	Annual reduction
Average annual walking time to food and other essential services	Annual reduction
Uptake of active and public transport, reported every three years	In accordance with the Transport Strategy: • 20% increase in total number of bicycle and scooter trips by 2027 • 40% increase in total number of bicycle and scooter trips by 2032 • 30% increase in commuters walking, cycling or scooting to work by 2026 • 40% increase in commuters walking, cycling or scooting to work by 2032

Indicator	2030 target
	• 35% increase in commuters travelling to work by public transport to work by 2026 • 40% increase in commuters travelling to work by public transport by 2032 • 25% increase in commuters travelling to work by active transport by 2030
Three-yearly change in the quantity of hard, sealed surfaces vs. permeable surfaces (assessed through GIS imagery)	Three-yearly change reduction in hard, sealed surfaces
	Three-yearly change increase in permeable surfaces
Annual number of incidents and geographic locations of flooding, flash flooding and water over road incidents from weather events which Council is called to respond to	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target
Annual Council buildings closures due to weather-related events	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target
Annual number and value of claims against Council from weather damage due to Council infrastructure failures	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target
Annual spending on critical repairs to Council built assets due to weather-related damage	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target
Annual percentage of insurance premiums spent on Council property damage from weather events	By 2027, establish baseline and set 2030 target

Transformation 7: Yarra is transitioning to a circular economy by consuming less, repairing, sharing, and repurposing more, and sending less waste to landfill.

Ambition

Moving to a circular economy is critical to acting on the climate emergency. Globally, material extraction, use, and disposal accounts for 70% of emissions[59]; we can reduce our contribution to this by repairing, renting, recycling, and remanufacturing materials. Adopting circular practices for cement, steel, plastics, and aluminium can reduce global emissions by 40% by 2050. Within the food system alone, we could achieve as much as a 49% reduction in global emissions.

Unlike the post-industrial linear economy of make-use-dispose, the circular economy is a transformative model. It mirrors natural systems, reduces emissions, avoids use of unnecessary materials, and does not produce waste or need new inputs. Necessary products and materials are designed to last, be sharable, repairable, reusable, or recyclable.

In a circular economy, everything we do will be based on three principles:

- Avoid and design out waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in use at their highest value
- Regenerate natural systems.

A circular economy benefits us all, individuals, communities, businesses, and nature. Moving to a circular economy would create six million jobs globally by 2030[60]. Circular practices also foster community connection and equitable access to resources, allowing us to better support vulnerable community members. It also reduces impacts on our natural systems as they are no longer used as recipients of our ‘waste’.

Objectives

7.1 Yarra is transitioning to a circular economy by demanding circular design, buying less, borrowing, reusing, repairing, repurposing and recycling more

We can create a future in which everyone is making fewer material purchases, and instead borrows, reuses, repairs, repurposes, and recycles more. In this future, materials are used at their highest value before being reused, repaired, or repurposed. Recycling only happens when materials are at the end of their usable life. Achieving this requires that we connect with our community to pass materials on, or borrow from each other, rather than sending things to landfill. It is a model that supports access to materials for everyone, significantly reduces emissions from making, using, and disposing of products and creates economic opportunities via reused, repaired, and repurposed items.

7.2 Waste to landfill and recycling contamination are eliminated

By adopting circular practices, we will be avoiding the production of 'waste', diverting most waste from landfill, reducing the emissions associated with making products, and avoiding it impacting our natural systems. This starts at the beginning, when we make conscious choices to borrow or buy second-hand rather than buy new, or to buy less material-intensive products. We will also reduce the incidence of recycling being contaminated with non-recyclable materials.

7.3 Council and local businesses are implementing circular economy principles across supply chains

Council and local businesses have a significant part to play in the transition to a circular economy. Council's own practices and purchasing choices, including in the materials it uses to build and renew our public infrastructure, must reflect circular principles. Local businesses have the power to influence how materials move through Yarra, through their own practices and the choices they make along their supply chain. Reducing the material inputs into the cycle has financial benefits to Council and businesses as they must manage less waste and associated costs through product life cycles.

7.4 We are advocating to government and key stakeholders to embed circular economy principles in the design and manufacture of goods and services

Though we can change our purchasing choices, how we use materials within our community and the quantity of 'waste' produced, we are limited by the way many goods are produced. Goods are often not made to last, are single-use, or are difficult to repair, repurpose, or dispose of. However, we can advocate to government and industry to embed circular economy principles in manufacturing, such that goods are made to last, and manufacturers are required to take responsibility for the entire life cycle of their products.

Indicators and targets

Indicator	2030 target
Annual volume of rubbish produced per capita	15% reduction per person
Annual percentage waste diverted from landfill	80%
Annual food waste per capita	50% reduction in food going to landfill
Annual recycling contamination rates	5% reduction
Annual use of raw material in Council operations	10% reduction
Annual proportion of second-hand, repair, reuse and recycled content in material used in Council capital works	One third

Appendix 1: Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027

See attachment

Glossary

Adaptation

Adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in to reduce or avoid potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.

Carbon offset

The action or process of compensating for carbon (or greenhouse gas) emissions arising from industrial or other human activity, by participating in schemes designed to make equivalent additional reductions in carbon emissions. Examples include tree planting to sequester carbon, methane capture and use and renewable energy projects.

Carbon neutral

Carbon neutral refers to the balance achieved when carbon (or greenhouse gas) emissions created by human activity are calculated and offset by an equal amount.

Climate crisis

See climate emergency.

Climate emergency

Climate emergency can be understood in two ways. Firstly, it refers to the catastrophic changes to the climate brought about by human activity that poses a dangerous threat to all life on the planet. Secondly, a climate emergency response can be considered taking effective action at a scale and speed commensurate with the magnitude of the crisis.

Circular economy

A circular economy aims to keep materials in use at their highest value for as long as possible, before being recycled. This differs from the 'take-make-waste' of a linear economy.

Drawdown

The removal of excess greenhouse gases from the atmosphere with the aim of restoring a safe climate.

Carbon emissions

See Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions definition.

Environmentally Sustainable Development (ESD)

Environmentally sustainable development is the integration of environmental considerations in urban planning, development, and construction, with the aim of protecting the environment while meeting current and future community needs. The term also refers to building performance in relation to the use of environmentally sustainable design and orientation, low-impact materials, reuse and recycling of materials, energy efficiency, waste management and the use of closed loop systems.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and other gases that contribute to global heating. Also referred to as carbon emissions.

Integrated Water Management

Integrated Water Management (IWM) is a holistic approach to water management that considers the interactions of all elements of the water cycle including potable (drinking quality) water, rainwater, stormwater, recycled water, and groundwater to ensure they support and enhance social, ecological and economic outcomes.

Just transition

The transition to an ecologically sustainable, zero greenhouse gas emissions world in a way that fairly distributes the economic burdens and benefits of the transition, and that ensures those most exposed to climate impacts are protected.

Mitigation

Action to limit climate change. Mitigation action either reduces emissions of greenhouse gases or removes those gases from the atmosphere.

Net zero

Net zero is the internationally agreed-upon goal for mitigating global heating. It goes beyond carbon neutrality as it demands real and significant reductions first and supports investing in projects that go above and beyond (like additional investments in biodiversity projects or wetland restoration). This means rapidly reducing all emissions as close to zero as possible (generally 90%), then offsetting residual emissions (with high-quality, permanent carbon offsets), and exploring values-aligned investment opportunities that respond to the climate and biodiversity emergency.

Resilience

The ability of social and ecological systems to avoid, anticipate, absorb, adapt to, recover from and transform in response to shocks and stresses, so as to mitigate the underlying drivers of risk while continuing to perform their essential functions.

Safe climate

A climate that allows the natural environment, current and future generations, and communities, to survive. The current climate conditions are not safe for a large range of species and increasingly unsafe for millions of people.

Social capital or ties

The networks of relationships among people who live and work in a particular society, enabling that society to function effectively.

Tipping point

The point at which a series of small changes becomes so significant it causes a larger, more important change that is harder to stop and usually drives a cascade of other changes. Tipping points can be positive or negative. An example of a negative change is going from a substantial Greenland ice sheet to a largely ice-free Greenland, which would trigger wide-reaching negative changes. On the other hand, a positive tipping point is when renewable energy takes hold and starts to dominate an economy once driven by fossil fuels.

Tree Equity

Tree equity is the idea that all communities have equitable access to the benefits of trees and nature where they live.

Urban heat island (UHI)

An urban heat island (UHI) is an urban area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding areas. This increased warmth is due to heat being retained by roads, buildings, footpaths made of concrete and asphalt, and waste heat created by cars, industry, and people. The urban heat island effect can negatively impact the natural environment and human health.

Water sensitive urban design treatments (WSUD)

Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) attempts to mimic the natural water cycle as closely as possible, such as by slowing down, intercepting and reusing stormwater and improving the quality of water discharged to waterways. Examples of WSUD treatments include raingardens, rainwater tanks, swales, wetlands, and sediment ponds.

Climate Action Playlist

Throughout our consultations with our community and across Council, we asked each person we engaged with to contribute a song to our Climate Action Playlist. This might be a song which motivates them to take climate action, it might be a song which reminds them of a beautiful place in nature, it might be a song which in some other way, connects them to the issue of climate change.

You are welcome to listen to and add to our Climate Action Playlist, and we hope that you find it inspirational, motivating, soothing, or whatever you need it to be as you take climate action and drive a better future for all.

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ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
1.1.1	**Support the community to make individual and collective choices to reduce personal and household emissions** - Deliver the Take Climate Action campaign, including promoting plant-based diets, ethical investment/divestment and other lifestyle choices which have postive climate impacts. - Expand the Take Climate Action campaign to include businesses and others who work and play in Yarra, so that the reach and impact of the campaign is amplified. - Deliver programs/resources to acknowledge eco-anxiety and support wellbeing in the context of the climate emergency.			
1.1.2	**Ensure Council and community are collaborating to deliver a strong, measurable, Climate Emergency response that brings everyone along.** - Bring together Council, community and delivery partners to inform the mid-term review (in 2027), through a reflection on progress against the CEP and opportunities for further action. - Create opportunities to ensure cross-organisation responsibility for delivery, collaboration on, and monitoring of CEP. - Report on the Climate Emergency Plan through the Quarterly Community Report and other appropriate channels.			
1.1.3	**Deliver brave, honest, and hopeful climate emergency communications and engagement that reaches all corners of the Yarra community and encourages participation in the local response.** - Apply a climate lens to all Council communications and community engagement outputs to ensure they support the climate emergency response. - Establish and extend trusted communication networks so Council, directly or via partners, can effectively communicate with all of our community, in particular marginalised, multicultural and at-risk communities. - Ensure communications with at-risk communities are delivered in the style and via the channels through which these communities source information. - Showcase community members and groups taking climate action to recognise achievement and build momentum. - Review Council's emergency activation and response protocol for communicating with community in times of crisis, with particular consideration to marginalised, multicultural and at-risk communities. - Connect the climate emergency narrative to broader council projects, notably Infrastructure, Open Space and Building Assets in order to communicate environmental considerations in the design, construction and delivery of Council assets.			
1.1.4	**Support the uptake of plant-based eating across the organisation and municipality.** - Engage local businesses to increase their provision of plant-based products. - Continue to deliver programs and communications which encourage more plant-based eating. - Update the Council catering policy to be exclusively plant-based on expiry of the current policy. Until then, support staff to choose plant-based options from the existing panel. - Investigate opportunities to monitor, measure and reduce emissions related to the consumption of food purchased as Council-provided catering.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
1.1.5	**Advocate to state government for policy changes to enable Yarra community members to access climate-safe, accessible and affordable public transport and associated infrastructure (i.e. sheltered transit stops)** - Advocate for increased availability and accessibility of public transport infrastructure, including sheltered bus and tram stops, wheelchair-accessible stops, etc.			
1.1.6	**Work to achieve Yarra's 2050 transport vision where our transport network is robust, highly functional and multi-modal, and allows people and goods to move efficiently on its network of historic streets, trails and paths.** - Continue to implement and evaluate Moving Forward: Yarra's Transport Strategy 2022-32 and the associated Transport Action Plan to support reduced car trips and increase, public transport, walking and cycling. - Use available policy tools, such as user-pays models, in transparent and data-driven ways to manage demand for cars and to provides essential funding to meet Council's transport outcomes. - Work with the State Government to explore the potential of future trials or permanent 30km/hr speed zones.			
1.2.1	**Develop data and systems within Council to enable decision-making that appropriately considers climate risk and resilience, and the rights of nature.** - Consider emerging best practice in climate risk and resilience, and incorporate into Council processes as appropriate. - Participate in counterpart networks and peer working groups exploring climate risk in local government and community contexts. - Undertake ongoing reporting on Council's climate risk to Council's Audit and Risk Committee. - Develop approaches for considering and valuing climate risk, resilience, and the rights of nature in strategy, policy, investment, program and project decisions. - Develop the Climate Emergency Indicators Database to monitor and record climate and nature risk and resilience information across the city, and inform decision making. The database will include socioeconomic data, at-risk communities, urban heat, flood mapping, extreme temperatures, extreme rainfall, canopy cover, access to nature, tree equity data etc. - Map (or purchase data) to understand the extent and severity of heat in Yarra (seasonally and over time), and community vulnerability. Together with flood mapping, this will enable localised multihazard climate risk analysis and targetted action. - Develop data on socioeconmic characteristics and vulnerabilities across the community (through a Social Indicators Survey, or data purchase arrangement), where these are localised, and how they intersect with climate hazards and natural spaces, to understand concentrations of climate risk and tree equity across Yarra. - Work to understand the segments that make up the Yarra population, their characteristics, how and where they get their information (channels), trusted sources of information, key barriers/drivers, and message testing to inform climate emergency communications. - Investigate opportunities to monitor, measure and reduce emissions related to the consumption of goods and services across the municipality, including construction and food consumption emissions.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
1.2.2	**Strengthen strategic documents and local laws to align with Yarra's climate emergency vision**. - Ensure all new and updated strategies, plans, policies, and local laws, will strengthen Yarra's climate emergency response. This includes strengthening Council's procurement to explicitly consider the climate and biodiversity impacts of goods and services, and address circularity. - Integrate climate emergency considerations into policy, strategy and guideline development processes. - Review emergency management planning documents and processes to ensure that climate risk considerations and any additional requirements for people with a disability, older adults, and other community members at greater risk are accounted for. - Integrate climate resilience into the asset management planning processes to ensure Council assets meet future community needs under climate change, and are appropriate to climate conditions over their planned service life - Consider emerging best practice in climate risk management and incorporate into our processes as appropriate.	★	★	★
1.2.3	**Drive Yarra's climate emergency response through Council's role as a rental provider and public space licensing authority.** - Review, and where required, strengthen and support green lease requirements of tenants. - Review, and where required, update hire agreement conditions to align with climate emergency objectives. - Review, and where required, strengthen policies/guidelines for Council events and users of Council facilities to improve climate emergency response, including circularity and nature outcomes. - Include circular principles in waste collection for events in new waste contract (commencing 2026).	★	★	★
1.2.4	**Deliver Council's commitment to every job at Council being a 'climate job'.** - Work with all teams across Council so that they respond to the climate emergency through the work they do. - Align branch and team work plans with climate emergency plan/response, so that responding to the climate emergency is considered as part of Council's core business. - Update organisational processes, templates and other tools so that the climate emergency is suitably considered as part of Council's core business.	★	★	★
	KEY			
●	green circle = action is funded (either as part of ongoing operational budgets or 24/25 budget)			
▲	orange triangle = action subject to budget approvals in years 2 and 3			
★	blue star = no additional funding needed for delivery (action may be part of Council core business, or delivered in partnership with another action)			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
2.1.1	**Support self-determination for the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and other First Peoples in Yarra.** - Support the identification, co-design, and implementation of initiatives to further develop climate resilience among the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and other First Peoples in Yarra.			
2.1.2	**Support communities to understand and prepare for the climate risks relevant to their neighbourhood**. - Distribute information and resources, including heat health equipment, to community members at greater risk to increase resilience to extreme weather, including maps of locally specific climate risks and key community locations. - Determine the effectiveness of resources distributed to community members at greater risk, including evaluation of communication methods, advice and information provided, translation quality, and additional accessibility considerations. - Provide opportunities for education about climate change, local impacts, and opportunities for mitigating risk and building resilience. - Continue to support bicultural liaison officers so that climate risk and resilience information can be shared across the community. - Direct outreach to community members at greater risk - particularly from linguistically diverse communities - to raise awareness of tenants' rights, energy and housing related policies and programs, and support access to rebates and incentives.			
2.1.3	**Increase food security through promoting equitable and healthy food systems and local food networks.** - Support residents to grow food by identifying and delivering innovative food growing sites, including accessible community gardens, across the municipality. - Strengthen requirements for developers to consider inclusion of food gardens. - Facilitate collaboration and resource sharing amoung local food security agencies and programs. - Provide information about food security providers and opportunities to the community. - Create opportunities to facilitate local food relief by connecting food relief providers to the community through social programs and Council spaces. - Support the tracking of food relief demand and provision across the municipality, and include in the Climate Emergency Indicators Database.			
2.1.4	**Implement initiatives to mitigate climate impacts on outdoor workers, including delivery riders.** - Educate businesses on climate risks to outdoor workers and strategies to mitigate risk. - Educate businesses on climate risks to delivery riders and encourage the provision of water and access to facilities such as bathrooms and sheltered areas to wait. - Provide and communicate climate-safe spaces for delivery riders to rest and seek shelter during extreme weather (e.g. Council facilities, neighbourhood houses).			
2.1.5	**Foster grassroots climate action and resilience through community grants.** - Incorporate climate resilience into the Council Annual Grants: Climate Action and Environment stream, with the aim to support community groups or organisations with programs or projects that build resilience.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
2.2.1	**Work with the Yarra community to create and promote a network of cool spaces and informal places of refuge from extreme weather events.** - Investigate opportunities for Council to provide accessible cool spaces to community members during periods of extreme heat. - Actively engage and work with neighbouring councils, local businesses, organisations, and community who can provide climate-safe spaces during periods of extreme weather and make these available to our diverse community. - Promote awareness of climate-safe spaces that community can access during extreme events, ensuring this reaches culturally and linguistically diverse community members. - Investigate partnership opportunities to support community members experiencing homelessness to access cool spaces during extreme heat events, for example accessing a mobile cooling hub.			
2.2.2	**Support the Yarra Neighbourhood House Network with the implementation of their 2023 Climate Action & Resilience Plan and the individual implementation plans.**			
2.2.3	**Collaborate with a diverse range of community organisations across Yarra to develop the 'Yarra Community Roadmap to Climate Resilience'** Partner with organisations such as Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, community health organisations, aged care, disability and social services organisations, neighbourhood houses, and food, education, and housing providers to: - Establish a shared understanding of the climate risks in Yarra and opportunities to build climate resilience. - Develop and implement climate resilience plans to bolster the resilience of service delivery and improve outcomes for community. - Establish a cross-organisational network to facilitate ongoing learning, collaboration and support. - Deliver the Yarra Climate Adaptation Inter-Organisation Compact (YCAIC), an annual forum that brings together local health and social service agencies to address the disproportionate impacts of climate change on at-risk communities.			
2.2.4	**Build social resilience through facilitating and bolstering connection among and between community members and community organisations.** - Develop a program to connect community members at greater risk during climate impacts with community organisations or neighbour volunteers who can provide wellbeing checks. - Deliver a 'Resilient Streets' program, for example hosting street-based activities to facilitate connection between neighbours, learning about local climate risk, and grassroots resilience-building initiatives. - Pilot a community leaders training to increase social connectivity and resilience within their hyper-local community (for example, their block, street or apartment building). - Promote Neighbours Day and associated events and resources.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
2.3.1	**Develop the climate resilience of Council services, such that critical services underpinning community resilience are not disrupted by climate change, and are able to meet diverse and changing community needs.** Priority areas include: - Aged and Disability - Arts and Culture - Equity and community development - Family Youth and Children (Maternal and Child Health) - Libraries - Recreation and Leisure - Waste Collection and Cleansing - Open Space Services	★	★	★
2.3.2	**Implement advocacy actions regarding community wellbeing and public and social housing, including as outlined in Yarra's Advocacy Action Plan (Nov 2023).** - Advocate to State Government through Council and as a participating member of the M9, to improve energy efficiency and thermal comfort for the residents of existing high-rise public housing. - Advocate to State Government through Council and as a participating member of the M9 to ensure current residents of public housing are not dislocated from their homes and communities as a result of the demolition and redevelopment of the public housing towers. - Advocate to State Government through Council and as a participating member of the M9 and the Municipal Association of Victoria to grow the stock of public and social housing. - Advocate to State Government through Council and as a participating member of the M9 to retain and increase open space, including ain the context of public housing redevelopments. - Advocate to and work with State Government to support the transition of community members experiencing homelessness into stable housing.	★	★	★
	KEY			
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★	blue star = no additional funding needed for delivery (action may be part of Council core business, or delivered in partnership with another action)			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
3.1.1	**Build a movement of people taking climate action across Yarra, raising their voices and pushing for the urgent change we need.** - Facilitate, support and encourage community-led climate action campaigns that amplify climate emergency messaging in the community. - Encourage and support community members to join local climate and environmental groups and campaigns, and share stories of their impact. - Communicate stories of community members taking climate action in order to amplify and normalise climate action. - Increase readership of Yarra Environment News. - Support the community to become more effective advocates for strong climate action and policies (to know what to advocate for, who to advocate to, and how to advocate).			
3.2.1	**Empowering underrepresented communities to participate in decision making and advocate around issues relevant to them.** - Establish programs in partnership with community organisations to support and empower underrepresented communities to understand and participate in democratic processes and advocate on issues relevant to them. - Provide opportunities for underrepresented communities - including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, multicultural communities, people living on low incomes, young people, and the voice of nature - to provide input into strategic decision making and co-design solutions which impact them. - Support underrepresented communities to learn about climate change, and develop collective action skills so as to increase climate action within their networks and communities.			
3.2.2	**Supporting advocacy through community organisations.** - Supporting our community partners and organisation to advocate more effectively. - Work with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to identify climate emergency advocacy priorities, integrate these into Council's advocacy approach, and build support for these across the community.			
3.2.3	**Prioritise Council's climate emergency 'key asks' and embed climate emergency advocacy across all aspects of the organisation.** - Identify and prioritise 'key asks' and modes of advocacy – using a matrix of the Plan's 'Transformations Areas' and 'Key Perspectives', and the advocacy tools. - Develop an advocacy strategy in parallel with the review and refresh of the Advocacy Action Plan and development of the new Council Plan. - Foreground the disproportionate impacts of climate change on underrepresented groups including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, people living on low incomes, multicultural communities, young people and future generations, and the voice of nature, when developing advocacy priorities.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
3.3.1	**Support young people to develop climate advocacy and collective action skills.** - Deliver programs tailored to diverse cohorts of young people to develop their skills and knowledge of climate change, advocacy, community organising, civics and democratic rights so they can actively shape, influence and share power. - Share information, resources and opportunities related to climate action and resilience through school networks. - Develop processes to provide young people with opportunities to participate in democratic processes and utilise advocacy skills.			
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ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
4.1.1	**Investigate and deliver smart, innovative community-scale energy solutions** - Investigate, develop and support opportunities to deliver innovative smart energy solutions to accelerate the installation of local renewable energy and batteries for households and businesses (for example, virtual power plants). Seek to incorporate programs to share the benefits with those who experience barriers in benefitting in the renewable energy transition (for example, peer to peer trading or alike) - Continue to lead programs and support actions and advocacy towards smart electrification of precincts and the entire City of Yarra, building on the 2023/24 Wired for Tomorrow project. - Partner with other Councils, other levels of government, industry, and academia to deliver innovative energy solutions and learn through action research.			
4.1.2	**Develop and deliver programs to provide targeted, coordinated support for the transition to efficient, electric and zero-emissions homes.** -Develop and deliver a coordinated program to directly support low-income, at-risk, and rental households with financial incentives toward solar, electrification and energy efficiency measures. Seek to deliver as a coordinated program together with a Climate Safe Rooms program (see Action 6.1.2) and with financial incentives available for programs delivered through Action 4.1.1. - Deliver an Electrify Everything engagement campaign to accelerate electrification powered by renewable energy, building on prior work such as Wired for Tomorrow, and resources and partnerships with other councils, to maximise reach and impact. -Deliver programs to make it easier for Yarra residents to transition to efficient, all-electric homes powered by renewable energy. Increase awareness of and access to rebates, incentives, tools and mechanisms, for all Yarra residents, including apartments and multi-unit dwellings, renters and landlords. -Identify opportunities to leverage Council funding, build on established partnerships, advocate for government support and/or seek private investment to scale up programs and reach.			
4.1.3	**Advocate to State and Federal Government to ramp up vision, support and targets for system-wide, home and businesses electrification.** This includes: - Significant and direct support and rebates for households on a low income. - Mandatory energy ratings and disclosure including products (for example, heat pumps) and built form (for example at point of lease and sale). - Ongoing improvement to minimum rental standards for private and public housing, regarding energy efficiency, electrification and thermal comfort. - Regulatory changes, investment and initiatives to enable electrification and maximisation of renewable energy in the grid.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
4.2.1	**Make Yarra the place to be for sustainable business** -Working with key influential businesses, we will develop, deliver and market initiatives that position Yarra to attract, retain and support sustainable, climate focused and circular businesses. Including building a vibrant and connected sustainable business network who are benefiting from the transition to net zero and advocating for a better stronger climate resilient Yarra. -Develop a Sustainable Business Yarra business charter to formalise support of key influential businesses towards key transformations within the climate emergency plan, promote sustainability initiatives, networking and have strong actionable targets. These businesses we will lead the transformation of Yarra to a low carbon, circular and climate safe city. -Advocate and promote, in partnership with education institutions, the required skill sets for a net zero transition and the businesses investing in the skills to support the transition to greater circularity and net zero. -All work to be delivered alongside and to incorporate the work in action 7.3.1			
4.2.2	**Support businesses to transition towards net zero emissions** -Support businesses to transition to renewable energy through affordable mechanisms including group buys, investing in rooftop solar and/or battery storage. -Encourage businesses to upgrade properties to improve thermal comfort, reduce energy use and transition to all electric. -Investigate and support opportunities for investment in large-scale renewables and efficiency opportunities such as significant rooftop solar and/or the installation of 'neighbourhood scale' batteries. -Support businesses to reduce emissions across their supply chain. -Encourage businesses to reduce carbon emissions of their products, particularly those facilitating circularity and reducing emissions in hard to abate sectors. -Assist businesses to better understand, evaluate, and make investment decisions around carbon offsets and look to facilitate partnerships and innovation. -Investigate mechanisms and incentives for net zero properties, to encourage implementation of green leases and/or building net zero properties. -All work to be delivered alongside and to incorporate the work in action 7.3.1			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
4.3.1	**Reduce transport emissions and support accelerated community transition to zero emissions transportation in a way which is fair, accessible and equitable.** - Actively support the uptake of walking, cycling, eBikes and public transport as a mechanism to further reduce car trips and car ownership, including investigating opportunities to provide the community a rebate for eBike procurement. - Develop clear guidance and support for Yarra residents who don't have off-street parking to charge locally. - Design and deliver localised electric vehicle (EV) charging pilots and evaluate outcomes for potential city-wide EV rollout. - Review opportunities and mechanisms to support third parties to install public chargers in Yarra, including consideration of accessibility needs and avoiding locking in long-term usage of public infrastructure. - Work with business that have car parks in Yarra to install public EV charging. - Review ways unlock barriers to charging in apartment buildings. - Continue to expand car-share in Yarra, including work with car share providers to provide zero emissions car share vehicles. - Advocate to other levels of government for increased EV charging infrastructure and incentives (funding, support, and policies) to increase the affordability of electric vehicles, especially for low-income residents. - Advocate to other levels of government to accelerate the broader metropolitan transition to zero emissions vehicles to reduce carbon emissions, air and noise pollution from vehicles travelling through but originating from outside of Yarra.			
4.4.1	**Transition Council buildings off fossil gas** - Seek to transition Council assets off fossil gas by 2035 (ideally part of other works and/or utilising co-funding from other levels of government where available), aiming for at least one aquatic centre off gas by 2030. - All Council building works (including for sites not operated by Council) to follow Sustainable Building Design Policy (including no new fossil-gas appliances).			
4.4.2	**Reduce Council's transport emissions** - Continue the transition of Council fleet to zero emissions vehicles, aiming for all zero emissions fleet by 2030 where practicable and with vehicles/charging solutions available. - Develop fleet transition plan, including potential reduction in fleet vehicles . - Support mechanisms to increase staff sustainable transport uptake.			
4.4.3	**Efficient, smart, zero carbon buildings.** **-** Ensure Council-owned and operated buildings demonstrate best practice energy efficiency and emissions management. Examples include improved building envelope, higher efficiency and zero emissions equipment, maximised renewable energy and storage (where appropriate), smart automated control and integrated management, and potential energy market participation, of our solar and battery resources. - Apply, review and update (as required) Council's Sustainable Building Design Policy to all building works.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
4.4.4	**Best practice net zero emissions organisation** - Maintain council status as a net zero emissions orgainsation, subject to continued confidence and value for money in the system to achieve this. - Continue to review and improve our carbon offset procurement processes and opportunities for drawdown, in partnership with other Councils and Greenhouse Alliances - Use our purchasing power to green our supply chain, including review of mechansims and implimentation, and working closely with key suppliers to reduce climate impact of their organisation and products.			
4.4.5	**Energy and biodiversity friendly streetlighting.** - Assess opportunities to enhance streetlighting in Yarra, to increase energy efficiency and light quality of Yarra streetlights to reduce energy use, improve active transport and economic develepment benefits, and reduce light-spillage/night lighting to reduce biodiversity impacts. - Advocate to State and Federal Government to fund the up-front costs of a bulk main road street lighting upgrade.			
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ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
5.1.1	**Work towards decolonising Yarra's landscape so that our city increasingly reflects Wurundjeri land.** - Work with experts to revise Council decision making processes and guidelines around land management and open space to ensure that our municipality increasingly reflects Wurundjeri land, inviting involvement from Wurundjeri, and recognising the intrinsic rights of nature. - Continue to select vegetation in accordance with Ecological Vegetation Classes benchmarks (including grasses, ground covers, and trees), prioritising climate-resilient indigenous and native plants, guided by the Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action's (DEECA) biodiversity revegetation guidelines and welcoming input from Wurundjeri. - Explore how open space can be maintained differently with less intervention i.e. reduced mowing, fertilising, spraying, water etc. - Continue to learn about, and support, Wurundjeri cultural land management strategies.			
5.1.2	**Partner with, invest in, and support Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation to plan and deliver Caring for Country initiatives.** - Invest in a program with Wurundjeri to offer all residents the opportunity to connect with and care for Country, including community education and engagement that increases our residents' connection to and responsibility for Country. - Partner with other Councils to fund a climate change liaison position (or similar) within the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Council. - Establish a system for sharing climate and biodiversity data between Council and Wurundjeri to build the knowledge and capacity of both organisations, as well as the community. - Work with Wurundjeri and land management experts to identify culturally relevant indicators for the health and wellbeing of Wurundjeri Country, including the Birrarung (Yarra River). - Support Wurundjeri in our implementation of Burndap Birrarung Burndap Umarkoo (Yarra Strategic Plan) 2022-32. - Work with Wurrundjeri to create community education on the significant indigenous spaces along the Birrarung.			
5.2.1	**Accelerate planting of climate-resilient indigenous and native plants including canopy trees.** - Expand the amount of open space managed for biodiversity and commit to 100,000 plantings annually, with a target surviorship of 70-90%. - Apply DEECA's biodiversity revegetation guidelines and the National Standards for the Practice of Ecological Restoration in Australia to select and care for local provenance and native species with consideration of their climate resilience and ability to further support our local fauna, in particular our vulnerable species. - Prioritise and focus our efforts on the recommended habitat corridor enhancement paths to provide greater connectivity for wildlife and support plantings in identified hotspots and areas with limited natural landscapes. This includes local indigenous tree 'stepping stones' along streetscapes to enhance connectivity.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
5.2.2	**A healthy, swimmable Birrarung for all and recognition of the river as a living and integrated natural entity.** - Strengthen our advocacy to State Government, and our partnerships with Melbourne Water, Wurundjeri Council, and other stakeholders, to support and better implement Burndap Birrarung Burndap Umarkoo (Yarra Strategic Plan 2022-2032) and improve water quality in the river. - Work with Wurundjeri to identify culturally relevant indicators for the health and wellbeing the Birrarung (and for all of Wurundjeri Country). - Work to reverse the damage of the past and bring the Birrarung back to environmental health (Melbourne Water Corporation. - Work towards a swimmable Birrarung, striving to make the Birrarung a place where our residents are able to connect with nature, cool down, and experience the mental and physical benefits of nature- and water-based immersion. - Ensure accessibility to the water for our diverse community - everyone deserves, and has the right to, spend time in nature and enjoy healthy waterways.			
5.2.3	**Increase our community's connection to nature and their rights to enjoy the health benefits of nature.** - Better understand the needs of our diverse community when it comes to accessing and spending time in nature, so that we can ensure that everyone (all ages, genders, bodies and backgrounds) can access and feel safe in at least some, if not all, biodiverse-rich natural spaces including water-based spaces such as the Birrarung (Yarra). - Deliver and support programs that increase our community's understanding and engagement with nature in order to increase people's value, care and protection of biodiversity in the public and private realm. - Develop a plan to promote tree equity across Yarra and systematically create biodiverse space in the places we live and work. This can be a park, bushland, or even a pocket park so long as it has undergone a "Bringing Nature Back" or decolonisation treatment in order to maximise the use of space for human wellbeing and for biodiversity.			
5.3.1	**Improve our city's connection with nature.** - Document Council work areas that can contribute to our nature transformation (e.g. engineering services, new community infrastructure, storm water, street refurbishment) with a view to increasing biodiversity outcomes. - Bring representatives together to plan interventions that will embed nature and biodiversity, and urban greening/cooling outcomes into everyday practices. - Use existing relevant guidelines or create new decision making processes for all Open Space, Infrastructure etc., that carefully consider nature's rights, how native flora and fauna can be positively impacted in each decision, and how nature can positively impact residents' health and wellbeing. - Review and strengthen the targets, timelines and resources required to deliver the Integrated Water Management Plan 2020-2030. On review, update the Plan to align with Council's increasingly ambitious position on the climate emergency, including increased WSUD and improved stormwater quality. - Explore opportunities to remove asphalt in certain settings and replace with more permeable surface(s).			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
5.3.2	**Expand climate-adaptive urban greening, biodiversity and urban agriculture on public land, thus reducing habitat fragmentation and providing greater connectivity for wildlife.** - For street and park plantings (where feasible), apply DEECA's biodiversity revegetation guidelines and prioritise plantings along the recommended habitat corridor enhancement paths, ensuring that we don't plant any species rated as a moderate risk or above according to the advisory list of environmental weeds in Victoria. - Review the targets, timelines and resources allocated to delivering the Urban Forest Strategy to maximise greening on public land, to help cool the City, increase biodiversity, provide habitat and foraging (for example, for the vulnerable Grey Headed Flying Foxes), support reconciliation (plant the Wurundjeri totem tree species, Manna Gum), enhance carbon drawdown potential, and ensure locals reap the health and wellbeing benefits of nature. - Support plantings in identified hotspots and areas with limited natural landscapes. - Continue feasibility studies and implementation of the Roads to Parks program. - Pilot opportunities to improve circularity of food and green waste locally (including buying compost made from Yarra's FOGO collection and used in Yarra).			
5.3.3	**Utilise nature to mitigate urban heat island (UHI) effects.** - Investigate water-based cooling options that are accessible for those at the greatest risk of exposure to heat-related impacts, that connect residents with nature, and that promote and support a healthy Birrarung. - Develop with the community, and implement, a nature-based urban cooling and resilience program targeting communities of higher disadvantage. - Identify streets in higher density neighbourhoods that would most benefit from being converted to a one-way street lined with trees to mitigate some of the UHI effects. - Review the targets, timelines and resources allocated to delivering the Urban Forest Strategy to maximise greening on public land, to help cool the City, increase biodiversity and habitat, enhance carbon drawdown potential, and ensure locals reap the health and wellbeing benefits of nature. - Research models of best practice and trial the removal of asphalt to improve permeability, create space for greening, and test circular economy opportunities for the removed asphalt. Use the trial of the findings to update policy and practices related to the future use of asphalt with the aim of it no longer being the default. - Update Council's standard designs to maximise the impact of all plantings for the benefit of urban cooling, reduced impacts of flash flooding, and climate-resilient indigenous and native biodiversity (e.g. infiltration kerbs for trees by default, planting understory in tree plots, WSUD, increasing the level of biodiversity).			
5.4.1	**Advocate for policies and programs which improve outcomes for nature, within and beyond Yarra.** - Make submissions to relevant government enquiries which are aimed at improving biodiversity outcomes. - Support the community to advocate on behalf of nature - for example, to strengthen national biodiversity laws. - Support the community to be more actively involved in local nature groups, campaigns and projects. - Advocate to State Government to improve nature outcomes in new developments and in social and public housing, supporting the residents to have genuine involvement in decision making around the design.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
5.4.2	**Recognise the intrinsic rights of nature and ensure it is respresented in decision-making.** - Give a voice to nature by enabling experts and passionate community members, including youth, to scrutinise and positively influence Council in the interests of Birrarung, flora, and fauna. - Including nature as a party to all funding and legal agreements and a stakeholder in decision-making processes that directly impact it. - Update Biodiversity Health Survey and educate community on the health and rights of nature.			
	TOTAL COSTS			
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ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
6.1.1	**Facilitate and support the accelerated transition of existing dwellings to climate resilient, energy efficient homes, with targeted support for low-income households and those who are least able to act.** - Deliver information and support to make it easier for residents to increase climate resilience at home, such as by installing insulation, window shading, double glazing, draught proofing, drainage improvements and other measures. - Develop and deliver a 'Climate Safe Rooms'-style pilot project which includes undertaking thermal comfort and energy efficiency upgrades to create one climate-resilient room for at-risk households where at least one resident receives support services for an existing chronic health condition that puts them at risk from heatwaves and extreme cold, and identifying opportunities to leverage Council funding, build on partnerships, advocate for government support and/or seek private investment to scale up the pilot project. - Ensure information reaches marginalised and at-risk communities. - Support awareness of and access to all relevant rebates, incentives and programs delivered by other levels of government. - Provide direct support to at-risk households to improve climate resilience in their homes by providing financial incentives such as direct rebates, no-interest loans, rates reductions or other incentives. - Identify opportunities to leverage Council funding, build on partnerships, advocate for government support and/or seek private investment to scale up programs and reach. - Engage with residential tenancy and landlords groups to build the climate-safety and resilience of the residential rental stock. - Advocate on behalf of renters to residential landlords to improve the climate-safety and resilience of rental properties.			
6.1.2	**Deliver a coordinated and compassionate response to people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.** - Advocate for swift transition into secure housing to reduce exposure to extreme weather.			
6.1.3	**Facilitate and encourage climate-resilient renovations, including for homes in the Heritage Overlay.** - Support individual planning permit applicants to deliver enhanced climate adaptation measures and climate resilience. - Continue to develop sustainability retrofit advice and guidance for homes in the Heritage Overlay.			
6.1.4	**Avoid creating climate risk through new developments and retrofits in the built environment.** - Continue to integrate climate resilience into local area planning projects. - Strengthen Yarra as a close network of places with a mix of uses to support local living and working and active transport modes. - Support building designs and planning scheme provisions that increase the adaptability of buildings for different uses over time. - Continue integrating climate resilience into local Planning Scheme provisions for new developments to avoid locking-in climate risks. - Support individual planning permit applicants to deliver enhanced climate resilience responses. - Continue work with CASBE and other councils to seek elevated ESD provisions in the planning scheme, including zero carbon buildings. - Continue to engage with industry to build support for the CASBE zero carbon elevated targets planning scheme amendment, and to integrate appropriate climate resilience measures into new developments.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
6.1.5	**Support local businesses in developing their climate resilience** - Work in partnership with other inner urban Councils to build the climate resilience of our local businesses by advocating, empowering, promoting, enabling, educating and sharing. - Support local businesses in exploring and understanding their physical climate risks, and develop approaches to addressing and managing critical risks to business viability and employee safety. - Advocate and work with businesses and commercial landlords to reduce climate risk and support climate resilience with climate-safe buildings.			
6.1.6	**Advocate to State and Federal Government for legislative changes and resources to be deployed towards climate resilient, heatwave safe homes.** - Approval of the Elevating ESD Targets so that it is gazetted in the Planning Scheme. - Advocate for particular policies and resources to support households likely to be most exposed to climate risk, including renters, low income households, elderly people, people with a disability, public housing residents and people living in apartments. - Advocate for an increase in the stock of thermally comfortable and climate resilient public, social and affordable housing. - Leverage existing campaigns, community voices, and industry partnerships such as Sweltering Cities, Victorian Council of Social Services, Renters & Housing Union, Tenants Victoria, and Strata Community Association.			
6.2.1	**Prepare, upgrade, and manage Council facilities and public infrastructure to enable the climate resilient delivery of services to meet the community's changing needs, support community climate resilience, and protect the organisations financial sustainability.** - Integrate climate risk and resilience into Council buildings, assets, infrastructure and open space strategy, planning and management, in line with emerging best practice, to ensure that: • Council holds the right assets and infrastructure to meet changing community needs in a climate-affected future. • Assets and infrastructure are appropriately prepared for climate conditions over their planned service life, through strategic renewal, upgrades, and maintenance works. • The acquisition, renewal and upgrading of facilities necessary to deliver core Council services underlying community resilience are prioritised, particularly in areas of concentrated vulnerability and hazard exposure (e.g. maternal and child health clinics in areas with low-income families with young children, old drainage systems and high flood risk areas). • The renewal and upgrading of open spaces are prioritised where they deliver multiple benefits (e.g. community amenity, urban heat reduction, increasing biodiversity and access to nature, increasing permeability). • Council workplaces are safe for staff during chronic and extreme weather events. - Where appropriate, ensure building renovations and upgrades provide additional Emergency Relief Centres for use during climate-related extreme events. - Integrate sustainable design into Council asset, infrastructure and open space developments and renewals (e.g. permeable pavements, climate resilient flora).			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
6.3.1	**Ensure cool routes support active transport and walkability of Yarra in a changing climate, and residents have access to safe, cool green spaces.** - Continue to create efficient cool routes between/around community services frequently used by community members. - Increase integration between transport planning, biodiversity, and street tree planting to support delivery, including priority planting plans. - Investigate how best to map and communicate cool, shady corridors to increase active transport and walkability. - Review how Council can provide cool spaces to community members during extreme heat (including residents of public housing, unhoused community members, delivery riders, and older adults and children) such as pop-up splash parks, water misting areas and the like. - Implement the New Deal programs for Schools, Walking and Cycling to provide a consistently safe and attractive active transport network for the community.			
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ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
7.1.1	**Deliver innovative circular services and encourage recycling that keeps materials circulating at their highest value.** - Transition the Council Recycling Centre to a 'circular centre' which reuses, re-purposes, repairs, and recycles materials. - Undertake feasibility for Council Recycling Centre to recycle and resell furniture, homewares and kitchenwares (noting that construction and operation of a trial would be subject to future budget process) - Extend the 'lending library of things' program at the libraries. - Deliver programs and education campaigns that support all residents and businesses to make best use of Council's circular economy and waste services. - Deliver education and behaviour change programs to increase community knowledge about what can/can't be recycled and the correct use of recycling bins, and reduce contamination. - Develop and pilot a new program that supports the community to implement a circular economy behaviours. - Trial 'carry in carry out' policy in Council managed parks. - Deliver programs about which support repair, reuse and sharing (and so reducing the need for hard rubbish collection services). - Investigate and support ways in which the community can reuse and recycle cement, steel, plastic and aluminium.			
7.1.2	**Embed circular economy principles in all Council's operations and demonstrate circularity to the community.** - Research, develop and implement options for material minimisation, leasing products and/or services, buying second hand, repair, refurbishment and reuse across Council's operations (e.g. review the design process for circular planter boxes and develop a model to be used as an example to be replicated). - Integrate circular economy principles into the Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy and Sustainable Building Policy. - Complete a material flow analysis of Council purchasing (buildings, services, products, materials). - Integrate the circular economy into all Council's economic development strategies and plans.			
7.2.1	**Deliver a best practice, circular food and garden organics (FOGO) service.** - Deliver an expanded food waste avoidance program to residents (including home composting). - Deliver and/or support programs to accelerate local circular food systems. - Pilot opportunities to improve circularity of food and green waste locally (including buying compost made from Yarra's FOGO collection and used in Yarra).			
7.3.1	**Develop, support and promote Yarra as a Circular Economy hub for businesses.** - Build and deliver a Circular Economy education program to support development of Yarra as the place to be for Sustainable and Circular Businesses. - Work with businesses and manufacturers to facilitate circularity in the design and lifecycle of products - Work with the building industry to facilitate circularity, including better design, understanding of embedded carbon, low carbon building products and de-construction techniques. - Work with businesses to eliminate single-use packaging across the municipality.			

ACTION NUMBER	ACTION	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
7.4.1	**Implement advocacy actions to support circular economy.** - Advocate to the Federal Government for stronger National Packaging Targets, including a pathway to supply chain circular packaging. - Advocate to the Federal Government for a 'Right to Repair' policy, stricter product durability standards and product steward schemes. - Advocate and facilitate working with Federal and Victorian Government to implement extended product stewardship and producer responsibility. - Work with State Government to mandate clearer & easy to understand recycling labelling on all packaging. - Ensure new waste contract specifications embed circular economy principles			
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	green circle = action is funded (either as part of ongoing operational budgets or 24/25 budget)			
	orange triangle = action subject to budget approvals in years 2 and 3			
	blue star = no additional funding needed for delivery (action may be part of Council core business, or delivered in partnership with another action)			

Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 Community Engagement Report – Stage 2

This report details the specifics of the Climate Emergency Plan 2024-2030 community engagement and evaluates the participation. The second stage of consultation opened on Wednesday 10 April and was live until Monday 6 May.

Why we ran this consultation?

Yarra City Council's current and first ever Climate Emergency Plan is soon to expire. Since early in 2023, we have been preparing the work for the next plan which will underpin our response to the climate crisis in the years to come and ramp up our ambition.

We know that addressing the climate crisis is a top priority for the Yarra community and that they want us to do more. People in our community are suffering the impacts of more frequent and intense heatwaves and storms – and those most at risk are bearing the brunt of it.

That is why this Climate Emergency Plan has at its heart five key perspectives that inform the strategy, transformations, objectives and actions that will help us to meet the bold and ambitious targets. These perspectives are:

- Centering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experiences and knowledges
- Fostering social justice and equity
- The rights of young people and future generations
- The rights of nature
- A commensurate climate emergency response.

Stage 1 consultation - 23 October to 4 December 2023

In late 2023, we asked the community for their feedback to help form the next Climate Emergency Plan. The methods we used included:

- Ideas board for people to add their ideas to the key themes using sticky notes online and in person
- Survey (YSY and hard copy)
- Pop up sessions
- Workshops with key stakeholders, both experts working in relevant fields and members of our community from targeted demographics (those at the greatest risk of climate impacts).

Stage 2 consultation – 10 April – 6 May 2024

For the second stage of the consultation, we shared the draft Climate Emergency Plan with the community and sought their feedback to understand if we have got the plan and objectives right and check if we have missed anything.

Objectives of this engagement

1. Informing the Yarra community and key stakeholders about the progress of the draft Climate Emergency Plan and closing the loop on the first stage of community engagement.
2. Checking in with the community and seeking feedback on key elements of the draft Climate Emergency Plan, including:

    - level of agreement with the objectives listed under each of the 7 transformations.
    - gaps in the draft Climate Emergency Plan and checking if we missed anything that the community think is important to include.
    - any other comments about the draft Climate Emergency Plan.

3. Understanding the community's level of support for the Climate Emergency Plan based on the above feedback.
4. Making sure that the voices of those most impacted by the climate emergency (groups identified in Stage 1 of the consultation) are given the opportunity to provide their feedback on the draft Climate Emergency Plan.

Level of Community influence

The community can influence:

1. The feedback from community can help shape the objectives for the final CEP.
2. The community can also provide feedback on the transformations, indicators, targets which will be taken into consideration as the final CEP is developed.

What did we ask?

Participants were asked:

1. Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the objectives for Transformation 1 (repeated for each Transformation, covering all objectives)
2. Do you think there are there any gaps in the draft Climate Emergency Plan? Have we missed anything that you think is important to include?
3. Do you have any other comments about the draft Climate Emergency Plan?

Methods included:

- Your Say Yarra (promoted via social media, both paid and organic, email newsletters, and in person engagement opportunities)
- Public in person pop-up engagement events (two)
- Meetings and workshops with key stakeholders and targeted audiences (in person and online) (11)

<u>Additional promotional methods:</u>

- News item (corporate website)
- Postcards at pop up events and placed at reception at 19 Council buildings
- Poster with QR code at pop up events
- Digital screens in Customer Service centres
- Yarra News (March/April edition)
- Translated messages in CALD newspapers and radio advertising
- Bicultural Liaison Officers (BLOs) at in person events
- Stakeholder engagement sessions with targeted groups.

Who did we hear from?

Demographic data was predominantly collected via online copies of the survey, but six hard copies of the survey were completed at one meeting with CALD participants and three were completed at one of the pop-ups.

Whilst the numbers of those who study in Yarra are low (5) we engaged with 46 young people who study in Yarra. This is because the numbers and percentages are for the surveys completed, and do *not* include the people we engaged with in targeted workshops and meetings.

What's your connection to Yarra?	Numbers	Percentage
I live in Yarra	58	92.06%
I work in Yarra	18	28.57%
I visit Yarra	10	15.87%
I study in Yarra	5	7.94%
I own a property or mortgage in Yarra	20	31.76%
I rent in Yarra	5	7.94%
I own a business in Yarra	4	6.35%
What gender do you identify as?	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Man	32	50.79%
Woman	25	39.68%
Self-described	1	1.59%
I prefer not to say	5	7.94%
What is your age range?	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Under 11	0	0
12 to 17	2	3.17%
18 to 24	1	1.59%
25 to 34	9	14.29%
35 to 49	9	14.29%
50 to 59	16	25.40%
60 to 69	10	15.87%
70 to 84	11	17.46%

85 and older	0	0
I prefer not to say	5	7.94%
What suburb do you live in	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Abbotsford	6	9.52%
Alphington	1	1.59%
Burnley	1	1.59%
Carlton North	5	7.94%
Clifton Hill	8	12.69%
Collingwood	6	9.52%
Cremorne	0	0%
Fairfield	0	0%
Fitzroy	8	12.69%
Fitzroy North	5	7.94%
Princes Hill	2	3.17%
Richmond	15	23.81%
I live outside of Yarra	6	9.52%
Select all that apply. I am…..	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Someone who speaks a language other than English at home.	8	12.70%
A person living with a disability.	5	7.94%
A member of the LGBTIQA+ community.	5	7.94%
Someone of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.	1	1.59%
None of the above.	39	61.90%
I prefer not to say.	10	15.87%

Engagement Reach

Engagement and Communications Activity
2 x in person pop-up engagement sessions.
11 x workshops and meetings between project team and community members and key stakeholders.
Your Say Yarra (YSY) page • 1,565 views by 1,408 visitors • 448 total downloads of the relevant documents (Climate Emergency Plan, Actions, and Snapshot) • 63 contributions by 57 contributors.
700 Postcards distributed primarily across 19 Council-run facilities
CALD communications: • Translated messages in CALD newspapers and radio advertising • Bicultural Liaison Officers (BLOs) at in person events.
Social media posts and ads • 2 x campaigns (paid), with a total reach of 9,249 and 758 link clicks • 5 x posts (on Facebook and Instagram) with a total of 3.656 impressions, 223 engagements and 7 clicks.
Email newsletters • Yarra Life, Your Say Yarra email newsletters, (and emails to past participants) to a total of 13,050 subscribers, open rates between 60%-72%, and 88 clicks • Shared in Yarra Environment News, Yarra Leisure & Yarra Libraries email newsletters.
Targeted emails to stakeholders.

Stakeholder engagement:

The Sustainability team engaged with these stakeholders and received feedback from them via email or in person:

- Active ageing Advisory Group
- Key climate stakeholder groups (e.g. from pre-engagement workshops and Yarra Climate Summit)
- Neighbourhood house network
- Multicultural Advisory Committee
- North Richmond Community Health
- Community Health Organisations (CoHealth & NRCH)
- Young adults 18–30-year-olds (meeting at ACU)
- High school students (online meeting with 13–18-year-old MGC & FHS students)
- Nature and biodiversity experts (YCAN, Universities etc).

What did we hear?

The online YSY survey started with a set of questions that asked people to indicate their level of agreement with each of the objectives listed under the 7 transformations. There was strong support for Council's objectives as stated in the draft Climate Emergency Plan with the majority of people agreeing or strongly agreeing with each of them.

The final 2 questions (question 8 & 9) were open response. In question 8 we asked the community to tell us if we'd missed anything or if there were any gaps in the draft CEP. Approximately half of people who completed the survey (52%) chose to answer this question.

Analysis of the answers to these questions, in a spreadsheet mapping the feedback from all sources against all objectives, is being used to further strengthen the CEP.

Transport – Electric Vehicles	
What did we hear	**Our response**
We received several comments expressing disappointment that our plan includes support for EVs (cars), though there was support for e-bikes, including the following two examples: • "I am also disappointed in the inclusion of EVs... EVs should not be included in the vision of Yarra - we should aspire for a future where private motor vehicles are limited" • "We're concerned that Action 4.3.1 proposes to allocate further resources (Officer time and Council budget) to support cars (and driving), including the designation (locking in) of public land for charging." • "I do not want to see any substantial resources devoted to promoting private electric vehicles... council-controlled parking bays should not be used for charging EVs. E-bikes, on the other hand, are a really promising avenue for reducing emissions. How will they be encouraged and what goals will be set? • "Offer subsidies for residents exchanging a car for an e-bike - schemes like this operate elsewhere." Conversely, we also received a few comments around the need for more EV charging infrastructure.	Much of the feedback is in line with the 10-year Transport Strategy, *Moving Forward*, which was adopted in July 2022. One might presume that many readers who commented on transport had focused on the Zero Carbon Transport section of Transformation 4, without noticing the transport relevant sections of Transformation 1 and Transformation 6. There is an action in Transformation 1 of the CEP around continuing to implement and evaluate the Transport Strategy. We will therefore add text to Transformation 4 of the CEP referring the reader to the relevant section of Transformation 1. We will also make changes to the text in Transformation 4 to make it clear that we are prioritising improving and increasing active transport and public transport over private cars, but that the private cars that do remain should be electric. We will also share the transport-related feedback for the CEP to the Transport team.

Transport – Active Transport	
What did we hear	**Our response**
We heard calls for better bicycle infrastructure: more direct routes to the city, separated bike lanes on major thoroughfares, and shade on these paths.	Again, much of the feedback is in line with the 10-year Transport Strategy, *Moving Forward*, which was adopted in July 2022. There is an action in Transformation 1 of the CEP around continuing to implement and evaluate the Transport Strategy.

	We will therefore add text to Transformation 4 of the CEP referring the reader to the relevant section of Transformation 1. We will also refer the reader to Action 6.3.1 under Transformation 6, which aims to "Ensure cool routes support active transport and walkability of Yarra in a changing climate..." We will also share the transport-related feedback for the CEP to the Transport team.

Housing	
What did we hear	**Our response**
We heard agreement for our support for renters and calls for further action in this space including more advocacy and more support for low-income earners in public housing. • "Support for renters to make buildings more energy efficient (e.g. draught proofing, double glazing, insulation). More advocacy on behalf of renters. Higher minimum standards for rented properties."	We will increase our advocacy for renters and residents of public housing. We will continue providing support for renters to make homes thermally comfortable and climate resilient, and we will add support for residents of public housing.

Access to biodiverse-rich spaces within a walkable distance from their home, workplace, or school	
What did we hear	Our response
This objective that received the highest level of support in the Your Say Yarra survey, with a score of 4.21 56.45% strongly agreed,19.35% agreed, and only 12.9% strongly disagreed (no one disagreed).	We know that we are on the right path with this objective.

"There is no climate emergency and Yarra City Council should stay in our lane"	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• A minority of respondents made comments that indicated a level of climate denial • Some other comments expressed the stance that Council should focus on rates, roads, and rubbish • Other negative comments were around the CEP being ideological, a waste of time and resources	These negative comments came from a small minority of people who gave feedback to the draft CEP. The comments either go against scientific evidence or are ill-informed. We also received many enthusiastic comments expressive gratitude, pride, and encouragement in the CEP and Yarra City Council.

Evaluating the engagement

Objective	Evaluation

Inform the community:
Informing the Yarra community and key stakeholders about the progress of the draft CEP and closing the loop on the first stage of community engagement.
	• We ensured that all information provided was relevant, timely, and accurate.
	• We re-contacted all groups, or representatives of groups, with whom we engaged in phase 1 to make sure that they could review the draft plan that they helped to inform and provide further feedback
	• The consultation was promoted through a variety of channels and methods to reach a wide audience as well as targeted groups in Yarra:
	  ○ Your Say Yarra page received 1,565 views across the 6-week consultation period (Target 1500+).
	  ○ Reached 3,656 people on our social media channels (target: 1500+)
	  ○ Reached 13,050 people through email campaigns (Target: 10,000+)
	  ○ 95 in-person conversations with community throughout the 2 pop up sessions (Target: 50+)

Understand community sentiment and seek feedback:
• Checking in with the community and seeking feedback on key elements of the draft CEP, including:
  ○ Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the objectives for Transformations 1-7
  ○ Do you think there are there any gaps in the draft Climate Emergency Plan? Have we missed anything that you think is important to include?
  ○ Do you have any other comments about the draft Climate Emergency Plan?
Understanding the community's level of support for the CEP based on the above feedback.
	• We received input from all target groups identified as at risk of severe climate impacts, in great part through organising workshops or meetings.
	• The survey contribution rate of around 3.6% on YSY page resulted in 63 contributions (Target: 5%)
	• There was active participation in both of our pop-up events.
	• Responses received related to the content and can easily be used by the project team to help finalise the Climate Emergency Plan.

Ensure that the engagement is accessible and inclusive: Make sure that the voices of those most impacted by the climate emergency (groups identified in Stage 1 of the consultation) are given the opportunity to provide their feedback on the draft CEP.	• The project team actively sought to remove any known barriers to allow all interested stakeholders to participate (including people most affected by climate change, CALD & people with disability). • We used plain English descriptions, Bicultural Laison Officers (BLOs) at pop ups and provided translated materials to help people understand how to participate. • We met people at the place most convenient to them, whether that be online or in person.
Share how feedback helped inform the draft plan.	• All feedback (from YSY, workshops, meetings, email submissions, etc) was mapped and organised in a spreadsheet against the CEP Objectives and other themes or issues, so that we could methodically analyse the feedback and act accordingly whilst refining the draft.

	• The Community Engagement Report will be uploaded to the Your Say Yarra page and content updated after the consultation concludes.

7.2 Keeping Yarra Flood Resilient

Reference	D24/245084
Author	Kathryn Pound - Manager Statutory Planning
Authoriser	General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. To provide an update on the Keeping Yarra Flood Resilient project, specifically:
   (a) Preparation and findings of a municipal-wide flood modelling study and mapping exercise;
   (b) Outcomes of Stage 1 community engagement; and
   (c) Next steps to address Council's regulatory obligations.

Critical analysis

History and background

Council's flood resilience obligations

2. Council has various flood resilience regulatory obligations including:
   (a) As responsible manager for local stormwater catchments under the Water Act 1989 (Vic) - to manage local drainage systems, which includes mitigating impacts and preparing modelling and mapping of potential flood impacts;
   (b) As building authority under the Building Act 1993 (Vic) - to designate land as liable to flooding based on the latest and best data and make decisions and provide advice having regard to that data;
   (c) As Responsible Planning Authority under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic) – to implement the latest and best data into the planning scheme and make planning decisions that have regard to that data;
   (d) In governing under the Local Government Act 2020 (Vic) – to promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks; and
   (e) As a decision maker under the Climate Change Act 2017 (Vic) – to have regard to climate change when making certain decisions.
3. To fulfil these obligations and build the community's flood resilience, it is necessary for Council to update its flood modelling and mapping from time to time based on industry standards and implement that modelling and mapping. Implementation of the data ensures that the community has access to the most accurate information and that it can be used in planning and building decision making and in capital works planning.
4. Melbourne Water and most Victorian Councils, including Merri-bek, Darebin and City of Melbourne have been reviewing their flood modelling and mapping and are at various stages of preparing or implementing it. For instance, some Councils have progressed to implementation through a planning scheme amendment that has undergone exhibition.

Preparation of updated flood modelling

5. Before 2020, Council had not modelled or mapped the capacity of our local stormwater drains. Consequently, there are no local flood overlays in the Yarra Planning Scheme or locally declared flooding areas under the Building Regulations. All existing areas within the City of Yarra Planning Scheme designated as a Special Building Overlay (SBO) are the responsibility of Melbourne Water.

6. The Special Building Overlay is the tool in the Victorian Planning System to designate areas affected from stormwater/overland-flow flooding that arises when the capacity of drainage assets is exceeded.

7. In 2020, Council engaged external consultant Engeny to prepare a comprehensive flood modelling and mapping study across the Yarra municipality. This was initially driven by the need for Council to have a model to determine the capacity of local stormwater drains and deliver functional drainage solutions as part of the Council capital works program.

8. The key objectives of the project were to:

    (a) Assess and determine the level of service of Council's existing drainage infrastructure;

    (b) Identify flood prone areas within the municipality and consider the implementation of future flood overlays in Council's Planning Scheme, the key purpose of overlays being to:

        (i) minimise the effects of overland flows and flooding on new buildings;

        (ii) ensure new developments don't adversely affect existing properties;

    (c) Prioritise flood prone areas for implementation of mitigation works (e.g., drainage upgrades);

    (d) Quantify the impacts of climate change; and

    (e) Develop and implement a Special Building Overlay in a planning scheme under the Victorian Planning schemes.

9. The modelling factored in flooding from both Council and Melbourne Water drainage assets.

10. Melbourne Water subsequently engaged their own consultants (Jacobs) to undertake a peer review of this work. Engeny were then engaged by Melbourne Water to respond to the review comments and update their modelling accordingly, for the benefit of both Melbourne Water and Council.

Catchment Description

11. The study area was the whole Yarra City Council municipality. This area receives stormwater inflows from surrounding municipalities including the City of Melbourne to the west, the City of Merri-bek to the north-west and the City of Darebin to the north-east. The municipality is low-lying ground.

12. Key Melbourne Water underground drains in the study area include:

    (a) Alexandra Parade Main Drain;

    (b) Richmond Quarry Main Drain;

    (c) Fairfield Main Drain;

    (d) Lygon Street Main Drain / Park Street Diversion;

    (e) North Fitzroy Main Drain;

    (f) Harper Street Main Drain;

    (g) Palmer Street Main Drain; and

    (h) Swan Street Main Drain.

Modelling Approach

13. Engeny developed a hydrological model using special software to create runoff hydrographs for a range of design storm events, durations and temporal patterns. This information was then used to ascertain the flow dynamics through a hydraulic modelling software tool. Their approach was guided by the *Australian Rainfall and Runoff 2019* Standard and Melbourne Water's flood mapping project specifications (2021).

14. The modelling included a base case scenario for rainfall as well as climate change scenarios. The climate change factors for calculations are adopted based on *Australian Rainfall and Runoff 2019*, i.e. 18.4% increase in rainfall by 2100. Critical storm durations, temporal patterns and all required Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) events were considered in the creation of these flood maps.

15. Engeny had prepared a progress report to outline the different opportunities in flood extent filtering to Council. Engineering officers determined to adopt the 100mm depth filter for the flood extent, in line with the standard approach adopted by Victorian Council's and Melbourne Water.

16. The approach to determine the flood modelling and mapping was undertaken with Melbourne Water's input and was completed to a standard that is to be expected to align with Victorian Planning system requirements.

17. In late 2023, Melbourne Water, in collaboration with external consultants, undertook the verification of the Council's flood models. The results of this assessment were deemed satisfactory. A copy of the final Engeny report is contained at **Attachment 1.**

Differentiation between Council and Melbourne Water flood extents

18. Because the modelling factored in flooding from both Council and Melbourne Water assets, flood extents for each of the Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) and scenarios have been delineated between both Council and Melbourne Water flood extents to identify the responsible drainage authority. This also considered the location of underground assets of each of the authorities and the size of the catchment areas.

19. Melbourne Water flood extents are generally also delineated into the categories of flooding from 'underground drains' and 'waterways', in accordance with the requirements of Melbourne Water specifications.

20. Engeny discussed and confirmed the demarcation with both authorities ensuring agreement was reached with respect to the assignment of 'flooding referral authority' to the impacted areas.

21. Melbourne Water originally partnered with Council in the preparation of the modelling and mapping. In March 2024 they formally wrote to Council to advise that they are currently reviewing their flood modelling program. They wrote to Council again on 24 June 2024 to advise that they will be updating all flood models by 2026. It is understood that this will include implementing their updated modelling and mapping into planning schemes, including preparation of a planning scheme amendment to amend their existing Special Building Overlay 1, in accordance with their obligations under the Water Act.

22. Officers are aware that this may result in some confusion within the community when Council's mapping is made public, because some known flood-affected areas may not be included because they fall within a Melbourne Water flood extent. Officers are pressing ahead with Council's latest flood data to ensure risk mitigation against flooding is appropriately being managed by Council, for areas liable to flooding by a Council asset.

Development of local flood extents

23. Engeny used the modelling to prepare a map of areas impacted by flooding from Council's assets – shown in Figure 1 below.

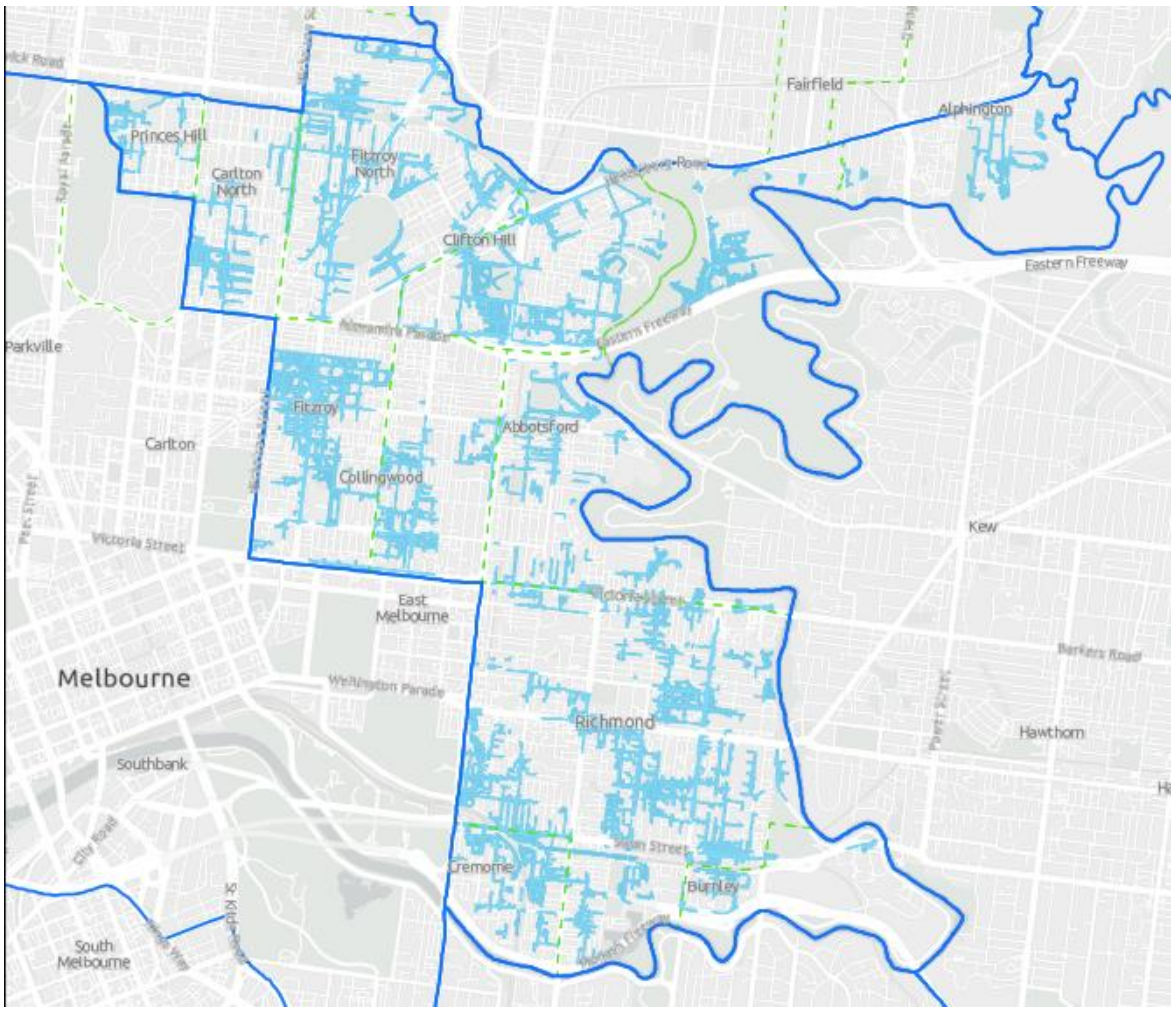


Figure 1: Land liable to flooding by Council assets (to be designated under Building Regulations 153)

24. The flood modelling study and flood maps form the statutory basis for:

    (a) The designation of land liable to flooding from a Council asset under Building Regulations 153 (BR153) by the Council through the MBS; and

    (b) Commencing the preparation of a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a local Special Building Overlay 2 (SBO2) for areas liable to flooding by a Council asset, for consideration at a future Council meeting.

25. The use of the word flooding in this context refers to stormwater flooding which is described as follows in the 'Applying the Flood Provisions in Planning Schemes – Planning Practice Note 12' published by State Government:

    During severe storms in urban areas, land can be affected by overland flows. These occur when the rainfall run-off exceeds the capacity of the piped drainage system and no provision has been made or overland flows. This is called stormwater flooding and often occurs in areas where there is a high density of existing development and a high flood damage potential.

26. The municipality contains approximately 29,500 property parcels. Of these, approximately 12,000 parcels (equivalent to approximately 22,179 individual properties) are identified as land liable to flooding by from a Council asset (see Figure 1 above).

27. These 22,179 individual properties will be designated as a flood area by Council through the Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS). Being designated as a flood area by Council means that flood levels must be considered in building decision making, and that certain flood levels must be adhered to in new construction. It is also specified in property information certificates so that prospective purchasers are aware that the property is in a designated flood area. The process for designation is discussed later in this report.

28. Of those 22,179 properties, approximately 10,000 will be included within a future Special Building Overlay 2 (SBO2) under the planning scheme.

29. The following filtering criteria was adopted to identify locations for potential inclusion in the SBO2 layer:

    (a) Depth and area of flooding greater than or equal to 100 millimetres; AND

    (b) Area of flooding covers 2% or greater of the total property area; OR

    (c) Area of flooding covers a minimum of 25% of the road frontage.

Outcomes of Stage 1 community engagement activity

30. In July and August 2023, officers conducted community consultation to understand the community's experiences of flooding and to promote flood resilience.

31. The purpose of this community engagement program was to:

    (a) Educate the community about the recent initiatives taken by the Yarra City Council to manage and mitigate flooding;

    (b) Build a shared understanding among the community about the issue, including common terms, standards, and responsibilities, which would enable productive conversations during this and future engagements on flooding, climate change, and rising water levels;

    (c) Provide an opportunity for the community to share their personal lived experiences, information, and photos of flooding which would be cross-checked with the data from the officers and the Bureau of Meteorology's historical rainfall records;

    (d) Introduce the community to our strategy for addressing and reducing the impacts of floods, including a range of potential solutions; and

    (e) Explain the concept of flood controls under the building and planning systems.

32. The community engagement program used a hybrid approach, consisting of online and face-to-face activities, to reach participants with varying levels of interest on the topic. The engagement program ran from 24 July to 21 August 2023, and was designed to capture participants who were engaged in their daily activities in various locations across the community. The program attracted 137 participants, mostly property owners who lived in our community.

33. Table 1 shows the number and percentage of participants by engagement activity. The face-to-face activities had the highest participation rate.

Table 1. Participation by engagement activity

Engagement Activity	No.	%
Community pop-ups	70	51.1%
Your Say Yarra social map	38	27.7%
Your Say Yarra online survey	29	21.2%
TOTAL	**137**	**100%**

Key engagement findings

34. The experiences of the residents and attendees validated the accuracy of the identified flood-impacted areas. The community generally appears to have a good understanding of the flood-impacted areas and their effects. The conversations with staff provided insight to the communities lived experience.

35. It was observed by the community that the incidence of flood events was highest in the Richmond, Abbotsford, and Collingwood areas, which aligns with their proximity to the Yarra River or other significant water bodies within the community. Despite lower participation, the reported severity level was higher in Cremorne (Gough St), where the entrance to the freeway and proximity to the Yarra River were frequently mentioned.

36. Community feedback indicated Richmond experienced a higher severity of flooding than any other suburb within the municipal areas. A flash flooding event in December 2018 was repeatedly mentioned by participants from Richmond. This likely refers to the thunderstorms and flash flooding during that period that affected the Melbourne CBD and Eastern suburbs.

37. There were also reports of potential new developments impacting the capacity of existing drainage systems. In contrast, feedback indicated that Abbotsford experienced significant flooding of the Yarra Trail and footpath, affecting cyclists and pedestrians. This is likely due to its close location to the Yarra River and the frequent use of the trail.

38. The key storm events reported corresponded to recorded flood events, including:

    (a) 2018: Richmond had multiple recorded flood events during this period; and

    (b) 2022: Abbotsford had multiple accounts of flooding during October – November.

39. The participant's experiences endorsed the areas determined impacted are accurate. Community is generally aware of the flood impacted areas and impacts. The conclusive report regarding the engagement on flood resilience is attached.

40. Overall, the engagement initiative was launched to better understand the community's firsthand encounters and lived experience with flooding. It has furthered significant dialogue within the community about flood management, the varying levels of severity experienced across Council areas, and the overall impact on the community. From this, it is recommended that the Council proceed with the implementation of the project, as a proactive measure to further protect the community from potential flood risks.

Discussion

Next steps to address Council's regulatory obligations

41. To continue to progress the task of making Yarra flood resilient and to address Council's regulatory obligations, the next steps are:

    (a) Council, through the MBS, designates flood areas and data commences to be used in building and planning matters to avoid future damage to properties and reduce health and safety risks for the community; and

    (b) Commence preparation for Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a local Special Building Overlay Schedule 2 (SBO2) for areas liable to flooding by a Council asset, for consideration at a future Council meeting.

Designation of flood area by Municipal Building Surveyor

42. The Municipal Building Surveyor can designate flood areas under regulations 148 and 149 of the Building Regulations:

    148. Mapping of designated special areas

    A council must prepare maps for all designated special areas within its municipal district.

    149. Alteration to and creation of designated special area

    (1) If in a municipal district a designated special area is altered or a new designated special area is created a relevant council must, as soon as practicable—

(a) amend the map for the designated special area that has been altered; or

(b) prepare a map of the new designated special area that has been created.

(2) A council must advise the Authority within 7 days if a designated special area within its municipal district is altered or if a new designated special area is created.

(3) The relevant council must lodge with the Authority within 7 days copies of designated special area maps amended or prepared under regulation 148 or subregulation (1).

(4) A council must make an up-to-date copy of each designated special area map applicable to its municipal district that has been prepared under regulation 148 or subregulation (1) available to the public for inspection without charge at the offices of the council during normal business hours

43. To summarise the process, Council through the MBS formally designates the flood maps as a special area, informs the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) within seven days and makes a copy of the flood map publicly available for inspection without charge.

44. Should Council adopt this recommendation, and subsequently, this process will occur as soon as practicable.

45. It is proposed that letters will also be sent to all affected property owners and occupiers to notify them about the designation. While this is not a statutory requirement, it will ensure that owners and occupiers are kept updated and provided with the most up to date information about what this means for them.

Use of updated flood mapping in planning and building matters

46. A critical aspect of this project is the commencement of the use of the updated flood mapping in planning and building matters.

47. It should be noted that flooding already forms part of planning and building considerations for properties that are already included in an SBO area.

48. Once the MBS declares the flood areas and lodges that with the VBA, the updated mapping will start being used in all relevant planning and building matters. This occurs even though planning controls have not been introduced into the planning scheme through a planning scheme amendment (although the process will commence).

49. Specifically, once the MBS declares the flood maps, the updated data will be referred to in planning and building decision making and advice as follows:

    (a) For building:

        (i) advice on Property information certificates issued under r 51 of the Building Regulations; and

        (ii) where people are in a designated area and require a building permit, they will need to apply for a flood dispensation report and consent under r 153 or 154 of the Building Regulations. This process ensures that the proposed floor levels are checked against the designated maps to ensure that they are high enough; and

    (b) For planning:

        (i) advice to property owners/ applicants, including when they apply for:

            a. Planning permit;

            b. Amendments to existing planning permits;

            c. An extension of time to a planning permit;

            d. A Planning Property Enquiry; and

            e. A request to endorse plans or documents under a planning permit.

50. In addition, the mapping will be publicly available on Council's website so that anyone can access it and see if their property would be affected.

51. There is a risk that the use of the data causes transitional issues for some people developing their properties. For instance, where someone is part way through the development process and has some, but not all permissions (e.g. a planning permit, but not a building permit), they may be required to reapply to Council to amend existing approvals. This will be actively managed by officers to ensure a high quality of customer support and service is provided.

Future Planning Scheme Amendment Process

52. If adopted by Council, the Strategic Planning Unit will commence preparing documentation for a future Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a local SBO2 schedule.

53. An SBO2 schedule would identify the land prone to local flooding and, in simple terms, include the level to which a floor level needs to be raised to avoid flood damage. It does not identify the individual floor level per property but would require an application to be checked to ensure the appropriate floor levels have been achieved to avoid inundation.

54. Depending on progress to translate the study and flood mapping findings into planning scheme amendment documentation, Officers plan to report again to Council in December 2024. An estimated timeline is:

    (a) Prepare documentation – July to December 2024;

    (b) Following a future Council meeting, request authorisation from Minister for Planning – December 2024;

    (c) Authorisation from the Minister for Planning – April 2025;

    (d) Exhibit amendment – June 2025;

    (e) Consider submissions received and report to future Council meeting – October 2025;

    (f) Panel to consider submissions – February 2026;

    (g) Report to future Council meeting to consider panel recommendations and potentially adopt amendment – June 2026;

    (h) Submit amendment for approval from Minister – July 2026; and

    (i) Potential approval and gazettal – December 2026.

55. The processing times within the Department of Transport and Planning and by the Minister for Planning are estimates only.

Options

56. The recommended way forward is to pursue the process outlined above, specifically:

    (a) as soon as practicable after the Council meeting, Council through the MBS designates flood areas regulations 148 and 149 of the Building Regulations, publishes the maps and FAQs online, notifies all affected property owners and occupiers and commences using the updated flood mapping in planning and building matters;

    (b) the Strategic Planning Unit commence the preparation of a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a local SBO2 schedule, for consideration at a future Council meeting; and

    (c) Council writes to participants of the Stage 1 Engagement to inform them of the outcomes of this meeting and undertakes other communication and engagement activities as set out in this report.

57. Should Council not wish to pursue this process, Council may be liable for failing to inform the community about potential flood impacts on their properties as soon as practicable. Council may also be liable for failing to use the most up to date data in decision making as soon as practicable and failing its various legal obligations outlined at point 2 above.

Community and stakeholder engagement

58. Stage 1 Community engagement was undertaken in 2023 as previously outlined. Prior to this meeting, participants were informed about this meeting, the Your Say Yarra Project Page was updated and a news item was put on Council's website.

59. Subject to Council's endorsing this report, the following will occur:

    (a) Letters will be sent to all Stage 1 engagement participants informing them of the outcomes;

    (b) Your Say Yarra Project Page will be updated;

    (c) News item will be published on Council's Corporate website;

    (d) Articles will be posted in Yarra News and Yarra Life;

    (e) Social media posts;

    (f) Two drop in sessions open to the public will also be held; and

    (g) Maps will be made publicly available alongside common FAQs.

60. When Council through the MBS designates flood areas under regulations 148 and 149 of the Building Regulations, letters will be sent to all affected property owners and occupiers to notify them about this.

61. As part of the Planning Scheme Amendment process, formal exhibition will occur. Any submissions received will be reported to Council at a future Council meeting. Any submissions not resolved by Council would be referred to an independent Panel to consider.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

62. This aligns to Strategic Objective 1 of the Council Plan: Climate and Environment and Theme 4 of the Council Vision: Environmental Sustainability.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

63. The updated flood mapping directly addresses Council's various legislative obligations relating to climate emergency and sustainability. This is by ensuring all new development is built to mitigate future risk of property damage and by informing the community about potential flood impacts.

Community and social implications

64. The updated flood mapping affects a large portion of the municipality. Failure to act would have safety implications for people and places.

Economic development implications

65. There are no significant financial implications for the community.

66. The updated flood mapping is **highly unlikely** to prevent development from occurring. Instead, development must be designed to mitigate potential future adverse flood impacts.

Human rights and gender equality implications

67. Consideration has been given to human rights and gender equality implications. Failure to act on the updated mapping does has potential future safety implications for people which would impact on their human rights.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

68. There are no financial implications from this project, beyond project requirements planned for and budgeted within the relevant Council business units.

69. The Planning Scheme Amendment has been planned for and will be run in-house. Some State Government statutory fees and exhibition notice costs would occur during financial year 2024/2025.

70. Council Officers are investigating setting up a new process, whereby people can apply to Council to be told their flood levels, for an administrative fee to cover the service cost. This will be in accordance with existing Council adopted fees.

Legal Implications

71. There are relevant pieces of legislation relevant to this issue, including the *Planning and Environment Act 1987, Building Act 1993, Local Government Act 2020, Climate Change Act 2017* and *Water Act 1989*. These have been addressed throughout this report.

72. The recommended way forward seeks to fulfil Council's various legal obligations. Should Council not wish to pursue this process, Council may be liable for failing to inform the community about potential flood impacts on their properties as soon as practicable. Council may also be liable for failing to use the most up to date data in decision making as soon as practicable.

Conclusion

73. Council has a number of regulatory obligations regarding flood resilience. In order to fulfil these obligations and improve the community's flood resilience, updated flood modelling and mapping has been prepared and a comprehensive way forward has been proposed to enable this to be embedded in decision making and advice to the community.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) notes this report; and

   (b) adopts the following recommendations:

      (i) as soon as practicable after the Council meeting, Council through the MBS to designate flood areas under regulations 148 and 149 of the Building Regulations, publishes the maps and FAQs online, notifies all affected property owners and occupiers and commences using the updated flood mapping in planning and building matters; and

      (ii) the Strategic Planning Unit to commence the preparation of a Planning Scheme Amendment to introduce a local SBO schedule, for consideration at a future Council meeting; and

   (c) writes to participants of the Stage 1 Engagement, thanking them for their participation and informing them of the outcomes of this meeting and undertakes other communication and engagement activities set out in this report.

Attachments

1⇩ Attachment 1 Yarra City Council - Identification of Land Liable to Flooding Technical Report

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CITY OF YARRA

CITY OF YARRA

Identification of Land Liable to Flooding

Technical Report

VC2036_006-REP-001-3

27 JUNE 2024

ENGENY

DISCLAIMER

This Report has been prepared on behalf of and for the exclusive use of City of Yarra and is subject to and issued in accordance with City of Yarra instruction to Engeny Australia Pty Ltd (Engeny). The content of this Report was based on previous information and studies supplied by City of Yarra.

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Rev	Date	Description	Author	Reviewer	Project Mgr.	Approver
0	4/05/2023	Client Issue	Harry George	Scott Dunn	Daniel Hatzihristodoulou	Scott Dunn
1	5/05/2023	Updated Report	Harry George	Scott Dunn	Daniel Hatzihristodoulou	Scott Dunn
2	1/03/2024	Updated Report	Harry George	Scott Dunn	Daniel Hatzihristodoulou	Scott Dunn
3	27/06/2024	Updated Report	Harry George	Scott Dunn	Daniel Hatzihristodoulou	Scott Dunn
Signatures:						

ENGENY

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

City of Yarra (Council) engaged Engeny to develop a secondary flood extent layer for Council to be used to identify / designate land liable to flooding outside of proposed flood overlays (e.g., Special Building Overlay and Land Subject to Inundation Overlay). The development of the 'land liable to flood' layer follows on from Engeny's flood modelling study of the Yarra municipality and will be used internally by Council to assist with review of future development proposals in accordance with the Building Regulations (2018).

This report documents the processes undertaken by Engeny to develop the 'land liable to flood' layer across the Yarra municipality for Council.

1.2 Flood Modelling Study

During 2020 Engeny completed a flood modelling / mapping study for Yarra City Council (Council) that covered the entire municipality. The results of this study were communicated to Melbourne Water, whom as a key drainage stakeholder identified the value in adopting consistent flood modelling data with Council across the municipality.

In accordance with Melbourne Water's Flood Mapping Specifications (October 2021), a peer review of Council's 2020 flood models was commissioned by Melbourne Water, and this was completed in early 2022. On the back of this review Engeny were engaged by Melbourne Water to respond to the peer review comments and complete an update of Council's 2020 modelling for the benefit of both Melbourne Water and Council.

At the time of preparing this summary report the 2022 Melbourne Water study is nearing completion with all model runs complete and development of flood extents, amongst other project deliverables, nearing completion (pending final review by Melbourne Water).

The 1 % Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event flood extents for climate change rainfall conditions have formed the basis for the development of the 'land liable to flooding' layer.

2. APPLICABLE FLOOD PLANNING ZONES AND OVERLAYS

Planning authorities (such as Yarra City Council) have a range of tools to choose from to identify flood affected land in the planning scheme. There are four types of flood provisions available, which are:

- Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ);
- Floodway Overlay (FO);
- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO); and
- Special Building Overlay (SBO).

The various flood provisions have been derived based on the type of flooding and the potential level of risk to life and property. The level of planning control in each provision is commensurate with the potential flood risk. For example, the UFZ is a restrictive provision that prohibits most uses and development. It is designed to be applied to urban environments where there is a high potential flood risk and only low intensity uses and development (such as recreation) are suitable. In contrast, the LSIO is used for both urban and rural environments to identify land with a lower potential flood risk or as an interim measure, areas where accurate flood mapping to identify the floodway is yet to be carried out. The LSIO only requires a permit for buildings and works and does not prohibit either use or development.

The UFZ, FO and LSIO all relate to mainstream flooding from a river or stream, while the SBO relates to stormwater flooding along overland flow paths in catchments with underground drainage systems.

In the Yarra municipality there are currently LSIO and SBO in the planning scheme. The LSIO areas are related to flooding along major waterways whilst SBO areas relate to flooding as a direct result of the capacity of existing drainage networks. All planning applications related to the existing SBO or LSIO are referred to Melbourne Water as the relevant floodplain management authority. Melbourne Water has responsibility for main drains that typically have catchments greater than 60 hectares.

The 'land liable to flooding' layer is proposed to accompany the above planning zones/overlays and assist Council to assess future development proposals in accordance with the Building Regulations (2018).

3. DEVELOPMENT OF 'LAND LIABLE TO FLOODING' LAYER

3.1 Inclusion Criteria and Methodology

The 'land liable to flooding' layer has been developed based on the hydraulic modelling outputs for the 1 % AEP storm event in Climate Change Scenario. For a rainfall event of this magnitude, all areas of the municipality will have some degree of runoff on the surface. The intention of the layer is to include all areas of flooding and key flow paths where flood depths are equal or greater to 50mm.

The layer does not include areas of flooding relevant to Melbourne Water assets (underground pipes or open channels / waterways).

The first step involved application of filtering criteria to the 1 % AEP Climate Change Scenario flood depth output of hydraulic modelling to determine locations where 'land liable to flooding' should be delineated. In determining filtering criteria Engeny has first referred to published guidelines including:

- Applying the Flood Provisions in Planning Schemes – A Guide for Councils, Victorian State Government, June 2015
- Flood Mapping Guidelines and Technical Specification, Melbourne Water, October 2021 (the most recent available Melbourne Water specifications at the commencement of the City of Yarra Flood Mapping Project).

The following filtering criteria, adapted from the existing Melbourne Water flood extent filtering criteria, has been adopted to identify locations for potential inclusion in the 'land liable to flooding' layer:

- Depth and area of flooding greater than or equal to 50 millimetres AND
- Area of flooding covers 2 % or greater of the total property area OR
- Area of flooding covers a minimum of 25 % of the road frontage.

The application of these filtering or threshold criteria to the raw modelling outputs creates shapes that have been used to identify locations for inclusion in the 'land liable to flooding' layer, but not the final shape of the proposed flood extent. The criteria listed above were used to determine the approximate upstream extent of significant flow paths that should be included in the flood extent. It would not be appropriate to use the above criteria to determine the entire shape of the flood extent as only a portion of the flow path in some locations would be covered, and there would be areas of disconnected flow paths.

To ensure a smooth and continuous flood extent, differing filtering criterion has been adopted where 50-millimetre depth filtered flow paths are disconnected. This has been adopted for flood extents that connect via roads, and through certain parcels / properties where flood results show a clear continued flow path in which water cannot travel down a road or easement. This ensures the flood extent does not end within a property.

Figure 3.1 provides a flow chart illustrating the general steps used to develop the 'land liable to flooding' layer.

All initial flood extents used to develop the 'Land Liable to Flooding' layer have been produced using Engeny's MApping Results GEnerator (MARGE). MARGE is a high-speed results processing tool that utilises the Safe Software's Feature Manipulation Engine (FME) and other workflow scripts to automate the creation of a filtered and smoothed flood extent (as based on the threshold criteria listed above) and other GIS deliverables from TUFLOW's raw output files. The use of FME to create a flood extent from TUFLOW raw outputs is as per Melbourne Water's Technical Specification (October 2021), which provides a detailed process in developing a smoothed flood extent using FME.

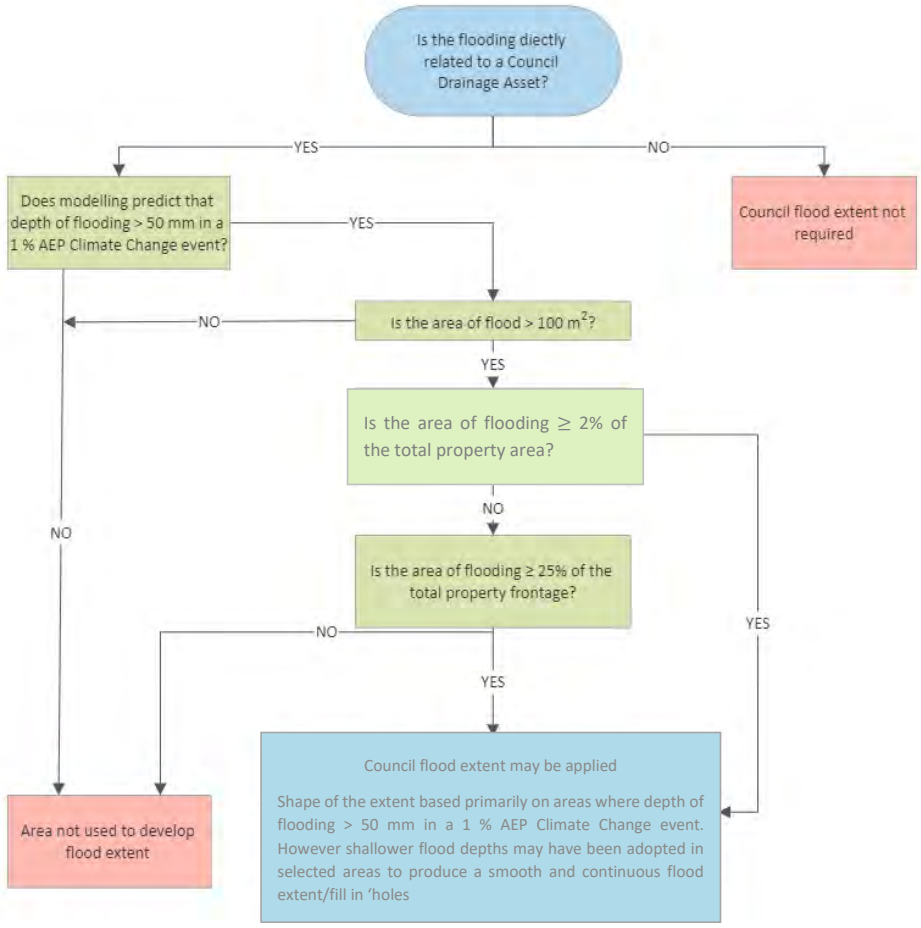


FIGURE 3.1: 'LAND LIABLE TO FLOODING' LAYER DEVELOPMENT FLOW CHART

4. PROVISION OF 'LAND LIABLE TO FLOODING' LAYER

Engeny has provided the proposed 'land liable to flooding' layer to Council in digital format (MapInfo table and ESRI Shapefile). Council has reviewed the layer multiple times, including providing feedback resulting in alterations to the layer undertaken by Engeny to meet Council's requests and objectives.

Table 4.1 summaries of the number of parcels affected by the 'land liable to flooding' and 'Special Building Overlay' layer.

TABLE 4.1: SUMMARY OF PARCELS AFFECTED BY THE 'LAND LIABLE TO FLOODING' LAYER

City of Yarra Catchment	Approx. Area (ha)	Number of Parcels in 'Special Building Overlay" Layer		Number of Parcels in 'Land Liable to Flooding' Layer
		Council	Melbourne Water	
Alexandra Main Drain Catchment	1,297	2068	3656	3601
Richmond Quarry Main Drain Catchment	892	2380	880	3925
Fairfield Main Drain Catchment	583	63	-*	158

*Existing Melbourne Water SBO extent will be used for the Fairfield catchment

Appendix A provides flood extent plans of the municipality, presenting the proposed Council 'Land Liable to Flooding' layer (referred to as BR153 in the plans), Council SBO2 layer and Melbourne Water SBO1 layer.

5. QUALIFICATIONS

a) In preparing this document, including all relevant calculation and modelling, Engeny Water Management (Engeny) has exercised the degree of skill, care and diligence normally exercised by members of the engineering profession and has acted in accordance with accepted practices of engineering principles.

b) Engeny has used reasonable endeavours to inform itself of the parameters and requirements of the project and has taken reasonable steps to ensure that the works and document is as accurate and comprehensive as possible given the information upon which it has been based including information that may have been provided or obtained by any third party or external sources which has not been independently verified.

c) Engeny reserves the right to review and amend any aspect of the works performed including any opinions and recommendations from the works included or referred to in the works if:

   i) Additional sources of information not presently available (for whatever reason) are provided or become known to Engeny; or

   ii) Engeny considers it prudent to revise any aspect of the works in light of any information which becomes known to it after the date of submission.

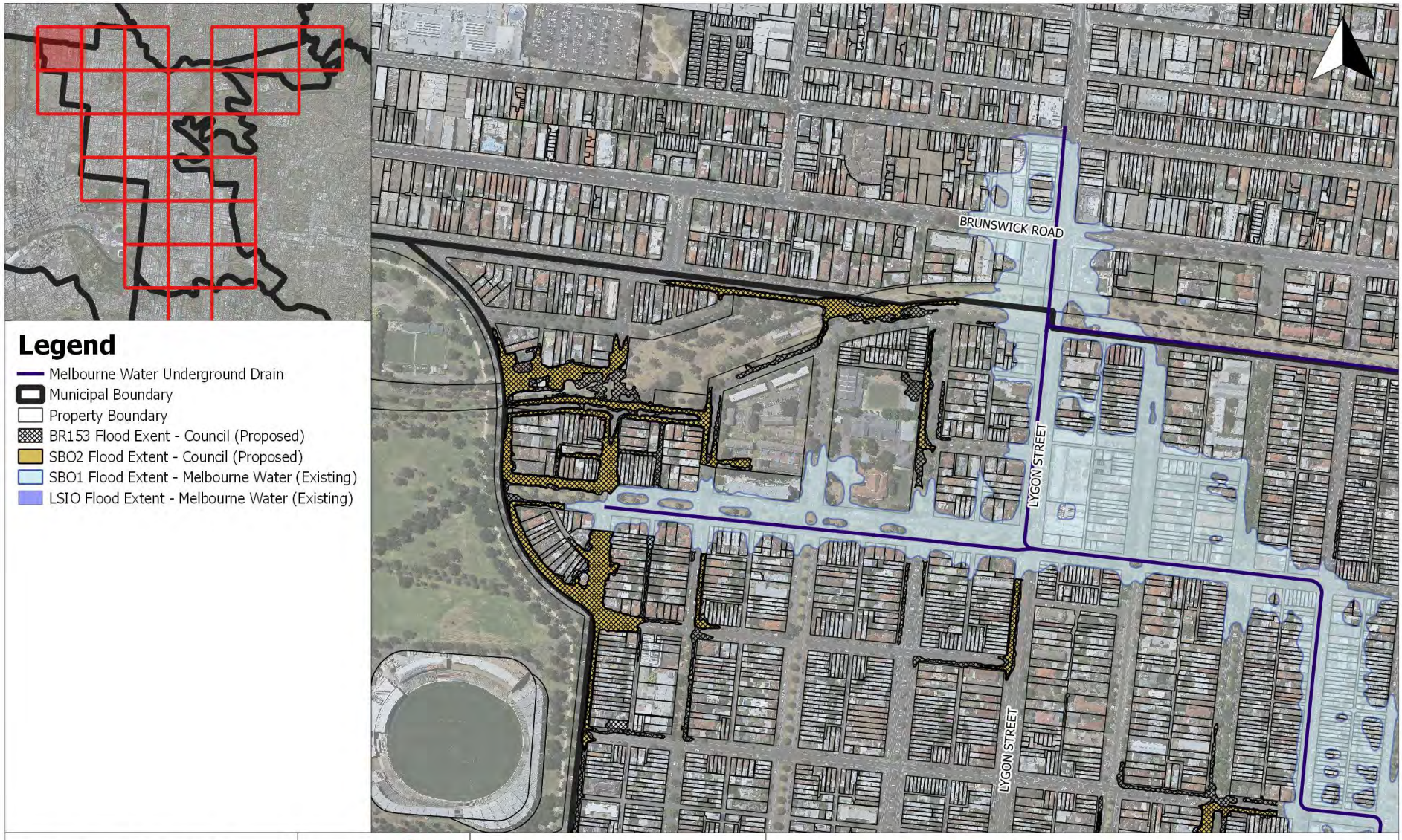
d) Engeny does not give any warranty nor accept any liability in relation to the completeness or accuracy of the works, which may be inherently reliant upon the completeness and accuracy of the input data and the agreed scope of works. All limitations of liability shall apply for the benefit of the employees, agents and representatives of Engeny to the same extent that they apply for the benefit of Engeny.

e) This document is for the use of the party to whom it is addressed and for no other persons. No responsibility is accepted to any third party for the whole or part of the contents of this Report.

f) If any claim or demand is made by any person against Engeny on the basis of detriment sustained or alleged to have been sustained as a result of reliance upon the Report or information therein, Engeny will rely upon this provision as a defence to any such claim or demand.

g) This Report does not provide legal advice.

APPENDIX A: PROPOSED FLOOD EXTENT PLANS



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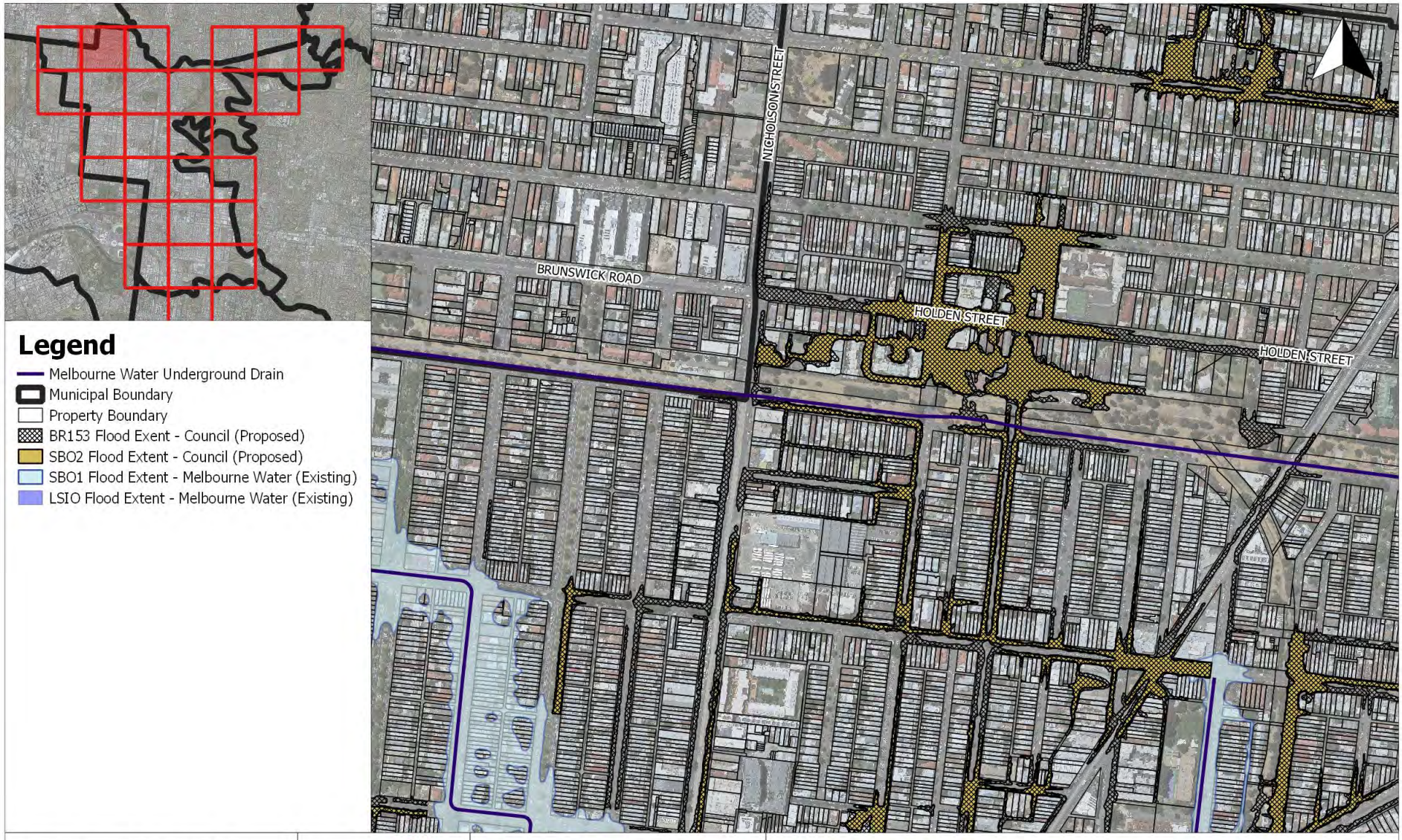
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Map Projection: Tranverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: Geocentric Datum of Australia
Vertical Datum: Australia Height Datum
Grid: Map Grid of Australia, Zone 55

City of Yarra Flood Mapping

Flood Extent Plan (LSIO, SBO1, SBO2 and BR153)

Job Number: VC2036_006
Revision: 1
Drawn: NB
Checked: HG
Date: 27/6/2024



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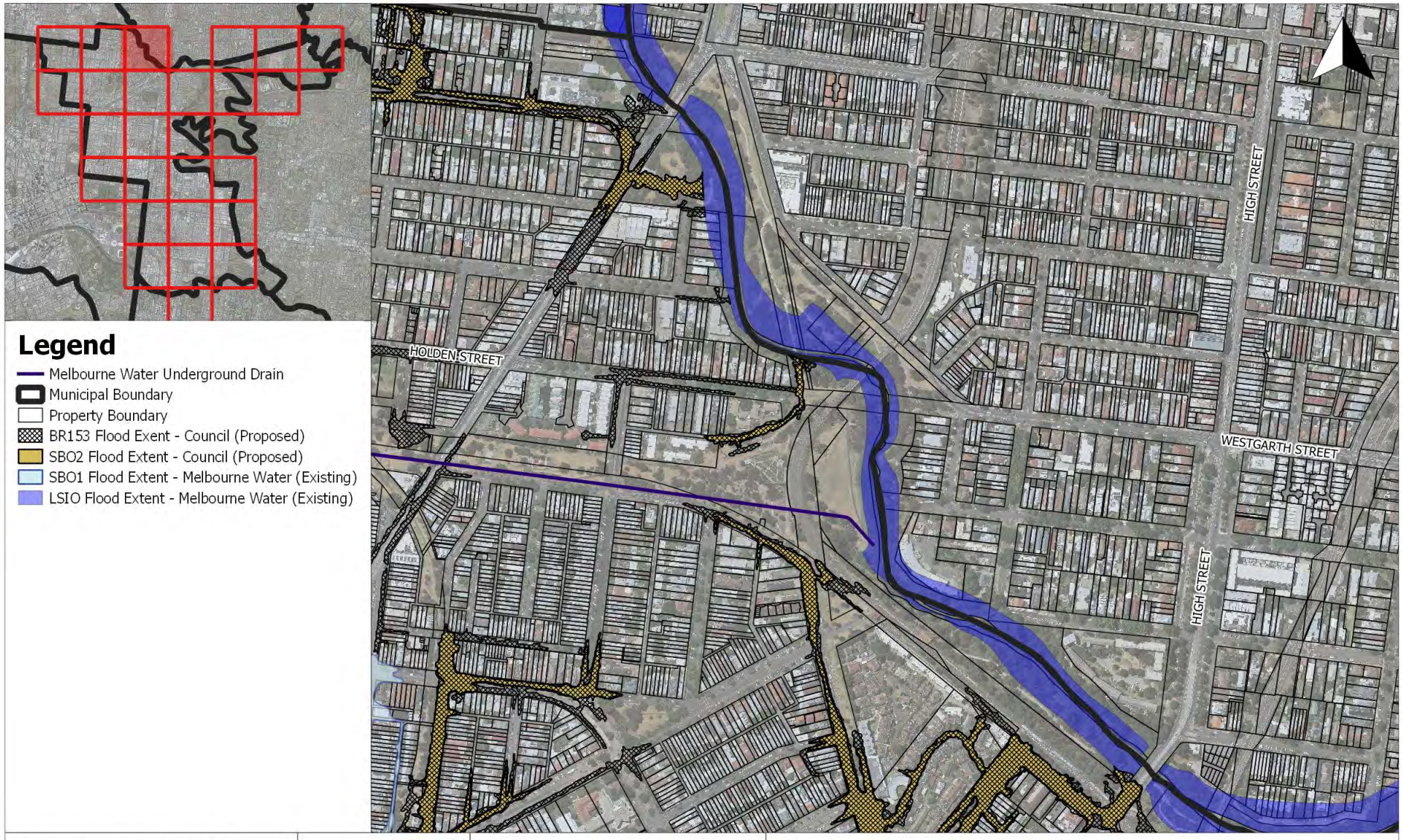
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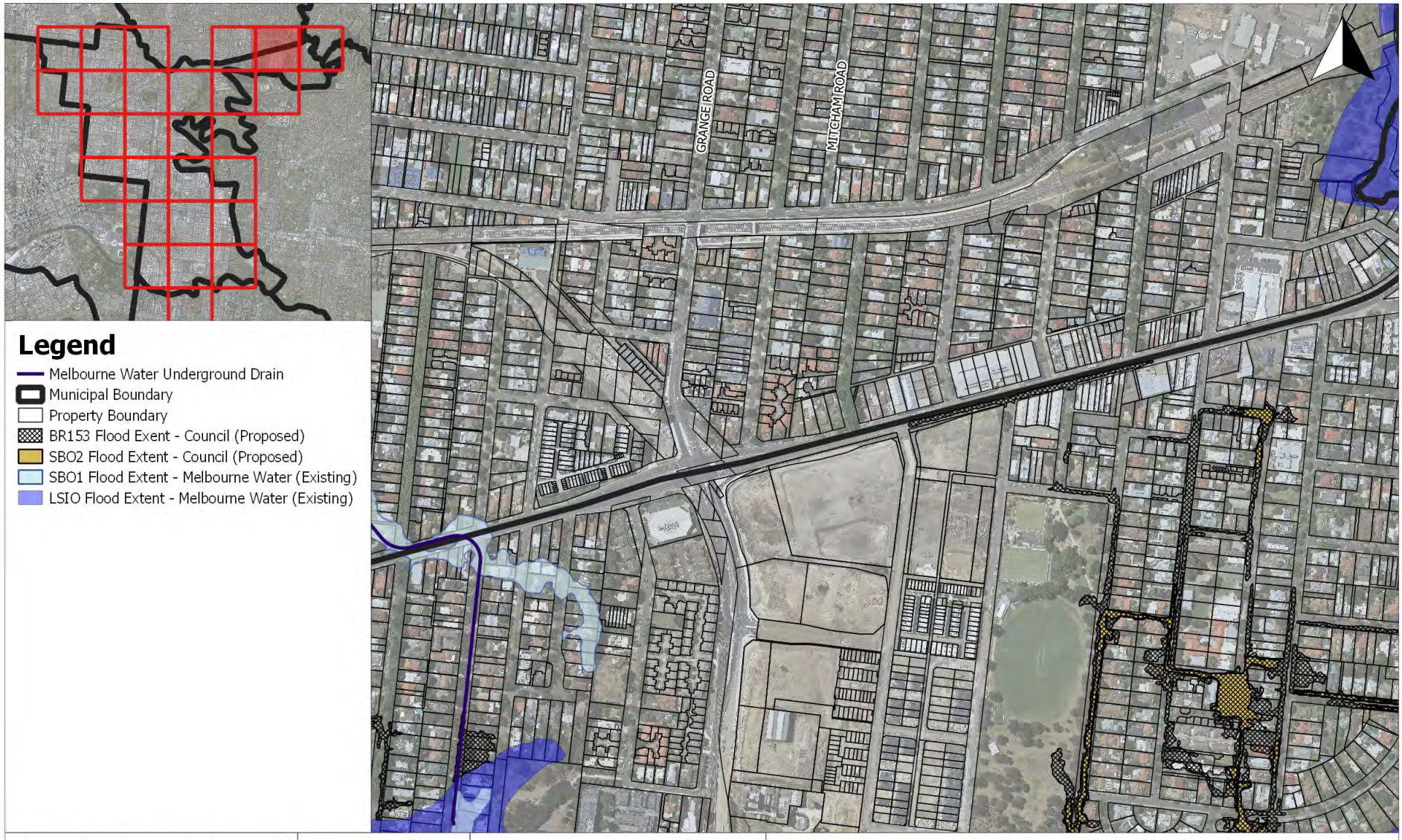
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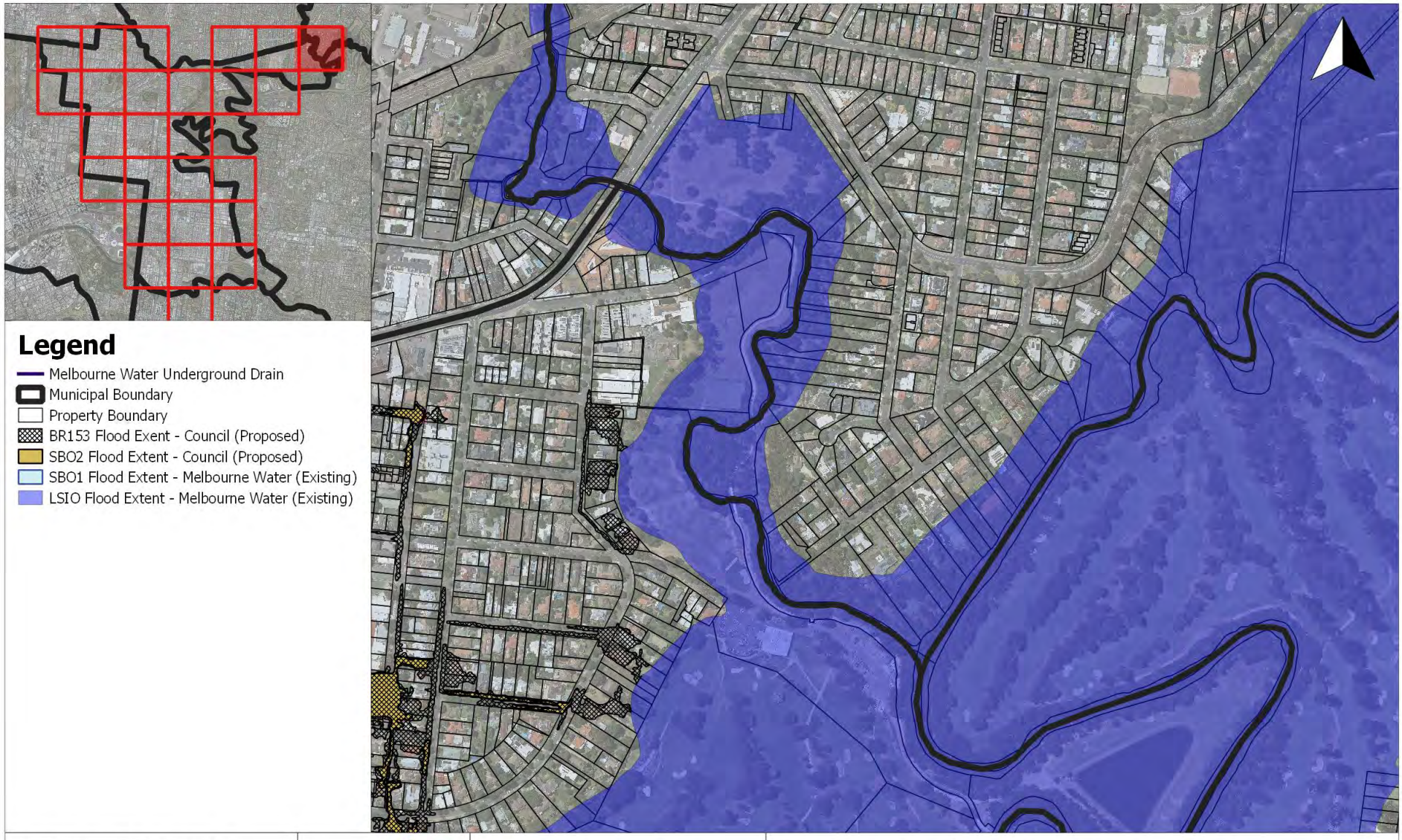
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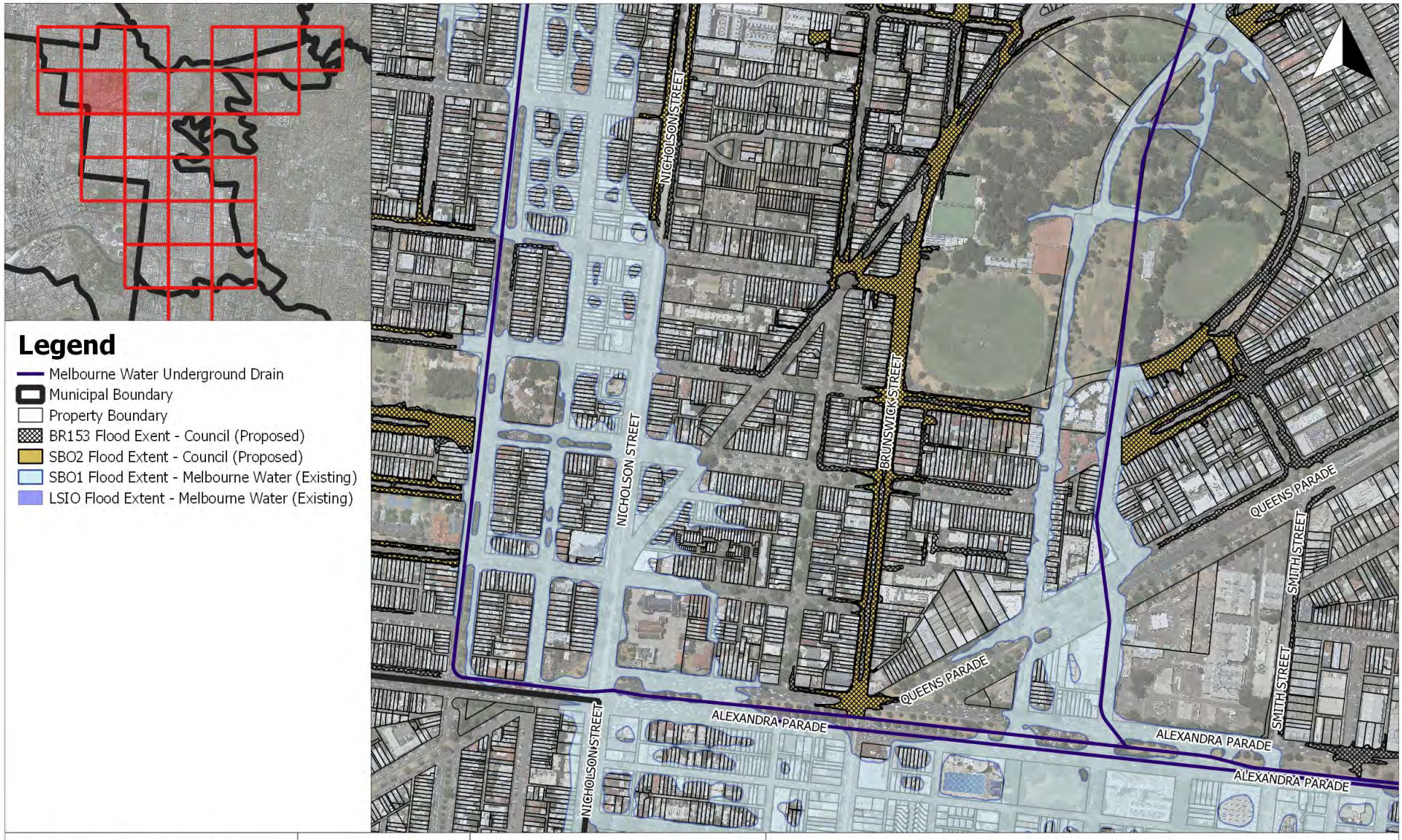
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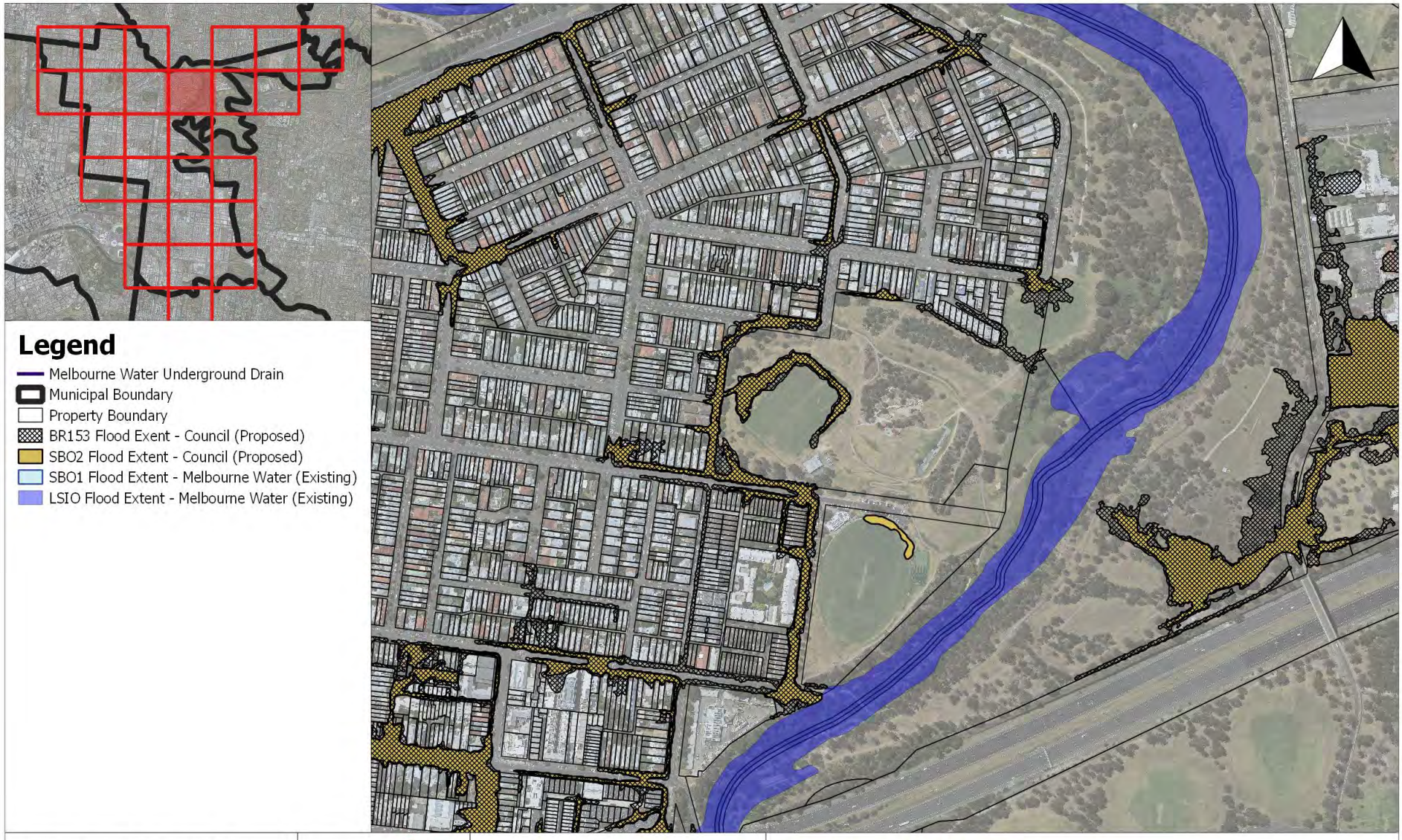
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CITY OF YARRA

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Scale in metres (1:4,250 @ A3)

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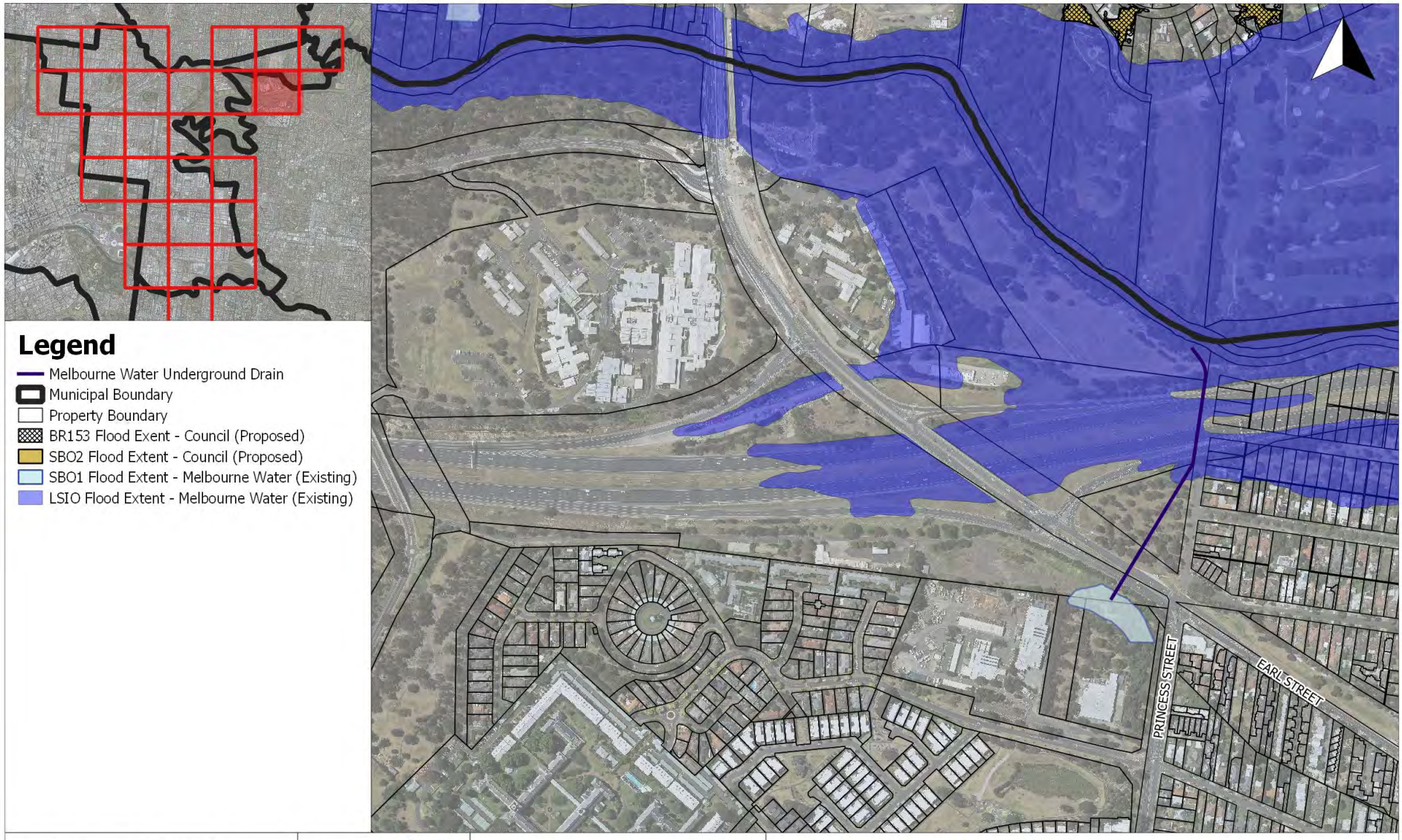
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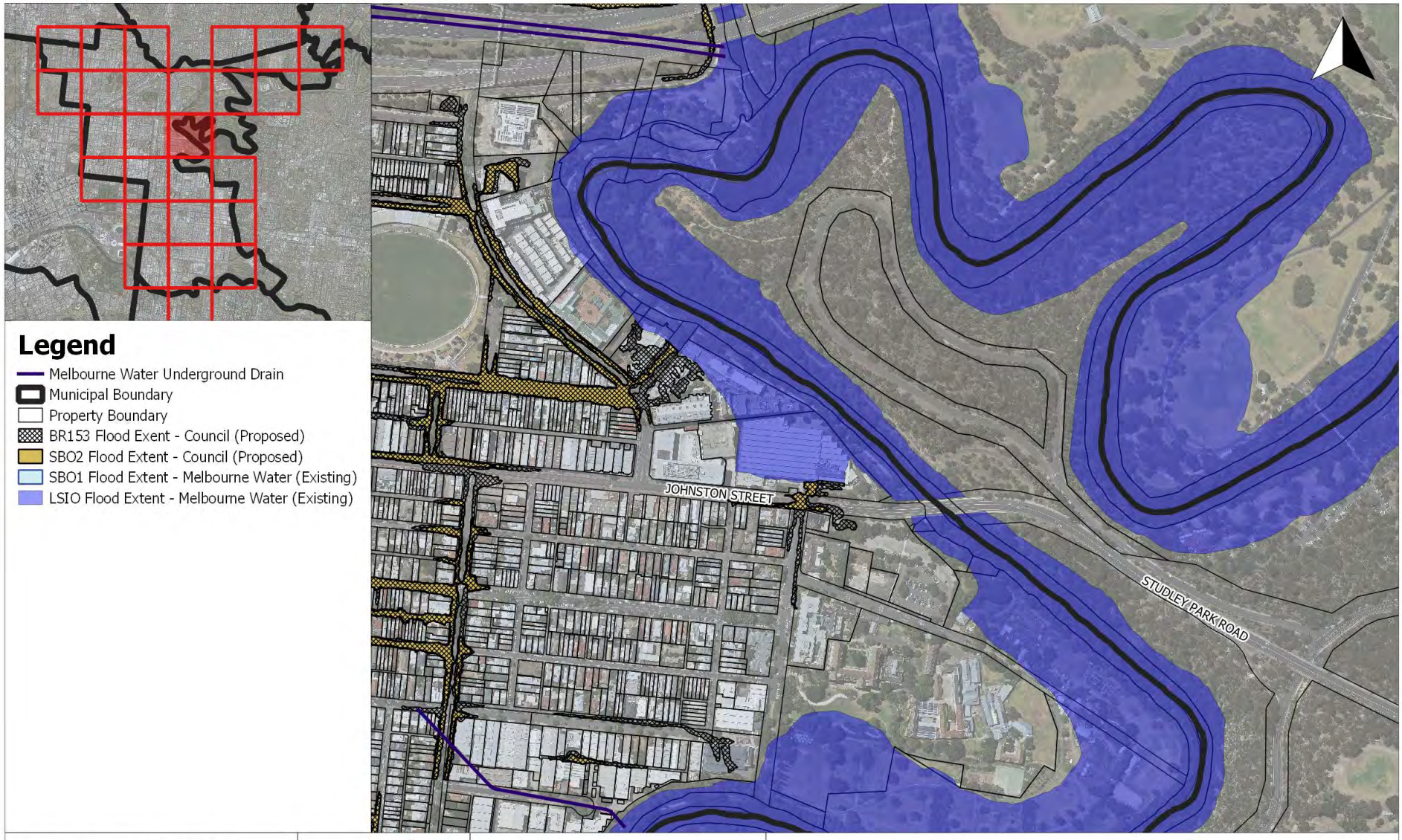
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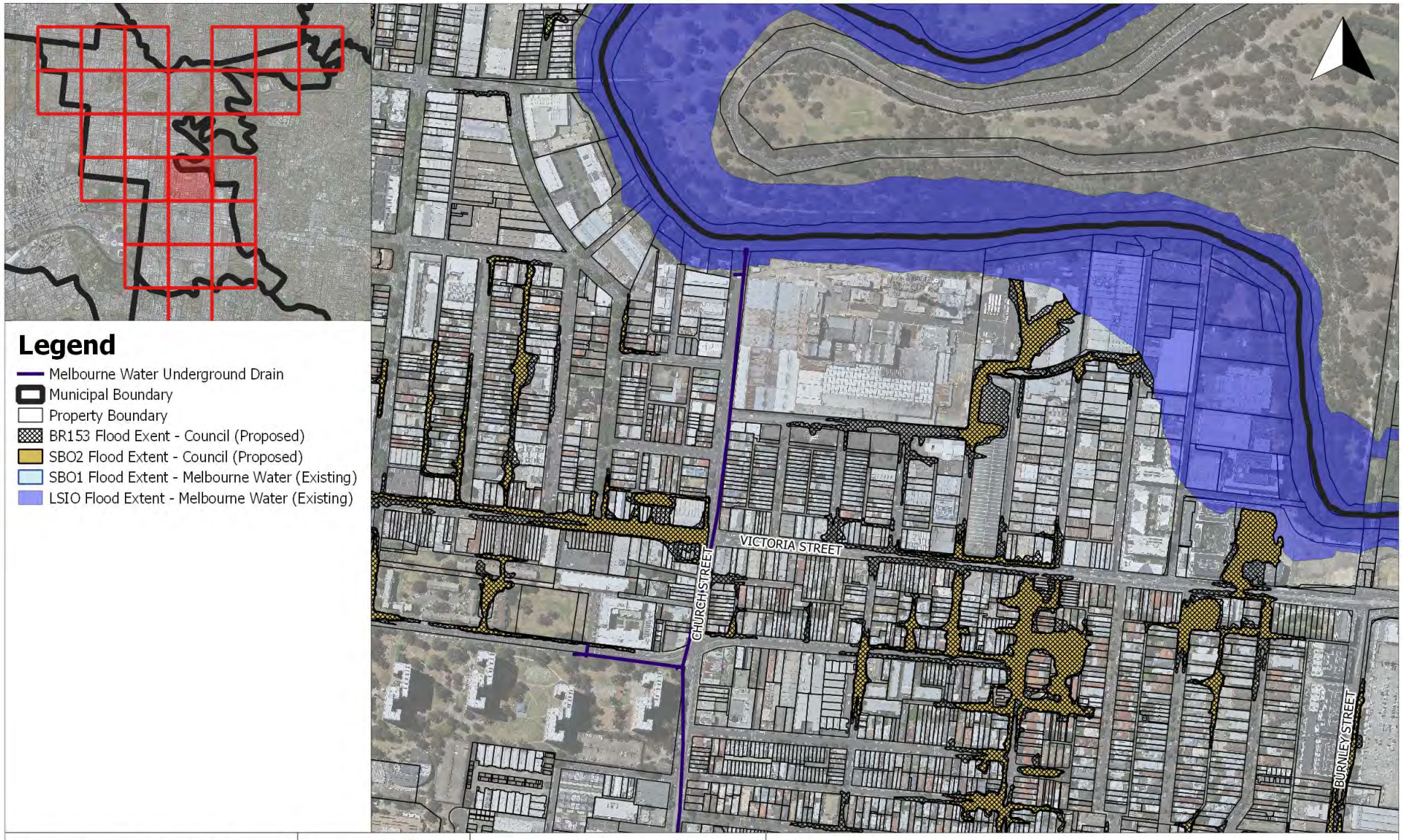
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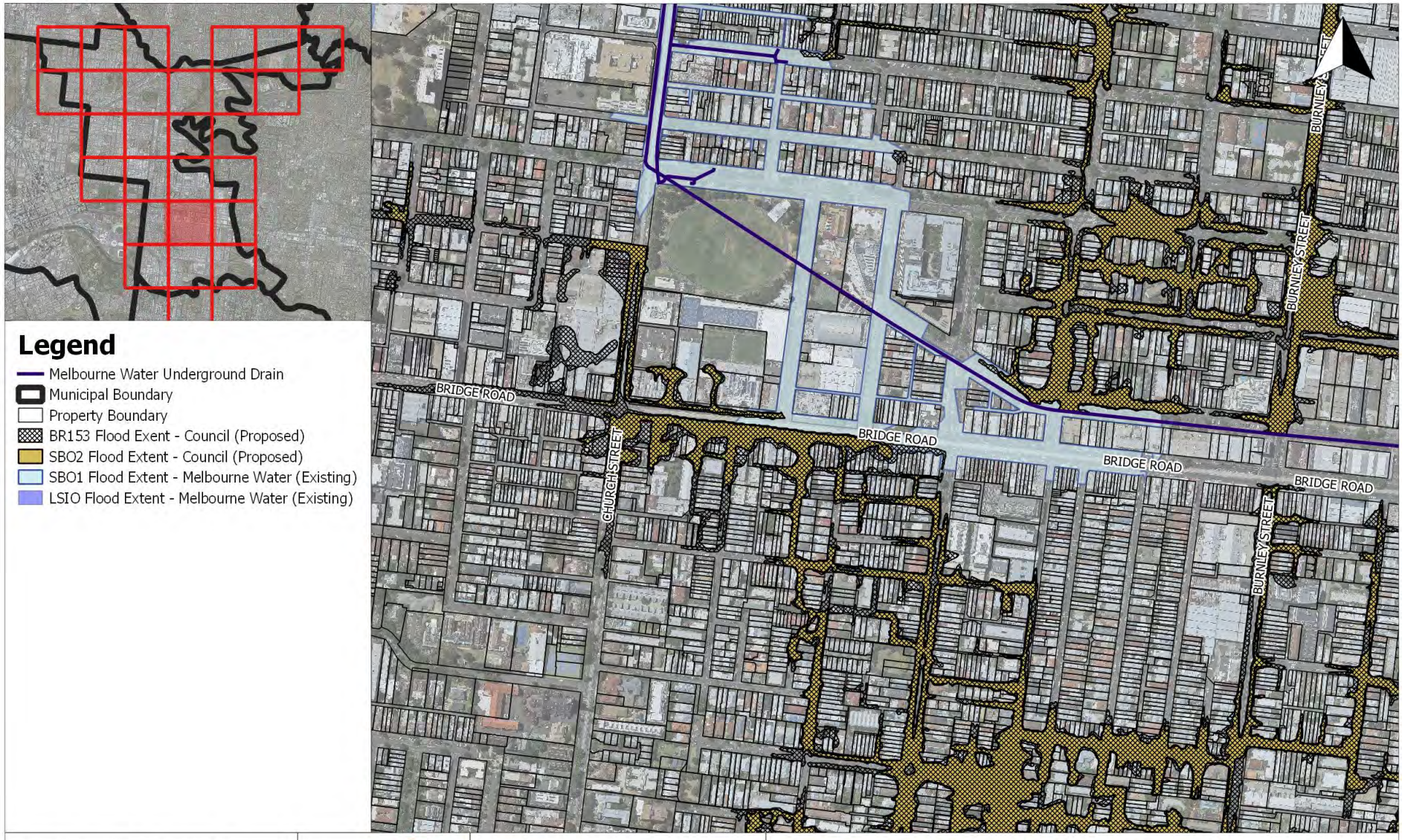
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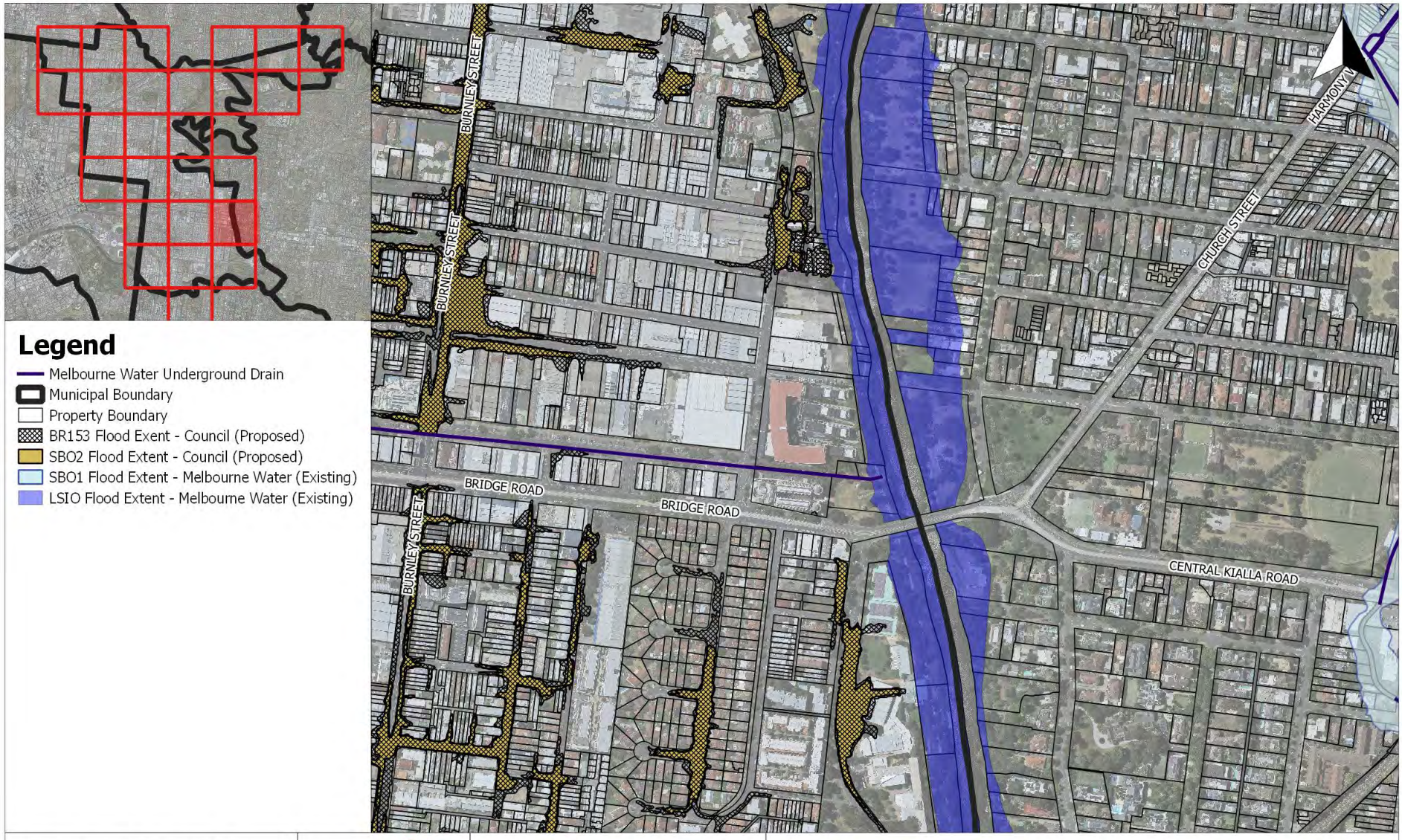
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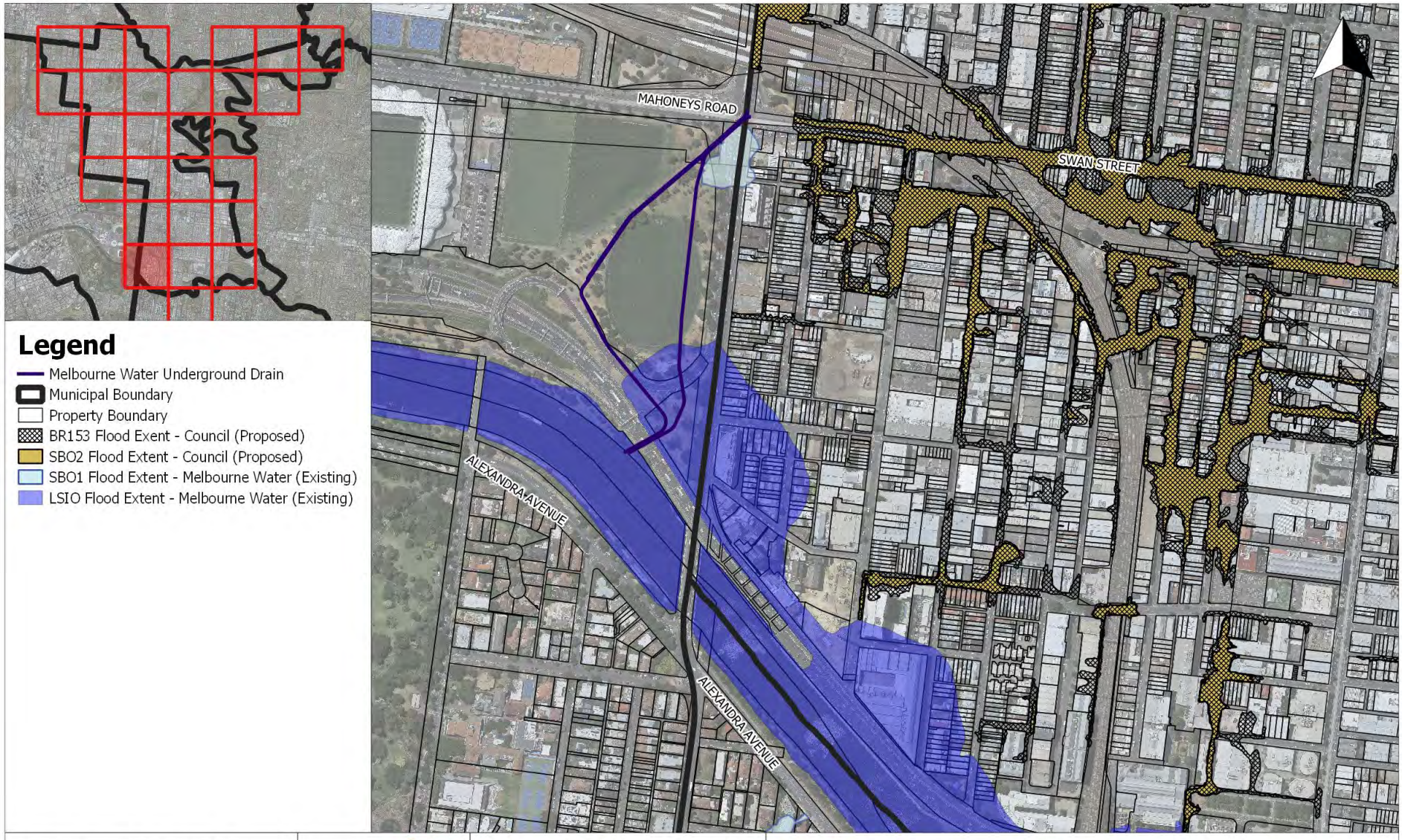
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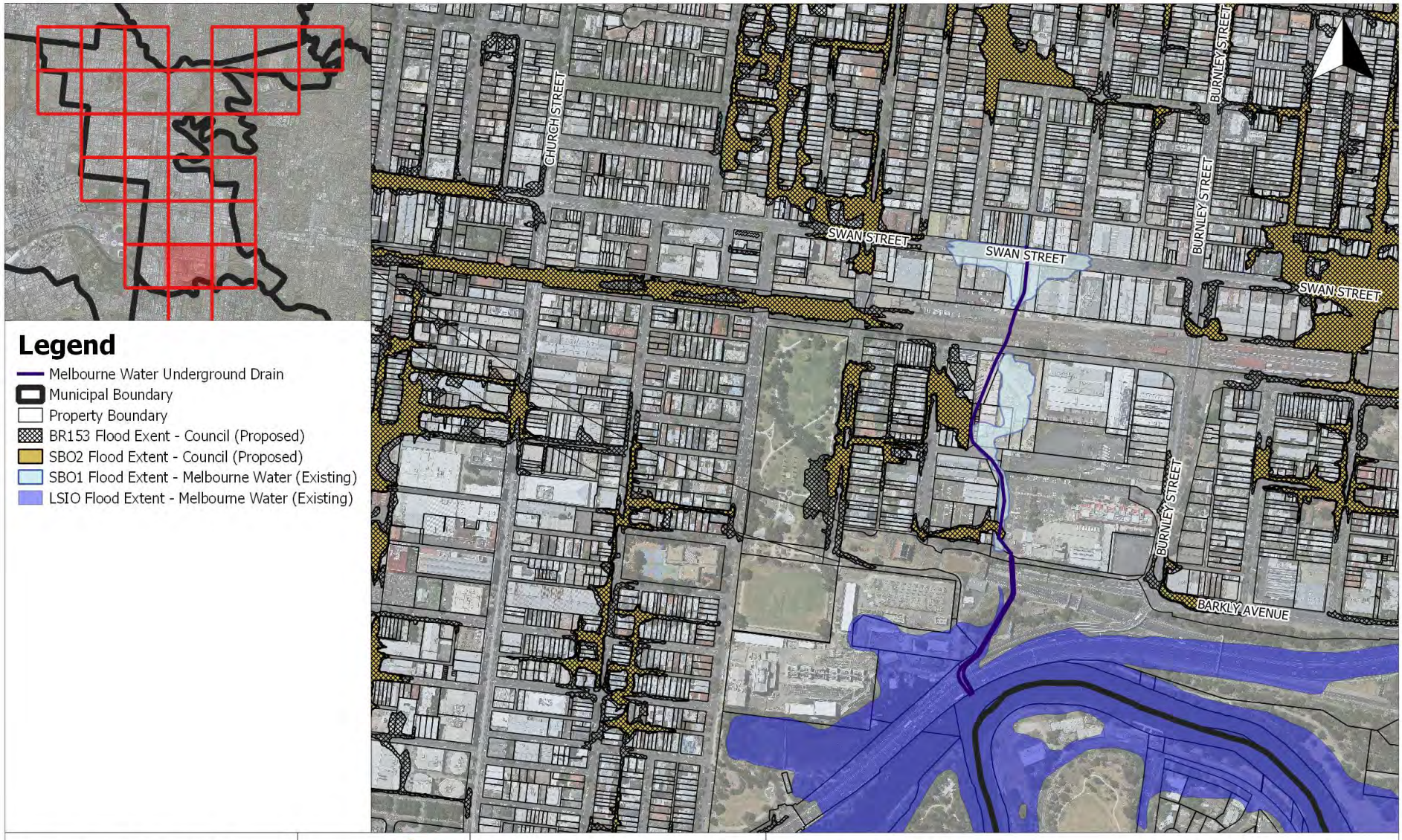
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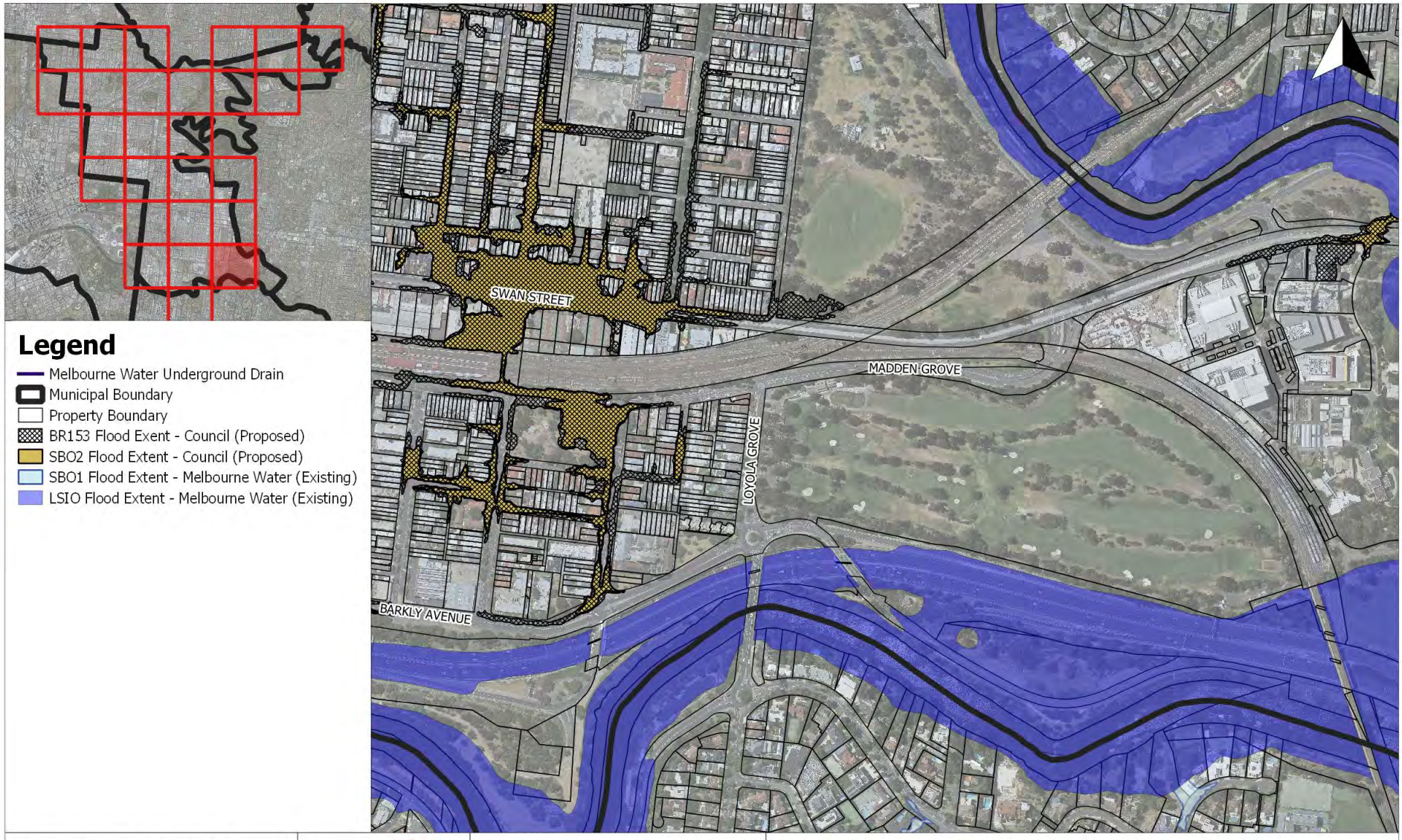
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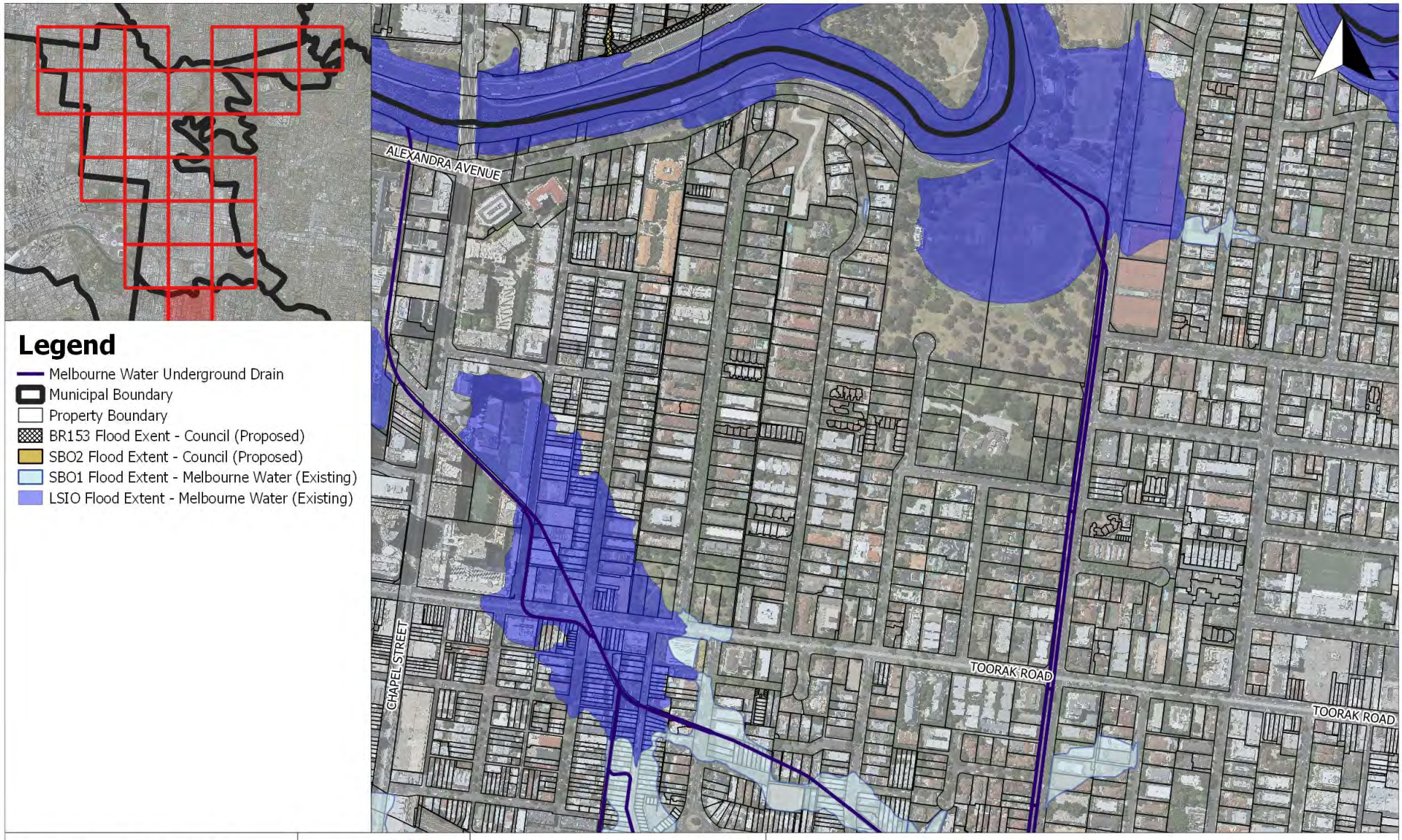
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7.3 Play Space Strategy

Reference	D24/228311
Author	Aimee Pilven - Senior Landscape Architect and Open Space Planner
Authoriser	General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to:
   (a) provide a summary of the findings and key issues from the first stage of consultation with the community and stakeholders on the draft Play Space Strategy;
   (b) provide an outline of the proposed second stage consultation for the Draft Play Space Strategy; and
   (c) present the final Draft Play Space Strategy for Councillors to authorise for public exhibition and community and stakeholder consultation.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. Yarra's first Play Space Strategy (Strategy) is currently in progress and the draft document is ready for public consultation. This is an action from the Open Space Strategy (2020), which recommends that Council "*prepare a Play Strategy to guide the future provision, upgrade, design and management of play in open space across the City of Yarra. The Play Strategy is to reference the open space hierarchy in this Strategy."* This project is listed as 'high priority'.
3. The purpose of the Play Space Strategy is to establish an appropriate vision for the future of play spaces in Yarra, as well as guiding principles and actions to meet the needs of the community over the next ten years.

Discussion

4. The Strategy seeks to cater for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds. The term 'play space' refers not only to traditional playgrounds, but also to other structured facilities such as skate, multi-use courts, fitness equipment and climbing walls, as well as recreational games such as table-tennis, bocce and chess tables.
5. Unstructured sensory and nature play experiences are provided through the use of landscaping and fixed natural elements such as logs and rocks.
6. Within Yarra, the majority of our open spaces are also considered as play spaces as they provide informal play opportunities, social gatherings and fitness activities. Together, these form an important part of Yarra's play space network which caters for all ages, abilities and our changing needs.
7. The following definitions are applied for this project:
   (a) Play space - The term 'play space' refers not only to traditional playgrounds, but also includes other structured facilities such as skate, multi-use courts, fitness equipment and climbing walls, as well as recreational games such as table-tennis, bocce, and chess tables; and

(b) Playground - This is considered to be Yarra's traditional form of play space that is clearly recognisable. Comprising of one or more fixed and dimensioned equipment structures and or elements such as swings, slides, climbing frames etc. and can include playgrounds with either proprietary or customised equipment / elements and other related amenity.

8. Within Yarra, other open spaces that do not contain traditional play equipment or recreational facilities, are also considered play spaces, and these have been classified as 'complementary spaces' as they provide for informal play opportunities, social gatherings and fitness activities.

9. These complementary spaces are play spaces in Yarra that offer opportunities for non-prescriptive play or play experiences and informal recreation. They have more open-ended open space features found in reserves, parks, urban and civic spaces. They cater for a broader range of user needs.

10. This Strategy focuses on play spaces in Council-owned and managed public open spaces, such as parks, reserves, sports fields and other public gathering spaces.

11. Yarra's existing Play Space is made up of:

(a) 38 Council managed playgrounds;

(b) 47 complementary spaces for play;

(c) 12 multi-use ball courts, two skate facilities, three sites with fitness equipment, and four sites with recreational games;

(d) Council manages a total of 85 play space sites (38 playgrounds plus 47 complementary spaces); and

(e) In addition, Yarra Council has one shared use agreement with Yarra Primary School, which includes a playground, one multi-use ball court, and one recreational game (table tennis).

12. Council will continue to investigate shared use agreements with DFFH and school sites (not owned by the City of Yarra).

13. The project began in July 2023 when *Bricolage Design* (a consultant specialising in landscape and play space design) was appointed to prepare the strategy.

14. The first stage of consultation ran from 23 October to 20 November 2023, to understand the community and stakeholders play space needs and where they thought improvements could be made.

15. An Engagement Report summarising the feedback has been prepared (refer *Attachment 1: Yarra Play Space Strategy Stage 1 Engagement Summary Report)*.

16. A final Draft Play Space Strategy (refer *Attachment 2: Draft Play Space Strategy Report)* has been prepared incorporating feedback received from the first stage consultation and all of the background work, assessments and analysis of Yarra's open space play network.

17. An overview snapshot document has been prepared to highlight key points that are covered more thoroughly in the Draft Strategy. Please refer to *Attachment 3 Draft Play Space Strategy Snapshot*.

18. The second stage of external consultation is scheduled for 15 July to 12 August 2024 where the Draft Strategy and associated Draft Play Space Strategy Snapshot will be placed on public exhibition to seek community feedback.



Community and stakeholder engagement

Stage 1 – Process, Stakeholders and Community

19. The first stage of consultation ran from 23 October to 20 November 2023, to understand how the community and stakeholders use our existing play spaces in Yarra, what their priorities are and ideas for opportunities for improvement.

20. During the engagement planning process, Council officers actively sought to remove any known barriers to allow all interested stakeholders to participate (including culturally and linguistically diverse CALD people and people with disability).

21. The consultation included:

    (a) an online survey and information provided on Council's Your Say Yarra webpage;

    (b) 20 corflutes displayed at key open spaces across Yarra;

    (c) three pop-up sessions; and

    (d) targeted sessions with stakeholders including children at a kindergarten, primary school and teenagers at Council's youth centre as well as representatives from various community groups/organisations.

22. Approximately 236 in-person conversations took place with the community throughout the 3 pop-up sessions and stakeholder events.

23. Council received feedback from over 330 participants. Participants within Yarra lived mainly in Richmond (22.2%), Fitzroy North and Abbotsford (10.3% each) and Collingwood (9.9%). 23.3% of participants lived outside of Yarra but use open spaces in the municipality (refer to *Diagram 1: Participation by suburb of residence*).

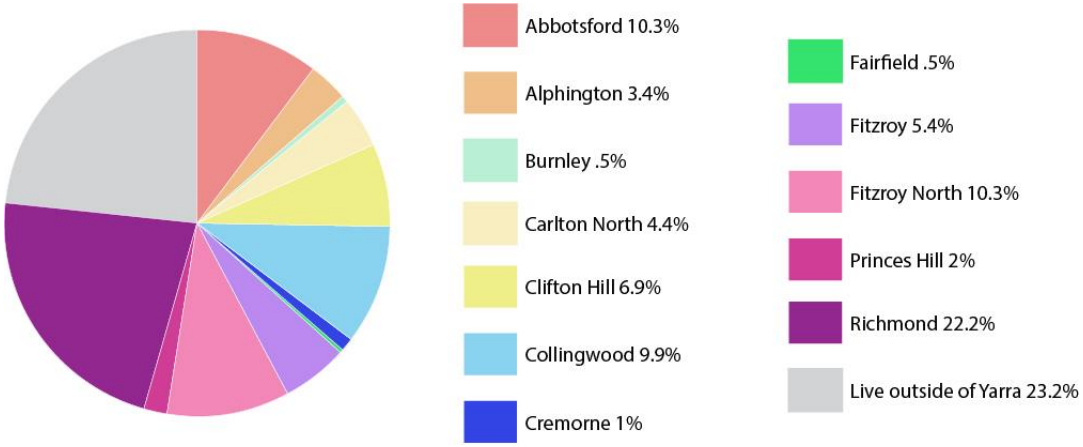


Diagram 1: Participation by suburb of residence

24. Children also contributed a total of 111 drawings at the pop-up, targeted and informal engagement events. Some of these can be seen below. *Image 1: Childrens' feedback on their 'dream play space'*.



Image 1: Childrens' feedback on their 'dream play space'

25. An inclusion focused session was held inviting representatives from Active Ageing Advisory Group, Rainbow Advisory Committee, North Richmond Community Health, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, Play Australia (representatives from all these groups attended) and Disability Advisory Group, Abound Communities, Amaze, Neurodivergent Social Group held at Bargoonga Nganjin, and carers (representatives from these groups did not attend but had the opportunity to provide feedback through surveys).

Stage 1 - Key insights arising from the consultation

26. Following the first stage of consultation, the below insights were identified:

    (a) The need to re-define Yarra's definition of Play Space, to include the importance of informal and flexible play opportunities. This acknowledges that play comes in various forms and that all open spaces provide play opportunities, which is especially important in our densely built environment where open spaces are limited (refer Images 2 and 3 below);



Images 2 and 3: Peel Street Park, Collingwood and Peppercorn Park, Richmond

(b) The need to identifying opportunities for new play space offerings (refer Images 4 and 5 below) that meet the needs of the broader community through spaces that are flexible, provide for open ended use, social gathering and informal games;



Images 4 and 5: Reid Street Park, Fitzroy North and Oxford Street Park, Collingwood

(c) To include all existing open spaces as per the Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020 (with or without play equipment / playground provision). Spaces without play equipment / playground provision have been labelled as 'Complementary' spaces (refer Images 6 and 7 below) which are generally smaller in size, open-ended and flexible, providing for social gathering and incidental play opportunities within the immediate local community; and



Images 6 and 7: Church Street Park, Richmond and Charles Mollison Reserve, Abbotsford

(d) Assess Yarra's play spaces from a holistic network approach, looking at a diversity of play offerings including traditional play equipment / playgrounds, non-prescriptive play elements, skate/scoot and wheels, multi-use courts, fitness and agility, and recreational games (refer Images 8 and 9 below) within the identified 10 precinct areas. The aim is to promote diversification and adaptability, to meet the needs of our changing community.



Images 8 and 9: Burnley Park (Multi-use Court), Richmond and Citizens Park (Fitness equipment), Richmond

Stage 1 - Key issues and discussion from consultation findings

27. The development of the Yarra Play Space Strategy is underpinned by feedback received from the community engagement.

28. Yarra's Play Space Strategy (Draft) has taken into consideration the following issues that are unique to the City of Yarra:

    (a) Substantial forecast population growth;

    (b) Very limited open space with higher density residential development, especially in the suburbs of Fitzroy, Collingwood, and North Richmond;

    (c) Yarra's community is made up of a unique residential, worker and visitor mix and with that comes a diversity of user needs. This provides an opportunity to approach play and play spaces in a different way that will benefit the 'whole' community through a range of different experiences, ensuring that our play spaces across the network better accommodate all ages, abilities and changing needs;

    (d) Diversity of play experiences are currently limited;

    (e) Some precincts have higher or lower numbers of families and children than others, and there is a need to align the network of play with the needs of specific current and forecast communities; and

    (f) Increasing impacts of climate change, including more extreme weather events, alongside the impact of built density and the resulting heat island effect.

Stage 1 – Key matters which the Draft Strategy includes as a result of consultation findings

29. The Draft Strategy includes, but is not limited to, the following topics:

    (a) The importance of play, informal recreation types and what 'Play' means for Yarra;

    (b) A future vision:

        (i) 'Yarra's play spaces will enhance the wider open space network, be engaging and adaptable, connect to place and be welcoming to all our community';

    (c) Five overarching principles (and associated goals):

        (i) Respond to changing needs in our community;

        (ii) Promote a diversity of experience across the city;

        (iii) Support accessibility, inclusion & participation;

        (iv) Promote healthy living, through activity & social connection; and

        (v) Be well designed & sustainable.

30. A framework for equitable distribution within a local precinct play network and a range of play spaces that are within a walkable distance, was reached by carrying out the following exercises and considerations:

    (a) A classification system made up of five levels and associated key features that respond to criteria for play provision (these align with the Yarra Open Space Strategy levels for open space):

        (i) *Small Local Level*:

        Very small play space, usually only able to accommodate a focused or a small number of play space types and supporting amenity for the immediate local community;

        (ii) *Local Level:*

        Small play space focussed on providing opportunities to support the immediate local community to play through a small range of structured play equipment;

        (iii) *Small Neighbourhood Level*:

Small - medium sized play space focussed on providing opportunities to support the broader local community to play and gather. With the provision of some structured play and social gathering elements. These spaces are large enough to also include other informal recreation such as multi-use courts and larger more developed social gathering elements. These play spaces aim to be walked to and consider other forms of active or public transport travel options;

(iv) Neighbourhood Level:

Medium sized play space focussed on providing a broader range of play and social gathering opportunities for different ages and abilities. Designed in context with the local environment, with a nuanced theme or treatment to attract interest. There is structured play, informal play, and social gathering elements. These play spaces aim to be walked to and consider other forms of active or public transport travel options; and

(v) City-wide Level:

Medium – large play spaces (or more than one play space in open space) focussed on providing a high level of diverse play and recreation experiences and amenity. These are in open space providing facilities that appeal to residents across the municipality and visitors travelling from outside of Yarra, such as sports, historical gardens, or highly valued environments. These play spaces still aim to be walked to, as well as providing some car parking and are connected to other forms of active transport or close to public transport; and

(b) Walkability and gap analysis (refer to *Map 1: 400m walkability access to play spaces and identified gaps in Yarra*) has helped assist with the future planning of play space upgrades, expansions and identifying the need for additional new spaces;



Map 1: 400m walkability access to play spaces and identified gaps in Yarra

Map 1: 400m walkability access to play spaces and identified gaps in Yarra

(c) Access and inclusion;

(d) 12 pillars for future play space planning;

(e) Planning Guidelines; and

(f) A 10-year Action Plan has been developed. This includes a 10-year Play Space Priority Plan (for the inclusion in Council's 10-year capital works programme) for each of the 10 local network precincts and proposes:

(i) Upgrade of playground and play space classification where required;

(ii) Additional play provision;

(iii) New play type where required; and

(iv) New play spaces where feasible and gaps have been identified.

Preparation for Draft Strategy

Internal Stakeholders

31. Internal stakeholder consultation sessions were carried out to seek feedback on a 'work in progress' Draft Strategy document, in week beginning 20 May 2024 with the following internal teams:
    (a) Family Youth & Child Services - Youth & Middle Years;
    (b) Family Youth & Child Services - Family Services;
    (c) Family Youth & Child Services - Childrens Services;
    (d) Family Youth & Child Services - Connie Benn;
    (e) Aged & Disability Services - Community Development;
    (f) Aged & Disability Services - Services & Planning;
    (g) City Works - Open Space Services;
    (h) Property & Leisure - Recreation & Open Space Management;
    (i) People & Culture - Diversity & Inclusion;
    (j) Equity and Community Development - Policy and Partnerships;
    (k) Strategic Transport; and
    (l) Communications.
32. Feedback received from these sessions has been incorporated into the final revision of the Draft Play Space Strategy.

Process for Stage 2 Stakeholders and Community Consultation and next steps

Community

33. The second stage of external consultation will be carried out from 15 July to 12 August 2024, where the Draft Strategy and associated Draft Play Space Strategy Snapshot will be placed on public exhibition to seek community feedback. This process will include the following:
    (a) Council's Your Say Yarra webpage with project information, link to key documents to include; the Draft Strategy and the associated Draft Play Space Strategy Snapshot, FAQ's and link to online survey;
    (b) The online survey will ask a number and mix of questions and question types including a sliding scale of support and open ended responses;
    (c) News item on corporate website;
    (d) Email to inform past participants, from Stage 1, about the progress of the Draft Play Space Strategy and invite to share their thoughts for Stage 2;
    (e) Social media posts on corporate channels;
    (f) Posters and Postcards to display at pop ups, key community facilitates (Council owned buildings, Maternal and Child Health centres, leisure centres and libraries) and in several parks in locations around the City of Yarra;
    (g) CALD communications, promote through WhatsApp and radio;
    (h) Yarra Life and YSY EDMS online newsletters;
    (i) Digital screens within our customer service centres; and
    (j) Three in person "pop up" sessions will be held by *Conversation Co.* (project appointed community engagement consultant specialists) and Council's Open Space Planning and Design officers at the following events:

(i) Gleadell Street Market, on Saturday 20 July (two Council Bicultural Liaison Officers have been invited to attend);

(ii) Carlton Library (Rhyme Time), on Thursday 25 July; and

(iii) Alphington Park (Sunday soccer and playground), on Sunday 28 July.

External Stakeholders

34. External stakeholders will include:

(a) Letter/email to schools and Play Australia;

(b) Four community workshop sessions with the following Council advisory committees/groups/organisations:

(i) Inclusion-focused session involving professionals working in the field;

(ii) Collingwood College Grade 5/6 facilitated session;

(iii) Council's Youth Advisory Group; and

(iv) Council's Disability Advisory Committee.

Next Steps

35. Upon the completion of the Stage 2 consultation, the feedback will be analysed and incorporated where appropriate into the final Strategy throughout September to late 2024.

36. The consultation results for the Stage 2 engagement will be posted on Your Say Yarra by the end of 2024.

37. The final Play Space Strategy will be presented to Council for endorsement in March 2024.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

38. The project supports the Community Vision. In particular, the provision of an improved network of play opportunities which supports the 'shared spaces' objective by providing welcoming and accessible spaces for all ages, abilities and backgrounds, diversifying spaces to reflect the changing needs of the community, changing demographics and population growth.

39. The preparation of a strategic plan to improve the network of play opportunities supports the following strategies in the Council Plan:

(a) "Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes social, physical and mental wellbeing" (Objective 2, Strategy 2);

(b) "Create safe, accessible active spaces that provide diverse physical activity opportunities for the whole community" (Objective 4, Strategy 1); and

(c) "Plan and manage community infrastructure that responds to growth and changing needs" (Objective 4, Strategy 2).

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

40. The Play Space Strategy will guide the future provision of play spaces and respond to community and environmental needs (e.g. shade). The provision of an improved network of play opportunities will allow more people to use outdoor open space, including during hotter periods.

Community and social implications

41. The Play Space Strategy will guide the future provision of play spaces to support more diverse experiences for all ages, abilities and backgrounds, provide more welcoming spaces and foster community connections.

Economic development implications

42. The project will guide an improved network of play opportunities, including in retail and employment areas to support people who work in and visit Yarra. The provision of better-quality play spaces and diversification will also encourage people to spend more time in Yarra.

Human rights and gender equality implications

43. The Play Space Strategy will include principles to provide more accessible and inclusive spaces, provide spaces that feel safe for vulnerable members of the community, and consider the needs of different genders in spaces. *Bricolage Design* will conduct a Gender Impact Assessment as part of their research and their recommendations will encompass a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design approach.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

44. The Play Space Strategy will include a *10 Year Priority Play Space Plan* that will guide the future provision of new and improved play spaces in Yarra. This will inform the annual budget and 10-year capital works plan.

45. The inclusion of improving the play space network, including but not limited to, upgrading playgrounds across Yarra, will have ongoing maintenance requirements.

Legal Implications

46. The Play Space Strategy will include principles that reflect best practice but will not cover any concept or detailed designs for play spaces. These would be taken forward on a site-by-site basis when funding is made available, and at that time will consider elements such as risk, safety and maintenance through the design process.

Conclusion

47. Yarra's first Play Space Strategy is currently in progress.

48. It is a complex and substantial piece of work. Its purpose is to define what play space means in Yarra, to establish an appropriate vision for the future of Yarra's play space network, as well as establish guiding principles and actions to meet the needs of the community over the next ten years.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) approves the Draft Play Space Strategy and associated Draft Play Space Strategy Snapshot to commence public exhibition and community and stakeholder consultation;

   (b) notes that following public exhibition and consultation the final Play Space Strategy will be presented to Council for endorsement; and

   (c) thanks the community for their involvement in the Stage 1 engagement process.

Attachments

1⇩ Attachment 1 Yarra Play Space Strategy Stage 1 Engagement Summary report

2⇩ Attachment 2 Draft Play Space Strategy

3⇩ Attachment 3 Draft Play Space Strategy Snapshot

Yarra Play Space Strategy
City of Yarra

Engagement Summary Report
May 2024



Prepared by

Conversation Co.


Conversation Co. respectfully acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Nations as the Traditional Owners and true sovereigns of the land and waterways in the area also known as Yarra. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Project overview

Yarra City Council, in conjunction with Bricolage Design and Conversation Co, have undertaken a community engagement process to support the development of a ten year Play Space Strategy for Yarra City Council. This new Strategy will provide a strategic framework to guide the future planning and funding allocation for play space development and renewal in Yarra over the next 10 years.

Currently, there is no strategic framework to guide the planning or development of Yarra's play space network. The *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020* identified the need to 'Prepare a Play Strategy' to guide the future provision, upgrade, design and management play in open space across the City of Yarra as one of the priority recommendations

The intended outcomes from this engagement program were to:

- Inform the community that Council are developing Yarra's first play space strategy for the next ten years.
- Obtain feedback from Yarra community:
    - understanding the needs of the Yarra community and what sort of play spaces they would like us to create
    - where they think improvements can be made and where there should be new types of equipment
    - what works in other places and what we could do better here.
- Make sure that the voices of children and young people are included in community consultation.
- Make sure that the feedback includes representation from all ages and abilities.

1.2 Engagement methodology

This stage of engagement was held between 23 October and 20 November 2023, and involved an online and hard copy survey, online mapping contributions, targeted and informal consultations, community pop-ups, and submissions. The engagement activities were designed to reach the diverse community of Yarra in a way that meaningfully captures the needs and interests of different age groups and abilities.

1.3 Participation

A total of 334 participants were involved in this engagement. Demographic cards completed at community pop-ups saw the highest number of participants, followed by online surveys and mapping tool participants. Children's drawing activities completed at pop-ups saw 51 participants, 38 participated in targeted workshops, and 30 participated through informal engagements hosted by Council. An internal Council workshop was held with seven attendees and three emails from individuals were received.



Children's drawing activities were incorporated into youth focused targeted and informal consultations hosted by Conversation Co and Council, and saw a further 60 being completed in addition to those produced during community pop-ups. This activity saw a combined total of 111 children's drawings. Findings from these are found in section 5.6 children's drawings.

Participation in the online survey was highest from those who live in Yarra and those who study in Yarra. The most represented were those who live outside of Yarra but use outdoor spaces in the municipality, followed by residents of Richmond, Fitzroy North and Abbotsford and Collingwood. Participants' interest in the project was most commonly parents, grandparents or carers children who use play spaces, followed by park and play space users. This engagement attracted more women than other genders, typically in the 35-49 years age bracket. A total of 17% of participants either had or cared for someone who had a mobility requirement and 9% either had or cared for someone with intellectual or sensory requirements.

1.4 Key findings

Most participants found shade to be the most important feature of play spaces, followed by a variety of play experiences, equipment for all ages, and close to home. Common play space activities selected were swings, water pumps/sand play, climbing structures/nets and slides. Engagement participants were also asked about their preferred passive or active recreation activities, with the highest selections being social meetups/BBQ's/picnics, cycling and bike paths, walking/jogging and kick-to-kick.

When asked which play spaces they currently use or like the most, participants identified 37 play spaces within Yarra and four in other municipalities. The most commonly used play spaces were Alphington Park, Edinburgh Gardens, and Citizens Park. Suggestions for improvements to the listed spaces were dog friendly and dog training options at Alphington Park, reinstallation of a playground or more traditional play equipment at Cambridge Street Reserve and the variety and quality of play equipment at Condell Reserve. It is important to note that Cambridge Street Reserve was reopened during the consultation period following works and as such was a focal point for the community.

Play spaces outside of Yarra with the highest visitation were Royal Park Nature Play Playground, Parkville, Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne and Victoria Park, Kew.

Children's needs

Children were invited to draw their dream play space. These drawings were analysed, with all visible elements categorised into common themes:

- Playground and play equipment (160)
- Nature and Greenery (49)
- Active and passive recreation (40)
- Water and water play (13)



- Furniture and amenities (11)
- Safe and inclusive (9)
- Art and colour (7)

Local community group and organisation needs
Attendees to a community groups/organisations workshop identified nine challenges:

- physical accessibility
- support for those with intellectual and/or sensory requirements
- supporting play experiences for older people
- location and proximity to transport options
- diversity of play experiences
- perceptions of safety
- building social opportunities for parents and caregivers
- cultural recognition and safety
- safe and welcoming spaces for LGBTIQA+ people and families.

1.5 Next steps

Drafting the Play Space Strategy: Building upon the outcomes of the community engagement process, drafting of the Play Space Strategy will commence that considers the input and preferences of the community.

Sense checking the Draft Play Space Strategy: Further consultation will follow once the Draft Play Space Strategy has been developed. This consultation phase will provide an opportunity to ensure that the Strategy aligns with the Yarra community.

Refining the Draft Strategy based on community feedback: Based on the feedback received during the consultation process, the Draft Strategy will be refined and finalised. This may involve making adjustments to principles and corresponding goals to better meet the needs of the Yarra community.

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2. Introduction

Yarra City Council, in conjunction with Bricolage Design and Conversation Co, have undertaken a community engagement process to support the development of a Play Space Strategy for Yarra City Council. This new Strategy will provide a strategic framework to guide the future planning and funding allocation for play space development in Yarra over the next 10 years.

Currently, there is no strategic framework to guide the planning or development of Yarra's play space network. The *Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020* identified the need to 'Prepare a Play Strategy' to guide the future provision, upgrade, design and management play in open space across the City of Yarra as one of the priority recommendations.

An important aspect of the development of the Play Space Strategy was to gain an understanding of Council's demographic background across its 10 precincts and that it be underpinned by community values and the feedback received from the community during the engagement process. Proposed future opportunities (beyond the traditional playground offerings) are to reflect the diverse needs of the community.

The intended outcomes from this engagement process were to:

- Inform the community that Council are developing Yarra's first play space strategy for the next ten years.
- Obtain feedback from Yarra community:
    - understanding the needs of the Yarra community and what sort of play spaces they would like us to create
    - where they think improvements can be made and where there should be new types of equipment
    - what works in other places and what we could do better here.
- Make sure that the voices of children and young people are included in community consultation.
- Make sure that the feedback includes representation from all ages and abilities.

3. Engagement Methodology

An external engagement company Conversation Co. was responsible for implementing the delivery of the planned engagement. An engagement plan was developed by Council, with assistance from Conversation Co and outlined:

- Project timelines and scope.
- Level of stakeholder influence, including negotiables and non-negotiables for input.
- Outline of the engagement approach and activities.
- List the various stakeholders that need to be informed of the consultation and how they may participate.



- Describe risks and potential mitigation measures.
- Measures of success for the project.

A mixed-method community engagement program consisting of online and face-to-face activities was used to reach participants from a range of different levels of interest in the project. The engagement activities were based on the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum of 'Inform' and 'Consult'.



3.1 Engagement Objectives

The objectives of this engagement project were to:

- Inform the community that we are developing Yarra's first play space strategy for the next ten years.
- Obtain feedback from Yarra community:
    - understanding the needs of the Yarra community and what sort of play spaces they would like us to create
    - where they think improvements can be made and where there should be new types of equipment
    - what works in other places and what we could do better here.
- Make sure that the voices of children and young people are included in community consultation.
- Make sure that the feedback includes representation from all ages and abilities.

3.2 Engagement Activities

The engagement activities were designed to reach the diverse community of Yarra in a way that meaningfully captured the needs and interests of different age groups and abilities. Community engagement was conducted from 23 October to 20 November 2023.

Table 1. Engagement activities

Activity	Rationale	Stakeholders	Engagement
Online survey	Provided opportunity for participants to provide feedback at their convenience, without having to attend face-to-face engagement.	General community Visitors to the area	23 October to 20 November 2023
Online mapping activity	Provided opportunity for participants to provide place-based ideas at their convenience, without having to attend face-to-face engagement.	General community Visitors to the area	23 October to 20 November 2023
Community based pop-ups	Provided opportunity for a wider range of participants to comment on the project	General community Visitors to the area	Thursday 26 October - Collingwood Children's Farm Sunday 12 November - Edinburgh Gardens Saturday 18 November - Gleadell Street Market
Council staff Workshop	Created internal awareness of benefits of the project and understanding strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the existing play space network.	Council Staff	Monday 23 October
Targeted consultation workshops	Provided an opportunity to meaningfully engage with young people and community organisations.	Kindergarten students, grade 5-6 students and community group/organisation representatives	Monday 13 November - online community group/organisation workshop Tuesday 14 November - Collingwood College Wednesday 15 November - Richmond Kindergarten

Informal engagements hosted by Council	Provided an opportunity to informally discuss and promote the project along with distribution of surveys and children's drawing activities.	Supported Playgroup at Railway House Richmond Youth Hub Fitzroy Youth Centre	Wednesday 8 November 10.30-11.30am Friday 27 October, 3.30pm – 5.30pm Tuesday 14 November, 4-6pm

4. Who Participated?

4.1 Participation by engagement activity

Table 2 shows a summary of the engagement activities which involved a total of 334 participants. It should be noted that participants were able to participate in more than one engagement activity. For example, a participant may have completed an online survey as well as attended a community pop-up.

Table 2. Participation by engagement activity

Engagement Activity	No.	%
Online survey hosted on *Your Say Yarra*	69	20.6%
Online mapping activity hosted on *Your Say Yarra*	58	17.3%
Community pop-ups	78	23.4%
Council staff Workshop	7	2.1%
Targeted consultations	38	11.4%
Informal consultations hosted by Council	30	9%
Childrens' drawings	51	15.3%
Emails from individuals	3	0.9%
TOTAL	**334**	**100%**



4.2 Participation by connection to Yarra

Those who entered their feedback in the survey, online mapping tool or completed a demographic collection card at the pop-ups were prompted to select their connection to Yarra, and were able to select all that applied. The most common responses were from those who live in Yarra (35.6%) and those who study in Yarra (25.2%) as shown in Table 3a.

Table 3a. Participation by connection to Yarra

Connection to Yarra	No.	%
Live in Yarra	147	35.6
Study in Yarra	104	25.2
Own a property or mortgage in Yarra	56	13.5
Visit Yarra	50	12.1
Work in Yarra	38	9.2
Rent in Yarra	9	2.2
Own a business in Yarra	9	2.2
From the 205 responses	**413**	**100**

Data sources: Online survey, mapping activity and community pop-ups.

Note this was a multiple response question, percentage shown is the percentage of all responses.

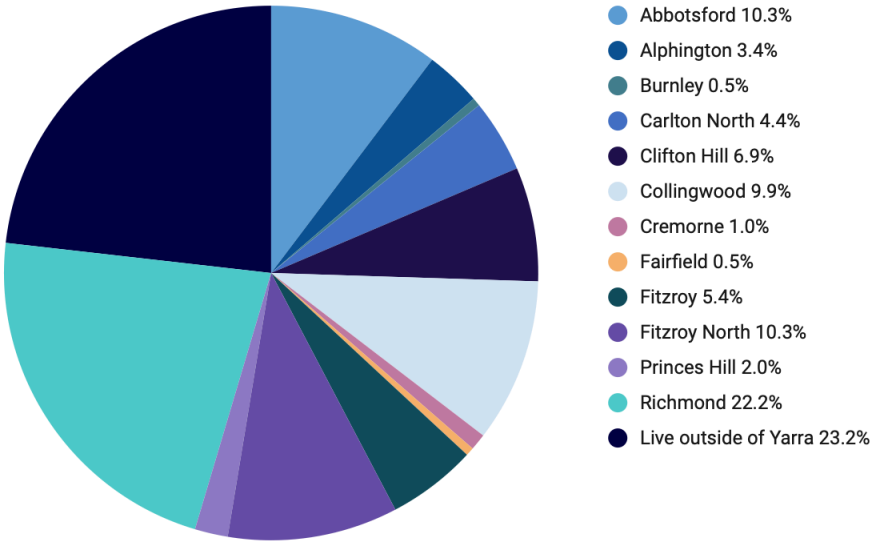
Participants were asked to provide their suburb of residence. Within Yarra, the highest participation of residents lived in Richmond (22.2%) and Abbotsford (10.3%) and Fitzroy North (10.3%) as shown in Figure 1 and Table 3b. In addition to this, a further 23.2% of participants lived outside of the municipality.

Table 3b. Participation by suburb of residence

Suburb	No. (%)	**Suburb**	No. (%)
Abbotsford	21 (10.3%)	Fairfield	1 (0.5%)
Alphington	7 (3.4%)	Fitzroy	11 (5.4%)
Burnley	1 (0.5%)	Fitzroy North	21 (10.3%)
Carlton North	9 (4.4%)	Princes Hill	4 (2.0%)
Clifton Hill	14 (6.9%)	Richmond	45 (22.2%)
Collingwood	20 (9.9%)	Live outside of Yarra	47 (23.2%)
Cremorne	2 (1.0%)	**TOTAL participants**	**203 (100%)**

Data sources: Online survey, mapping activity and community pop-ups.

Participation by suburb of residence



4.3 Characteristics of participants

Those who entered their feedback in the online mapping tool, survey or completed a demographic collection card at pop-ups were asked to select their characteristics from the list seen in Table 5. It is important to note that some participants did not complete the full demographic card at in-person engagements.

The highest levels of participation can be seen from those aged 35 - 49 (40.2%), 25 - 34 (13.6%), under 6 years of age (11.2%) and 12 - 17 (8.3%). Of these age groups, those aged under 6, 12 - 17 and 35 - 49 were slightly over-represented in this engagement in comparison to the 2021 Census. It is important to note that workshop participants were not asked to provide demographic information, and only 43 children's drawing participants disclosed their age. See Figure 2 for engagement participants' age in comparison to the wider Yarra community.

Table 5. Characteristics of participants

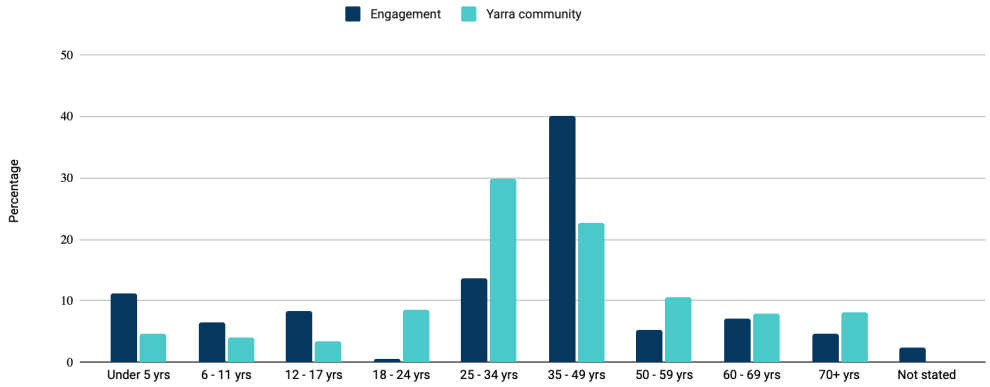
Selected characteristics	Total No.	Total %	2021 Census* %
Gender:			
Male	60	29.1	48.8
Female	143	69.4	51.2
Prefer to self identify	1	0.5	-
Prefer not to say	2	1.0	-
Age Group:			
Under 6 years	19	11.2	4.7
6 - 11 years	11	6.5	4.0
12 - 17 years	14	8.3	3.5
18 - 24 years	1	0.6	8.5
25 - 34 years	23	13.6	29.9
35 - 49 years	68	40.2	22.7
50 - 59 years	9	5.3	10.5
60 - 69 years	12	7.1	8.0
70+ years	8	4.7	8.2
Prefer not to say	3	1.8	-
Not stated	1	0.7	-

Selected characteristics	Total No.	Total %	2021 Census* %
Accessibility-Mobility:			na
I have accessibility/mobility requirements	11	8.6	
Someone I care for has accessibility/mobility requirements	11	8.6	
No accessibility/mobility requirements	98	76.6	
Prefer not to say	3	2.3	
Not stated	5	3.9	
Sensory-Intellectual:			na
I have intellectual/sensory requirements	6	4.7	
Someone I care for has intellectual/sensory requirements	6	4.7	
No intellectual/sensory requirements	107	83.6	
Prefer not to say	3	2.3	
Not stated	6	4.7	
Other socio-demographic characteristics:			
Had these one or more of these characteristics:			
Speaks a language other than English*	31	15.0	20
Person living with a disability*	12	5.8	3.9
Member of the LGBTIQA+ community*	12	5.8	-
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander*	1	0.5	0.6
None of the above	138	66.7	-
Prefer not to say response/not stated	13	6.2	-

Data sources: Online survey, community pop-ups and mapping activity (n=205).
Data source for 2021 Census data is
https://www.abs.gov.au/census/find-census-data/search-by-area
Note: Socio-demographic characteristics was a multi-response question, percentages calculated using 207 responses from 205 participants.



Engagement participants' age in comparison to the Yarra community



4.4 Participation by interest in play spaces

Those who entered their feedback in the online mapping tool or completed a demographic collection card at the pop-ups were prompted to select their interest in play spaces, and were able to select all that applied. The most common categories were parent/grandparent/carer of a child who uses play spaces (63.8%), and park/play space users (25.9%). Figure 3 and Table 4 show the breakdown of interest by level of participation.

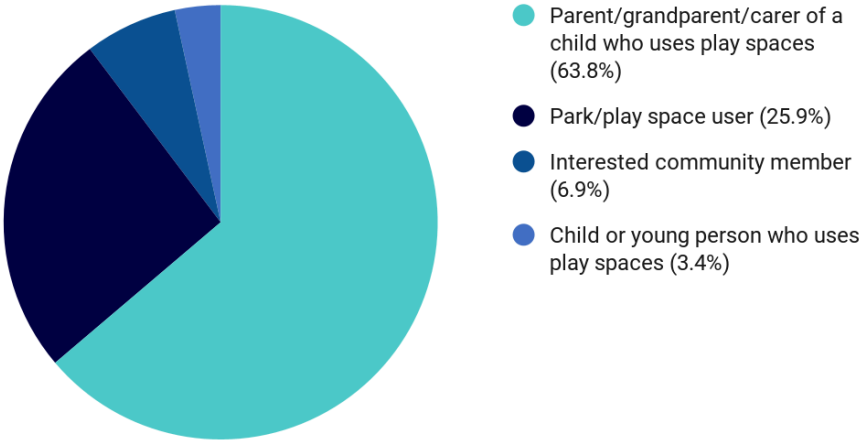
There were a total of 111 children's drawing activities that have not been included in Table 4. Participants in this activity were asked to provide their name and age as part of their demographic collection, with 35 participants completing both questions and 43 only disclosing their age.

Table 4. Participation by interest in play spaces

Interest in project	No.	%
Parent/grandparent/carer of a child who uses play spaces	37	63.8
Park/play space user	15	25.9
Interested community member	4	6.9
Child or young person who uses play spaces	2	3.4
Business owner that uses the park as part of my business	0	0.0
TOTAL participants	**58**	**100**

Data sources: Online mapping activity.

Participation by interest in play spaces



4.5 Typical modes of transport

Online survey, mapping tool and Richmond Kindergarten participants were asked how they typically travel to play spaces. The most common mode of transport was walking (111), followed by driving or being driven (23), bike/ride (13) and two participants took public transport.

5. Key Findings

Participant feedback has been analysed by question. The number of participants who responded to each question has been noted. Free text comments have been analysed and presented under themes. The figures in brackets indicate the number of comments or selected under each theme or response.

5.1 Summary of feedback

The following feedback summary is drawn from the findings of the stakeholder consultation and community engagement conducted during October and November 2023. This feedback will be brought together with other research, site and planning analysis work also undertaken as part of this project to form a comprehensive set of strategic recommendations in the Play Spaces Review and Strategy report:

What the community values in play spaces (top five)

- Plenty of shade
- Variety of play experiences
- Equipment for all ages (children, young people, seniors)
- Close to home (walking/cycling/skating distance from home)
- Toilets

Playground activities (top three)

- Swings
- Water pumps/sand play
- Climbing structures/nets

Active/passive recreation activities (top three)

- Social meet ups/picnic/BBQ
- Cycling (bike paths)
- Walking/jogging

Common reasons for using existing play spaces (more than one mention)

- Natural open space
- Variety and quality of play equipment
- Close to home or other activities
- Opportunities for social connection
- Suitable for a variety of ages
- All abilities/accessible
- Access to toilet facilities
- Cleanliness and maintenance
- Shade



There was a large representation of members of the Northcote Dog Obedience Club at Alphington Park who discussed the access to and quality of dog training opportunities as being their primary reason for visiting Alphington Park (14)

Common suggestions for improving existing play spaces (more than one mention)

- Introduce a playground and more facilities for children - Victoria Park
- More frequent mowing, maintenance of potholes, clarity of on and off-leash times/zones and more play equipment (trampolines, swings) - Alphington Park
- Encouraging people to pick up after their dog - Citizens park and Burnley Park
- Relocate toilet facilities closer to playground - Darling Gardens
- Introduce toilet facilities - Gahan Reserve and Annette's Place
- Upgrade and provide a larger playground/adventure playground - Barkly Gardens
- More traditional play equipment and changes to current equipment - Cambridge Street Reserve
- More shaded areas on grass - Condell Reserve
- Introduce drinking fountains - Cairns Reserve
- More shaded areas on the North side - Curtain Square
- Better access to toilet facilities and more variety of play equipment - Holden Street Reserve
- More weather protection and upgrades to play equipment - Smith Reserve
- Introduce water play around Leisure Centre - Mayors Park

5.2 Important features of play spaces

Community pop-up, survey and social map participants were prompted to select their top five important features of play spaces. There were a total of 780 selections made by 156 participants.

The most commonly selected option was plenty of shade (12.56%) followed by a variety of play experiences (10.13%). See Table 6 for a breakdown of selections by feature.

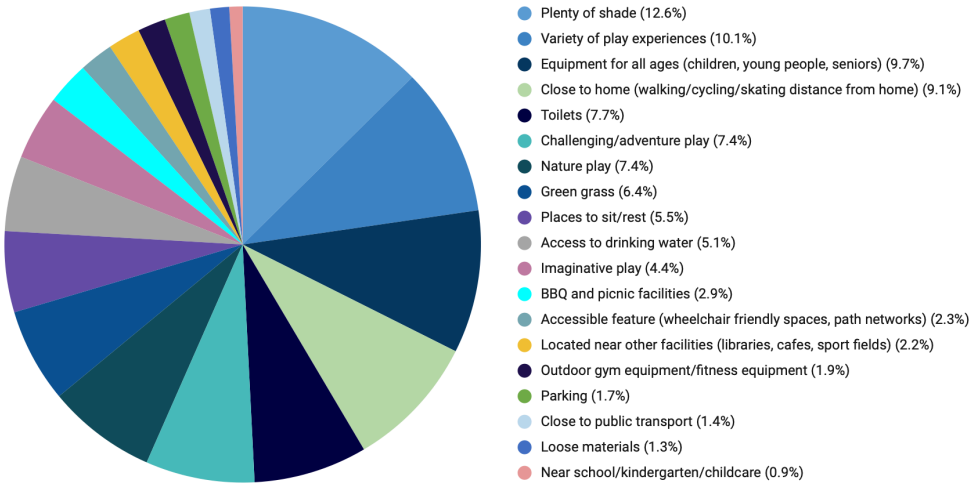
Table 6. Important features of play spaces

Feature	No. (%)	Feature	No. (%)
Plenty of shade	12.6%	Imaginative play	4.4%
Variety of play experiences	10.1%	BBQ and picnic facilities	2.9%
Equipment for all ages (children, young people, seniors)	9.7%	Accessible feature (wheelchair friendly spaces, path networks)	2.3%
Close to home (walking/cycling/skating distance from home)	9.1%	Located near other facilities (libraries, cafes, sport fields)	2.2%
Toilets	7.7%	Outdoor gym equipment/fitness equipment	1.9%
Challenging/adventure play	7.4%	Parking	1.7%
Nature play	7.4%	Close to public transport	1.4%
Green grass	6.4%	Loose materials	1.3%
Places to sit/rest	5.5%	Near school/kindergarten/childcare	0.9%
Access to drinking water	5.1%	**TOTAL responses**	**100%**

Data source: Online survey, mapping tool and community pop-ups.
Note: Multi-response question, percentages are of all responses not participants.



Important features of play spaces



5.3 Playground and recreation activities

Online survey, mapping tool and pop-up participants were asked to select their favourite playground activities (top three) and active/passive recreation activities to do in local play spaces. Tables 7 and 8 outline participants preferences of play and active recreation in descending order.

Table 7. Playground activities liked most by participants (top three)

Activity	No. (%)	**Activity**	No. (%)
Swings	19.0%	Sensory activities	4.1%
Water pumps/Sand play	17.1%	Scooter/bikes	3.5%
Climbing structures/Nets	14.9%	Balance structures and steppers	3.5%
Slides	14.6%	Ball games	3.2%
Monkey bars/Flying fox	7.3%	Loose parts play	0.9%
In-ground trampolines	6.0%	Rockers/Spinners	0.5%
Social and imaginative play	5.4%	**TOTAL responses**	**100%**

Data source: Online survey, mapping tool and community pop-ups.

Playground activities liked most by participants (top three)

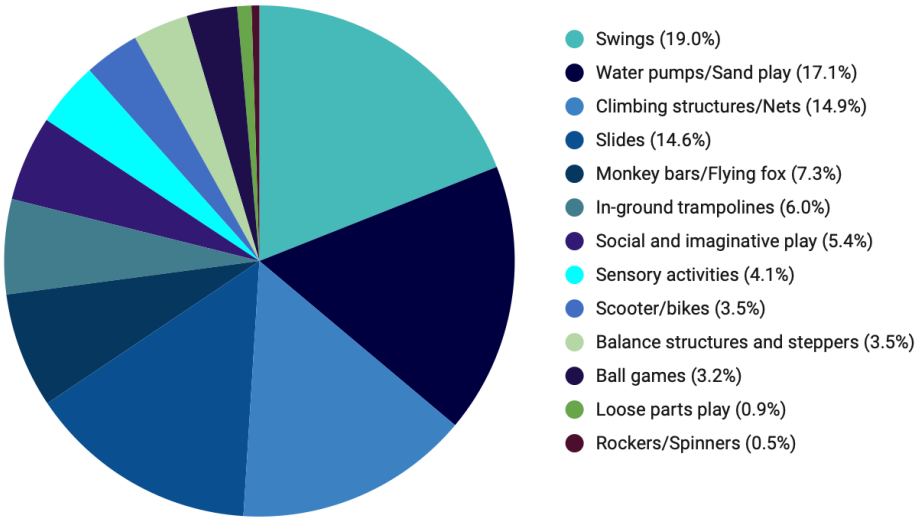
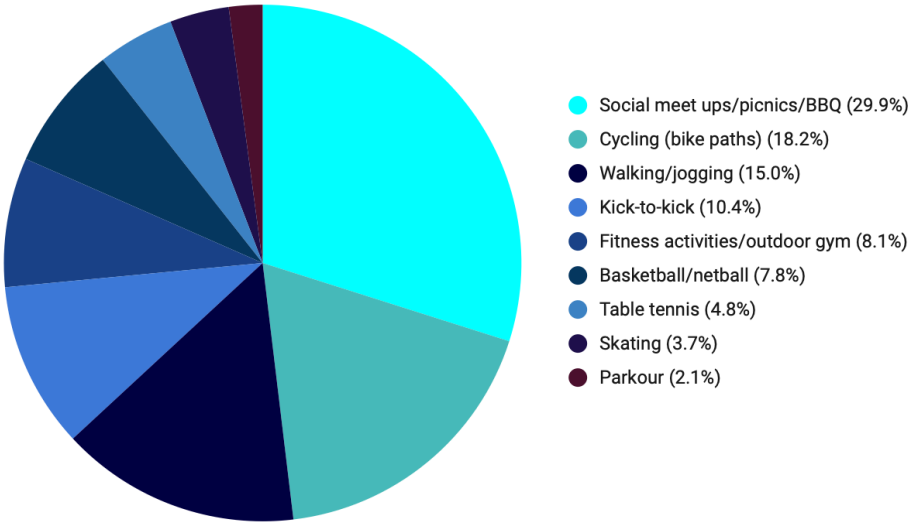


Table 8. Recreation activities liked most by participants

Activity	No. (%)	Activity	No. (%)
Social meet ups/picnics/BBQ	29.9%	Basketball/netball	7.8%
Cycling (bike paths)	18.2%	Table tennis	4.8%
Walking/jogging	15.0%	Skating	3.7%
Kick-to-kick	10.4%	Parkour	2.1%
Fitness activities/outdoor gym	8.1%	**TOTAL**	**100%**

Data source: Online survey, mapping tool and community pop-ups.

Recreation activities liked most by participants



5.4 Local play spaces used

Participants of the online survey, mapping tool and in-person community pop-ups were asked to provide a list of the parks they currently visit as well as their reasons for use and suggested improvements. There were a total of 35 parks listed within Yarra from 150 participants. It is important to note that some participants listed multiple parks/playspaces. See Table 9 for a breakdown of park visitation.

In addition to these spaces, four participants mentioned play spaces outside of the municipality. These included Yarra Park, Melbourne, Wombat Bend Park, Templestowe, Greenmeadows Gardens, St Kilda East, Fitzroy Gardens, East Melbourne and Central Park, Malvern.

Table 9. Local play spaces used by participants

Location of play space	No. of responses	Reason for use	Suggested improvements
Alphington Park, Alphington	20	• Natural open space (6) • Social connection (5) • Feelings of safety (4) • Walking tracks and paths (2) • good playground (2) • Swings (2)	• More frequent mowing (3) • Maintenance of potholes (2) • Clarity of on and off-leash times/zones (2) • Fencing • Emptying of bins and availability of dog poo bags • More play equipment (trampolines, swings) (2) • Should be considered a sporting area not play area • Potholes and capeweed problems
Edinburgh Gardens, North Fitzroy	19	• Gardens and mature trees (2) • Suitable for a variety of ages (4) • Close to toilets (3) • Good/variety of play options (4) • Active recreation opportunities (2) • Skate park (3) • Swings (3) • Large area (4) • Climbing options (3) • Dog friendly (2) • Separation from dogs (3) • Good atmosphere	• Rebound wall behind the Fitzroy Grandstand • South side playground needs some shade • Enforcement of on-leash areas to reduce conflicts with dog owners and non-dog owners
Citizens Park, Richmond	14	• Trees and greenery (3) • Dog friendly (2) • Close to home or other activities (5) • Good/variety of play equipment (4) • Shade (3) • Fenced (2)	• People not picking up after their dog on the oval (2) • More play equipment • Separated dog areas • Enclosed slide poses safety risks

Location of play space	No. of responses	Reason for use	Suggested improvements
Darling Gardens, Clifton Hill	12	• Open space and informal play opportunities (3) • Gardens and greenery (3) • Large area (2) • Playground and play equipment (3) • Active recreation opportunities (2) • Shade	• Relocate toilet facilities closer to playground (2) • Install BBQ's • Needs exercise equipment
Gahan Reserve, Abbotsford	11	• Variety of play experiences (5) • Nature (3) • BBQ facilities (2) • Seating • Group meetups	• Need toilet facilities (2)
Barkly Gardens, Richmond South	8	• Close to home (3) • Climbing structure (3) • Open space and greenery (2) • Dog friendly/separation of dogs and kids (2) • Sand pit (2) • Shade (2) • Picnic areas • Toilet facilities • Drinking fountains	• Appropriate location for water play • Not enough climbing options for young children • Children easily bored with playground • People not picking up after their dog • More shaded areas • Infant swings upgraded with a strap between legs to prevent falling • More play equipment • Upgrade and provide a larger playground/adventure playground (2) • improved BBQs • Outdoor calisthenics equipment • Active recreation opportunities (table tennis, basketball or AFL) • Removal of graffiti
Condell Reserve, Fitzroy	8	• Variety and quality of play equipment (6) • Proximity to home or other	• Install fencing around the playground due to proximity of road



Location of play space	No. of responses	Reason for use	Suggested improvements
		activities (4) • Family and community connection (2) • Cleanliness and maintenance (2) • Grass and open space (2) • Shade (2) • Appropriate for different ages	• More shaded areas on grass (2)
Burnley Park, Burnley	8	• Close to home (3) • Variety of play experiences (3) • Toilets (2) • Cycling paths • Tables and seating • Fenced • Well maintained • Shade • Plants and greenery	• Challenges with dog and non-dog owners • Install fence or designated area for separation from dogs • People not picking up after their dog (2) • Themed play areas • Water play options • In need of renovation
Cairns Reserve, Richmond Central	7	• Close to home (5) • Nature and greenery (2) • Shade • Variety of play experiences	• Infant swings upgraded with a strap between legs to prevent falling • Drinking fountains (2) • Toilet facilities • Fencing • Enforcement of on-leash areas • Unsafe for toddlers
Curtain Square, Carlton North	5	• Close to home and other services (4) • Good playground (2) • BBQs and social interaction (2) • All abilities/accessible (2) • Large area • Fenced • Open space and greenery	• Not enough play space for the area • Accessible play equipment/all abilities area • BBQ facilities • Upgraded or additional toilet facilities • Update playground • More shaded areas on the North side (2) • More dog facilities and interesting landscaping for dogs



Location of play space	No. of responses	Reason for use	Suggested improvements
			• Better exercise equipment
Victoria Park, Collingwood	4	• Nice outdoor space • Close to home/easy access • Well-used • Shade trees	• Introduce a playground and more facilities for children (4) • Skateboarding areas • Flying fox • Trampolines • Learn to ride options
Annette's Place, Richmond North	3	• Close to home (3) • Seating and tables • Nice area and play equipment • Family memories • Different ages/abilities • Variety of play options	• Public toilets (2) • Challenges with dog and non-dog owners • Water play options
Atherton Reserve, Fitzroy *There is no council managed play space at this site. Only a full sized basketball court.	3	• Close to home and other services (2) • Community and social connection	
Cambridge Street Reserve, Collingwood	3	• Close to home • Good picnic area day and night • Only green area in Collingwood	• Playground and more traditional play equipment for children (14) • Poor design/not child friendly (3) • Introduce climbing equipment • Extra swing for more than one user • Dangerous or non-age appropriate equipment(2) • Increased maintenance • Reinstall BBQ
McNamara Reserve, Collingwood	3	• Close to home • Fenced • No dogs • Safe for young children	• Clean and replacement of some equipment • Overused and often overcrowded



Location of play space	No. of responses	Reason for use	Suggested improvements
		• Balance of green space and play equipment • Shade trees • One of few play spaces in Collingwood • Community feel • Well used • Good for apartment living	• Maintenance of the playground (specifically the stairs)
Quarries Park, Clifton hill	3	• Open space and greenery (2) • Variety of play experiences • Dog friendly • Setback from road • balance of nature and play • BBQ facilities • Large, quiet space • Close to home	• Update skatepark • Wood is outdated and rotting • Dog run/dedicated enclosed area
McConchie Reserve, Richmond South	2	• Great outdoor gym • Half court and basketball • Open grassed space	• Update playground
Park Street Reserve, Clifton Hill	2	• Basketball opportunities • Garden space • Quiet community feel • Lack of toilets keeps area quiet	• Better exercise options
Batman Street Reserve, Fitzroy North	1		
Fairfield Park, Fairfield	1	• Great walking areas	• Need fencing in spread out areas near roads • More water play options
Hardy Gallagher Reserve, Princes Hill	1	• Trees • Community garden • Playground	• Cater for all ages • More climbing facilities • More swings • More shaded areas



Location of play space	No. of responses	Reason for use	Suggested improvements
Holden Street Reserve, Fitzroy North	1	• Variety of play equipment	• Better access to toilets (2) • Better variety of play equipment (2) • Outdated equipment
Langdon Reserve, Fitzroy North	1	• Close to home/convenient	• Out of date equipment • Inaccessible to young children • More shaded areas
Peel Street Park, Collingwood	1		
Smith Reserve, Fitzroy	1	• Close to home	• Solid barrier between the park and Alexandra Parade to improve safety and impact of noise and pollution • More weather protection (2) • Update play equipment (2) • Accumulation of rubbish and full bins
White Street Reserve, Cremorne	1		• Play structures aren't suitable for young children/toddlers
Yarra Bend Park, Fairfield *No fixed play equipment	1	• Canoe club located within park	• More equipment for young children/toddlers • Loop the picnic area and playground • Play equipment could be improved and provide more • Playground to be upgraded and similar to Gahan Reserve
Mayors Park, Clifton Hill	0		• Introduce water play around Leisure Centre (2) • More seating options • Lease out space for mobile



Location of play space	No. of responses	Reason for use	Suggested improvements
			eateries/bars/restaurants • Use substation across the road to plug into the grid and head the water with excess or cheap power
Studley Street Reserve, Abbotsford	0		• Upgrade playground • Maintenance of grass
Shakespeare Street Reserve, Carlton North *No fixed play equipment	0		• Described as 'scrappy'
Alexander Street Reserve, Collingwood *No fixed play equipment	0		• Introduce play equipment • More seating • Natural shade • Swings and climbing structures
Inner Circle Railway Linear Parklands, Fitzroy North	0		• Dangerous speeds of cyclists • Illegal use of motorised scooters and motorbikes using the cycling lane
Dame Nellie Melba Memorial Park, Richmond *No fixed play space. Dog off-lead park only	0		• Issue with swooping birds
Walker Street Reserve, Clifton Hill	0		• Play space is small
Dights Falls, Abbotsford	0		• Watercraft launching sports



Data source: Online survey, mapping tool and community pop-ups.
* Note: Unnumbered points are singular contributions.

In addition to the 37 play spaces referenced in Table 9, a further 45 comments discussed improvements to play spaces without mentioning a specific location. Some common improvements included:

Generic play equipment

- "I think most/all Yarra play spaces I am aware of are pretty similar, varying only in size."
- "Yes. They are pretty generic. No water based sensory play, trampolines."

Shade - natural or built

- "Metal playgrounds that are not shaded are just absolutely unusable hot boxes in spring and summer."
- "All could do with more shade"

Park furniture and facilities

- "The addition of water play features would greatly improve any of the playgrounds/parks."
- "More park seating for walkers."

Specific play equipment

- "We should be encouraging older children (8-12 yo) to still use the playgrounds by having more challenging equipment e.g. rope courses."

Dogs and dog facilities

- "The field needs a dedicated dog area so they don't disturb those playing soccer."
- "More dogs off lead areas. Opportunity to have lights left on a bit longer during winter to be able to walk dogs safely in the park. Have closed the skate park to keep dogs out. Closed in the dog area."

Generic active recreation

- "Better maintained basketball courts, most of the ones in Yarra don't have working nets."
- "There are not enough exercise parks."

Maintenance and appearance

- "Weeds in garden beds. Weeds sprayed on the perimeter of beds is ridiculous. trees need attention. Watering system is on when people want to use the spaces! grassed areas need reseeding."
- "Less junkies, less needles lying around, less drug dealers hanging around, cleaner public toilets."

Table 9. Travel modes to local play spaces

Survey respondents were asked how they traveled to local play spaces. The most prominent mode of transport was 'walking' with 111 selections (74%) followed by 'driving' 23 selections (15%), 'cycling' 14 selections (9%) and 'public transport' 2 selections (1%). There were no survey respondents that selected 'mobility equipment' as a mode of transport to play spaces.



5.5 Recommended play spaces outside Yarra municipality

Online survey and mapping tool participants were asked “If you visit play spaces outside of Yarra, where are they and what do you like about them?” and suggested a total of 37 play



spaces outside of Yarra. See Table 10 for play spaces outside of the municipality.

Table 10. Play spaces outside Yarra municipality

Name of specific park	Reasons for liking these play spaces
Royal Park Nature Play Playground, Parkville (n=8)	• “Very exciting for kids" • "Water play/climbing activities” • “Water play is great, integration with native garden is lovely for all ages”. • “Great range of equipment, space” • “Good water play for hot days” • “Interesting natural space and convenient around hospital visits”
The Ian Potter Foundation Children's Garden, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne (n=6)	• “Varied space, kids especially like the little creek and bamboo forest” • “Water fountains are great for summer! Like the ones at the botanical gardens children’s playground.”

	• "Water play fountain (Royal) Botanic Gardens - closest water play area with fountains. This is seriously lacking in Yarra. As summers get hotter kids need a fountain area to cool off in. It could easily be incorporated into other features (e.g. rock features to climb on) and only run during the summer months.) Think Southbank in Brisbane or Darling Harbour in Sydney. Cafes opening into this area is a great idea." • "(Royal) Botanic Gardens children's area - water play" • "(Royal) Botanic gardens are fantastic and I can walk to them from Cremorne. Also water fountains for people as well as dogs." • "The children's garden in the (Royal) Botanic Gardens is beautiful. The garden is vibrant and is engaging for kids, there is a small man made river that runs through it and there are a variety of play options including rocks to climb and shade."
Victoria Park, Kew (n=5)	• "Victoria Park in Kew is amazing. Nature play, a place to ride scooters, in ground trampolines, clean toilets, water play. So good, and well spaced with lots of climbing. Kids want to climb." • "Victoria Park (north) playground, It caters from babies to elderly. It's big enough for everyone and at the same time small enough to be able to keep an eye on your toddlers...It has water play space for summer and skate/scooter park for kids to practice." • "Lots of variety of equipment at Victoria Park in Kew (and toilets)" • "Victoria gardens (Victoria Park), Kew. Beautiful natural design, suitable for a whole range of ages, lots of swings - it's brilliant."
Hays Paddock, Kew East (n=3)	• "Love that it's fenced. Can't wait to see the upgrade." • "Big spaced out parks with running, bike space." • "Accessible playground"
Lincoln Square, Carlton (n=3)	• "Lincoln square is small but has beautiful play equipment. "amazing playgrounds e.g. Lincoln Square Park in Carlton, lots of diverse play equipment for both young and older kids. " • "Good facilities for kids of many ages to enjoy exploring and using their imaginations"
Other play spaces mentioned	• All Nations Park, Northcote • Anniversary Trail, Camberwell • Beckett Park, Balwyn • Booran Reserve, Carnegie



	• Bulleke-bek Park, Brunswick • Burnley Park, Richmond • Carlton Gardens, Carlton • Central Park, Hawthorn • CERES and Kirkdale Reserve, Brunswick East • Cremean Reserve, Ivanhoe • Darebin Parklands, Alphington • Diamond Creek Regional Playspace, Diamond Creek • Edendale Community Environment Farm, Eltham • Ford Park, Ivanhoe • Ipswich All Abilities playground, Queensland • Johnson Park, Northcote • Maranoa Gardens, Kew • Pawfield Park Fenced Dog Park, Caulfield East • Penders Park, Thornbury • Powlett Reserve, East Melbourne • Princes Park, Carlton • Rushcutters Bay, Sydney • Shepparton All Abilities Playground • Southbank Playground, Melbourne • Studley Park Boathouse, Fairfield • Superkilen Park, Copenhagen • Thomas Street, Hampton • Warburton Municipal Playground, Warbuton • Waverley Park Lake Playground, Mulgrave • Yarra Bend Park, Kew • Yarra Park, East Melbourne

Data sources: Online survey and mapping activity.
Note: Generic responses without no location specified (n=14) were not included in this table.

5.6 Children's activities

In-person engagement participants were given the option to draw their favourite or ideal play space. There were a total of 111 children's drawings completed (including those completed at targeted and informal sessions), with 289 suggested play space elements. These suggestions have been categorised into nine common themes, with the highest being playground and play equipment (160), nature and greenery (49) and active and passive recreation (40). See Table 11 for a breakdown of each category.



Table 11. Summary of children's drawings

Category	Inclusions
Playground and play equipment (160)	• Slides (30) • Swings (24) • Monkey bars (15) • Climbing structures/nets (13) • Trampoline (13) • Flying fox (12) • Spinners (11) • Sandpit (8) • Balancing/steppers (8) • Playground general (8) • Imaginative play (6) • Rope/obstacle course (4) • Other (4) • Fireman pole (2) • Seesaw (1) • Tunnels (1)
Nature and Greenery (49)	• Plants and flowers (13) • Trees (11) • Wildlife and insects (9) • Landscape and green space (7)

	• Water bodies (3) • Natural undersurfacing (1) • Usage during different times and weather conditions (5)
Active and passive recreation (40)	• Soccer facilities (8) • Rock climbing walls (8) • Basketball (6) • Skateboarding/scooters/rollerskates (5) • Outdoor gym equipment (3) • Social gatherings and friends (3) • Mobile food vendors (3) • Bikes and cycling infrastructure (2) • Walking/jogging paths (1) • Tennis (1)
Water and water play (13)	• Water play (9) • Decorative water (water fountains) (2) • Pools and swimming (2)
Furniture and amenities (11)	• Seating and tables (6) • Shade (3) • Toilets (2)
Safe and inclusive (9)	• Options for older children (2) • Dog and cat friendly (2) • Accessible (2) • Options for adults (1) • Fencing (1) • Netting around play equipment (trampolines, rock climbing walls) (1)
Art (7)	• Wooden or mosaic paths (2) • Statues and interesting structures (2) • Use of colour (1) • Graffiti (1) • Decorative lighting (1)

At the Richmond Kindergarten workshop, Children were taken on an imaginative journey to a playground, with images of play equipment placed around the room. Children were asked to go to the equipment they would use first at the imaginative playspace, and undertook this exercise three times. The highest play equipment visited was the sports field (14) followed by the swing (9), slide (6), climbing frame (5), rocker (3), sandpit (2), bike/scooter/skating (1) and sitting (1).

Children also participated in a dotmocracy activity, placing a sticker on the mode of transport they take to get to play spaces. This data has been included within section 4.5 Typical modes of transport.



5.7 Council Staff Workshop

A 1 hour online workshop was held on 23 October 2023 for Council staff from a range of relevant departments and saw participation from seven representatives.

The purpose of this workshop was to:

- Inform Council staff of the play space strategy project and create a sense of ownership and buy-in.
- Discuss the draft vision and principles to determine suitability.
- Understand the unique strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of Yarra's play space network.
- Discuss how the Play Space Strategy relates to other Council strategies and policies.

5.8 Community Workshop

A 1 hour workshop was held on Monday 13 November attended by key stakeholders and groups to learn about the Strategy and discuss the unique needs and challenges of themselves, or those they are representing.

The purpose of this workshop was to:

- Provide participants with an overview of the project and preliminary engagement findings.
- Determine the group/organisation's unique needs and challenges.
- Understand how these needs and challenges can be addressed through the play space network.

There were a total of 8 participants in this workshop, from which feedback was collected via an interactive, online product called Mentimeter. The Mentimeter invitation link was then distributed after the workshop to all interested participants, including those that could not attend on the day and left open for a further week.

The Mentimeter activity included these questions:

- What are the unique needs and challenges of your organisation?
- How can these needs and challenges be addressed through our local play spaces?

Table 12 shows a breakdown of the needs and challenges raised and ways to support these through local play spaces.

Table 12. Unique needs and challenges

Need/challenge	Suggestions
Physical accessibility considerations	• Providing ramp ways and even ground surfacing. • Providing access maps available both online and on-site, including braille and QR code access. • Ensuring toilets are accessible and providing both ambulant and gender neutral options. • Providing quality surfaces and regular maintenance.
Support for those with intellectual and/or sensory requirements	• Sensory equipment: trampoline, musical instruments.
Supporting play experiences for older people	• Opportunities for older people to participate in play activities. • Shade and comfortable spaces for older people. • Equipment for parents to exercise and keep an eye on kids. • Building parent confidence in these spaces to increase opportunities for children to play more frequently, focus on grandparents and involve them too.
Location and proximity to transport options	• Connecting play opportunities to transport routes eg: park street bike path; cafe and playground.
Diversity of play experiences	• Signage, interactive elements to allow communication to children/young people they can be/ are allowed to play across the neighbourhood. • Incidental opportunities for children and young people with diverse needs to play across the neighbourhood. • Embrace play in non-traditional spaces (signpost support) & seek to connect play spaces (play corridors from NZ).
Perceptions of safety	• Enclosed spaces can be useful for some families. • Soft fall in place of bark can be good for children to navigate. • Enclosed slides prevent appropriate sightlines and can lead to injury.
Building social opportunities for parents and caregivers	• Amenity, shade, toilets, seating to support adults to stay and connect together.
Cultural recognition and safety	• Corridors and places and spaces Koorie specific imagery/signage. • Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and Country to identify and welcome these users. • Making changes within the space to accommodate a range of cultures and communities.
Safe and welcoming spaces for LGBTIQA+ people and families	• imagery and signage for welcoming the queer community



5.9 Other feedback received

There were three submissions received during the consultation period from one community organisation and one Yarra resident.

Response 1

Feedback was received from Thorne Harbour Health advocating for a harm minimisation approach in relation to the infrastructure and planting in parks that are also used as beats. The submission notes that, while beat participants may not be the primary user of a play space, many parks and play spaces across Yarra are regularly used as beats, and as such, consideration of safety and amenity should be considered for all play space users.

Response 2

Feedback was received requesting more sprinklers on the grass, water sprays or other water play options within Council parks and playgrounds. This submission used the existing space at North Rd Foreshore Playground in Brighton as an example for appropriate water play installations in future, as its design minimises water wastage and prevents safety issues associated with pooling water.

Response 3

Feedback was received from Streets Alive Yarra Inc, a non-profit, volunteer, resident and ratepayer action group. This submission responds to the issue of children no longer playing outside, and suggests “delivering a play space within 200 metres of every home.” In order to achieve this, Streets Alive suggests the installation of bollard-protected parklets (or play spaces) established on quiet streets.
Additionally, this submission requests that a Strategy be developed that is in accordance with recommendations made by Natalia Krysiak in *Cities for Play Designing Child-Friendly High Density Neighbourhoods.*

6. Next Steps

Drafting the Play Space Strategy: Building upon the outcomes of the community engagement process, drafting of the Play Space Strategy will commence that considers the input and preferences of the community.

Sense checking the Draft Play Space Strategy: Further consultation will follow once the Draft Play Space Strategy has been developed. This consultation phase will provide an opportunity to ensure that the Strategy aligns with the Yarra community.

Refining the Draft Strategy based on community feedback: Based on the feedback received during the consultation process, the Draft Strategy will be refined and finalised. This may involve making adjustments to principles and corresponding goals to better meet the needs of the Yarra community.

7. Project evaluation

At the outset of the project, project success measures and criteria were documented within the Engagement Plan. Table 13 details the outcomes achieved through the project. Overall, the engagement success measures were exceeded, with participation from harder to reach groups, including children and young people, and a higher proportion of community pop-up participants.

Table 13. Evaluation of the Project

Success Criteria	Evaluation
Participation in this process by those considered harder to reach (including CALD, children, young people & people with disability).	Harder to reach community groups reached directly through an online workshop and by officers directly visiting CALD children and young people at multiple housing estates and engaging with them at their regular activities. The survey was distributed to Council's Disability Advisory Group, Active Aging Advisory Group, and Rainbow Advisory Group
Approximately 50 in-person conversations with the community throughout the 3 pop up sessions.	78 demographic collection cards filled in at community pop-ups. 51 children's drawings were completed during community pop-ups.
Voices of children and young people are included in community consultation.	Highest levels of participation among engagement activities was children's drawings. Overall, those aged under 6, 12 - 17 and 35 - 49 were slightly over-represented in this engagement in comparison to the 2021 Census.




A Place to Play: Yarra Play Space Strategy
Draft
June 2024
CITY OF YaRRA

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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1. Executive summary

1.1 The purpose of this Strategy

The purpose of the Yarra Play Space Strategy is to provide strategic direction for the future planning and management of play spaces in the City of Yarra for the next 10 years. This includes understanding and addressing the needs of the existing population, as well as future forward planning to address the changing needs of Yarra's forecast community.

Council recognises the important role 'play' has in the physical, social, emotional, cognitive and language development of children and young people. Play spaces provide wellbeing benefits such as social connection with friends, family and the local community and an outdoor place for relaxation and respite for everyone in the community. Play spaces encourage active participation, to help everyone to maintain a healthier lifestyle, and provide access to open space for community members who are working, visiting, or have limited or no private open space at home.

The development of the Yarra Play Space Strategy is underpinned by the Community Vision and feedback received from community engagement. This Strategy outlines Council's priorities for upgrades, replacements, and infrastructure provisions. It will also guide Council to plan and prioritise upgrades to the existing play space network and provide standards to maximise the quality and use of existing and new play spaces across the City.

The Yarra Play Space Strategy will ensure the design, implementation and works and maintenance of play spaces is appropriate, achievable, and sustainable within Council's resources. It will provide greater certainty that Yarra's overall network of play spaces will be able to cater for the diverse community into the future.

The Strategy comprises the following documents:

- **Draft Strategy Report (this report)** which provides the context, detailed analysis, conclusions, and recommendations.
- **Draft Strategy Snapshot Report** which provides a very short summary of the key issues and recommendations from this Strategy for community engagement.

A Summary Report (to be prepared with the Final Strategy) will provide a summary of the key issues and recommendations from the Final Strategy.

1.2 Key issues to be addressed by this Strategy

The Yarra Play Space Strategy is the first such strategy to be prepared by Yarra City Council. The following items include a summary of the key issues arising from the research, consultation and analysis from the preparation of this Strategy:

- Substantial forecast population growth through to 2034 including the resident and employment population.
- Very limited open space in some of the older precincts, experiencing higher density residential development (i.e. Fitzroy, Collingwood, and North Richmond) and where there is open space it often is not of a suitable size to accommodate larger playgrounds or sometimes to be able to even provide any play equipment.
- Existing open space and play spaces are over-utilised contributing to faster wear and tear, with the need for regular repairs or early replacement.
- Current play spaces often do not strategically or consistently address physical accessibility considerations, including paths, facilities, furniture and play equipment or support for those with intellectual and / or sensory requirements.
- Play spaces are not always well located in proximity to public and active transport options (including shared paths and trails).

- Diversity of play experiences, including for different age groups and types of play, currently are limited mostly to traditional playgrounds which are predominantly suited for young children only.
- Some precincts have lower numbers of families and children than others, and there is a need to align the network of play with the needs of specific current and forecast communities.
- Varying attitudes regarding perceptions of safety, including sightlines and activity on site.
- A need to build further social opportunities for parents and caregivers.
- A need for more safe and welcoming spaces for LGBTIQA+ people and families.
- Increasing impacts of climate change, including more extreme weather events, alongside the impact of built density and the resulting urban heat island effect.

1.3 Summary

The Yarra Play Space Strategy seeks to work with Yarra's existing and new network of play spaces. This is to broaden their purpose for the community and improve the quality and responsiveness to the community's current and emerging needs through:

- **A future vision, principles, and goals;**
- **A framework for equitable distribution and a range of play spaces that are within a walkable distance;**
- **Guidelines for future planning; and**
- **Priority planning actions for play spaces over the next 10 years.**

2. Background

2.1 The unique character of Yarra

As a basis for Yarra's first play space strategy, it is important to discuss the specific characteristics of the City of Yarra and the key points of difference to most other municipalities in metropolitan Melbourne. This will provide an understanding of how Yarra's urban fabric, open space structure, and play spaces have been approached and discussed in this report.

2.1.1 History and development

The City of Yarra adjoins the municipalities of Melbourne, Stonnington, Boroondara, Darebin and Merri-bek. Yarra covers an area of approximately 19.5 square kilometres (1,950 ha). The Birrarung (Yarra River), Merri, and Darebin Creeks form three of its boundaries to the south, east and north. Yarra is predominantly a densely built urban area of small lots, with pockets of current and former industrial sites on large urban parcels. There are rapidly increasing levels of medium-high density development occurring across the municipality, changing its residential character and urban fabric.

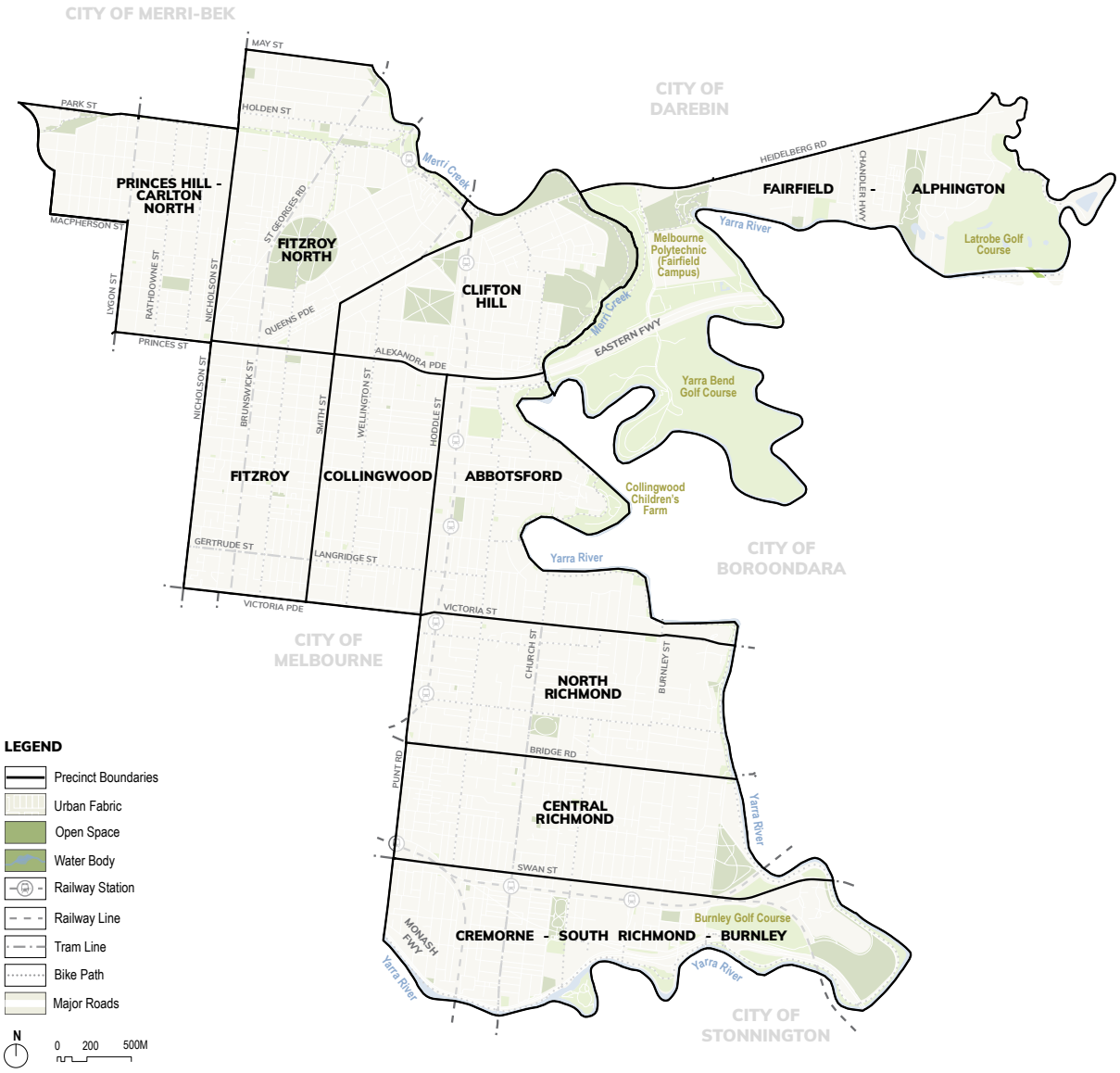
Yarra contains the suburbs of Abbotsford, Burnley, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fitzroy, North Carlton, North Fitzroy, Princes Hill, and Richmond, as well as parts of Alphington and Fairfield. Each of these neighbourhoods have their own unique heritage and character as highlighted in the City of Yarra Heritage Review: Thematic History report by Allan Lovell & Associates in 1998.

'Those areas which now combine to form the City of Yarra have developed historically as separate local government areas and communities, with different patterns of economic and social development, particularly those of Collingwood and Abbotsford as compared to Fitzroy, Richmond, North Carlton, and Alphington. To a large degree these differences are reflected in patterns in the built environment and landscape, while simultaneously, there are themes of historical development which were broadly similar across large areas of Yarra, and these are also evident in the urban environment.'

2.1.2 Precincts for planning

For planning purposes in this Strategy, Council is adopting the 10 precinct areas used in other strategic Council documents such as the Yarra Open Space Strategy (YOSS). These precincts are listed below in alphabetical order:

- Abbotsford
- Carlton North – Princes Hill
- Central Richmond
- Clifton Hill
- Collingwood
- Cremorne, Richmond South, and Burnley
- Fairfield – Alphington
- Fitzroy
- Fitzroy North
- North Richmond



Map 1: Planning precincts in Yarra

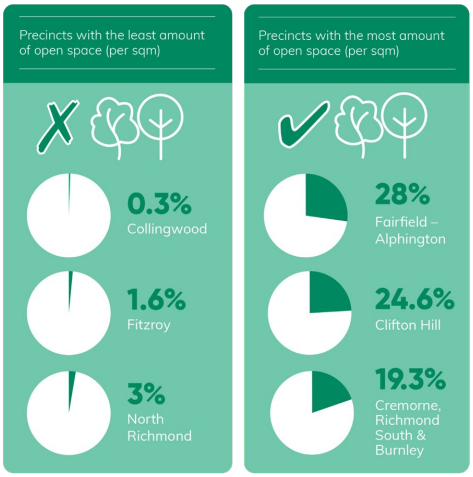
2.1.3 Open space in Yarra

Council manages approximately 180ha of public open space with a range of other reserves managed by various public authorities totalling approximately 235ha of public open space. Council is proactively investigating opportunities to increase open space offerings across Yarra in addition to new open spaces through the development on the former AMCOR site (Alphington Paper Mills) and Gasworks' site in Fitzroy North.

The Merri Creek and Birrarung (Yarra River) have adjoining linear open space reserves which are highly valued by residents of Yarra and wider metropolitan Melbourne for their recreation and nature conservation values. In contrast, in the highly urbanised areas of the municipality, there is as little as 0.3% of open space per square metre in pockets of Collingwood, Cremorne, and North Richmond. Yarra has two large, significant historical gardens - Edinburgh and Darling Gardens located in North Fitzroy and Clifton Hill. The diverse character, use and distribution of Yarra's open spaces reflect the natural, historic, heritage, urban, cultural, and social makeup of the municipality.

In 2020 Council endorsed the Yarra Open Space Strategy (YOSS). The YOSS recommended the development of a play space strategy, as well as a number of guidelines for the upgrade and integration of play spaces and unstructured recreation facilities into open space. These YOSS guidelines are referenced throughout this report and for the purposes of this Strategy, the term 'informal' is applied rather than "unstructured recreation and recreation facilities".

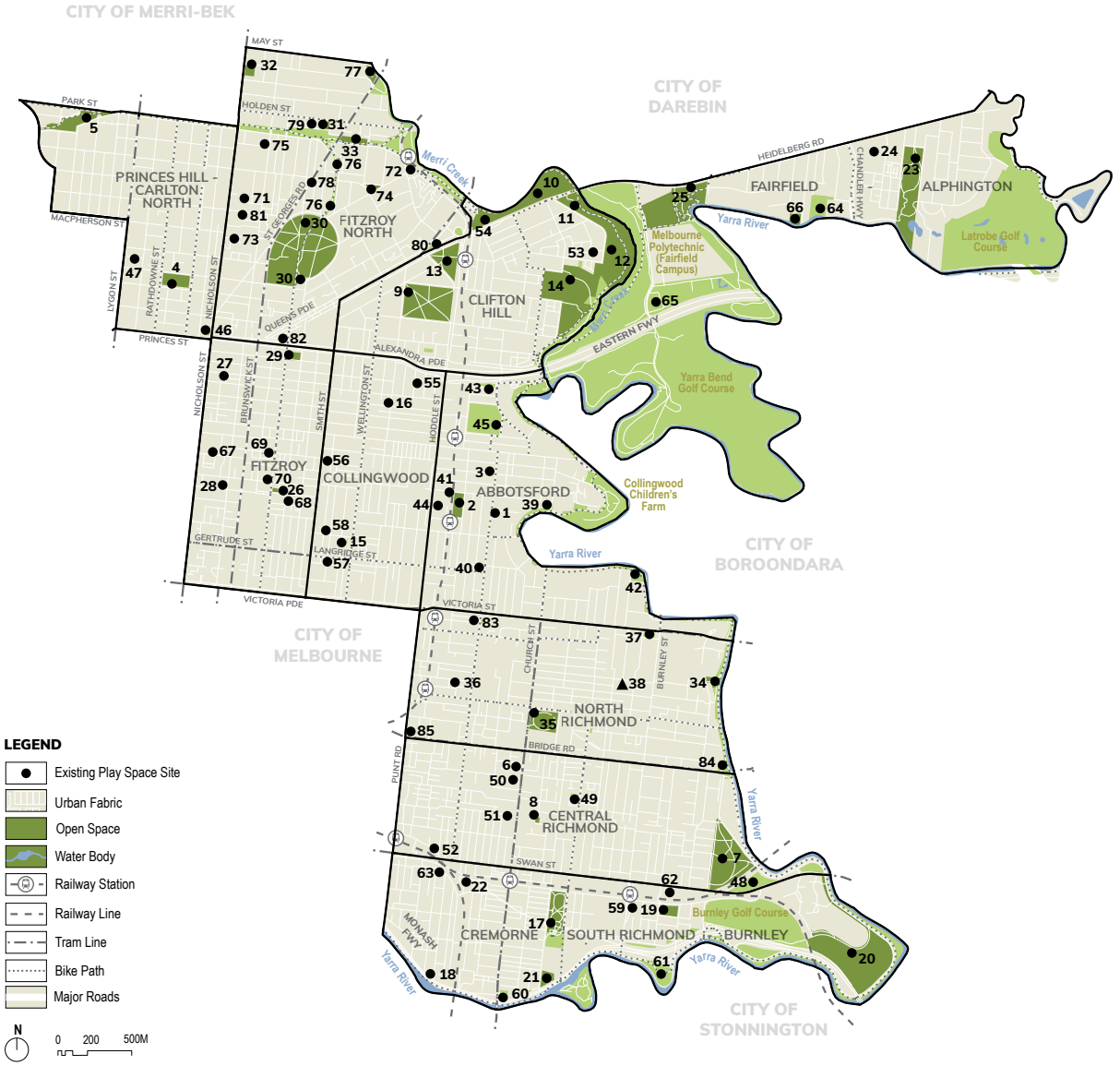
Some key statistics drawn from the YOSS outline differences in open space availability across different precinct areas in Yarra. Constraints with open space access within some precincts are clearly significant and impact upon the directions proposed within this Strategy. It is important however to look at this information in the context of Yarra as a small municipality in terms of area, where there are well-developed public transport and road networks that assist in providing effective mobility across the City and surrounding municipalities.



2.1.4 Existing play spaces in Yarra

Yarra's existing play spaces are currently made up of a total of 85 sites; 37 existing Council managed open spaces with playgrounds (play equipment) and 47 complementary spaces for play. There are 12 multi-use (MUC) ball courts, 2 skate facilities, 3 sites with fitness/agility equipment and 4 sites with recreational games provision. In addition, Council has one shared use agreement with Yarra Primary School, which includes a playground, one multi-use ball court, and one recreational game (table tennis).

These types are defined in greater detail in Section 3 of this report. This represents a broader understanding of the current overall network for play in Yarra.



Map 2: Existing play space site locations in Yarra

KEY GUIDE TO EXISTING OPEN SPACES (WITH PLAY SPACES AND COMPLEMENTARY SPACES)

EXISTING PLAY SPACES (INCLUDING PLAYGROUNDS / MULTI-USE COURTS / FITNESS / SKATE / WHEELS & RECREATIONAL GAMES):

Abbotsford
1. Browns Reserve
2. Gahan Reserve
3. Studley Reserve

Carlton North - Princes Hill
4. Curtain Square
5. Hardy Gallagher Reserve

Central Richmond
6. Ben Alexander Reserve
7. Burnley Park
8. Cairns Reserve

Clifton Hill
9. Darling Gardens
10. George Knott Reserve
11. Hall Reserve North
12. Hall Reserve South
13. Mayors Park
14. Quarries Park

Collingwood
15. Cambridge Street Reserve
16. McNamara Reserve

Cremorne-Richmond South-Burnley
17. Barkly Gardens
18. Charles Evans Reserve
19. Golden Square (Bicentennial Park)
20. Kevin Bartlett Reserve
21. McConchie Reserve
22. White Street Reserve

Fairfield - Alphington
23. Alphington Park
24. Artisan Park
25. Fairfield Park

Fitzroy
26. Condell Street Reserve
27. Garry Owen Park
28. King William Reserve
29. Smith Reserve

Fitzroy North
30. Edinburgh Gardens
31. Holden Byrne Reserve
32. Langdon Reserve
33. Park Reserve

North Richmond
34. Annette's Place
35. Citizen's Park
36. Egan Park
37. Williams Reserve
38. Yarra Primary School (Shared-Use Facility)

EXISTING COMPLEMENTARY SPACES (INCLUDING MULTI-USE COURTS AND RECREATIONAL GAMES):

Abbotsford
39. Clarke Street Reserve
40. Charles Mollison Reserve
41. Eddy Court Reserve
42. Flockhart Reserve
43. Maugie Street Reserve
44. Saint Phillips Reserve
45. Victoria Park (including Bath Street and Brearley Reserves)

Carlton North - Princes Hill
46. Nicholson Street Reserve
47. Shakespeare Reserve

Central Richmond
48. Circus Site
49. Dame Nellie Melba Memorial Park
50. Peppercorn Park
51. Richmond Terrace
52. Wangaratta Street Reserve

Clifton Hill
53. Clifton Street Reserve
54. Coulson Reserve

Collingwood
55. Alexander Street Reserve
56. Otter Street Park
57. Oxford Street Park
58. Peel Street Park

Cremorne-Richmond South-Burnley
59. Athol J Brown Reserve
60. Church Street Reserve
61. Loys Paddock
62. Ryans Reserve
63. Stephenson Street Reserve

Fairfield – Alphington
64. Coate Park
65. Fairlea Reserve
66. Rudder Grange

Fitzroy
67. Frank King Park
68. George Street Reserve
69. Greeves Street Reserve
70. Whitlam Place

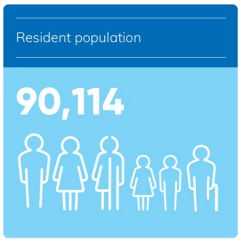
Fitzroy North
71. Batman Street Reserve
72. Batson Reserve
73. Brookes Crescent Reserve
74. Edwardes Place Park
75. Liverpool Street Reserve
76. Mark Street Linear Park
77. Ottery Reserve
78. Piedimontes Corner
79. Porter Street Reserve
80. Raines Reserve
81. Reid Street Park
82. Triangle Park

North Richmond
83. Butler Street Park
84. O'Connell Reserve
85. Urban Arts Square

2.2 Who is the Yarra community?

The 2021 census for the City of Yarra stated that the population was 90,114, however, the most accurate count of the total population is the 'Estimated Resident Population', which factors in an estimate of those missed in the Census and those who were overseas on Census night. It is usually higher than either Census count, and is also updated annually after the Census, providing preliminary estimates for up to 5 years. The City of Yarra's Estimated Resident Population for 2023 is 97,448.

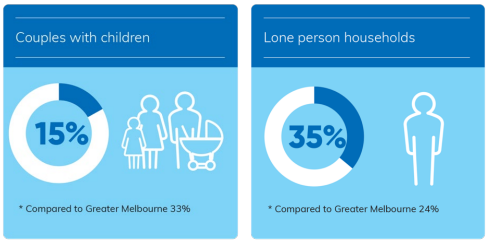
Of this figure, there were slightly more females indicated (51.2%), than males (48.8%). Further to this The *Victorian Population Health Survey* in 2017 cited in the *Yarra LGBTIQ+ Strategy 2021-24* indicated that 10% of Yarra's population identify as LGBTIQ+.



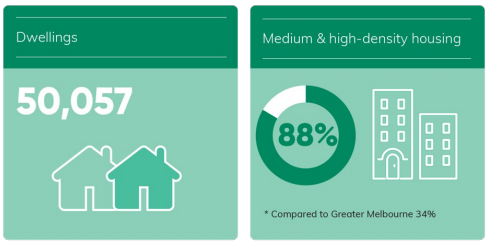
The median age is 34 years which is slightly younger than the Greater Melbourne average of 37 years. 29% of residents were born overseas and 0.6% were Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.



In terms of the makeup of households, Yarra has a much lower number of couples with children (15%) than the Greater Melbourne average (33%) and there is also a much greater number of lone households (35%) than the Greater Melbourne average (24%). As cited in the *Yarra LGBTIQ+ Strategy 2021-24*, in the 2016 Census cited in *the Yarra LGBTIQ+ Strategy*, 5% of Yarra's couples identified as being in a same sex relationship.



Yarra has 50,057 dwellings. A larger number of residential dwellings are considered high-medium density (88%) than the Greater Melbourne average (34%). Yarra also has a much higher number of renters (51%) than the Greater Melbourne average (29%), indicating that half of Yarra's residents may not be long-term residents.



There are higher numbers of children and young people in the North and Central Richmond and North Fitzroy precincts compared to Alphington-Fairfield, Cremorne, Richmond South, and Burnley precincts. These statistics are predicted to change in the next 10 years, with increasing development in areas such as Alphington and Cremorne. However, the percentage of children and young people within the overall municipal population will remain stable. Significant forecasted increases include Fairfield – Alphington (a 14.31% increase in 0–11-year olds and 10.21% increase in 12-24 year olds) and Cremorne, Richmond South, and Burnley (a 10.26% increase in 0-11 year olds and a 11.42% increase in 12-24 year olds).

2.3 How is Yarra's population changing?

The purpose of the Strategy is to plan for play spaces in Yarra over the next 10 years and the influence of the following future demographic projections also needs to be considered.

2.3.1 Projected population trends

In summary the projected trends for the coming 10 years are as follows:

- A slightly older median population.
- A much higher level of rental tenancy over home ownership, resulting in a more transitional population over long term residency.
- Less single occupancy and more multi-person households.
- An increasing level of high-density living in multi-residential apartments with no / or little immediate access to private open space.
- More children than present in the precincts of Fairfield-Alphington (+12.4% increase of the overall population), Richmond North (+10.7%) and Cremorne, Richmond South & Burnley (+10.3%).
- An increase in young people in the precincts of Richmond North (+33.8% increase of the overall population), Fitzroy (+13.9%), Cremorne, Richmond South & Burnley (+12.5%), Fairfield-Alphington (+12.4%), and Fitzroy North (+12%).

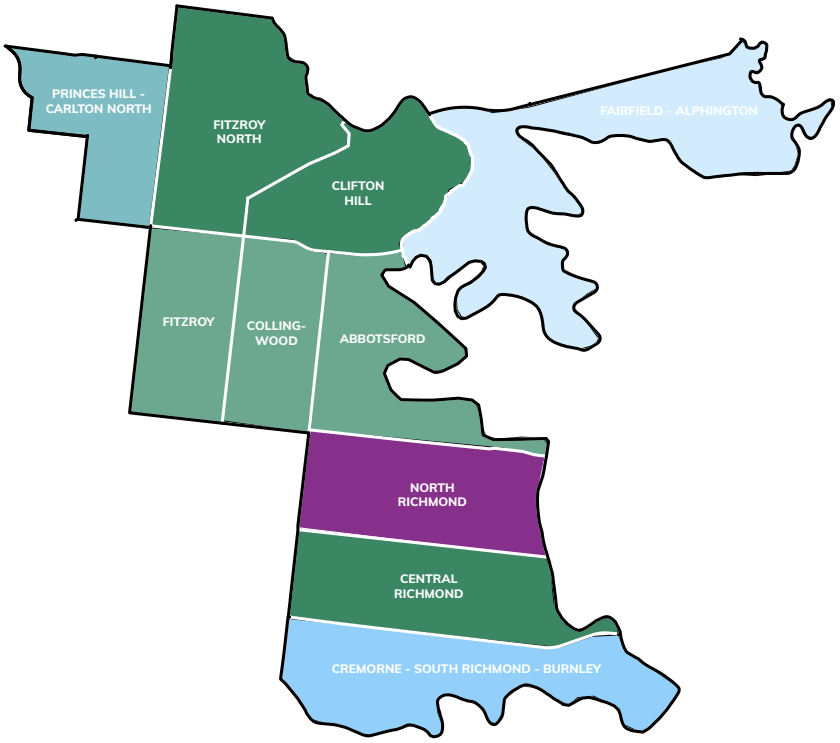
2.3.2 Implications for future play space planning

Yarra's unique community, coupled with the projected changes in demographics and growth into the future, will necessitate careful consideration and strategic thinking for the planning and design of play spaces across Yarra. The key issues for consideration include:

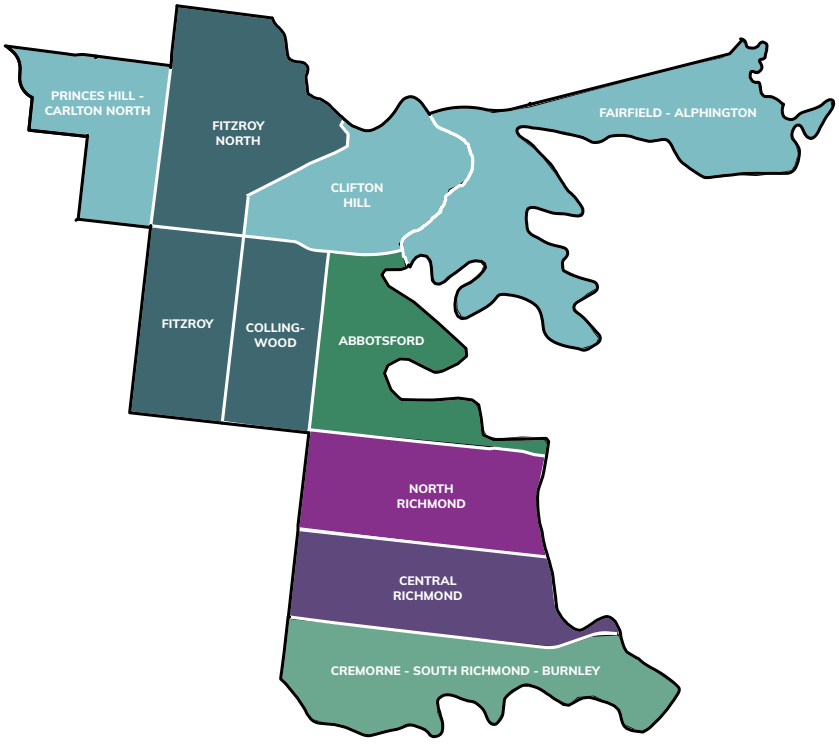
- The future increase of population in precincts with very low open space availability such as Collingwood, Fitzroy, and Richmond North.
- The increase in children (0-11) in North Richmond and young people (12-24 years) in precincts such as North Richmond and Fitzroy where available open space is restricted.
- The need for a greater diversity of play space options to cater for an older population and a population with higher numbers of households without children.

2.3.3 An opportunity to plan for the community

Yarra's unique urban fabric and open-space character, combined with the city's particular residential, worker and visitor mix, provide an opportunity to approach play and play spaces in a different way that will benefit the 'whole' community through a range of different experiences. This will involve responding to both existing and emerging population needs in the coming 10 years, whilst also planning for play in Yarra's open spaces in a more complementary, multi-functional way.



Current population density



10 year projected population density

LEGEND

- 0-4,000 residents
- 4,001-6,000 residents
- 6,001-9,000 residents
- 9,001-11,000 residents
- 11,001-14,000 residents
- 14001-17,000 residents
- 17,001-20,000 residents
- 20,001-23,000 residents

N

Map 3: Current population density vs 10 year projected population density change in Yarra

2.4 Council context

2.4.1 Strategic Framework

The following strategic documents in Diagram 1 below were reviewed for the development of this Strategy. The diagram outlines the strategic context of the Yarra Play Space Strategy:

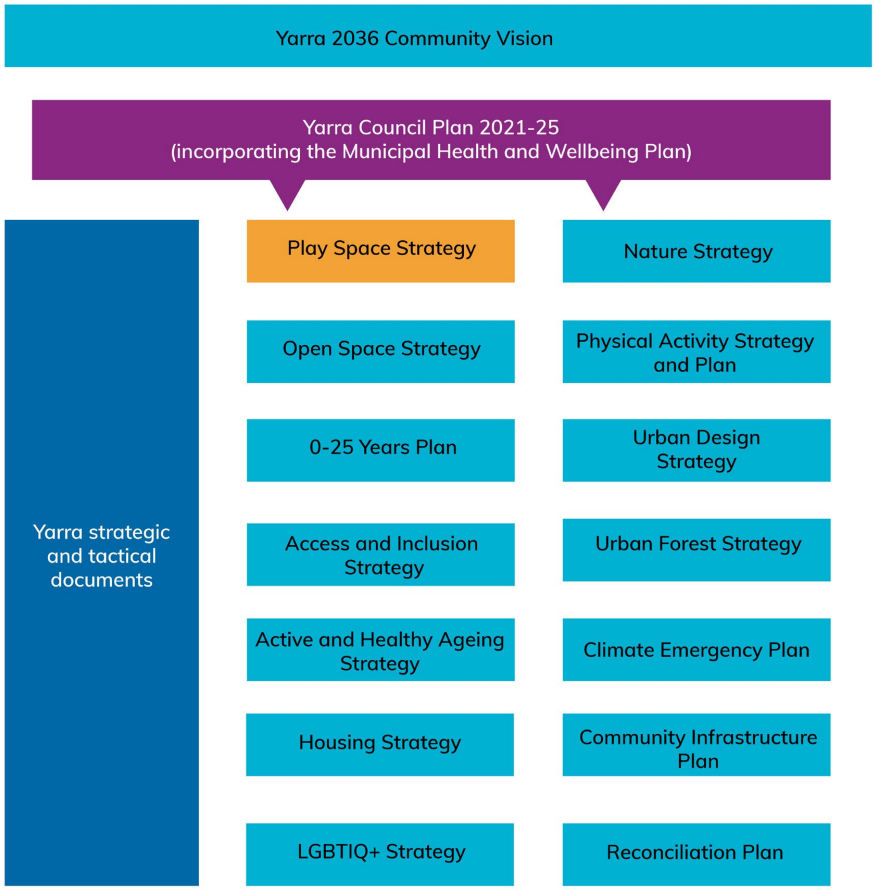


Diagram 1 (above): Key Council strategies and plans referenced in Strategy

2.4.2 YOSS recommendations regarding play spaces and informal recreation

Guidelines for upgrade and integration of existing play areas to open space

a) Demonstrate the play areas provide a diverse range of activities to meet different age groups and skill development including physical, social, and cognitive play, scaled to meet the intended size and use level applicable to the open space catchment in which it is proposed.

b) Integrate the proposed play facility into the open space design to complement and expand the diversity of play opportunities. This could include open grassed areas for informal ball games and other unstructured recreation facilities.

c) Integrate comfortable seating and picnic areas nearby the play facility to encourage social interaction and comfort for adults supervising play. This is important so that the parents will stay outdoors with their children in the park for longer lengths of time.

d) Include access for all principles in play facility design demonstrating that universal access is cohesively integrated into at least part of all play areas.

e) Design the play area so it can be used by everyone including young people who will informally use the area to meet and socialise as well.

f) Minimise the use of fencing to play areas when it can be demonstrated there is no safety or accessibility requirement for it. Alternative treatments to fencing are to be investigated such as grade separation, seating walls, steps, and planting, and only where they cannot demonstrate they adequately meet the identified safety concerns is fencing then considered appropriate. This is to meet the accessibility, adaptability, sustainability, and safety principles of open space design by encouraging everyone to share, access and use the open space and the play area.

g) Where possible, locate play areas so they receive some natural shade during the middle of the day to avoid the need for shade structures. The final proximity of the play area to existing and planted trees will need to demonstrate it allows ongoing health and mature size of the trees and is not in total shade (i.e. receives some sunlight during the day).

h) Where feasible, major play areas are to reflect the natural, urban, landscape, cultural, heritage and social character of the open space. The play area is to have associated support facilities including seating, drinking fountains, picnic areas and open grassed areas, trees, and shade.

i) Provide consistent signage regarding no dogs off-lead within 10 metres of all play areas.

Guidelines to promote and increase unstructured recreational use of open space:

a) Encourage a diversity of facilities in open space.

b) Location and type of active unstructured recreation facilities to complement other identified structured, unstructured, and informal uses in the open space and the overall character.

c) Include associated facilities that support and encourage participation in exercise including seats of different types, drinking fountains and shade. This is so that people of all levels of ability and fitness are encouraged to exercise and improve their fitness by providing opportunities for people to rest while exercising.

d) Placement and design of these facilities is to demonstrate they minimise visual and noise impacts on adjoining land, particularly in relation to noise and activity in proximity to adjoining residents and nature conservation areas.

e) Placement and design of these facilities is to demonstrate they are balanced with retaining the natural and unbuilt qualities of the open space.

2.4.3 Other key reference documents

A number of other external documents were also reviewed and referenced for the development of this Strategy, and they are outlined in Diagram 2 below:



Diagram 2 (above): Key external documents referenced in Strategy

3. Introduction

3.1 The importance of play

The fundamental reason local governments provide play spaces is to provide publicly accessible places for everyone to play and recreate. Play spaces are a key component of the open space network, but why is play so important to us as a community? The following section discusses play and its benefits to the whole community to understand why play spaces are so important.

3.1.1 Why do we play?

One of the most common recreation activities of humans is play. Play is seen in its most common form in children, *freely chosen*, *spontaneous* and *self-directed*. We can however learn from our observations of children's play that its benefits have much wider implications for everyone in our community no matter their age, ability, gender, or background.

The first of those is physical activity - play is about body movement of various kinds. Then there is social connection – play is about cultivating a scenario by which we come together and negotiate relationships in our interactions and games. Finally, there is creativity and innovation – play is about adapting, and re-imagining found materials and environments, storytelling, and inner expression. Play breeds joy and is an immersive and emotive experience which improves our wellbeing.

3.1.2 Human development and the benefits of play

There are five key elements of human development affected by play, these include:

- **Physical development** – which is the learning of fine and gross motor skills, as well as balance, spatial / body awareness, speed, and coordination.
- **Emotional development** - which is the building of self-confidence and resilience, along with skill-mastery and self-discovery.
- **Social development** – which is the learning of skills such as sharing and collaboration, rules and boundaries, negotiation and conflict resolution, leadership, and empathy.
- **Cognitive development** – which is concept learning and application, problem solving, memory use and testing learnt skills.
- **Language development** – which is the learning of expression, receptiveness, vocabulary, body language, tone, listening skills and eye contact.

3.1.3 The difference between children, young people, and adults in play

Traditional definitions of play apply more directly to children (under 14 years). Children's 'play' can be considered as a way of being or state of flow within an environment, rather than an activity. Open space environments (and the play spaces within them) only set the stage for this play, as interactions with them can have some repetition, but overall tend to be unique each time a child visits.

More recently in planning and design there has been movement towards expanding this definition to include young people and adults. There is however a lack of research literature and examples of how infrastructure is used by adults for 'play' by the above definition.

Young people will fluidly move between play and informal recreation. Young people tend to enter the flow state when they are being creative or playing games. They do not tend however, to engage in the types of dramatic, role or symbolic play that younger children do, preferencing social interaction with peers instead.

Adults can certainly be playful in their interactions, however their use of open space environments tends to be with purpose (i.e. to jog, to gather socially, to walk the dog, to play kick-to-kick with friends) and will often be routine or follow a regular pattern. This is considered informal recreation, rather than play.

For this Strategy, we will differentiate between interactions as; children engage in *play*, adults engage in *informal recreation*, and *young people oscillate between play and informal recreation* in varying degrees depending on their age and interest.

It is also important to consider that children will often be accompanied by adults when they visit play spaces and therefore there also needs to be a level of consideration for the requirements of adults.

3.2 Environmental connection of the senses through play

Exploring nature stimulates children and adult's curiosity, observation, and critical thinking skills. In natural environments, by encountering a variety of sights, sounds, textures, and smells, the senses are engaged, and cognitive abilities enhanced.

Play and recreation also engage 'vestibular' and 'proprioceptive' senses. The vestibular sense is important for development of balance, coordination, eye control, attention, being comfortable with movement and some aspects of language development. Proprioception and kinaesthesia (the sensation of joint motion and acceleration) are the sensory feedback mechanisms for motor control and posture. These mechanisms along with the vestibular system, a fluid filled network within the inner ear that can feel the pull of gravity and helps the body keep oriented and balanced, are unconsciously utilised by the brain to provide a constant influx of sensory information. The brain can then send out immediate and unconscious adjustments to the muscles and joints in order to achieve movement and balance.

Exposure to a range of outdoor environments (and associated flora and fauna) for play and recreation is also a gateway to developing a life-long connection and empathy with nature, preparing foundations for future stewardship of the natural environment.

3.3 Ages and related play types

3.3.1 Introduction

It is important to not only understand the suitability of different scales and types of play spaces for different ages, but also what interests and developmental abilities different age groups have when playing and recreating.

The following age definitions are used within this Strategy:

- **Toddler (Under 3 years)**
- **Pre-School (3-6 years)**
- **Junior (7-9 years)**
- **Senior (10-14 years)**
- **Young People: (15-24 years)**
- **Adults (25 years +)**
- **Older Adults (60 years +)**

3.3.2 A balance for different ages and abilities

Each age group will utilise play spaces differently, sometimes at different times.

Play spaces should aim to cater for ages from birth onwards, with multiple activities available. Smaller 'local' play spaces are often best focused on a targeted age range, as better developed outcomes can be achieved this way. With larger, longer stay play spaces, all age groups, abilities, and demographics should be catered, to support the diverse community and their changing needs.

By developing more diverse experiences and opportunities for a range of age groups, this should result in an improved local precinct play network, that is accessible and adaptable enough to grow with a changing population overtime.

3.3.3 Play and informal recreation types

The following are descriptions for play and informal recreation types guiding the development of play spaces for different age groups. Key examples are identified, however are not limited to what is outlined below:

Active Play / Movement

Children and Young People: climbing, sliding, swinging, balancing, jumping, upper body movement, manipulative movement ball skills and wheels.

Adults: walking, running or jogging, stretching, ball skills and wheels.

Concept Play - Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) focus

Children and Young People: testing and experimenting, observing the world and people, engaging with STEM concepts.

Deep Play / Risky Play

Children and Young People: climbing, agility, testing balance, strength, and coordination, and learning judgement and confidence in own ability (particularly in new or unknown situations).

Environmental Connection

Children and Young People: loose materials, flora and fauna seeking, tree-climbing, sand, dirt, water play and learning through landscapes.

Adults: walking, relaxing, interacting with gardens and natural environments, community connection, volunteering.

Exercise / Fitness

Adults and Young People: ball play, wheels, fitness / outdoor gym equipment, walking, running or jogging, cross-training, Pilates, yoga, boot camp, Parkour, agility courses, sports training.

Exploration

Everyone: wandering, uncovering and discovering, learning through landscapes.

Group Activity Participation

Everyone: community events, participation in informal recreation and activities, informal games, and social connection.

Imaginative / Creative Play or Creative Recreation

Children and Young People: games, dramatic roles, characters, other worlds and building or making

Adults: outdoor performances, art, and creative activities.

Recreational Games

Adults and Young People: table tennis, bocce and pétanque, chess and board games, and digital interactives.

Sensory Play

Children: loose materials, plants, music / sound interactive elements, textured surfaces, or manipulative activities, movement, propulsion and deep body stimuli.

Adults and Young People: interacting with gardens and natural environments.

Skill Challenge

Everyone: climbing, agility, balance, strength, and coordination, skating, scooting and wheels.

Social Gathering

Everyone: relaxing, connecting, conversing, sharing skills and information, relaxing, sharing food or picnicking.

Social Play

Children and Young People: games, partner or group activities, turn taking experiences, serve and return interactions, and language development.

3.3.4 Children: age groups and play

The interests and skills that pertain to children 0-14 years are as follows:

Age-Group:	Play / Informal Recreation:	Interests and Needs:
Toddler (Under 3 years)	Active Play / Movement Exploratory Play / Concept Play Imaginative / Creative Play Sensory Play	• Play can be supported by the landscape environment and suitable surfacing (for babies). • Access to structured equipment is not a prerequisite to engagement. • Play involves exploration and testing. • Sensory experiences important (sound, touch, colour). • Smaller spaces, tunnels & places to hide are prized. • Play tends to be solitary or parallel, settings should offer opportunities to connect with others or to play independently. • Family members tend to be important.
Pre-School (3-6 years)	Active Play / Movement Exploratory Play / Concept Play Imaginative / Creative Play Outdoor Games Sensory Play	• Play involves more social interaction with peers and the environment needs to support 'playing together'. • Play needs to have flexible and adaptable elements with loose parts for collecting and using in play. • Nature play settings are suited to this age, particularly where sand and water are involved. There is a developing interest in animals, insects, and the natural world. • Elements such as ladders, nets, rocks, and logs allow for balancing and climbing. • Hard surfaces and some open space support activities such as ball play, bikes, and scooters. • As there is a developing interest in the world around them– imaginative settings should reflect these developing concepts. • Elements such as movement (proprioception and vestibular), sound, tactile and colour cues and smell engage the senses.

Age-Group:	Play / Informal Recreation:	Interests and Needs:
Junior (7-9 years)	Active Play / Movement Exploratory Play / Concept Play Group Activity Participation Imaginative / Creative Play Outdoor Games Sensory Play	• Play tends to involve the honing of skills, language, and concepts. • Emotional regulation, more focussed concentration and self-reliance enables greater co-operation, negotiation and problem solving. Inventing and making things are important. Loose parts play is still important – only more sophisticated and detailed. • Children tend to have low muscle tone allowing them to do tasks, which most adults would struggle to achieve, such as scaling a vertical rope or doing flips on monkey bars. • Play tends to involve inventing more complex games with peers, involving rules and a play space will often provide the platform. • Adults are usually becoming less important than peer friendships. • There tends to be enjoyment in rough and tumble play and engagement in deep or risky play. • Open space needs to be larger to support burgeoning independent interests.
Senior (10-14 years)	Active Play / Movement Creative Play Exploratory Play / Concept Play Deep / Risky Play / Skill Challenge Group Activity Participation Outdoor Games Social Gathering Sensory Play	• These years are often referred to as the 'tweens' as neither childhood nor adolescence. • This age-group will often feel like interlopers in both spaces for both younger children and for adults – need to be welcomed and included. • This age-group may want to disengage from formal sports and spaces should provide alternative opportunities. • Self-identity becomes more important, with experimentation in who they are that continues into adolescence, environments for creative expression are needed to support this. • Play tends to takes on a different role, becoming more about social interaction, than exploration of an environment or the development of physical skills. • Independence from adults and hanging out with friends takes centre stage and most interests tend to pivot around this, with clusters or pods of seating or elevated areas to view activity or open spaces to participate in activity supporting play. • Spaces can tend to be dominated by boys, so there is a need to provide suitable spaces and elements to make girls feel welcome. • Spaces for lone reflection and internal retreat are also needed – hence an increased interest in the digital world. • Physical literacy tends to be well developed with increased flexibility, agility, balance, and hand-eye coordination, demonstrated by deft ball skills and confident climbing. • Social norms can begin to be tested and children can enjoy the opportunity for much more 'risky or challenging' adventure play at greater heights involving complex skills. A standard play space may not always support these needs.

3.3.5 Young people, play and informal recreation

The interests and skills that pertain to young people 15-24 years are as follows:

Age-Group:	Play / Informal Recreation:	Interests and Needs:
Young People (15-24 years)	Active Play / Movement Deep / Risky Play / Skill Challenge Environmental Connection Exercise / Fitness Group Activity Participation Outdoor Games Relaxation Social Gathering	• The term 'play' tends to be avoided by this age group as they see it associated with younger ages and prefer to use 'chill' or 'hang out' to describe their 'unstructured / non-prescriptive play'. • Spaces for play and recreation can become more closely linked with self-identity and group or club culture associated with those activities (i.e. skating or organised sports). • Hubs associated with spaces for play and recreation providing amenities tend to be preferred with access to public transport and shops close by. • Flexible spaces that cater for more dynamic and changing activity can also be valued.

3.3.6 Adults and informal recreation

The interests and skills that pertain to adults 25+ years are as follows:

Age-Group:	Play / Informal Recreation:	Interests and Needs:
Adults (25+ years)	Environmental Connection Exercise / Fitness Group Activity Participation Movement Outdoor Games Relaxation Social Gathering	• In this age group play tends to be replaced by informal recreation where the play space becomes a destination for social gathering, sharing meals, reading, relaxing outdoors, and exercising. • Role as carer for children needs to be considered. • Opportunities to play with and support younger children in their care should be provided. • Play spaces need to be intuitively accessible to adults of different abilities. • Spaces for adults to recreate such as open space, recreational games, fitness equipment and activities such as agility and climbing should be located separately, but adjacent to play spaces to clearly define the differences in use, whilst allowing for cross over in use and improve on-site safety. • Shade, seating, picnic tables, grassed and garden areas encourage regular use by young adults, families, and local workers. • Opportunities to engage in a fun and playful way should not be forgotten.

3.3.7 Older adults and informal recreation

The interests and skills that pertain to adults 60+ years are as follows:

Age-Group:	Play / Informal Recreation:	Interests and Needs:
Older Adults (60+ years)	Environmental Connection Group Activity Participation Movement Outdoor Games Social Gathering	• In this age group informal recreation becomes about opportunities to socially connect and stay healthy through regular exercise. • The role as carer for grandchildren needs to be considered. • Play spaces need to be intuitively accessible and particularly mindful of this age-group's needs for seating at regular distances, smooth surface transitions and spatial dimensions. • Any specialised equipment for activity or fitness should be designed with this age-groups needs in mind. • Gardens and the natural environment are valued, but shade and shelter need to be present. • Opportunities to engage in a fun and playful way should not be forgotten.

3.4 Summary of current research and trends in play and recreation

A foundation for a 10 year Play Space Strategy requires an understanding of where academic and industry thinking is at present in relation to outdoor play, play spaces and informal recreation in public open space.

3.4.1 Introduction

Research into current and emerging play and informal recreation trends was undertaken for this project, to present opportunities for the inclusion of a greater diversity of play into the future. It is important to note that some of these trends are not suitable for certain play space environments in Yarra's context.

3.4.2 Play

There are a number of current and emerging trends for play in open space that are discussed in this section below. Some of these trends are already present in Yarra's play spaces and others suggest opportunities for broader experiences to be considered (where site and situation are suitable).

Structured / Unstructured Nature Play and Loose Parts

Play spaces that encourage enjoyment and exploration of the natural environment.

This can be presented in two ways; structured and unstructured. Unstructured nature play occurs incidentally in existing natural environments (i.e. open space and bushland environments). Structured nature play is found in the form of fixed timber elements (i.e. logs and log steppers for balance and more organic timber structures for complex climbing). Feature items can also be added (in suitable situations) such as rocks, logs, grass, trees, plants, water, sand, and loose materials (i.e. twigs, leaves, stones, etc) that can be manipulated to create cubby houses or be used in play or games as currency. Nature play should be encouraged in specific areas, leaving other areas of habitat undisturbed.




Sensory Play

Play spaces that engage the different senses including sound, sight, touch, and smell.

This includes items such as outdoor musical instruments or sound elements, sensory planting / garden areas inviting users to touch and smell plants, water features, and custom or specifically designed equipment that spins or rotates. Engaging different senses provides a richer connection to the world and stimulates brain-function and communication skills.





Risky Play / Adventure Play

Play spaces with physically challenging elements and structures that create a sense of adventure, the unknown or perceived risk, but are still designed to meet safety standards and are managed so they are age or skill appropriate to access.

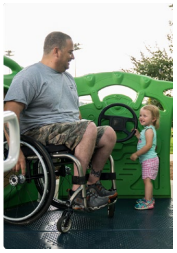
Examples of play and recreation include flying foxes, giant slides, multi-level forts, ropes course, large rock boulders, climbing walls and wobbly bridges. Sometimes depending on scale and intended user age-group, this may also fit under the category of parkour and specific agility activities.




Multi-Generational Play

Play spaces that are designed to be used by people of all ages including adults, parents, grandparents, and carers, as well as adults with disabilities.

The play space is set up with a diverse range of elements, furniture and surfaces can be used by people of different sizes, ages, and abilities to participate in play or recreation, or to supervise younger children at play. This may also incorporate complementary activities next to a play space (i.e. outdoor fitness equipment, multi-use courts or social gathering spaces). There may also be different skill levels, heights, or spaces present, or the elements provided are flexible enough that they can be used effectively by different age-groups and abilities.





Inter-Generational Play

Play spaces that are designed to support different age groups to play or recreate 'together'.

The play space includes open-ended elements, equipment or spaces designed for different ages to play or recreate together in the same space or activity (i.e. a joey swing with child and adult seat, or carousel designed to be used by adults and children together, or open-ended elements that can be used by everyone).





Play Experiences

Play spaces that include treatments and interventions that exist in the everyday urban fabric that encourages playful interactions.

This type of play space can be found as pavement treatments, grassed surfaces, landscape forms (mounds or berms), low walls, steps, furniture, sculpture, garden planting, trees or lighting in most open space or urban / civic squares.




Play Streets

Organised neighbourhood street closures where the street becomes a community space for local residents to play, recreate and gather socially.

Starting as a small revolutionary parent-led action called 'Playing Out' in 2007 in Bristol, UK, the play streets movement has grown globally in recent decades primarily in European and North American cities. The key driver for the Play Streets movement has been the increasing restrictions on children's access to play and recreation and diminishing social connection in residential neighbourhoods. The play streets movement has grown to encompass a multitude of social projects in larger cities of developed countries all around the world. Lead by the premise of greater community connection, this has ignited child-friendly urban planning discussion and debate globally. In Australia, this has

manifested itself less so as a movement, except in major cities where the pressures of increasing urban density are apparent. A local example of the Play Streets movement is found in Play Australia's 1000 Play Streets program.





3.3.3 Informal recreation

There are a number of current and emerging trends for informal recreation in open space that are discussed in the following section. Some of these trends are already present in Yarra's play spaces and others suggest opportunities for broader experiences to be considered (where site and situation are suitable).

Social Gathering

Seating, yarning circles, shaded picnic areas, informal seating, grassed open space for picnics and other activities that involve social connection.

These refer to spaces that provide opportunities for different kinds of social gathering, meet ups or recreational activities (i.e. dog walking, classes, or events) for different ages in an open-space setting.







Fitness / Outdoor Gyms / Older Adults Equipment

Designed equipment, either located as stations along a path circuit or combined in one location in open space as an 'outdoor gym'.

The range of elements and equipment (that often replicate equipment found in commercial gyms or sports centres) specifically designed around different types of fitness training such as cardio, balance, strength and coordination, or a whole body workout. More recent iterations involve equipment specifically designed for active movement, balance, and occupational therapy for older adults.

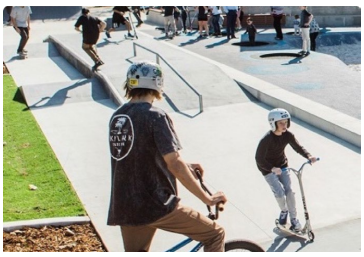




Skate, Scoot and Wheels

Different kinds of facilities for skating or skateboarding have been around for a number of decades and have their own very well developed culture, however recent years has seen a more multi and user diverse approach.

Skate parks and facilities vary in form (bowls, ridges, steps etc,) where tricks and moves are performed by the user, be that skating or other wheels in particular ways. Skate parks are often formed to encourage risky manoeuvres, but also provide opportunities for learning and improving skills. Skate parks are often key places in the community for meeting peers and socialising and users may travel distances to use a facility.





Ninja Courses / Parkour / Agility

Some of the newest forms of recreational play for older children and adults include design for Parkour and constructed Ninja Courses, both designed for building agility skills and some quite challenging.

Parkour is a form of sport or recreation involving fluid urban movement. It includes techniques such as the tic-tac (wall step/run), kong (a form of vault), and precision (2-foot to 2-foot jump) among a myriad of others and utilises existing structural forms as its platform.

Ninja Courses or Agility Courses are complex structured settings for children or adults (or both) in parks designed with ropes, climbing / crawling, and balance features for usually practising upper-body strength and agility. These parks feature obstacle courses that challenge your balance, upper body strength, co-ordination, and determination.





Climbing Walls / Bouldering

A vertical or almost vertical face with multiple grips fixed to the surface for hands and feet to hold while climbing. Grips are often colour-coded to indicate the difficulty of the course and the aim is to complete the course or use the grips to scramble up to the top.

Climbing walls can be found on play equipment or free-standing walls. Rather than a course, these are used as alternate methods for climbing up structures and can be used by all ages. Bouldering tends to be the term applied to adult climbing and these are usually planned courses on large monolith 360 degree built forms or available existing walls.





Recreational Games / Multi-Use Courts (MUC)

Elements and settings for social connection through supporting games of different kinds.

These may be on the small scale of table games such as chess or table tennis or on a larger scale of grassed open space or courts for ball games. Sometimes these can be structured, intentional and other times can just be part of the open space treatment that accommodates random playful interactions or games.





Technology / Digital Interactives

Integrated technology that encourages physical activity through various games and activities.

These spaces can use wi-fi connectivity that enables complementary interactivity (i.e. for geocaching) or electronic interactive play equipment (i.e. touch challenges, DJ booth or dance floor) using lights, sounds and sequences that promote social play. These features can encourage the use of fine and gross motor skills.





3.5 What does the term 'play space' mean?

The term 'play space' refers not only to traditional playgrounds (with play equipment), but also includes other structured facilities such as skate, multi-use courts, fitness equipment and climbing walls, as well as recreational games such as table-tennis, bocce, and chess tables.

A play space also describes the broader space beyond any fixed facilities for play and informal recreation to include the supporting landscape environment, paths, furniture, and amenity.

Within Yarra other open spaces that do not contain traditional play equipment or recreational facilities are also considered play spaces, as they also provide for informal play opportunities, social gathering, and fitness activities. Together these form an important part of Yarra's play space network that caters for all ages, abilities and changing needs.

3.6 Planning locally for play in Yarra

Planning for future play in Yarra will involve using a 'local lens' that supports the opportunity for easy, walkable access to play spaces for residents and workers.

3.6.1 Precincts for planning and the role of the 'Local Play Space Network'

The local play space network uses strategic planning to create a range of diverse experiences across a precinct and beyond. This framework allows Council to avoid a 'cookie-cutter' approach to play spaces, by consciously intending to complement what is offered at adjacent sites in a precinct, so simply what is found at one site is not replicated at the next. This is particularly pertinent for precincts with mostly small or constrained sites.

3.6.2 Existing types of play spaces in Yarra's Local Play Space Networks

The following list, describes and gives examples of the current types of play spaces found in Yarra that form a local play space network for each of the planning precincts.

Playgrounds
This is Yarra's most recognisable type of play space for children's play. Comprising of one or more fixed and dimensioned equipment structures and/or elements such as swings, slides, climbing etc., and can include playgrounds with either proprietary or customised equipment / elements and other related amenity. Whilst equipment is seen as being prescriptive in its' use, children will often adapt it for alternate imaginative use in play and games.



Image: Playground at Citizens Park, Richmond

Other Play Spaces
These other types of play spaces found in Yarra have been described in the previous section:

- **Skate, Scoot and Wheels**
- **Multi-Use Courts**
- **Fitness and Agility**
- **Recreational Games**






Images (Top – Bottom / Left – Right): 1. Skate, scoot and wheels at Quarries Park, Clifton Hill. 2. Multi-use ball court at Hall Reserve South, Clifton Hill. 3. Fitness equipment at McConchie Reserve, Richmond South. 4. Chess (recreational games) at Edinburgh Gardens, Fitzroy North.

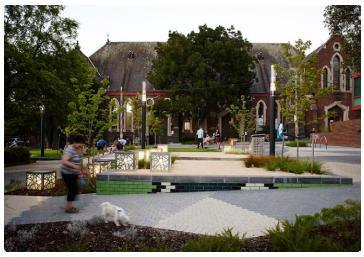
All these types of play spaces offer more flexible informal recreation opportunities for different age groups. In certain sites these may be co-located with higher-level playgrounds or in others be the predominant facility. This will be determined by Council in response to the prevailing community and local network needs.

Complementary Spaces
These are play spaces in Yarra that offer opportunities for non-prescriptive play or play experiences and informal recreation, using more open-ended open space features found in reserves, parks, urban and civic spaces. Complementary spaces need to cater for a broader range of user needs where accommodating a playground is either not a suitable or feasible option. Some examples of elements within complementary spaces (suitable for a range of ages / abilities), are listed below:

Features:	Play / Informal Recreation Opportunities:
Art Elements	• Children's play (active play, imaginary play, and games) • Sensory experience
Garden Areas	• Connection to natural world • Loose materials for children's imaginative play • Sensory experience (smell, colour and texture)

Grouped Seating / Tables	• Children's play (games, imaginative and active play) • Resting • Sharing conversation or meals • Social gathering and connection • Working or studying
Lawn Areas	• Creative movement • Fitness / wellbeing activities (group or individual such as Yoga or Pilates etc.) • Informal games (kick-to-kick ball games / frisbee) • Picnicking • Running around / games • Social gathering and connection
Open Space	• Children's play (active play, exploration, imaginative play, and games) • Exposure to natural light and fresh air • Informal games • Relaxation and respite • Social gathering and connection
Paths and Surfaces	• Children's play (active play, imaginary play, and games) • Fitness / exercise / training • Informal games • Walking and social connection • Wheels
Sculptural Seating	• Active play • Games and imaginative play • Sitting / relaxing / social gathering and connection
Shade	• Listening to music / reading • Protection from the elements • Relaxing • Social gathering and connection
Steps / Platforms and Low Decks	• Children's play (active play, imaginative play, and games) • Event participation / seating • Reading or listening to music • Relaxation • Resting • Social gathering and connection • Working or studying





Images (Left – Right): 1. Open space at Coate Park, Alphington. 2. Paths and surfaces, steps, sculptural seating, lawn and garden areas at Richmond Terrace, Central Richmond.

Future BMX

Yarra has no specific formal setting for BMX. There is a concern that environmental habitat in valued open space is presently being destroyed because of self-built courses and jumps. Council will look into future provision where or if suitable space is available.

3.6.3 Additional play space opportunities within the precinct networks

As previously discussed Yarra's particular urban fabric, open space character, and community, means that opportunities for play and informal recreation within Council's own network can be further embellished by other publicly accessible facilities outside of Council's ownership and management.

Play spaces in public housing precincts

Yarra is home to a number of public housing communities that have associated open space and recreational facilities already accessible to those residential communities and in some cases to the general public. These properties and associated recreational facilities are owned and managed by the Victorian State Government Department of Family, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), the Victorian State Government and include the following sites and related facilities:

- Wellington Street, Collingwood (1 full multi-use court, 2 playgrounds, and table tennis)
- Hoddle Street, Collingwood (1 and ½ multi-use courts, 2 cricket practice nets, and 3 playgrounds)
- Fitzroy (1 full multi-use court, cricket practice net, oval space for soccer, and 4 playgrounds)
- Elizabeth Street, Richmond (1 full multi-use court, oval space for soccer, 3 playgrounds, fitness equipment and table tennis)
- Highett Street, Richmond (1 full multi-use court, oval space for soccer, 1 playground, fitness equipment and table tennis)

Public access in schools

There are a number of school grounds in Yarra that are already publicly accessible, such as both Princes Hill Secondary College multi-use court and Richmond High School basketball courts. This means that residents can use existing facilities that are owned and managed by the Victorian State Government Department of Education in line with each of the school's own policies. Yarra also has a 25-year shared-use lease for public use of the playground, multi-use courts and table tennis at Yarra Primary School in Richmond, which is included in Council's network of play spaces.

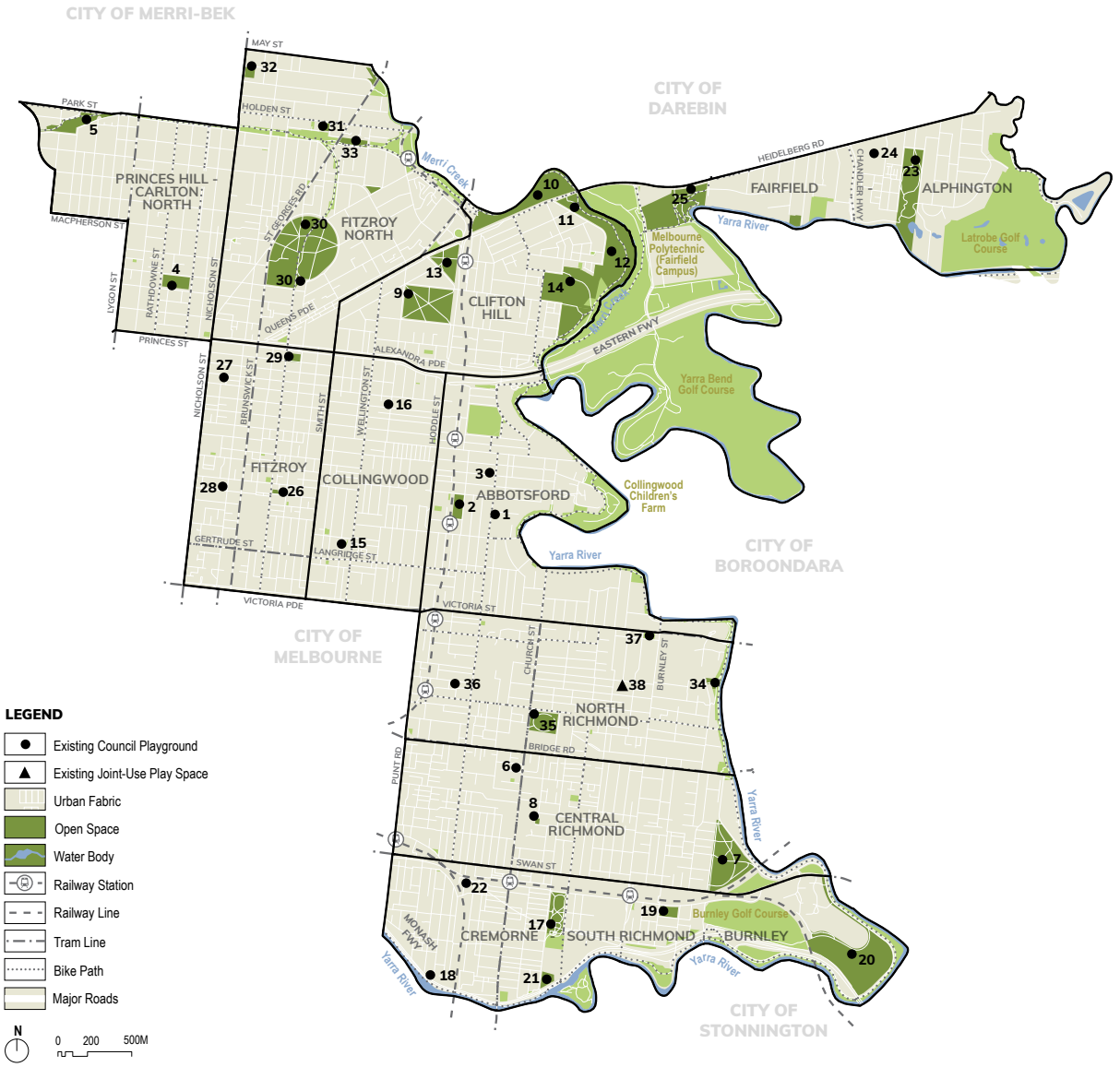
Council will investigate shared use agreements with DFFH and school sites in the future regardless of gaps in provision.

Access to play spaces in surrounding municipalities

The City of Yarra is surrounded by several other local government authorities including the Cities of Melbourne, Stonnington, Boroondara, Darebin, and Merri-bek, which all provide play spaces that are accessible by active or public transport by the Yarra community.

Some of these play spaces have highly developed playgrounds (i.e. Carlton Gardens Playground) or offer larger skate facilities (i.e. Riverslide Skate Park in the Alexandra Gardens and Prahran Skate Park) and all provide further supplementary open space experiences to Yarra's play space network.

Many residents living on the periphery of Yarra's municipal boundaries already rely on these nearby facilities to support their needs, and may not perceive major arterial roads, railway and river / creek corridors as significant barriers to access .



Map 4: Existing playgrounds (with play equipment) in Yarra

EXISTING PLAYGROUNDS:

Abbotsford
1. Browns Reserve
2. Gahan Reserve
3. Studley Reserve

Carlton North - Princes Hill
4. Curtain Square
5. Hardy Gallagher Reserve

Central Richmond
6. Ben Alexander Reserve
7. Burnley Park
8. Cairns Reserve

Clifton Hill
9. Darling Gardens
10. George Knott Reserve
11. Hall Reserve North
12. Hall Reserve South
13. Mayors Park
14. Quarries Park

Collingwood
15. Cambridge Street Reserve
16. McNamara Reserve

Cremorne-Richmond South-Burnley
17. Barkly Gardens
18. Charles Evans Reserve
19. Golden Square (Bicentennial Park)
20. Kevin Bartlett Reserve
21. McConchie Reserve
22. White Street Reserve

Fairfield - Alphington
23. Alphington Park
24. Artisan Park
25. Fairfield Park

Fitzroy
26. Condell Street Reserve
27. Garry Owen Park
28. King William Reserve
29. Smith Reserve

Fitzroy North
30. Edinburgh Gardens
31. Holden Byrne Reserve
32. Langdon Reserve
33. Park Reserve

North Richmond
34. Annette's Place
35. Citizen's Park
36. Egan Park
37. Williams Reserve
38. Yarra Primary School (Shared-Use Facility)



Map 5: Existing other play types and informal recreation in Yarra

EXISTING SKATE & WHEELS / MULTI-USE COURT (MUC) / FITNESS & RECREATIONAL GAMES (RG):

Abbotsford
2. Gahan Reserve MUC

Carlton North - Princes Hill
4. Curtain Square MUC x 2

Central Richmond
7. Burnley Park MUC

Clifton Hill
12. Hall Reserve South MUC / CRICKET NETS
14. Quarries Park SKATE

Cremorne-Richmond South-Burnley
60. Church Street Reserve RG
20. Kevin Bartlett Reserve FITNESS
21. McConchie Reserve MUC / FITNESS / RG
62. Ryans Reserve MUC

Fairfield - Alphington
65. Fairlea Reserve MUC complex

Fitzroy North
30. Edinburgh Gardens SKATE / MUC / RG
32. Langdon Reserve MUC
33. Park Reserve MUC

North Richmond
83. Butler Street Park RG
35. Citizen's Park FITNESS X 2
38. Yarra Primary School (Shared-Use Facility) MUC / RG

4. Yarra's future vision for play

A planning framework for play spaces in Yarra has been developed to clearly guide the actions arising from this Strategy. This framework includes a vision statement, that encapsulates Council's key intentions and 5 guiding principles, each with a set of more specific goals for Yarra's play spaces. These have been developed from the background research and community information gathering undertaken.

4.1 Vision statement

The vision for the Yarra Play Space Strategy is:

'Yarra's play spaces will enhance the wider open space network, be engaging and adaptable, connect to place and be welcoming to all our community.'

4.2 Principles and goals

4.2.1 Purpose

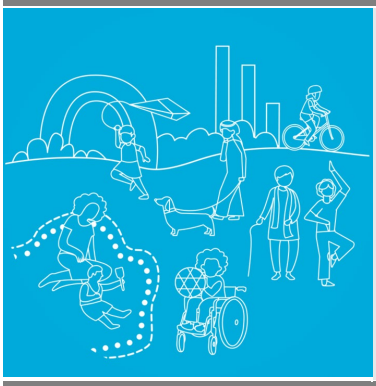
Principles and goals have been developed to provide an overarching framework that responds to community needs and best practice design, and guides the renewal, upgrade, and development of future play spaces in Yarra.

4.2.2 Principals and goals

Yarra's play spaces will:

Principles:	Goals:
1. Respond to changing needs in our community by:	
	• Creating open ended adaptable play opportunities. • Moving away from single use elements for play, creating opportunities for many different experiences and outcomes. • Responding to population growth and projected demographic changes. • Balancing the needs of all users of open spaces. • Responding to broader impacts on the urban environment that may affect the future of Yarra's open spaces.

2. Promote a diversity of experience across the city by:



- Creating a network of play types that complement each other.
- Ensuring differences are offered at each play space across a precinct, responding to the local environment and minimising repetition.

3. Support accessibility, inclusion & participation by:



- Considering the needs of all age groups.
- Considering the needs of people of different abilities, recognising that there is diversity within disability.
- Improving physical access to spaces where feasible and appropriate to the level and scale of the space.
- Creating spaces that are designed to be welcoming and safe.
- Designing spaces to activate the senses.
- Providing a range of 'play' zones, to suit different abilities and preferences (this may include quiet zones, solo play, group play, and sensory spaces).

4. Promote healthy living, through activity & social connection by:



- Promoting walkability and active travel to play spaces.
- Improving access to open space and natural elements (i.e. sunshine, shade, greenery, expanses of lawn, and fresh air).
- Designing spaces to activate the senses.
- Promoting physical fitness and active movement within play spaces.
- Providing a range of opportunities for community connection and gathering within play spaces that improves mental health.

5. Be well designed & sustainable by:



- Ensuring selected play types are suited to existing site conditions and scale, and reflect local character.
- Designing play spaces that are well integrated within the open space environment, including clear sightlines and the consideration of orientation, passive surveillance, and lighting.
- Designing play spaces with materials that are sourced locally, durable, and consider the lifecycle of the material, including its manufacture and its end of life disposal.
- Providing site suitable amenity and natural shade / canopy to help mitigate the urban heat island effect.
- Promoting biodiversity within the open space environment.

5. How we prepared this Strategy

5.1 Methods

This Strategy has been developed through research, consultation and engagement with Yarra's community. In addition, existing playgrounds have been assessed to develop a picture of the current state of play in Yarra. Strengths and weaknesses have been analysed, and a future vision, and set of principles and goals have been developed. Planning tools and recommendations in the form of an action plan have been prepared to inform Council regarding directions to address improvements and implement priority projects.

5.1.1 Diagram of process

This Strategy was developed through the following sequential stages:



Diagram 3 (above): Draft Play Space Strategy methodology

5.1.2 Community engagement summary – Stage 1 (information gathering)

Early engagement with the community was undertaken to gather information to inform the development of this Strategy in October and November 2023. The objectives of this community engagement were to:

- Inform the community that we are developing Yarra's first play space strategy for the next ten years;
- Obtain feedback from the Yarra community;
- Understand the needs of the Yarra community and what sort of play spaces they would like us to create;
- Understand where the Yarra community think improvements can be made and where there should be new types of experiences;
- What is perceived to work in other municipalities and what could be done better in Yarra;
- Make sure that the voices of children and young people were heard from during the community consultation; and
- Make sure that the feedback included representation from all ages and abilities.

This engagement involved a number of methods including a community survey, online mapping contributions, targeted and informal consultations, community pop-ups, and submissions gathered from various community groups and organisations. The engagement activities were designed to reach the diverse community of Yarra in a way that meaningfully captured the needs and interests of different age groups and abilities. Some high-level findings were:

- The top 4 most important features of play spaces were plenty of shade (12.6%), variety of play experience (10.1%), equipment for all ages (9.7%), and close to home (9.1%), and toilets (7.7%).
- The top 4 most mentioned playgrounds were Alphington Park, Edinburgh Gardens, Citizens Park and Darling Gardens.

An engagement summary report is currently available on Council's website for public viewing. It is important to note that at the time the focus of this engagement was limited to discussion of playgrounds (play equipment), rather than the broader definition of play spaces used in this report.

6. Tools for future play space planning

6.1 Walkability and gap analysis

Walkability is easy local access to support residents, workers and visitors to use play spaces more regularly.

We have mapped the walkability of Yarra's current network of play spaces and from this information have identified where the gaps are or where play spaces are not as easily accessible by the community. This information assists with future planning for Yarra's play spaces and is discussed further in this section.

6.1.1 The purpose of the 400 metre (m) walkability measurement

This is a walkable catchment used in planning to map accessibility of spaces within planning precincts.

A 400m (or a 5-10 minute) walkable distance is generally accepted as a standard planning catchment for regularly accessed local facilities from home. Distances beyond 400m are generally only accepted for destinations that have more significant attractors. Furthermore, walking beyond 5-10 minutes can limit access for community members with a physical disability, those pushing prams or wheelchairs, older adults and for activities that require carrying equipment.

For the purpose of this Strategy the 400m measurement has been shown as a radius from facilities. It doesn't always mean 400m direct walking, as there are other variables and considerations such as short-cuts through parks, physical barriers or feelings of safety which can impact walking times.

6.1.2 The importance of 'Complementary spaces' to the overall play space network

Complementary spaces such as Richmond Terrace in Central Richmond (refer Section 3.6), are critical components to meet walkability requirements within Yarra's play space network. These spaces provide more flexible, unstructured play experiences – complementing the more prescriptive playgrounds and other types of informal recreation through more open-ended design.

6.1.3 Perceived barriers to walkability access

Generally, with walkability, 'barriers to access' such as major highways, freeways or arterial roads, railway corridors and water bodies such as rivers and creeks are usually identified as restrictions to the 400m walkability radius. Yarra has a number of these present in its urban fabric.

A larger proportion of Yarra's residents use active transport (walking / cycling) and public transport within and beyond their local areas, than other municipalities due to being compact in area and a community that embraces an inner-city lifestyle. Residents regularly cross busy roads in activity areas and transport corridors. They use inclusive walking routes such as accessible bridges, safe pedestrian crossovers and underpasses, as well as traffic lights, meaning that these barriers are often more **perceived barriers** rather than **physical barriers** and providing inclusive routes for connection to open space is important for the Yarra Community.

6.1.4 Walkability gap analysis

Abbotsford - North-East

There is a walkability access gap to the north-east of the precinct. This gap is balanced by access to the open space around the Collingwood Children's Farm, as well as trail path access to Dights Falls / Yarra Bend Park and Fairfield Park to the north. There would be a good opportunity to address gaps by developing a play space (with a focus on connecting people to water through improving access to the Birrarung - Yarra River) within the existing complimentary space at Flockhart Reserve.

Abbotsford - South-Central

There is a walkability access gap to the north and south-central of Victoria Street. This area is a mix of residential, commercial and industry with limited access to available, suitable open space. The YOSS discusses a possible future opportunity for a Neighbourhood Level open space if the CUB site redevelops, this would be a good opportunity to also consider a play space within this proposed open space to address this gap.

Carlton North – Princes Hill

There is a larger walkability gap south of Park Street and to the north of MacPherson Street, right into the western edge of the precinct where there is higher-density housing. This is due to lack of accessible, suitable open space in this area, but is mitigated by close access to the play space at Princes Park (City of Melbourne) to the west and the Linear Railway Parklands to the north.

Central Richmond

There is a very small walkability access gap east of Punt Road and south of Bridge Road where access to suitable, available open space is not available. This gap is only addressed by complementary spaces to the north at Urban Arts Square and the south at Wangaratta Reserve, near West Richmond Station. The YOSS proposes investigating an opportunity to develop new open space to the north-west of the precinct, this would be a good opportunity to also consider a play space within this proposed open space to address this gap.

Clifton Hill

There is a large walkability gap mostly to the east of the train line corridor, north of Alexandra Parade. This is due to lack of accessible, suitable open space, however there is open space and play space provision to the east along the Merri Creek parklands, including City-Wide Level play spaces such as Quarries Park. Improvement to the diversity of the smaller Local Level play spaces here, will provide the quality of experience needed by this precinct.

Collingwood

There is a walkability access gap to the south-east corner of this precinct, between Langridge Street and Victoria Parade, west of Hoddle Street. This area is predominantly industrial and commercial, with some residential. It is also addressed by close access to play spaces at Fitzroy Gardens and Powlett Reserve to the south in East Melbourne (City of Melbourne).

Cremorne / Richmond South / Burnley

There are no key gaps in walkability within this precinct, however the diversity of play, social gathering and accessibility in existing play spaces such as Charles Evans Reserve, Golden Square (Bicentennial Park) and White Street Reserve needs improvement to meet local community needs.

Fairfield – Alphington

There is a walkability access gap to the east of the Chandler Highway. This area is presently still under development. One new play space with a playground has been developed at Artisan Park and there are 3 future play spaces proposed as part of the AMCOR / Alphington Paper Mills re-development (Yarra Bend); Workshop Park (with future playground), Heritage Park and Village Square.

Fitzroy

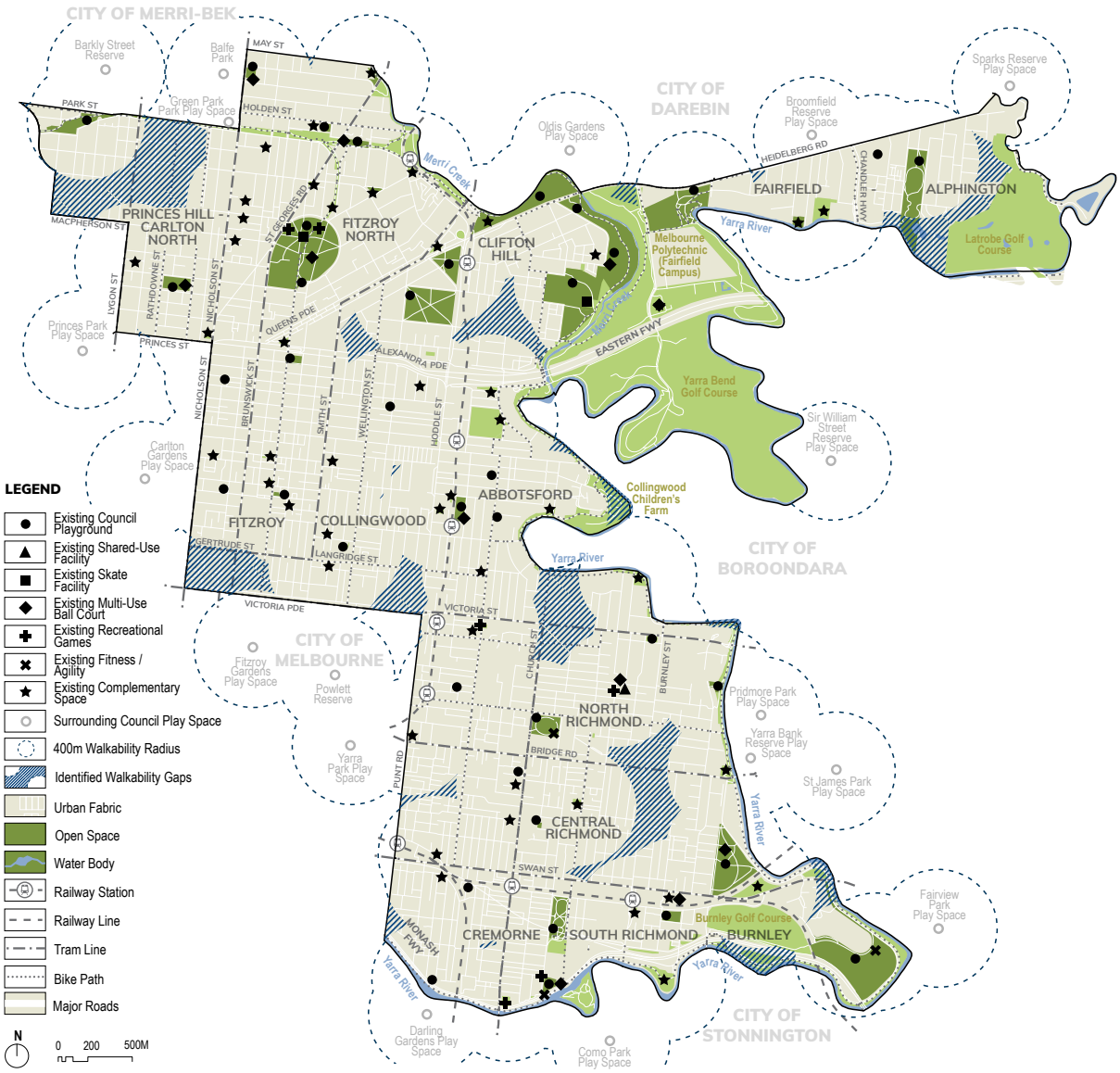
There is a walkability access gap in the south-west corner of this precinct, north of Victoria Parade and east of Nicholson Street, where there is presently no suitable, available open space to develop a play space. The YOSS discusses a future opportunity to develop a new Local Level open space, which would be a good opportunity to add play or informal recreation within this proposed open space to address this gap. It is also addressed by close access to play spaces at Carlton Gardens in Carlton and Fitzroy Gardens in East Melbourne (City of Melbourne).

Fitzroy North

There is a walkability access gap to playgrounds in the north-east of the precinct, which can be addressed by the development of a new playground within Edwardes Place Park which is an existing complementary space in the Local Play Network.

North Richmond

There are no key gaps in walkability within this precinct, however the diversity of play, social gathering and accessibility in existing play spaces such as Annette's Place, Egan Park and Williams Reserve need improvement to meet local community needs.



Map 6: 400m walkability access to play spaces and identified gaps in Yarra



Map 7: Additional proposed play provision within existing sites and new developments in Yarra

FUTURE PROPOSED LOCAL LEVEL PLAYGROUNDS:

Fairfield – Alphington
1. Workshop Park

Fitzroy North
2. Gasworks Park

FUTURE PROPOSED COMPLEMENTARY SPACES:

Fairfield – Alphington
3. Heritage Park
4. Village Square

Fitzroy
5. Corner Gertrude / Brunswick Streets Project

ADDITIONAL PROPOSED PLAY PROVISION WITHIN EXISTING SITES:

Abbotsford
6. Flockhart Reserve
7. Gahan Reserve
8. Victoria Park

Carlton North – Princes Hill
9. Curtain Square
10. Hardy Gallagher Reserve

Central Richmond
11. Burnley Park

Clifton Hill
12. Mayors Park
13. Quarries Park

Collingwood
14. Peel Street Park

Cremorne – Richmond South - Burnley
15. Barkly Gardens
16. Charles Evans Reserve
17. Loys Paddock

Fairfield – Alphington
18. Alphington Park
19. Fairfield Park

Fitzroy
20. Whitlam Place
21. King William Reserve

Fitzroy North
22. Edwardes Place Park

North Richmond
23. O'Connell Reserve

6.2 Access and inclusion

Inclusion at its heart involves the removal of barriers to participation in community life for everyone. This section discusses accessibility (or access) and inclusion, to provide a clearer understanding and practical tools for improving the planning of Yarra's play spaces.

6.2.1 The diversity of disability

At least one in five Australians today have some form of disability, which equates to about twenty percent of the population. The number and types of disabilities is often unknown or misunderstood. There are, in reality, innumerable types of disabilities that exist – some are more common than others and some, like mental illness, epilepsy, neurological functioning and sensory differences, are invisible.

Disability is broadly defined as an impairment in body function or structure, an activity limitation (the tasks a person does), or restricted participation (the involvement of a person in life situations). This is primarily based on concepts from the World Health Organisation's (WHO), International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF).

Disability is a rich spectrum. A disability may be permanent or temporary. It may be present at birth, acquired in an accident or develop with age. It may also have a moderate or significant impact on a person's life.

The Disability Discrimination Act (1992) is the legal framework that covers a wide breadth of disabilities including intellectual, physical, mental illness, sensory, neurological, learning disability and more.

6.2.2 What's the difference between inclusion and access in play spaces?

Accessible and *Inclusive* are terms commonly used when labelling or discussing play spaces. These terms do not share the same meaning, though are strongly inter-related and should be clearly understood when planning for children, young people, and adults with a disability to respond effectively.

Accessible play spaces

Accessibility is most commonly associated with mobility standards and safety compliance.

Accessibility refers to the physical ability of people to access a place or thing. Accessible design mainly addresses the movement needs of people with disabilities. When applied to play spaces, conforming to accessibility standards in key aspects including the equipment, surfacing, and supporting facilities, creates an accessible play space.

Inclusive play spaces

An inclusive play space invites people of all ages, abilities, and cultures to come together.

Inclusive play spaces should be easy to get to; easy to move around; provide a range of play and informal recreation options and challenges; active and quiet zones; and have appropriate facilities in a comfortable and safe environment. Inclusive play spaces should encourage everyone to stay as long as they choose. An inclusive play space utilises the principles of universal design, creating spaces people of all ages and abilities can enjoy.

6.2.3 Universal Design

By adopting a universal design approach when designing and planning, play spaces will be accessed, understood, and used to the greatest extent possible by everyone regardless of their age, size, cultural background, gender, or ability. Simply put, if a play space is accessible, usable, convenient and a pleasure to use, everyone in the community benefits.

Universal design is made up of the following 8 goals:

1. **Body fit** – Accommodating a wide range of body sizes and abilities.
2. **Comfort** – Keeping demands within desirable limits of body function and perception.
3. **Awareness** – Ensuring that critical information for use is easily perceived.
4. **Understanding** – Making methods of operation and use intuitive, clear and unambiguous.
5. **Wellness** – Contributing to health promotion and protection from hazards.
6. **Social integration** – Treating all groups with dignity and respect.
7. **Personalisation** – Incorporating opportunities for choice and the expression of individual preferences.
8. **Cultural appropriateness** – Respecting and reinforcing cultural values, and the social and environmental contexts of any design project.

6.2.4 Why focus on greater accessibility in higher level play spaces?

In Yarra, inclusion will be an integral part of all play spaces at any level, however a focus on greater accessibility (as defined above) will be applied to higher level classification play spaces. This is to maximise opportunities in larger sized open space and more complex play space provision, where there are more specialised supporting infrastructure (i.e. public transport access, car parking, accessible toilets or 'changing places' facilities) and higher visitation.

6.3 Classifications and key features

6.3.1 Introduction and purpose

Why classify play spaces? Primarily, classifications are intended to create equity of distribution across the municipality and provide diversity of experience within each precinct's local play network. One of the key planning tools for play spaces in Yarra is the classification system.

On a practical level, classifications respond to the size and situation of the open space which determines the key features criteria and guides provision types. There are 5 classifications of play spaces in Yarra and all 5 classification levels use the metric of 400 metre walkable access. This system is discussed in further detail in this section.

Alignment to YOSS classifications

The classifications already set in the YOSS define the different sizes and criteria for open space. Additionally, within this Strategy, these aligned play space classifications define use and key features of facilities. Council always aims to provide a variety of different classifications within each precinct, it is however important to note that the particular mix is significantly influenced by available and suitable open space for play spaces.

The YOSS defines the following open-space classifications:

- Small Local Level
- Local Level
- Small Neighbourhood Level
- Neighbourhood Level
- City-wide Level

There are no Regional Level play spaces in this Strategy, because of the suitability for such a facility and the close access to other larger 'destination' play spaces in surrounding municipalities.

Complementary Spaces

Complementary spaces in Yarra that offer opportunities for non-prescriptive play or play experiences and informal recreation using more open-ended open space features found in reserves, parks, urban and civic spaces are defined for the purposes of this document under a Small Local Level classification.

Key Features

Key features described for each classification level below use the terms **should have** (meaning the feature is a definite inclusion) and **consider** (meaning the feature is not a definite inclusion and should first be investigated as to its suitability for the site and community).

6.3.2 Small Local Level

Very small play space, usually only able to accommodate a focused or a small number of play space types and supporting amenity for the immediate local community.

Open Space / Playground Size:	**Estimated Dwell Time:**
0.03-0.10ha (300m2 – 1,000m2) Requires a footprint of no less than 170m2 and no greater than 25% of play space size to incorporate a playground.	Less than 1hr (spontaneous and regular short duration use).
Key Features - The following is the broad criteria at this level:	
Open space	• **Refer** to YOSS for guidance on primary use.
Play space types	• **Should have** open-ended or unstructured elements for play, that can be used in multiple ways, providing basic experiences (if there is a gap in Local Play Network provision). • **Should** cater to one or a limited age range. • **Consider** unstructured nature play (i.e. rocks, logs etc.). • **Consider** a focused or singular play type, which should differ to surrounding local play spaces (if there is a gap in Local Play Network provision).
Accessibility and inclusion	• **Should have** a main path connecting to the play space. • **Should have** clear sightlines for personal safety. • **Consider** in-ground edging to support accessible entry to play spaces.
Social gathering	• **Should have** some formal or incidental elements for seating. • **Consider** accessible grouped seating or a picnic table where suitable.
Other facilities	• **Consider** an accessible drinking fountain. • **Consider** bike parking. • **Consider** fencing, low walls, other barriers or planted landscape mounds where the play space's proximity to roads or water body pose safety issues.
Natural environment	• **Should have** trees to provide natural shade / shelter. • **Consider** a combination of natural tree shade (open canopy) and a small amount of lower growing vegetation. • **Consider** a small amount of open area (grassed or paved depending on site).

6.3.3 Local Level

Small play space focussed on providing opportunities to support the immediate local community to play through a small range of structured play equipment.

Open Space / Playground Size:	**Estimated Dwell Time:**
0.10-0.49ha (1,000m2 – 4,900m2) Requires a footprint of no less than 170m2 and no greater than 25% of play space size to incorporate a playground.	Up to 1hr (spontaneous and regular short duration use).
Key Features - The following is the broad criteria at this level:	
Open space	• **Refer** to YOSS for guidance on primary use.
Play space types	• **Should have** open-ended or unstructured elements for play and informal recreation, that can be used in a variety of ways. • **Should** cater to more than one age group. • **Consider** unstructured nature play (i.e. rocks, logs etc.). • **Consider** a small sized playground, which should differ to surrounding play spaces (if there is a gap in Local Play Network provision). • **Consider** multi-use court. • **Consider** recreational games.
Accessibility and inclusion	• **Should have** a main path connecting to the play space. • **Should have** clear sightlines and lighting for personal safety. • **Consider** in-ground edging to support accessible entry to play spaces. • **Consider** use of impact absorbing rubber surfacing to connect paths with key play and activities.
Social gathering	• **Should have** some formal or incidental elements for seating. • **Should have** grouped accessible seating or picnic tables where suitable to site. • **Consider** accessible BBQ areas.
Other facilities	• **Should** have an accessible drinking fountain. • **Should** have bike parking. • **Consider** structural shelter. • **Consider** fencing, low walls, other barriers or planted landscape mounds where the play space's proximity to roads or water body pose safety issues.
Natural environment	• **Should have** trees to provide natural shade / shelter. • **Consider** an open grassed space for play and informal recreation. • **Consider** a combination of natural tree shade (open canopy) and a small amount of lower growing vegetation.

6.3.4 Small Neighbourhood Level

Small - medium sized play space focussed on providing opportunities to support the broader local community to play and gather. With the provision of some structured play and social gathering elements. These spaces are large enough to also include other informal recreation such as multi-use courts and larger more developed social gathering elements. These play spaces aim to be walked to and consider other forms of active or public transport travel options.

Open Space Size:	**Estimated Dwell Time:**
0.50-0.99ha (5,000m2 – 9,900m2)	Up to 2hrs (regular short duration use).
Key Features - The following is the broad criteria at this level:	
Play space types	• **Should have** open-ended or unstructured elements for play and informal recreation. • **Should have** a small sized playground, which should differ to surrounding play spaces in precinct. • **Should have** unstructured nature play (i.e. rocks, logs etc.). • **Consider** multi-use court. • **Consider** recreational games.
Accessibility and inclusion	• **Should** have a main path connecting to the play space. • **Should have** clear sightlines and lighting for personal safety. • **Consider** in-ground edging to support accessible entry to play spaces. • **Consider** use of impact absorbing rubber surfacing to connect paths with key play and activities.
Social gathering	• **Should have** some formal or incidental elements for seating. • **Should have** accessible grouped seating or picnic tables. • **Consider** accessible BBQ areas where suitable to site.
Other facilities	• **Should** have an accessible drinking fountain / fountains. • **Should** have bike parking. • **Consider** structural shelter. • **Consider** fencing, low walls, other barriers or planted landscape mounds where the play space's proximity to roads or water body pose safety issues.
Natural environment	• **Should have** trees to provide natural shade / shelter. • **Should have** an open grassed space for play and informal recreation. • **Should have** a combination of natural tree shade (open canopy) and a small amount of lower growing vegetation.

6.3.5 Neighbourhood Level

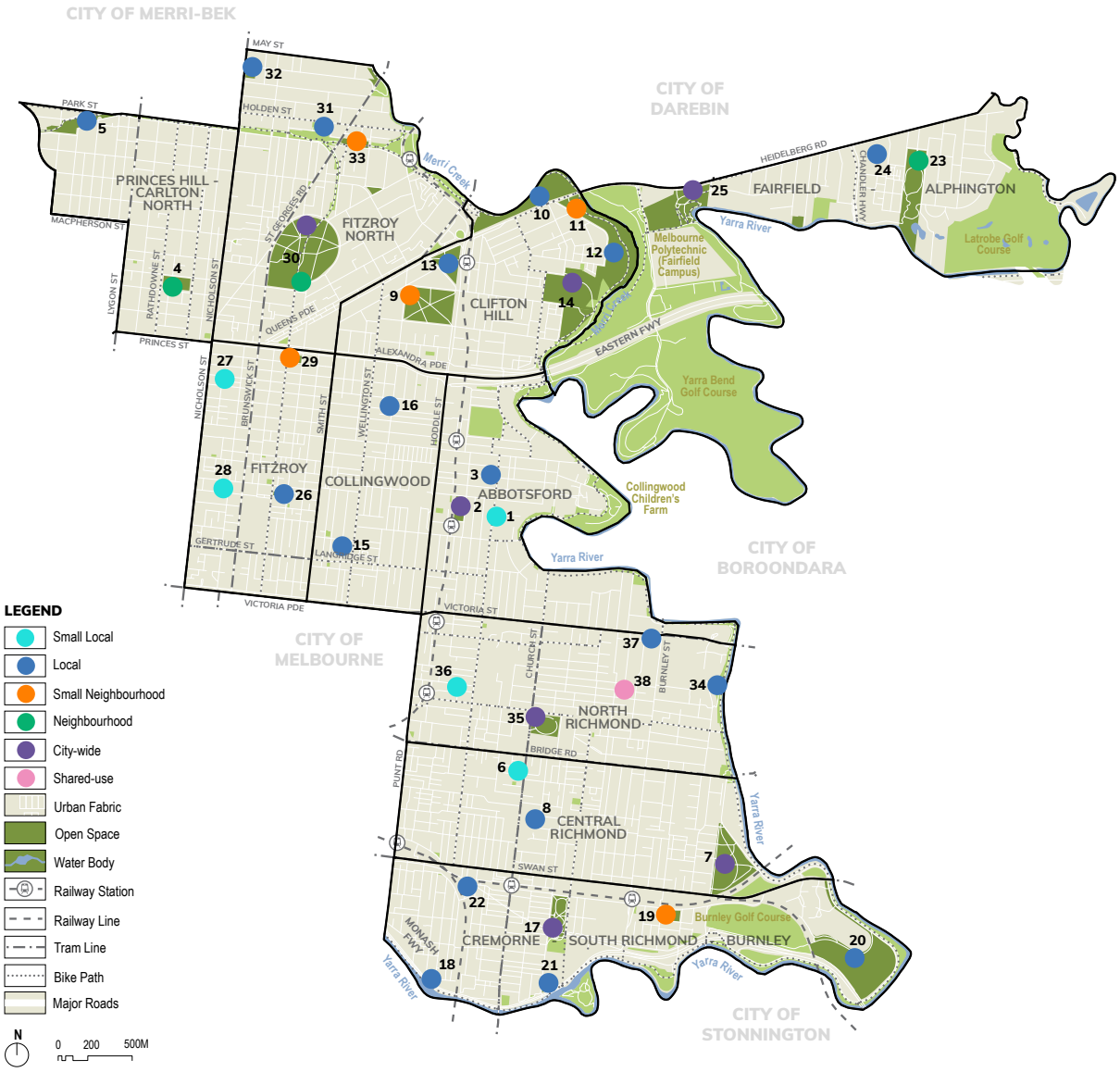
Medium sized play space focussed on providing a broader range of play and social gathering opportunities for different ages and abilities. Designed in context with the local environment, with a nuanced theme or treatment to attract interest. There is structured play, informal play, and social gathering elements. These play spaces aim to be walked to and consider other forms of active or public transport travel options.

Open Space Size:	Estimated Dwell Time:
Minimum 1 hectare (10,000m2)	Up to 3hrs (regular, medium duration use).
Key Features - The following is the broad criteria at this level:	
Play space types	• **Should have** open-ended or unstructured elements for play and informal recreation. • **Should have** a small-medium sized playground, which should differ to surrounding play spaces in precinct. • **Should have** unstructured nature play (i.e. rocks, logs etc.). • **Consider** multi-use court. • **Consider** fitness equipment. • **Consider** recreational games.
Accessibility and inclusion	• **Should have** a main path connecting to the play space. • **Should have** clear sightlines and lighting for personal safety. • **Consider** secondary looped paths connecting to the main path and other facilities. • **Consider** in-ground edging to support accessible entry to play spaces. • **Consider** use of impact absorbing rubber surfacing to connect paths with key play and activities.
Social gathering	• **Should have** some formal or incidental elements for seating. • **Should have** accessible grouped seating or picnic tables. • **Consider** accessible BBQ areas.
Other facilities	• **Should** have an accessible drinking fountain / fountains • **Should** have bike parking. • **Consider** structural shelter. • **Consider** accessible toilet facilities. • **Consider** fencing, low walls, other barriers or planted landscape mounds where the play space's proximity to roads or water body pose safety issues.
Natural environment	• **Should have** trees to provide natural shade / shelter. • **Should have** an open grassed space for play and informal recreation. • **Should have** a combination of natural tree shade (open canopy) and a small amount of lower growing vegetation.

6.3.6 City-wide Level

Medium – large play spaces (or more than one play space in open space) focussed on providing a high level of diverse play and recreation experiences and amenity. These are in open space providing facilities that appeal to residents across the municipality and visitors travelling from outside of Yarra, such as sports, historical gardens, or highly valued environments. These play spaces still aim to be walked to, as well as providing some car parking and are connected to other forms of active transport or close to public transport.

Open Space Size:	Estimated Dwell Time:
Generally preferred size of 7hectares (70,000m2) with a minimum of 3 hectares (30,000m2)	3hrs+ (long duration, planned use).
Key Features - The following is the broad criteria at this level:	
Play space types	• **Should have** open-ended or unstructured elements for play and informal recreation. • **Should have** a medium sized playground (or dual playgrounds where suitable to site), which should differ to surrounding play spaces in precinct. • **Should have** unstructured nature play (i.e. rocks, logs etc.). • **Consider** structured nature play (i.e. climbing, swings etc.). • **Consider** multi-use court. • **Consider** fitness equipment. • **Consider** recreational games.
Accessibility and inclusion	• **Should** have a main path connecting to the play space. • **Should** have secondary looped paths connecting to the main path and other facilities. • **Should have** clear sightlines and lighting for personal safety. • **Should have** in-ground edging to support accessible entry to play spaces. • **Should have** impact absorbing rubber surfacing to connect paths with key play and activities.
Social gathering	• **Should have** multiple accessible formal seats and grouped seating. • **Should have** multiple accessible picnic tables. • **Should have** accessible BBQ areas. • **Consider** incidental elements (i.e. rocks for seating).
Other facilities	• **Should have** accessible drinking fountains. • **Should have** bike parking. • **Should have** accessible structural shelter. • **Should have** accessible toilet facilities. • **Consider** fencing, low walls, other barriers or planted landscape mounds where the play space's proximity to roads or water body pose safety issues.
Natural environment	• **Should have** trees to provide natural shade / shelter. • **Should have** an open grassed space for play and informal recreation. • **Should have** a combination of natural tree shade (open canopy) and a small amount of lower growing vegetation.



Map 8: Classification distribution of play spaces in Yarra

6.4 Planning Guidelines

Guidelines for planning play spaces are important to produce a consistent standard of facility that meets the needs of Yarra's diverse community. Planning for play spaces occurs at different levels of scale including municipal, precinct, site, and the play space itself. The municipal scale is outlined within this Strategy.

6.4.1 Purpose

The following section outlines and demonstrates through Yarra specific play spaces the important criteria for consideration when planning at precinct, site and play space level.

Guidelines are laid out in this section as 'best practice' case study examples using Yarra play spaces at Edinburgh Gardens in Fitzroy North, Gahan Reserve in Abbotsford, and Cairns Reserve in Central Richmond. Whilst the scale and complexity of these guidelines may vary across different play space classification levels and individual site contexts, consideration of this section should be followed as part of the planning and design process.

6.4.2 12 pillars of play space planning

As an introduction the '12 pillars of play space planning' acts as a guide for Council, illustrating the fundamental combination of scalable qualities needed for play spaces to function effectively regardless of size or type. These have been brought together for this Strategy from general observations and referenced analysis.

1. **The play space is socially connected** and provides elements (such as seating, walls, picnic tables etc.) that support different people to meet, gather and dwell face-to-face fostering important social networks.
2. **The design of the play space is inclusive** welcoming and supporting everyone to participate.
3. **The play space is integrated with the broader landscape** making it more than just a playground, rather it includes or consists of wider natural landscape features or urban elements.
4. **The play space includes open-ended and multi-functional play and informal recreation** with elements within it that are not prescribed and can be used in multiple or different ways for play and recreation.
5. **The play space has access to some loose materials and varied sensory aspects** to provide interesting and stimulating catalysts for play and engagement for all ages.
6. **The play space provides opportunities for risk taking & challenge** to support everyone as they learn new skills.
7. **The play space provides opportunities for different types of movement** for a variety of different body and spatial experiences.
8. **The play space has elements that are flexible and adaptable** that can be easily converted for different uses in play and informal recreation.
9. **The play space has a range and diversity of play and informal recreation activities** woven well together and a local play network that provides different complementary experiences.
10. **There is a relationship or flow between elements** that considers the layout of elements that flow intuitively from one to the other.
11. **That there are opportunities for exploration and learning within the play space** and not everything in the play space is obvious and elements can be 'uncovered' or 'discovered'.
12. **The play space has play and informal recreation for different ages** supporting different ages to both use a space and sometimes play together.

6.4.3 Precinct 'Network' Level Planning

This is planning at a highly strategic scale across each identified precinct area within the Yarra municipality. Wider local connections including the overall open space network, the unique urban fabric, community and commercial facilities, as well as the available transport options connect together to support the activation of a play space.

Planning Guidelines: Precinct Level	
Walkability and connectivity	Residents to generally have access to a play space within 400m to encourage the use of active transport (walking or cycling) to travel to them.
	Play spaces are connected to broader walking and cycling networks, and where possible, connected to public transport service routes.
Diversity of experience	A range of play space levels, types and experiences are accessible within the local precinct area that complement, rather than replicate each other.

6.4.4 Site Level Planning

This is planning at a broader open space scale, where placement, surrounding landscape environment and key infrastructure will help support the function of the play space.

Master planning is an important part of this stage for higher classification level sites (as guided by the YOSS) to effectively locate and connect the play space within the open space and develop a community vision prior to more detailed design.

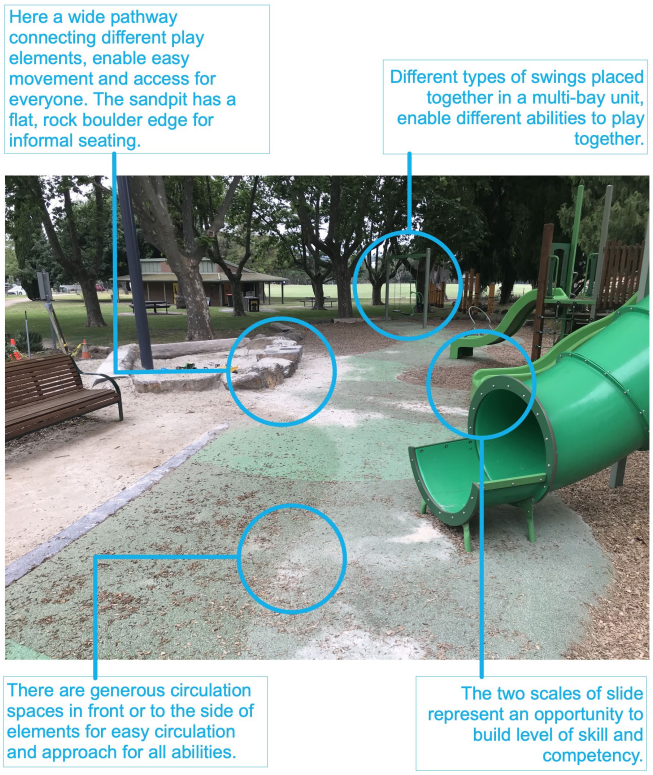
Planning Guidelines: Site Level	
Connections to local area	There are easily accessed active or public transport options. There are nearby accessible car parking bays with continuous path access to play and facilities (City-wide Level only).
Broader open space and path network	The play space is set into the site or if closer to road, fencing is to the boundary of the site, not around the play space. This allows for play to flow throughout the broader landscape.
	When siting a play space, consider a location where there is a clearance in vegetation, the play space is not overshadowed by buildings, is orientated to maximise shade during the summer months and avoid fixing elements where hard surfaces can conduct heat on hot temperature days.
	Locate with views of significant natural features and incorporate existing natural elements (where suitable) into the play space, including trees, garden areas and grassed areas to connect the play space to site.
	There is close connection to other facilities such as picnic areas, barbecues, and toilets (where appropriate).
Playgrounds	The playground is located to maximise natural features and views (i.e. mound slide using natural slope etc.).
	The play is separated, but adjacent to the grassed kickabout area avoiding conflict between quieter play types (i.e. sand play) and more busy, noisy play types (i.e. ball play, skating or wheels etc.).

6.4.5 Play Space Level Planning

Planning at a more detailed level, where the different features of a play space interact and flow together to create an interesting and dynamic experience for play and informal recreation.

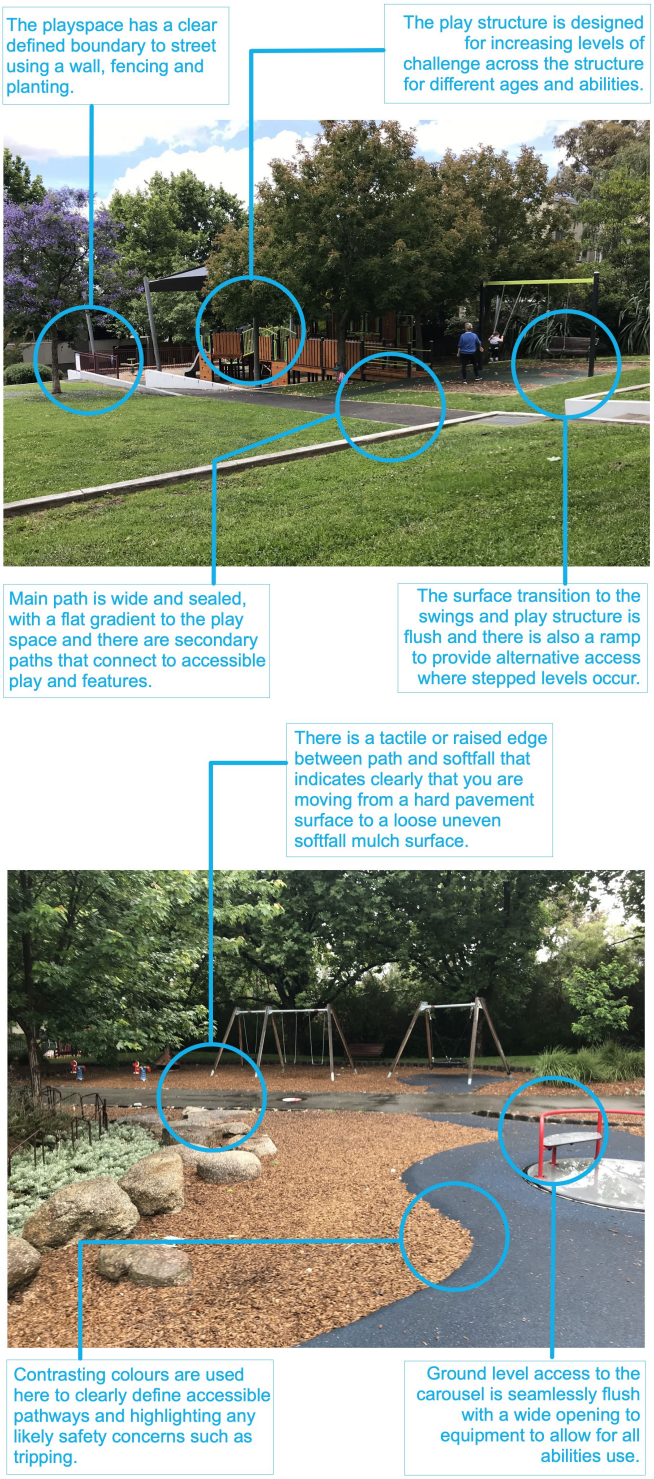
Planning Guidelines: Play Space Level	
Universal design application	The arrangement of elements offering different skill levels to allow for equal and flexible use by everyone.
	The play space is designed so that more than one child, young person or adult of different abilities can participate and socialise together.
	A generous space in front or to the side of elements for circulation, differing height clearances and wider entries allow for an easier approach to play spaces.

Image (below): Universal design demonstrated at Alphington Park, Alphington



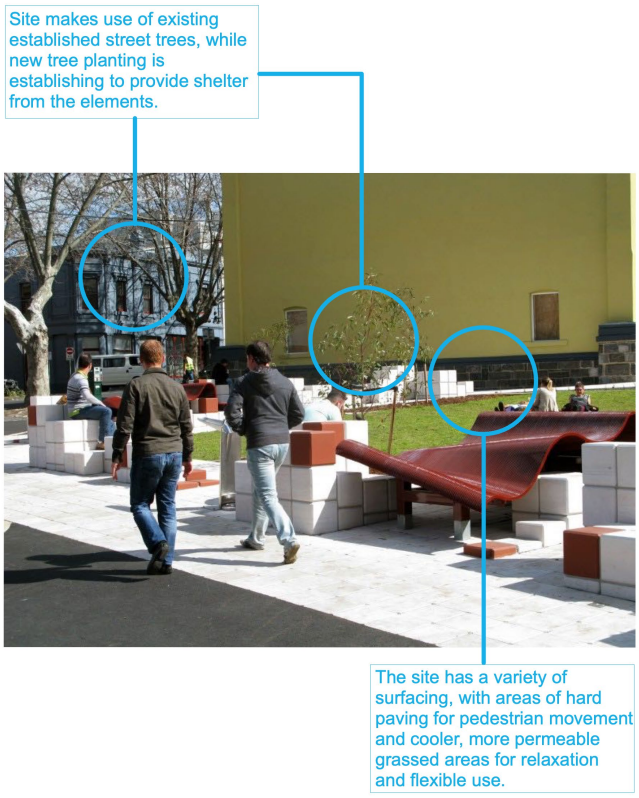
Planning Guidelines: Play Space Level	
Access and inclusion	There is flexibility of use or there are increasing levels of challenge for different ages and abilities.
	There is consideration of different needs for different abilities, including sensory or manipulative activities and visual stimulation at ground level.
	There is a wide, flat path to the play space (all levels). There is a wide, flat path/paths within the play space connecting to key activities or elements in higher level facilities.
	Transitions from one surface to another are met flush and where steps occur, alternative options (such as ramps or ground level activities) are also provided.
	That materials are included to aid different sensory readings of the play space, such as tactile surfacing.
	That contrasting colours are chosen to support people with low vision to indicate openings, transitions and highlighting any likely safety concerns.
	In higher classification play spaces, with greater accessible play and amenity, boundaries should be clearly defined by barrier fencing, landform or planting.

Image (top and below of page opposite): Access and inclusion demonstrated at Cairns Reserve, Richmond and Gahan Reserve, Abbotsford



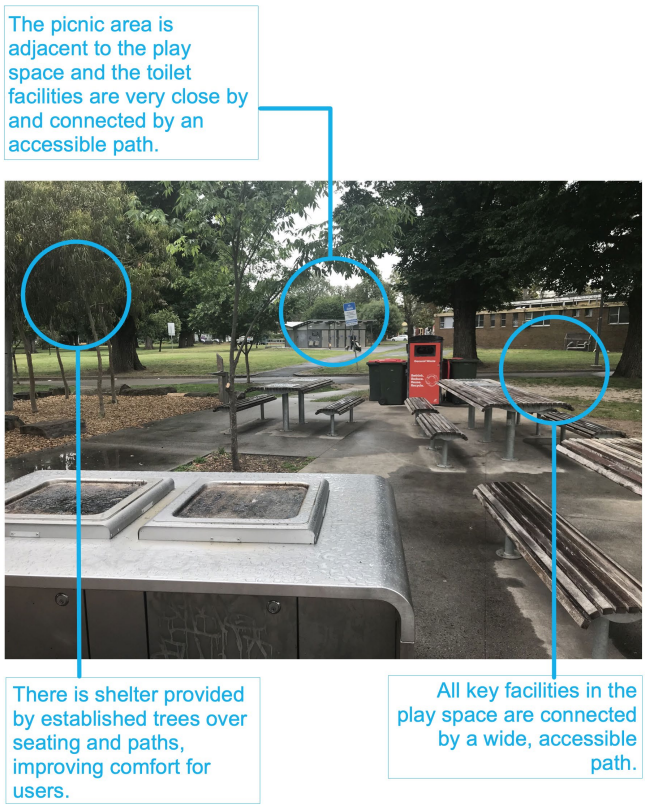
Planning Guidelines: Play Space Level	
Protection from the elements	Established tree shade should be utilised for protection and shelter over social gathering areas, play and informal recreation. Where tree shade cannot be established, consideration should be made to install structural shade.
	The mixed-use of surfacing and equipment, including some natural materials such as grass / planting, timber, and stone, mean that the space doesn't absorb or retain as much heat during hot temperature days.

Image (below): Protection from the elements demonstrated at Peel Street Park, Collingwood



Planning Guidelines: Play Space Level	
Consideration of comfort and ease of sightlines and surveillance	Social gathering areas (such as seating, picnic settings etc.) have overhead shelter as protection from the weather, which will encourage longer stays.
	The play space is located within close and visible proximity of social gathering areas and toilets (in higher level play spaces), aiding passive surveillance and perceptions of personal safety.
	There are paths connecting key facilities and the play space, making pedestrian movement easy for everyone around the site.
	That play spaces are designed to be visually open and activity located throughout the space to fully activate.

Image (below): Consideration of comfort and supervision demonstrated at Edinburgh Gardens (Northern play space), North Fitzroy



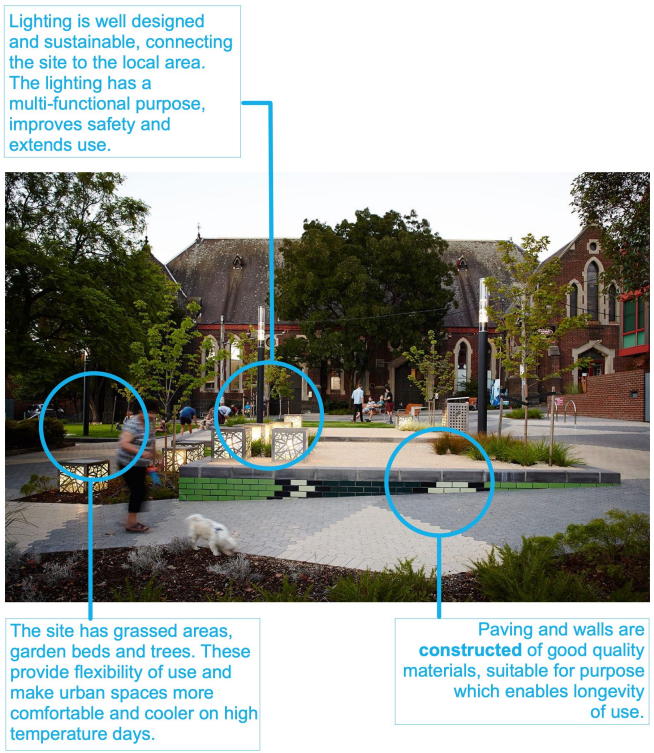
Planning Guidelines: Play Space Level	
Designing for exploration and engagement	The play space can't be read from one location, it needs to be uncovered and explored.
	There are open-ended elements and access to loose materials that can be used for playing in different ways.
	The play space is embedded within its environment, encouraging play in the broader landscape.

Image (below): Designing for exploration and engagement demonstrated at Gahan Reserve, Abbotsford



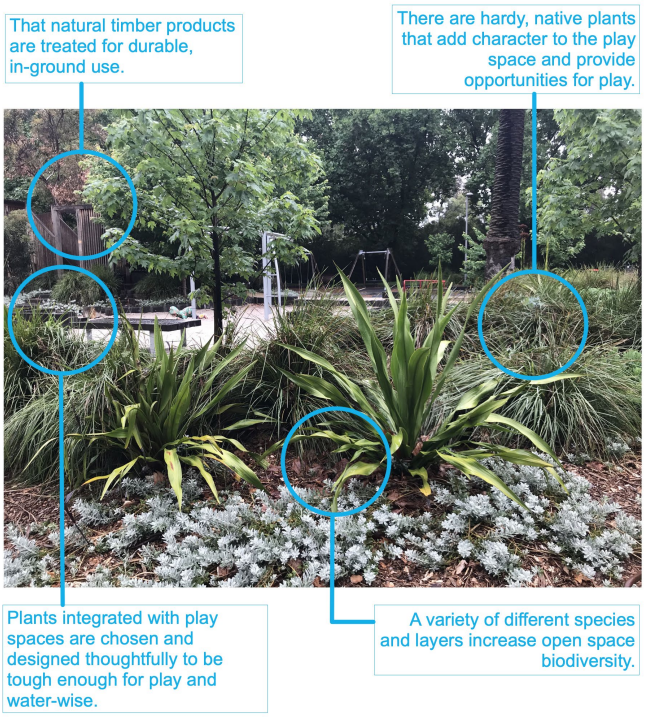
Planning Guidelines: Play Space Level	
Quality of materials / sustainable use of resources	That materials and elements designed or specified are of good quality and suitable for purpose to enable longevity of use.
	That products specified are thoughtfully designed to minimise waste and carbon footprint.
	That natural timber products are treated for durable, in-ground use.
	That grassed areas, garden beds and trees are included to provide cool spaces for retreat from the urban heat island effect.

Image (below): Quality of materials / sustainable use of resources demonstrated at Richmond Terrace, Richmond



Planning Guidelines: Play Space Level	
Considered planting	Suitable plant species are selected and located thoughtfully to withstand use in a play space.
	Local, waterwise, native plants are selected for sensory play and amenity, giving character to the play space, and building connection with the natural environment.
	A diverse planting selection creates increased biodiversity throughout Yarra's open spaces.

Image (below): Considered planting demonstrated at Gahan Reserve, Abbotsford



6.5 Specific infrastructure policy for play spaces

There is certain play space specific infrastructure that needs to be expanded upon, providing guidance around their purpose and application.

6.5.1 Shade / Shelter

The establishment of long-term natural shade, by the strategic planting of open-canopied trees, to the northern or western side (wherever possible) of a playground and any social gathering area, is considered by Council to be best long term, sustainable shade provision.

With increasing impacts from climate change, including extreme weather events and the urban heat island effect, it is acknowledged that the community will more than likely need a range of shelter options in areas of higher density residential development, including built shelter where tree shade is inadequate. This is particularly pertinent in higher level classification play spaces where the community will spend longer periods of time.

6.5.2 Fencing, barriers, and boundary treatments

In situations when site constraints impede an appropriate distance between play space and busy road or water body, a safety design intervention should be considered. Council will consider the suitability of part or full fencing, barriers (post and rail or bollards), low walls or boundary treatments (such as garden beds, berms, or mounds), in line with the particular open space context and play space location, to increase safety measures wherever possible.

Play spaces with a high level of inclusion and accessible features may consider fencing that assists people with disabilities to play and recreate more freely within an enclosed space without safety concerns.

Being designed predominantly for children, playgrounds (with play equipment) may require fencing, barriers or boundary treatments depending on the particular open space context and play space location and should refer to Play Australia's *Fencing and Public Playgrounds* guideline. If play spaces are fully fenced, fencing should not only surround the playground but include the adjacent landscape environment and social gathering areas. This will ensure that further flow of play can continue throughout the broader landscape environment and adult carers are able to comfortably supervise children in their care.

6.5.3 Edging to playgrounds

To support better movement and accessibility, the meeting of adjacent surfaces and edges should where possible be flush (this includes loose surfaces such as tested, impact attenuating, softfall mulch). Where possible playgrounds should be set in-ground, with a continuous path connecting to the top of the mulch area at ground level. In-ground edging should be constructed of a durable material suitable or treated for in-ground use.

6.5.4 Surfacing in playgrounds

The preferred under-surfacing material in playgrounds is tested softfall mulch as it is a permeable, natural material, relatively cost-effective with good impact attenuation to reduce the severity of falls from play equipment. It is also valuable for use in children's games or play. Softfall mulch should always be laid to a minimum depth of 300-350mm to a allow for settling over time to maintain a minimum depth of 200mm to comply with Australian and New Zealand Standards for Playground Under surfacing AS/NZS 4422 (1996). Mulch should be checked and certified as free from extraneous (non-timber) materials and clean of any toxic or hazardous waste.

Rubber wet pour surfacing and other alternative approved surfaces may also be used in place of or in combination with softfall mulch. Rubber wetpour as an entire surface is not encouraged, due to its propensity to substantially conduct and hold heat in the summer months. It is not a sustainable option and is costly. Rubber wetpour is useful however when used strategically in small areas within playgrounds to improve accessibility.

7. What we are planning to do

7.1 Recommended Actions

This section outlines the key recommended actions arising from this Strategy and their priority. The priorities are defined by the timeframes below:

Priorities have been organised in the following way:	
HIGH	1 to 3 years
MEDIUM	4 to 6 years
LOW	7 to 10 years
RECENT UPGRADE / NEW SPACE OR PROPOSED FUTURE SPACE	Re-assess in 8 years

Recommendation:	Priority:
1. Prepare a final Play Space Strategy, including **summary report** for Council endorsement and public access. This report is to articulate the following key information: • Yarra context; • Vision, principles and goals; • Play and play space information; • Planning tools (including classification information and planning guidelines); and • Actions, monitoring, and evaluation	HIGH
2. Prepare a detailed **10-year Play Space Priority Plan** for the upgrade and expansion of Council's existing play spaces and development of new play spaces in line with proposed new classification definitions, aligned key features and planning guidelines for Yarra's play spaces. This plan is to consider the following criteria when prioritising sites: • Community need; • Forecast population changes; and • Age and condition of existing facilities. When developing this plan, the priorities should also be distributed equitably across different precincts each year. It should also be noted that this plan will be a dynamic document. The implementation of this plan will be dependent on the changing needs of Yarra's community, designated leaders and available budget.	HIGH
3. Include the **10-year Play Space Priority Plan** for inclusion in Yarra Council's 10-year **capital works programme** for all design and construction works. Each site is to be developed as part of a 2-year program as follows: • Year 1 – Design and Community Consultation • Year 2 – Construction	HIGH

When undertaking design consider the 'Local Play Network' in each precinct. An assessment of all play spaces in a precinct should be undertaken prior to any design, to avoid replication and to ensure diversity in play space experiences.	
4. Review existing maintenance practices and service levels in line with proposed new classification definitions, aligned key features and planning guidelines for Yarra's play spaces and provide recommendations. Changes to existing service levels should be reviewed to ensure that these are suitably resourced to implement the programme. The following needs to be considered: • Staffing • Budgets • Procurement	HIGH
5. Promote all play space projects on Council's website, linking in opportunities for community consultation on play space design projects during their development.	ONGOING
6. Continue to develop and link capital works information and the open space directory on Council's website to provide consistent and up to date information for the community on play spaces.	ONGOING
7. Monitor and evaluate the Play Space Strategy for performance. Taking into consideration the effectiveness of the following: • Developed vision, principles, and goals; • Classification definitions and key features; and • Planning guidelines.	ONGOING
8. Prepare a revised future Play Space Strategy and associated actions for the next 10 years, once the lifecycle for this Strategy is completed.	LOW

7.2 Replacement, upgrades, and new play spaces

7.2.1 Replacements

At Yarra replacement relates to play spaces where play provision is updated with like for like facilities, with no increase in service. This occurs when an asset requires intervention in terms of condition, or it presents a risk.

7.2.2 Upgrade, expansion and new play spaces

At Yarra the term *upgrade* as it relates to play spaces means an increase in level of service and is driven by an increase in demand or where like for like is not possible.

New play space projects in new or existing open space will be initiated by Council where and when there is a need and all other options have been evaluated.

Upgrades to existing play spaces and new play spaces will be integrated into Council's capital works programme.

7.3 Considerations for future investment in play spaces

7.3.1 Aligning budgets and planning

The allocation of suitable funding for the renewal, upgrade / expansion, and development of Yarra's play spaces (where identified and prioritised) is an action of this Strategy over the next 10 years.

7.3.2 Further community consultation during implementation of 10 Year Play Space Priority Plan

Delivery of play space projects is a 2-year process, with design and consultation in the first year, followed by construction in the second year. Council will undertake further consultation with local communities as projects are funded in Council's budget and concept designs will be developed and feedback sought from the community prior to construction

7.3.2 Community equity and a targeted benefit

Overall, the purpose of this Strategy is to improve the equity of access to a range of different play spaces across local precincts for Yarra's diverse and changing community. This investment aims to return greater community satisfaction, more open space activation, and significant health and well-being benefits for the Yarra community.

7.3.3 Advocacy for grants

This Strategy will be a valuable advocacy tool for additional external (non-Council) funding, where suitable opportunities arise.

7.4 Monitoring and evaluation

It is recommended that Council undertakes a process of review at year 5 to monitor the implementation progress of this Strategy. At the end of the strategy's 10 year life cycle, it is also recommended that a revised Play Space Strategy is prepared. These are both outlined in the Action Plan.

8. Precinct actions

Yarra has developed a **10 Year Action Plan** that will enable Council to put the Play Space Strategy's vision, principles and goals into action. These have been determined through a combination of existing site assessments and alignment to classification definitions and features (refer Section 6.3), as well as a detailed walkability analysis determining current gaps in Yarra's play space network (refer Section 6.1). Priority order is based on identified factors such as population need, play space age and quality.

8.1 Abbotsford

Existing provision, distribution and future actions

The Neighbourhood Level play space at Gahan Reserve is the predominant play space in the precinct with small local play spaces at Browns Reserve and Studley Reserve within close walking distance to the north and south of Gahan Reserve, in central Abbotsford. Both these play spaces need to address a lack of play type diversity when replaced. Gahan Reserve playground and MUC should be upgraded, and additional recreational games included. There is a lack of access to play spaces along the Birrarung (Yarra River) corridor, which is somewhat supported by the Collingwood Children's Farm and Clarke Street Reserve.

The north of the precinct is supported by complementary spaces at Maugie Street Reserve, and Victoria Park. Two complementary spaces at St Phillips and Eddy Court Reserves support the central area west of Collingwood train station, the south-west is supported by a complementary space at Charles Mollison Reserve, and south-east by a complementary space and proposed future play space (with a focus on connecting people to water through improving access to the Birrarung - Yarra River) at Flockhart Reserve.

8.1.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Abbotsford precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation

Site name:	Existing playground classification level:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Browns Reserve	SMALL LOCAL	• Improve diversity of play type when replacement is required	LOW
Gahan Reserve	NEIGHBOURHOOD	• Upgrade playground and MUC to City-wide Level • Proposed recreational games	MEDIUM
Studley Reserve	SMALL LOCAL	• Improve diversity of play type when replacement is required	LOW

Complementary Spaces			
Site name:	**Type:**	**Change in provision:**	**Priority:**
Flockhart Reserve	COMPLEMENTARY SPACE	• Proposed nature play • Proposed fitness	HIGH
Victoria Park (including Bath Street and Brearley Reserves	COMPLEMENTARY SPACE	• Proposed fitness or agility	LOW

No proposed change in provision
Complementary spaces:
• Charles Mollison Reserve • Clarke Street Reserve • Eddy Court Reserve • Maugie Street Reserve • Saint Phillips Reserve

8.2 Carlton North – Princes Hill

Existing provision, distribution and future actions

The east-west linear open space corridor provides excellent off-road shared trail connectivity to open space outside the precinct which counter-balances gaps in play space provision, particularly where no open space is available for use (YOSS, 2020).

Curtain Square is the largest play space in the precinct with a diverse range of activity central to Carlton North. The playground needs to be upgraded to Neighbourhood Level to provide a better diversity of play for a wider range of ages. Hardy Gallagher Reserve is well connected to both community facilities and the shared trail along the Inner Circle Railway Linear Parklands, however, would benefit from a more strategic realignment for access from the east-west corridor share trail and better integration with the North Carlton Railway Neighbourhood House and associated community garden. There is an opportunity for fitness and or agility to be included at Hardy Gallagher Reserve. There are also complementary spaces at Shakespeare Reserve which supports provision to the central west and Nicholson Street Reserve which supports provision to the south-east.

8.2.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Carlton North – Princes Hill precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation

Site name:	Existing playground classification level:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Curtain Square	LOCAL	• Upgrade playground to Neighbourhood Level • Proposed recreational games and fitness	HIGH
Hardy Gallagher Reserve	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required • Proposed fitness or agility	MEDIUM

No proposed change in provision

Complementary spaces:
• Nicholson Street Reserve • Shakespeare Reserve

8.3 Central Richmond

Existing provision, distribution and future actions

Burnley Park and the system of open space along the Yarra River contribute significantly to the open space character of Central Richmond, however these are all located in the east of the precinct (YOSS, 2020).

Burnley Park, to the east of the precinct is at present under-realised in terms of potential to provide a larger, more expansive playground, multi-use court, fitness and social gathering areas, as it is well connected and accessible by both active and public transport. The playground here will need to be upgraded to City-wide Level. This can be supported by a complementary space at the Circus Site.

There is very limited open space availability to the central and western parts of the precinct and where there is access, open space is constrained by size and currently provides a Small Local Level play space at Ben Alexander Reserve and a local level play space which has recently been upgraded at Cairns Reserve. This precinct is the most challenging in terms of balancing provision and distribution as there is a substantial projected increase in population, including more families with children and young people. The precinct is supplemented by more open-ended complementary spaces at Dame Nellie Melba Memorial Park, Peppercorn Park, Richmond Terrace and Wangaratta Street Reserve that offer a diversity of informal recreation and play.

8.3.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Central Richmond precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation			
Site name:	**Existing playground classification level:**	**Change in provision:**	**Priority:**
Ben Alexander Reserve	SMALL LOCAL	• Replace playground at Small Local Level as required	LOW
Burnley Park	NEIGHBOURHOOD	• Upgrade playground and MUC to City-wide Level • Proposed fitness	MEDIUM
Cairns Reserve	LOCAL		RECENT UPGRADE

No proposed change in provision
Complementary spaces:
• Circus Site • Dame Nellie Melba Memorial Park • Peppercorn Park • Richmond Terrace • Wangaratta Street Reserve

8.4 Clifton Hill

Existing provision, distribution and future actions.

Clifton Hill is well provided for with open space, with only one small gap area between Hoddle Street and the railway (YOSS, 2020).

Clifton Hill is also well supported in terms of play space provision with a larger playground, including skate at Quarries Park (City-wide Level), playground and multi-use court facilities / cricket nets at Hall Reserve South (Local Level) and playground at Hall Reserve North (Local Level) to the east of the precinct along the Merri Creek and Birrarung (Yarra River) parkland corridors. Darling Gardens (Small Neighbourhood) and Mayors Park (Local Level) in the west of Clifton Hill are more formal parks and the play spaces are within walking distance of each other. To the far north of the precinct the sporting facility at George Knott Reserve is supported by a small playground (Small Local Level).

There is a need to improve the diversity of facilities that appeal to a range of age groups, particularly the older age groups who are forecast to increase over the planning period (YOSS, 2020).

This can be achieved by further diversifying playground offerings in existing sites. The playground at George Knott Reserve should be upgraded to Local Level and relocated to connect with the athletic facilities onsite. The playground at Quarries Park needs upgrading and this should involve a sensitive and considered design process with community engagement to address required changes, whilst maintaining the highly valued look and feel of this much-loved facility. The provision of additional opportunities for recreational games to complement play and skate offerings should be provided here. Further consideration needs to also be given to the interrelationships between play spaces at Hall Reserve North and Hall Reserve South. It is recommended that the playground at Hall Reserve North is relocated before upgrading to Small Neighbourhood Level, to be better connected onsite and to Spensley Street Primary school. Darling Gardens playground needs upgrading to Small Neighbourhood Level, whilst ensuring a point of difference from Mayors Park given their proximity. Consideration should also be given to the relationship of Gold Street Primary School and the toilet facility that is located in the south-east corner of the park. A new multi-use court is proposed at Mayors Park to align with previous Masterplan designs..

The Clifton Hill precinct is also supported by complementary spaces at Clifton Street Reserve to the central-east and Coulson Reserve to the north-west.

8.4.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Clifton Hill precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation

Site name:	Existing playground classification level:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Darling Gardens	SMALL NEIGHBOURHOOD	• Upgrade playground to Neighbourhood Level • Improve connections to toilets from playground	MEDIUM
George Knott Reserve	SMALL LOCAL	• Relocate and upgrade to Local Level playground	HIGH
Hall Reserve (North)	LOCAL	• Relocate playground and upgrade to Small Neighbourhood Level	MEDIUM
Hall Reserve (South)	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required	LOW

Mayors Park	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required • Proposed MUC	LOW
Quarries Park	CITY-WIDE	• Upgrade playground and skate • Proposed recreational games	HIGH

No proposed change in provision

Complementary spaces:

- Clifton Street Reserve
- Coulson Reserve

8.5 Collingwood

Existing provision, distribution and future actions

The two play spaces in Collingwood include McNamara Reserve (Small Local Level) and the recently upgraded and expanded Cambridge Street Reserve (Local Level), which has responded to the forecast of substantial population increase.

Expanding the size of selected existing Small Local open spaces to allow inclusion of a greater diversity of facilities. The additional distributed open spaces will also assist to mitigate urban heat, provide increased urban greening and open space within a safe and easy walk of residents and workers as urban densities continue to increase in the future. This will positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents and workers. A priority for new open space is to ensure it receives excellent winter sunlight to address concerns expressed by the community regarding the more recent overshadowing of existing open space as a result of the increased height of built form in this precinct. (YOSS, 2020)

It is important to note that the population increase in this precinct includes more adults and less families with young children and as such, a balance needs to be sought in the diversity and range of play space experiences provided. Complementary spaces can provide more open-ended play and recreation for different demographics.

An increase and improvement to the recreational quality and diversity of facilities in this area has been a recent focus for Council and road closure / expansions to existing parks has improved the quality of experience for the broader community, such as at Cambridge Street Reserve. Peel Street Park and Oxford Street Park, also serve as complementary spaces in the south of the precinct. There is opportunity for recreational games provision at Peel Street Park. There is a new open space that has been developed, Otter Street Park, which will serve as a complementary space to the central west. There is also an existing complementary space at Alexander Street Reserve to the north of the precinct. McNamara Reserve includes a small playground, which when upgraded to Local Level, needs to supplement experiences at other play spaces within the precinct, with more of a focus on play for younger children, given its' proximity to the Gold Street Children's Centre.

8.5.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Collingwood precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation

Site name:	Existing playground classification level:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Cambridge Street Reserve	LOCAL	• Additional play opportunities	HIGH
McNamara Reserve	SMALL LOCAL	• Upgrade playground to Local Level	LOW

Complementary Spaces

Site name:	Type:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Peel Street Park	COMPLEMENTARY SPACE	• Proposed recreational games	LOW

No proposed change in provision

Complementary spaces:

- Alexander Street Reserve
- Otter Street Park (NEW OPEN SPACE)
- Oxford Street Park

8.6 Cremorne, Richmond South and Burnley

Existing provision, distribution and future actions

The open space along the Birrarung (Yarra River) contributes to the open space character of this precinct and most of this is characterised by sporting interests and river / parkland environment for sports and recreation. The only play space to the far east of the precinct is at Kevin Bartlett Reserve (Local Level) which acts to support other more formal sporting activities adjacent.

The character of the west is mostly a limited number of Small Local Level and Local Level (White Street Reserve and Charles Evans Reserve, Cremorne and McConchie Reserve, Richmond South) play spaces. It has very limited open space, apart from Barkly Gardens (Neighbourhood Level) which is a well-developed play space with a larger playground. Golden Square Bicentennial Park (Local Level) is the most central of play spaces within the precinct. Church Street Reserve is ostensibly a complementary space, but provides an opportunity for more diversity with recreational games. There are projected increases in population over the next 10 years to the west anticipated, however the age demographic indicates fewer young families with children and more adults living in high-density residential developments and increased worker populations in the area. Replacement and upgrade of existing spaces needs to take this into consideration.

There is potential to improve the quality and diversity of facilities in the existing open spaces in this precinct which will improve the quality of experience for residents and workers in particular to the west (YOSS, 2020).

Council presently has plans underway for the upgrade of Charles Evans Reserve, Cremorne (to meet Local Level and include recreational games provision) and Golden Square Bicentennial Park, in Richmond South (to meet Small Neighbourhood Level). It is recommended that the relationship of provision between Barkly Gardens and McConchie Reserve and how rather than replicating play opportunities, they can become different and supplementary in their offerings, with a playground (to be upgraded to City-wide Level) only at Barkly Gardens (where suitable supporting amenity such as toilets are provided) and skate provision to be implemented at McConchie Reserve.

Additional complementary spaces at Athol J Brown Reserve and Loys Paddock (Council have plans to formalise BMX here) support provision in the central south and north of the precinct and Ryans Reserve also to the central north, north of the railway line. Stephenson Street Reserve is a recently developed new open space that supports provision to the west of the precinct.

8.6.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Cremorne, Richmond South and Burnley precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation

Site name:	Existing playground classification level:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Barkly Gardens	NEIGHBOURHOOD	• Upgrade playground to City-wide Level • New proposed recreational games and fitness	LOW
Charles Evans Reserve	SMALL LOCAL	• Upgrade playground to Local Level • New proposed recreational games • Investigate MUC	HIGH
Golden Square Bicentennial Park	LOCAL	• Upgrade playground to Small Neighbourhood Level	HIGH

Kevin Bartlett Reserve	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required	LOW
McConchie Reserve	LOCAL	• New proposed skate • Remove playground	MEDIUM
White Street Reserve	SMALL LOCAL	• Upgrade playground to Local Level	MEDIUM

Complementary Spaces

Site name:	Type:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Loys Paddock	COMPLEMENTARY SPACE	• Formalise BMX / Pump Track	MEDIUM

No proposed change in provision

Complementary spaces:

- Athol J Brown Reserve
- Church Street Reserve
- Ryans Reserve
- Stephenson Street Reserve (NEW OPEN SPACE)

8.7 Fairfield - Alphington

Existing provision, distribution and future actions

Open space is well provided for and significantly contributes to the landscape character of these areas (YOSS, 2020).

There are however only three Local Level play spaces at present, two in Alphington and one in Fairfield. With the significant levels of forecast growth in Alphington, three future local open spaces are proposed at the Yarra Bend Development (former AMCOR site /Alphington Paper Mills). Artisan Park has been constructed with a new Local Level playground and future open space is planned at Workshop Park (to include a new Local Level playground), Heritage Park and Village Square.

There is potential to expand the play and picnic facilities in Alphington Park to cater to the substantial increase in population, combined with ongoing upgrades to and implementation of the Fairfield Park Masterplan (YOSS, 2020).

It is recommended that the playground at Fairfield Park is upgraded to City-wide Level and additional agility and fitness opportunities are also developed to tap into the existing informal recreation and formal sports (soccer and cricket at oval) at the park and nearby Yarra Bend Park (managed by Parks Victoria). An addition of a new adjacent multi-use ball court and recreational games, along with an upgrade of the existing playground to Neighbourhood Level is also recommended at Alphington Park.

The YOSS recommendation, *In Fairfield, secure a formal public pedestrian path link between Coate Park and Rudder Grange along the Yarra River*, should establish greater connectivity between the two complementary spaces in the central-west, namely Coate Park and Rudder Grange. Fairlea Reserve, south of Fairfield Park is a further complementary space that offers an existing multi-use ball court precinct.

8.7.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Fairfield - Alphington precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation			
Site name:	**Existing playground classification level:**	**Change in provision:**	**Priority:**
Alphington Park	LOCAL	• Upgrade playground to Neighbourhood Level • Proposed MUC and recreational games	LOW
Artisan Park	LOCAL		NEW SPACE
Fairfield Park	LOCAL	• Upgrade playground to City-wide Level • Proposed fitness and agility	HIGH
Workshop Park		• Proposed new Local Level playground	FUTURE SPACE

Complementary Spaces

Site name:	Type:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Heritage Park		• Proposed new complementary space	FUTURE SPACE
Village Square		• Proposed new complementary space	FUTURE SPACE

No proposed change in provision

Complementary spaces:
• Coate Park • Fairlea Reserve • Rudder Grange

8.8 Fitzroy

Existing provision, distribution and future actions

There is potential to improve the recreational quality and diversity of facilities in the existing and proposed open space network. Given the urban densities, increasing the quality of these green spaces including maximising moisture absorbing surfaces will assist to mitigate urban heat island effect in the future. The additional open spaces will be designed to complement the existing network that combined, will provide a diversity of facilities for the existing and future population (YOSS, 2020).

Condell Reserve play space (Local Level) provides a space with a larger playground with a strong community feel in the centre of the precinct. An upgrade to Condell Street Reserve is needed to build on the existing community park with more diverse play and picnic facilities along with improvements to the trees, and garden beds and grassed areas. Combined with proposed new recreational games at complementary space Whitlam Place (which has a distinctly different character), it will create a quality hub of open space around the civic heart of the Fitzroy Library and Town Hall. Existing play spaces with playgrounds in the west of this precinct are King William Reserve (Small Local) and Garryowen Reserve (Small Local) and are very limited in size and offering and need to be diversified in terms of play when replaced. There is opportunity for the upgrade of recreational games or the implementation of a multi-use court at King William Reserve. Provision to the east of the precinct is supplemented by a complementary space at Greeves Street Reserve and a new future open space on the Corner of Gertrude / Brunswick Streets is proposed. Complementary spaces at Frank King Park supports provision to the west of the precinct and George Street Reserve to the south of the precinct.

Council is also presently in the process of upgrading Smith Reserve to the north of the precinct as a Small Neighbourhood Level open space, which will include informal recreation, a formalised dog park and playground upgrade.

8.8.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Fitzroy precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation

Site name:	Existing playground classification level:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Condell Street Reserve	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required	MEDIUM
Garryowen Park	SMALL LOCAL	• Replace playground at Small Local Level	HIGH
King William Reserve	SMALL LOCAL	• Replace playground at Small Local Level as required • Upgrade recreational games or proposed MUC	MEDIUM
Smith Reserve	LOCAL	• Overall upgrade of reserve including playground to Small Neighbourhood Level	HIGH

Complementary Spaces

Site name:	Type:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Corner Gertrude / Brunswick Streets		• Proposed new complementary space	FUTURE SPACE
Whitlam Place	COMPLEMENTARY SPACE	• Proposed recreational games	LOW

No proposed change in provision

Complementary spaces:

- Frank King Park
- George Street Reserve
- Greeves Street Reserve

8.9 Fitzroy North

Existing provision, distribution and future actions.

There is potential to improve the recreational quality and diversity of facilities in the Small Local open spaces in Fitzroy North so that they appeal to the broader community including all age groups (YOSS, 2020).

Upgrades to these, combined with the new and expanded areas of open space will aim to cater to the local open space needs as suitable alternatives to Edinburgh Gardens, given the high levels of use and activity at the Gardens.

With Edinburgh Gardens, Merri Creek and the Inner Circle Railway Linear Parklands, Fitzroy North is one precinct in Yarra that already has a diverse and connected open space network and range of play spaces, including two larger playgrounds (southern playground to be upgraded to City-wide Level with point of difference), skate, multi-use court, and recreational games at Edinburgh Gardens (City-wide Level), which is considered Yarra's most valued and used open space. This volume of use is at times not ideal and as such it is recommended that a new smaller playground is developed at Edwardes Place Park to the north-east of Edinburgh Gardens to provide an alternative facility and also meet local walkability gaps in this part of the precinct east of St Georges Road.

The Inner Circle Railway Linear Parklands provides a highly valuable active transport corridor making connections between Park Street Reserve (Local Level) play space, playgrounds and a multi-use court and Holden Byrne Reserve (Local Level) play space. Park Street Reserve would benefit from consideration around better integration of facilities when being upgraded. Langdon Street Reserve (Local Level) play space provides a playground and multi-use court to the very north of the precinct. A new future Local Level playground is also proposed for construction at Gasworks' Park.

Provision to the north of the precinct is supplemented by a complementary space at Ottery Street Reserve along the Merri Creek. Central to the precinct, provision is also supported by two complementary spaces at the Mark Street Linear Park. Provision to the south is supplemented by a complementary space at Triangle Park and in the east by two complementary spaces at Batson and Raines Reserves. Provision to the west of the precinct is supplemented by smaller complementary spaces at Batman Street, Brookes Crescent, Liverpool Street, Porter Street and Reid Street Reserves, as well as Piedimonte's Corner.

8.9.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the Fitzroy North precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation

Site name:	Existing playground classification level:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Edinburgh Gardens	CITY-WIDE (North) NEIGHBOURHOOD (South)	• Upgrade the southern playground to City-wide Level, making sure there is diversity to the northern playground	MEDIUM
Gasworks' Park		• Proposed new Local Level playground	FUTURE SPACE
Holden Byrne Reserve	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required	LOW

Langdon Reserve	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required	HIGH
Park Street Reserve	LOCAL	• Upgrade playground to Small Neighbourhood Level • Improve integration of all facilities	MEDIUM

Complementary Spaces

Site name:	Type:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Edwardes Place Park	COMPLEMENTARY SPACE	• Proposed Local Level playground	HIGH

No proposed change in provision

Complementary spaces:

- Batman Street Reserve
- Batson Reserve
- Brookes Crescent Reserve
- Liverpool Street Reserve
- Mark Street Linear Park
- Ottery Reserve
- Piedimonte's Corner (Scotchmer Street and St Georges Road)
- Porter Street Reserve
- Raines Reserve
- Reid Street Park (NEW OPEN SPACE)
- Triangle Park

8.10 North Richmond

Existing provision, distribution and future actions

There is potential to improve the recreational quality and diversity of facilities in the existing Local and Small Local open spaces in North Richmond (YOSS, 2020).

Citizens Park and the system of open space along the Birrarung (Yarra River) contribute significantly to the open space character of North Richmond. With the forecast of substantial increase in the resident and worker population in North Richmond, in particular families with children and young people, this presents Council with a challenge to try and meet access required for both future open space and play spaces needed. Presently Citizen's Park does the heavy lifting for this precinct providing a range of play space options including a large (City-wide Level) playground, fitness and social gathering facilities.

This is supported by smaller play spaces at Egan Park (Small Local Level) to the far west of the precinct and Annette's Place (Local Level) to the far east along the Birrarung (Yarra River) corridor. There is also a 'shared-use' agreement in place with Yarra Primary School which allows for access to school playground, multi-use court and recreational games facilities and meets local walkability measures in the central-east of the precinct. This area is also supported by Williams Reserve to its north, on the corner of Burnley and Victoria Streets. Further complementary spaces at Butler Street Park, O'Connell Reserve, and Urban Arts Square address gaps in walkable access to play spaces in the south of the precinct by adding a diversity of informal recreation and play. Fitness provision is proposed at O'Connell Reserve to link into existing sporting interests and recreation carried out along the River corridor.

An upgrade of the play space at Williams Reserve, to provide alternative play and recreation to the north is recommended and an upgrade of Annette's Place to the east is also recommended to provide a diversity of more easily accessible options. A diversity of options for different demographics across complementary spaces, such as recently developed social gathering opportunities provided at Butler Street Park is also recommended.

8.10.1 Precinct actions

The following tables outline the actions for the North Richmond precinct:

Playgrounds & Informal Recreation

Site name:	Existing playground classification level:	Change in provision:	Priority:
Annette's Place	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required • Upgrade accessibility	HIGH
Citizen's Park	CITY-WIDE	• Replace playground at City-wide Level as required	LOW
Egan Park	SMALL LOCAL	• Replace playground at Small Local Level as required	LOW
Williams Reserve	LOCAL	• Replace playground at Local Level as required, improving diversity of play options	MEDIUM

Complementary Spaces			
Site name:	**Type:**	**Change in provision:**	**Priority:**
O'Connell Reserve	COMPLEMENTARY SPACE	• Proposed fitness	LOW

No proposed change in provision
Complementary spaces:
• Butler Street Park • Urban Arts Square
Shared-use agreement:
• Yarra Primary School

9. Appendices

9.1 Glossary

General terms used in this document:	
Accessibility	Where ease of access for users of a play space is considered for people of differing abilities (how they enter and move through a space – pathways, access without barriers, ability to use facilities provided).
Complimentary space	Complementary spaces are parks and reserves that offer a range of qualities such as grassed open space, garden areas, seating, platforms, art, and shade that support non-prescriptive play.
Gender equity (as applied to play spaces)	Where a play space is designed in a way that supports everyone, regardless of gender, to feel welcome and supported to participate.
Inclusion	Where all members of the community, regardless of ability, age, gender, or cultural backgrounds are made to feel welcome and supported to participate in a play space.
Open space	Open space in this context refers mostly to parks and reserves and some urban spaces that are larger than 300sqm.
Play	A spontaneous, freely chosen, and enjoyable activity allowing the individual, either alone or while socialising with others, to interact with and explore the environment around them in different and dynamic ways.
Playground	A constructed and designed area consisting of play equipment (modular or customised), usually protected by impact-absorbing material as a defined ground treatment (with edging), for the primary purpose of play (prescribed).
Play space	An environment that facilitates playful activity by incorporating the whole 'open space' environment, including surfacing, trees and garden areas, level change, furniture, and other elements. This may or may not include a playground.
Play space classifications (levels)	**Play space levels of development and amenity related to their open space classification (as outlined in the YOSS) and catchment of use. Typically, they fall under the classifications Small Local, Local, Small Neighbourhood, Neighbourhood and City-Wide.**
Play space types	**Play space types are different settings for play and informal recreation that relate to their use.**
Play value	The intrinsic value of play elements in relation to the quality and complexity of play that it provides.
Precinct	Precinct is used here as a term to understand the interwoven nature of residential, commercial activities and open space.

	Yarra's 10 precincts generally follow suburb boundaries (as identified through YOSS), apart from Richmond, which is split into North Richmond, Central Richmond and South Richmond combined with Cremorne and Burnley. The suburbs of Carlton North and Princes Hill / Fairfield and Alphington have also been combined to form two precincts.
Service levels	Established routine maintenance standards in parks and reserves, that refer to cleaning, gardening, repairs to furniture, rubbish collection etc.
Social gathering	The community coming together and connecting in open space. Social gathering is supported by the natural and built environment.
Council acronyms and terms used in this document:	
AG	Agility (i.e. Parkour)
CS	Complementary Space
Council	Yarra City Council (governing body)
FIT	Fitness / Outdoor Gym Equipment
MUC	Multi-use Court
RG	Recreational Game (i.e. Table Tennis and Bocce)
this strategy	Yarra Play Space Strategy
Yarra	Yarra City (municipality)
YOSS	Yarra Open Space Strategy

9.2 Reviewed Yarra documents

9.2.1 Yarra related studies and policies

Yarra Council has recently prepared, or is the in process of preparing, multiple studies, policies, strategies, and plans where community feedback has been considered in preparing this Strategy.

These include:

- Active and Healthy Ageing in Yarra Strategy 2021-2024
- Yarra 0-25 Years Plan 2018-2022
- Yarra 2036 Community Vision
- Yarra Access and Inclusion Strategy 2018-2024
- Yarra Climate Emergency Plan 2020-2024
- Yarra Community Infrastructure Plan 2018
- Yarra Council Plan 2021-2025
- Yarra LGBTIQ+ Strategy 2021-2024
- Yarra Moves (Physical Activity Strategy and Action Plan) 2022-2024
- Yarra Nature Strategy 2020-2025
- Yana Ngargna – Yarra Reconciliation Plan 2018
- Yarra Open Space Strategy 2020
- Yarra Place Making Framework 2022
- Yarra Public Toilet Strategy 2017-2027
- Yarra Urban Design Strategy 2011
- Yarra Urban Forest Strategy 2017

9.2.2 Yarra play space related projects

Yarra Council has delivered or is the in process of delivering play space projects and other interventions where community feedback has been considered when preparing this Strategy. These include:

- Charles Evans – Draft Concept Design (February 2024)
- Charles Mollison Reserve – Constructed (2018)
- City of Yarra Playground Audit (June 2023)
- Gertrude & Brunswick Streets Corner – Draft Concept Design (December 2023)
- Golden Square Bicentennial Park Masterplan and Masterplan Report (2023)
- Otter Street Park – Constructed (2023)
- Reid Street Park – Constructed (2021/22)
- Smith Reserve Preliminary Concept Design (May 2023)
- Stephenson Street Reserve – Constructed (2022)
- Cambridge Street Reserve Expansion - Various Reports including Councillor Briefing, Community Engagement Report – Stage 1 and Stage 2 Consultation
- Charlotte Street Pocket Park – Draft Concept Plan (July 2023)
- Gipps Precinct Local Area Plan (2010)
- Johnston Street Structure Plan (2015)
- Swan Street Structure Plan (2014)
- Victoria Street Structure Plan (2010)
- Collingwood Town Hall Urban Design Framework

- Cremorne and Church Street Urban Design Framework
- North Fitzroy Gasworks Precinct Urban Design Framework
- Richmond Town Hall Precinct Urban Design Framework

9.2.3 Other key relevant documents

These key documents, frameworks and guidelines have also been considered when preparing this Strategy. These include:

- Article 31 on The Rights of the Child
- Australian Standard AS 4685 Playground equipment and surfacing
- Australian Standard AS 4422: Playground surfacing - Specifications, requirements, and test method
- The adopted European Standard for skate facilities (please include statement around the fact that 'many safety inspectors are not offering assessments of skatepark designs to these standards yet')
- Guidelines for fitness equipment
- Fencing and Public Playspaces (Play Australia)
- Playground Standards
- Victorian Disability Discrimination Act 1992
- Victorian Gender Equality Act 2020

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YOUR SAY YARRA

CITY OF YARRA

Draft Yarra Play Space Strategy

Snapshot



Acknowledgement 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 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 and present.

Our vision

Yarra's play spaces will enhance the wider open space network, be engaging and adaptable, connect to place and be welcoming to all our community.

Our goal is to provide high quality play spaces within walking distances of where people live, work and play in Yarra. We want to make sure that Yarra's play spaces can accommodate all ages, abilities and changing needs.

The Play Space Strategy will help us to deliver different types of play spaces across the network that complement each other, reflect local character and provide access to a variety of play types and experiences.

Yarra's population is growing, and we know that access to open spaces is limited. The Play Space Strategy will enable us to prepare for the future by providing a strategic framework to guide the planning, allocation, development and upgrade of play spaces in Yarra over the next 10 years.

The Play Space Strategy will help us to:

- Deliver quality play spaces for the future
- Build an adaptable network which provides access to both structured and unstructured play opportunities.
- Create a network that provides for a diversity of experiences where everyone can play, socialise, recreate, exercise, explore and learn.
- Provide opportunities for our community to visit different parks and open spaces for a range of experiences, including playgrounds, nature play, social gatherings, youth spaces, fitness equipment, agility courses, skate / scoot / wheels, and recreational games.

What do we mean by "play space"?

"Play" means to engage in activity for enjoyment, recreation or wellbeing. Play happens in a range of play spaces and includes both structured and unstructured activities.

'Play Spaces' include:

- Playgrounds and play equipment
- Play facilities like skate parks, multi-use courts, outdoor fitness equipment, climbing walls and spaces for recreational games like table-tennis, bocce, and chess tables.
- Open spaces for informal play, nature play, social gatherings and fitness activities.

Principles and Goals in the draft Play Space Strategy

We've used your feedback to develop a draft Play Space Strategy which includes a set of principles and goals to guide our vision for how we will plan for and deliver a play space network for Yarra.

The 5 principles

1. Respond to changing needs in our community
2. Promote a diversity of experience across the city
3. Support accessibility, inclusion and participation
4. Promote healthy living, through activity and social connection
5. Be well designed and sustainable

Within each of the 5 principles are a set of goals that will help us create a play space network that meets the changing needs of our diverse community.

Principle 1

Respond to changing needs in our community by...

Goals
Creating open ended adaptable play opportunities.
Moving away from single use elements for play, creating opportunities for many different experiences and outcomes.
Planning for population growth and projected demographic changes.
Balancing the needs of all users of open spaces.
Responding to broader impacts on the urban environment that may affect the future of our open spaces.



Principle 2

Promote a diversity of experience across the city by...

Goals
Creating a network of play types that complement each other.
Ensuring differences are offered at each play space across a precinct, responding to the local environment and minimising repetition.



Principle 3

Support accessibility, inclusion and participation by...

Goals
Considering the needs of all age groups.
Considering the needs of people of different abilities, recognising that there is diversity within disability.
Improving physical access to spaces where feasible and appropriate to the level and scale of the space.
Creating spaces that are designed to be welcoming and safe.
Providing a range of 'play' zones, to suit different abilities and preferences (this may include quiet zones, solo play, group play, and sensory spaces).



Principle 4

Promote healthy living, through activity and social connection by...

Goals
Promoting walkability and active travel to play spaces.
Improving access to open space and natural elements (for example: sunshine, shade, greenery, expanses of lawn, and fresh air).
Designing spaces to activate the senses.
Promoting physical fitness and active movement within play spaces.
Providing a range of opportunities for community connection and gathering within play spaces that improves mental health.



Principle 5

Be well designed and sustainable by...

Goals
Ensuring selected play types are suited to existing site conditions and scale and reflect local character.
Designing play spaces that are well integrated within the open space environment, including clear sightlines and the consideration of orientation, passive surveillance, and lighting.
Designing play spaces with materials that are sourced locally, durable, and consider the lifecycle of the material, including its manufacture and its end of life, and disposal.
Providing site suitable amenity and natural shade / canopy to help mitigate the urban heat island effect.
Promoting biodiversity within the open space environment.

7.4 Responses to the Victoria Government Housing Statement

Reference	D24/245116
Author	Melanie O'Neil - Policy Advisor Social Strategy and Community Development
Authoriser	General Manager Community Strengthening
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. To provide an update on the actions undertaken in response to the Council Resolution on 12 December 2023 (Notice of Motion 8 of 2023) in response to the Victorian State Government's Housing Statement.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. A Council Resolution was adopted on 12 December 2023 (Notice of Motion 8 of 2023), affirming Council's position in response to the State Government of Victoria's Housing Statement. The resolution requested that the Mayor write to the Premier and Minister for Housing to outline the positions set forth in the resolution, and called for an officer report to address the following:

   (a) a review of the impacts on public housing communities in Yarra, including potential future residents requiring public housing of the Victorian Government's announcements, including any further information released by the Victorian Government;

   (b) recommendations for revised or amended policy and advocacy positions that could be adopted by Council to address the risks and impacts of Victorian Government housing initiatives including Council's opposition to the demolition and privatisation of public housing in Yarra and across metropolitan Melbourne;

   (c) an advocacy position to be taken to the next Municipal Association of Victoria meeting opposing the demolition of the 44 housing towers; and

   (d) recommendations on any potential initiatives that could be adopted by Council to mitigate any risks and impacts for residents of the public housing estates in Yarra.

3. On 22 December 2023, the Mayor wrote to the Premier of Victoria, detailing the 12 December 2023 resolution and outlining Council's opposition to the demolition of the public housing towers. Council urged the government to consider a program of renovation instead of proceeding with demolition, and reiterated Yarra's commitment to advocating for use of state-owned sites in Yarra for public, community and affordable housing, such as the former sites of Fitzroy Gasworks in North Fitzroy, the Provan's warehouse in Clifton Hill, and the police warehouse in Collingwood.

4. This report responds to the information requested by Council, as outlined in the list above. All potential positions and initiatives outlined in this report are consistent with existing Council policies, such as the Social and Affordable Housing Strategy (SAHS).

Discussion

Responding to the Victorian State Government's Housing Statement

5. Council policy positions demonstrate the Council's opposition to the privatisation of public housing sites across the City of Yarra, including through sales or leases of public housing land. Existing policy positions from previous Council resolutions and the SAHS affirm that any proposed redevelopment of public housing estates in Yarra should include:
   (a) No net loss of public housing stock in Yarra;
   (b) No net loss of green open space;
   (c) A mix of one, two and three-bedroom dwellings;
   (d) Genuine blind tenure of public and community housing stock that is indistinguishable from other types of affordable and/or private housing stock; and,
   (e) A minimum accessibility level of the silver standard as outlined in the Liveable Housing Design Guidelines.
6. The Victorian Government's commitment to addressing the housing affordability and supply crisis, especially with further protections for renters, is welcome. However, it is essential to clearly establish whether a net gain in social (public and community) housing stock will be achieved if the Housing Statement is implemented. Urgent concerns need to be addressed regarding the proposed demolition of the high-rise estates, particularly concerning the impact on tenants and the potential loss of social housing, including whether public housing remains the core delivery model.
7. Another crucial consideration is that public land can only be transferred (sold) once. With land scarcity near employment hubs and essential services, demolishing and replacing towers across metropolitan Melbourne requires careful scrutiny, robust debate, and meaningful dialogue.
8. Historically, Council has had concerns about the loss of open space in any estate redevelopments. Ever-increasing inner-urban densification creates a critical need to maintain and increase the volume of quality open space. This could potentially be either within a site and/or offset in the surrounding neighbourhood.
9. It remains unclear whether the Housing Statement's plan to 'boost the overall number of social homes across these sites by 10 percent' will result in equal increases at each individual site or if it represents an overall increase across all sites with varying proportions at each location.
10. Additionally, whether this increase includes public and community housing and the mix therein is unclear. Public housing provides foundational social and community infrastructure, and is the most feasible type of housing for some people to be able to sustain a tenancy. The type of housing stock that comprises any increase will have significant implications on housing pathways for people with low and very low incomes.

Non-residential uses of housing estates

11. Recent reports (June 2024) detailed that the Victorian government is considering integrating retail stores and commercial offices into Melbourne’s public housing towers to enhance their economic viability.
12. Ernst & Young conducted a desktop study on the potential for retail and commercial spaces within future redevelopments, referred to as 'Project High Rise.' This study aimed to explore ways to maximise the value of these sites. One scenario examined the inclusion of 9,300 square meters for shops at the Flemington tower located at 130 Racecourse Road, while another considered large retail stores such as Officeworks or Repco at the Collingwood estate.

13. On 20 June 2024, 12 of 158 documents pertaining to research and advice carried out ahead of the State Government's Statement were released and tabled in Parliament. These documents included advice on building regulation assessments for sites in Prahran and Carlton, feasibility and option testing for the Carlton estate, evaluation of the Community Connectors Program, and advice on valuation, including commercial value, and retail and commercial demand across multiple sites.

14. Of particular relevance to Yarra is advice prepared by Ernst & Young regarding the potential for commercial uses at the housing estates, as outlined in document 5 of the release, 'Commercial & Retail Demand Study 19 June 2023' (See Attachment 1, particularly pages 31, 32, 33, 35 and 37–41). This document contains recommendations for potential amounts and types of \ retail and other commercial activities and tenancies on the Collingwood, Fitzroy, and Richmond estates.

15. It should be noted that at present there are health services, small supermarkets, and community support facilities located on some public housing estates.

16. While some recommendations, such as medical, education and support services would likely be compatible with tenant need, being similar to existing activities on many estates, other suggestions, such as the potential for large and medium-format retail at the Collingwood Estate, are less relevant for residents at the site.

Rental scenarios

17. There are several models of leased housing, including private, non-government, and public, and these are:

    (a) Market rent, determined by supply and demand, fluctuates based on the location's desirability, the availability of similar housing, and the overall demand for rental properties. This is the typical rent for privately owned properties and reflects what the property could rent for in the private market;

    (b) Rebated rent in public housing is a rental subsidy calculated as the difference between 25% of the total assessable income of a household and the market rent. This ensures a household in public housing pays either 25% of their total income on rent or the market rent, whichever is lower;

    (c) Rebated rent in community housing applies to tenants allocated from the public housing waiting lists. Tenants pay either 25% of their total income on rent or the market rent, whichever is lower, plus Commonwealth Rent Assistance. This helps to make the rent more affordable by leveraging additional federal support; and

    (d) Affordable rent is typically set at no more than 75-80% of the market rent and is available for low and moderate-income households, such as key workers or other prioritised cohorts. This type of housing is aimed at ensuring affordability for those who may struggle to afford market rates but do not qualify for public housing.

18. The Victorian Housing Register (VHR) is where people record interest in social housing in Victoria. Housing is allocated according to need, with the highest priority given to those in the greatest need, according to a number of factors specified by the state government, such as people experiencing homelessness or escaping violence.

19. The market rent for all public housing dwellings is documented on all leases and reviewed annually. Public housing tenants pay either market rent or rebated rent. If the recorded market rent for a public housing dwelling exceeds 25% of the total assessable income of all household members, the rental rebate covers the difference. If the market rent is less than 25% of the total assessable income of all household members, the tenant must pay the full rent. Practically, all public housing households are allocated through the register.

20. Community housing providers are expected to allocate up to 50% of new tenancies for their government-funded properties to people who are registered on the VHR public housing waiting lists (the list). In practice, more than 50% is allocated from the list. Tenants drawn from the list pay 30%, as they are eligible for Commonwealth Rent Assistance. The remainder of community housing tenants comprise households with low, low-moderate, and moderate incomes, paying varying rates of affordable rents. The issue with affordable rent is that it is calculated as a percentage of market rent, which is currently at all-time highs, leading even relatively well-off households to experience rental stress (i.e., spending more than 30% of their household income on rent).

21. Private rental assistance, as noted by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI, 2024), can be broken down further into three subtypes:

    (a) Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) is the primary form of private rental support, with AHURI noting that $4.5 billion is spent annually to assist about 1.3 million people, as of March 2023. Administered by the Federal Government, CRA is a non-taxable income supplement to assist people who receive social security payments to rent in the private market. Rent assistance rates are updated on 20 March and September each year in line with the Consumer Price Index, and calculated between a minimum and maximum rental amount, capped at a maximum fortnightly amount. In the 2024-2025 budget the maximum payment is increasing by 10%;

    (b) State and territory governments, the main providers of social housing, also provide some forms of private rental assistance in the form of one-off financial supports, such as rental loans, bond payments and assistance with relocation expenses; and

    (c) Private Rental Brokerage programs, often run by non-profit social support organisations, provide a one-off financial package to assist people to secure private housing and maintain a tenancy. AHURI notes this is a relatively new form of assistance.

22. Overall, AHURI research (2024) observes that rental support on the whole is directed primarily at securing and sustaining either private rental housing or specialist homelessness services above support for social housing tenancies. In this way, it is aimed at relieving the pressure on housing wait lists and providing a 'stopgap' measure to those who are on existing wait lists for social housing while a social housing offer is secured. However, it further notes that of those who receive CRA, only 66% are relieved of rental stress (spending 30% or less of household income on rent).

23. The Anglicare 2023 Rental Affordability Snapshot found that 0.6% of private rental properties listed across Victoria were suitable for at least one household type living on an income support payment (equivalent to 58 properties). For the March 2024 quarter, there were 9 private rental properties in Yarra considered to be affordable to lower income households, equivalent also to 0.6%.

Support for renters

24. While all renters in Victoria can seek dispute resolution through Consumer Affairs Victoria or VCAT, Justice Connect Victoria contends that the separate and largely inaccessible complaint and appeal mechanisms for public and community housing pose significant challenges for renters in enforcing their rights and resolving disputes.

25. Furthermore, Justice Connect asserts that there exists a two-tier social housing system where the rights, protections, and supports for renters in community housing differ from those in public housing. Specifically, they argue that community housing providers are not bound by the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic) (Charter), and they assert that the jurisdiction of the Victorian Ombudsman does not extend to community housing.

26. In February 2022, the Victorian Ombudsman launched an investigation into complaint handling in the Victorian social housing sector, with a report on these findings tabled at Parliament in July 2022. The Ombudsman found that the existing complaints pathways for public and community housing tenants were complicated, confusing and, in some cases, not effective. A key recommendation from the Ombudsman was that the Victorian Government establish a single but two-tiered complaint system to support tenants across both public and community housing, potentially as a specialist function of the Victorian Ombudsman scheme.

27. There are other perspectives, as proponents of community housing highlight that dwellings and their conditions are frequently better maintained under registered housing agencies than government-managed housing. Additionally, they argue that tenants in community housing have the same lawful rights as those in public housing.

Supply and demand of public and community housing

28. In its capacity as a responsible planning authority, Council has proactively engaged in the local expansion of community housing stock by ensuring developers seeking residential or mixed-use rezonings include a percentage of affordable housing within developments.

29. While the debate over the merits of social housing delivery through public housing or community housing persists, the use of community housing within the framework of the Victorian Housing Statement is ambiguous. Based on the current figures on the Victorian Housing Register (VHR) waitlist, more than a 10 percent increase in dwellings within Yarra's existing public housing estates is needed to meet the housing needs for Inner Metropolitan Melbourne.

30. The most recent available VHR application data from 31 March 2024 shows that 5,504 people have nominated the Inner Metro East region on their public and/or community housing application as their preferred housing location (this region comprises mostly locations in Yarra, including: Abbotsford, Alphington, Burnley, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fairfield, Fitzroy, Fitzroy North, and Richmond). A 10% overall increase in the existing public and community housing stock in the City of Yarra would house only about 10% of these applications, dependent on compatibility with the type and size of dwellings.

31. Details remain unclear as to whether there has been sufficient investigation to determine if refurbishment of existing housing stock in the high-rise public housing estates is a feasible possibility instead of demolition, with new construction focussing on additional dwellings.

32. The report 'Five ways retrofitting cities can help decarbonise our future' from the University of Melbourne (2023) highlights that retrofitting provides significant benefits such as reducing carbon emissions, enhancing biodiversity, and improving disaster preparedness, with strategies like preserving green spaces.

33. Dr Iris Levin, Lecturer in RMIT's Centre for Urban Research, argues that the demolition of public housing towers is a concerning issue and stresses that these towers should not be replaced predominantly by private housing with only a minor increase in social housing. Levin advocates for constructing more public housing units before any existing ones are demolished, ensuring long-term housing security and community stability.

34. While outside of consideration in this report, it is noted that new housing targets have now been set by the Victorian Government for a number of inner and middle municipalities, including Yarra. Further updates will be provided to Council once further information is obtained.

Municipal Association Victoria submissions

35. At the May 2024 Municipal Association Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting, Moonee Valley Council submitted the following motion, which is in line with Council's policy and advocacy positions:

    (a) Motion 12, Impact of Housing Statement and associated Planning Reform on the local government sector, seeking that the MAV:

(i) Notes the Victorian Government's recent Housing Statement and plan to tackle housing supply in Victoria, and the impact of the associated planning reforms on the local government sector, including councils' resources, existing strategic planning, pressing need for an increase in public and social housing stock in Victoria and the opportunity to increase the percentage of public and social housing through the redevelopment of public housing estates;

(ii) Calls on the Victorian Government to:

- *Provide clarity regarding councils' role in planning decisions transferred to the State Government;*
- *Undertake ongoing consultation and partnership with the local government on housing choice, affordability, and sustainable neighbourhoods affecting local communities;*
- *Provide adequate infrastructure and open space for resilient communities particularly residents in the public housing estates;*
- *Ensure that new homes are to be built to the highest possible Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) standards; and*
- *Keep all existing residents of the public housing estates up to date with clear information about relocations and timelines, and to keep these residents' needs at the centre of decision making with respect to the estates.*

36. Council officers have drafted a motion for submission to the MAV State Council on 23 August 2024, seeking that the MAV call on the Victorian Government to cease demolition of the public housing towers.

M9 position and responses to the Housing Statement by other M9 Councils

37. While the M9 alliance of inner Melbourne councils has not formally adopted advocacy positions that directly address the Housing Statement, several pertinent positions relate to public, community, and affordable housing. These include:

    (a) Introduce mandatory affordable housing controls in the Victorian Planning System (VPS) to deliver social and affordable housing with certainty and at scale;

    (b) Establish sustained and diverse funding streams to enable long-term social and affordable housing delivery; and

    (c) Deliver new supported social housing and resourcing for assertive outreach to address the homelessness and rough sleeping need across the M9 region.

38. The Homes Victoria and M9 Reference Group (HVM9) is being established to facilitate communication and collaboration between the Victorian Government and the nine Melbourne Councils affected by the redevelopment of 44 high-rise public housing estates. Meetings will be held quarterly, providing a forum where Homes Victoria and council CEOs and senior executives from relevant government departments can exchange and gather information and advice.

39. The HVM9 Reference Group will be crucial for addressing the impacts on public housing delivery and affected communities, ensuring transparency and collective action in managing the redevelopment. This group complements direct consultations between individual councils and Homes Victoria by focusing on broader systemic and program-wide issues.

40. On 18 October 2023, Merri-bek City Council passed a Notice of Motion to strongly oppose the demolition of the 44 public housing towers, including 351 Barkly Street, Brunswick, and to update their advocacy positions.

41. At a Special Council Meeting on 8 January 2024, Darebin City Council passed a resolution to seek information about the timeline for the redevelopment of the Northcote estate, noting key risks of the Housing Statement and requesting that the CEO review the impacts of the Housing Statement.

42. On 21 May 2024, Maribyrnong Council put forward a Notice of Motion that Council strongly opposes the Victorian Government's plans to demolish 44 public housing towers across the state, including 127 Gordon Street (Gaskin Gardens) in the City of Maribyrnong. The motion was not carried by the majority of Councillors.

Impacts for public housing tenants and community

43. There has been considerable uncertainty about what the proposed demolition means for tenants. Officers continue working closely with key DFFH and Homes Victoria representatives to ensure timely and accurate information.

44. Following the announcement of the intended demolition of public housing towers across Melbourne, many of Yarra's public housing residents are understood to have experienced considerable distress.

45. Research, including by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) from November 2023, indicates that public housing residents can experience relocation as displacement, which can result in a loss of both community and sense of place, each of which causes considerable impacts on their health and wellbeing.

46. Specifically, potential impacts of the mooted redevelopment on public housing tenants include:

    (a) *Placelessness and loss of identity* – the housing estates provide a pathway to build identity and belonging;

    (b) *Loss of community networks* – social and cultural connections made through in-situ programs on the estates are particularly important for people who are socially isolated;

    (c) *Impacts on livelihood* – relocation to housing that is further away from jobs and services can impact on the cost of travel and capacity to work;

    (d) *Gentrification* – the proposed mixed tenure development of the public estates to include private housing could impact negatively on Yarra's returning public housing residents if not carefully managed;

    (e) *Limited housing options* – if there are limited available housing options for residents to relocate, tenants may be encouraged to take properties that do not meet specific needs; and

    (f) *Impacts on homelessness* – for many community members without a home, public housing represents the best and sometimes only feasible option for permanent housing, making this cohort particularly vulnerable any impacts on public housing availability or supportive service provision. Additionally, there may be trauma associations with uncertainty of housing arrangements.

47. A lack of communication was an overarching theme in AHURI's research on the public housing renewal processes, indicating that initiatives aimed at improving communication channels would be an effective way to build trust and mitigate the effects of displacement.

48. Given that 26.8% of Yarra's residents in social housing speak a language other than English at home, ensuring that all information is translated and communicated effectively across all community languages is particularly important in a local context.

49. It is important that Homes Victoria ensures there are localised options for tenants to relocate within or near their existing neighbourhood to avoid displacement from access to jobs, services, and social networks.

50. A community-centric redevelopment approach could be temporarily rehousing, and permanently rehousing in-situ through phased redevelopment. This process could involve constructing a new building on an available plot in the same area, ensuring it is fully equipped and ready for occupancy. Homes Victoria could temporarily relocate residents from the old building to the new one, providing comprehensive support during the move. Homes Victoria would need to maintain clear communication and provide ongoing support to ensure a smooth transition and uphold tenants' connections to their local community.

Short stay levy

51. Victoria's Housing Statement introduces a short-stay levy of 7.5% of short-stay rental accommodation platforms' revenue. The revenue from the levy will go to Homes Victoria to support building and maintaining social and affordable housing. The Statement notes that introducing the statewide levy would supersede any other local levies.

52. Detractors of the proposed 7.5% levy argue that it will only marginally improve housing availability for renters. They advocate for stricter measures, such as a 90-day cap on listings, believing this could significantly transition properties back to long-term rentals. The Parliamentary Budget Office suggests that a cap could encourage owners, especially in competitive areas such as metropolitan Melbourne, to change their rental strategies, potentially increasing the number of homes available for long-term renting.

53. It is anticipated that the legislation for the levy will enter state parliament in 2024 and, if passed, will come into effect in 2025. A draft of the bill is yet to be released.

54. If passed, legislative changes to introduce the statewide short-stay levy would impact the options for introducing local regulations regarding short-stay rental accommodation, as any local law introduced in conflict with the legislation would be overridden by the state due to bylaws being a type of delegated legislation.

55. One option could be to introduce a cap to the number of nights for which a property could be listed on short-stay rental platforms, as has been done in some NSW council areas, restricting listings to 180 days. It is understood that the City of Sydney Lord Mayor is calling for greater regulation of the sector, a 90-day annual cap, and a levy of up to 10% to be applied to all short stay accommodation bookings, with revenue hypothecated for social and affordable housing.

56. This is an option being explored by other Councils, such as Melbourne and Merri-bek. However, work to progress any regulatory options at a local level is largely on hold as councils await the outcome of the state legislation, as the exact impacts of this on local laws cannot otherwise be gauged.

57. On 11 June 2024, officers at City of Melbourne brought a report on potential short-stay rental local law options to the Future Melbourne committee, recommending that implementation of such a law be put on hold, 'due to the Victorian Government stating that local council charges on short stay accommodation will be removed'. The endorsed recommendations outlined the need to track and regulate the short-stay rental industry and requested that the Mayor write to the Victorian Treasurer and relevant ministers to ensure that:

    (a) any systems put in place for the levy would enable local data collection and regulation; or

    (b) that the case for the short stay levy easing Victoria's housing crisis and responding to the Housing Statement be publicly released.

58. A centralised register of dwellings would be required to administer the state levy. It is understood that AirBnB has stated it will provide data support for state governments to implement levies, but it has pushed back on providing detailed data to local governments.

59. It is noted that, without a central register supported by data from the rental platforms, enforcing a bylaw would be difficult, relying on the self-disclosure of rental hosts/property owners. There is an opportunity for Council to advocate for this register to be shared with each impacted municipality to understand short-stay rental data better and support the possibility of enforcing a bylaw, should that option be further explored.

60. According to the most recent AirBnB data, there are 1,485 listings in Yarra for which the whole property is available (rather than just a room). Of these, 602 properties were available for more than 164 nights (a minimum length of time to ensure feasibility as an ordinary private rental), while 257 properties are available for more than 300 days (meaning they have availability of between 10 and 12 months, approaching a standard rental tenure).

61. At the last census, Yarra had a count of 49,954 private dwellings, meaning that the number of short-stay rental properties available for more than 164 days of the year would equate to approximately 1.21% of dwellings in the municipality.

62. It is understood from correspondence with MAV that the Department of Transport and Planning convened a meeting in late 2023 of impacted councils to commence discussions around designing the levy. Attending Councils raised a wide range of issues, including the impact of amenity and rubbish. Officers are awaiting information on the outcomes of the meeting.

Parliamentary inquiries

63. Following a successful motion in the Legislative Council, the Victorian Parliament initiated an inquiry into public housing demolitions. This will be conducted by the Legislative Assembly's Legal and Social Issues Committee, chaired by the member for Western Metropolitan (Liberal) and including the member for North Eastern Metropolitan (Greens). Council has the opportunity to submit this inquiry. The Terms of Reference are attached to this report (Attachment 2).

64. In November 2023, the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee published their report on Victoria's rental and housing affordability crisis. The committee considered the impacts of Victoria's short-stay rental accommodation industry and established the scale and impact of the industry are not consistent statewide. As a result, the committee found that while aspects of a state-based approach are beneficial, a multi-faceted approach would be preferable to a uniform statewide solution.

65. The committee identified that local councils are considering a range of regulations of the short stay rental accommodation industry:

    (a) Permits;

    (b) Code of conduct;

    (c) Registration of properties;

    (d) Cap on number of days;

    (e) Standards of management;

    (f) Requests to owners to make accommodation available long term; and

    (g) Changes to rates.

Human Rights of Public Housing Residents: Update on the Class Action

66. Through Inner Melbourne Community Legal, a 25-year resident of a North Melbourne tower initiated a class action lawsuit on 24 January 2024 intending to protect the human rights of residents who live in the public housing towers slated for the first tranche of redevelopment. The writ claims incompatibility with many human rights, including 'arbitrary or unlawful interference with home and family', 'the protection of family', 'the best interests of children', 'property rights' and 'the right to security'. The lawsuit named Housing Minister Harriet Shing and Homes Victoria as defendants, sought that the demolition decision be reversed due to jurisdictional error and that an injunction be placed.

67. The case has been heard in the Supreme Court of Victoria, where Justice Richards ruled that the claim had 'no real prospect of success' and summarily dismissed it. However, residents were granted the opportunity to seek another judicial review of the government's decision, specifically against Homes Victoria instead of Cabinet.

68. The matter returned to court on 31 May 2024 for case management purposes, providing a platform for residents to challenge the government's decision further. Justice Richards expressed concern about reformulating the case and has granted additional time to reformulate the claim before the next court date of 5 July.

Negotiated outcomes within private developments

69. Without social and affordable housing mandates, Council continues negotiating with developers for long-term social and affordable housing stock to be included in private developments.

70. To date, the following yields have been negotiated at private development sites across the municipality during the planning process:

Site	Proposed Percentage of Dwellings	Indicative Number of Affordable Dwellings	Status
111 Queens Parade and 433 Smith Street, Fitzroy North (Former Gasworks site)	20%	Approx. 240	Amendment gazetted
203–205 Gipps Street	100%	59	Constructed
81–95 Burnley Street and 26–34 Doonside Street (Harry the Hirer)	10%	55-65	Development plan considered
Victoria Gardens Expansion (Doonside Precinct and Lot 9)	Doonside Precinct: 10%, Lot 9: 10%	Doonside Precinct: 82, Lot 9: Depends on yield	Ministerial amendment and planning permit approved
64 Alexandra Parade, Clifton Hill (Provans Home Timber and Hardware)	10%	No plans available	No application for planning permit
462 – 482 Swan Street, Richmond	5%	Approx. 12	Permit expired, commercial project under construction
25 Bank Place / 271 Bridge Road (Richmond Traders)	Approx. 5%	13	Under construction
626 Heidelberg Road, Alphington (Former AMCOR Site)	Approx. 5%	150	Under construction
26–52 Bendigo Street and 171 Stawell Street (Former GTV9 site)	Approx. 10%	33	Under construction

71. Council's current use of the planning process and Section 173 agreements to negotiate affordable housing contributions is considered best practice. This opportunity at the point of rezoning is leveraged to the greatest extent possible under current legislation. In the absence of mandated affordable housing in the Victorian Planning System, significant outcomes can be realised by utilising opportunities to negotiate contributions of social and affordable housing stock in large-scale private developments (i.e., 50 or more units) during the rezoning stage through s173 agreements, guided by the existing Policy Guidance Note and policy guidelines in Section 16.01 Residential Development of the Yarra Planning Scheme.

72. Negotiations can also be made with developers to enter into a written agreement with organisations such as 'Homes for Homes' that provide a contribution of 0.1% of the sale price of every residential property to be provided to 'Homes for Homes' at the time of settlement.

An example of a Homes for Homes contribution is the agreement for the development at 371–385 Gore St, Fitzroy. It is noted that to-date Homes for Homes has provided housing for approximately 350 people across Australia, although no projects in Yarra have received grant funding through the program.

73. Coordinated advocacy with the M9 continues to call for the introduction of mandatory inclusionary zoning legislation in Victoria.

Potential Advocacy and Policy Positions

74. In light of the considerations outlined in this report, Council has a significant opportunity to advocate for our public housing residents in response to Victoria's Housing Statement. The following potential positions are supported by existing Council policies and Council's resolution of 12 December 2023. This advocacy includes making submissions on behalf of Council to relevant State inquiries.

75. The following positions relate to the planned 'retirement' of the high-rise public housing towers:

    (a) Council strongly opposes the Victorian Government's plans to demolish 44 public housing towers across the state, including 12 towers in the City of Yarra, in Fitzroy, Collingwood, and Richmond;

    (b) Council notes that the Victorian Government has published information concerning the feasibility of the Carlton estate, covering building compliance, structural integrity and other matters relating to its redevelopment;

    (c) Council asks the Victorian Government to consider alternatives to demolition:

        (i) Noting that without adequate consideration of the conditions of each public housing tower, the potential for redevelopment, refurbishment, and renovation has not been fully explored; and

        (ii) Urging the State Government of Victoria to carefully consider the options of renovating, retrofitting and/or refurbishing the existing high-rise public housing in Yarra and beyond on a case-by-case basis, instead of proceeding with wholesale replacement;

    (d) Council restates its commitment to the model of Public Housing, and:

        (i) Calls on the Victorian Government to maintain existing public housing unless building or engineering advice states otherwise; and

        (ii) Advocates for a substantial increase in the number of public housing dwellings to address the housing affordability crisis;

    (e) Council seeks further information from the Victorian Government about the potential for the significant expansion of non-residential land uses within the public housing estate envelopes, noting that:

        (i) While there are already health and recreational facilities and some commercial uses such as small-form supermarkets, these have an evidential nexus with the needs of tenants; and

        (ii) Council is strongly opposed to large-scale broader commercialisation for any use that does not have a nexus with tenant need;

    (f) Council advocates for the following considerations concerning any large-scale relocation of public housing residents, including from potential redevelopment of public housing estates or other groupings of public housing initiated by the Victorian Government:

        (i) Public tenants must be kept fully informed about all processes and potential outcomes associated with public housing redevelopments;

(ii) Localised options for tenants to relocate within or near their existing neighbourhood to avoid displacement from access to jobs, services, and social networks;

(iii) No net loss in the number and size (including number of bedrooms) of public housing dwellings within redevelopment sites;

(iv) Delivery of quality open space within a site and/or the surrounding neighbourhood to offset the loss of any open space resulting from the redevelopment and densification of public housing estates;

(v) Community services and infrastructure are equitably distributed across Yarra's public housing estates, tailored to the needs of the diverse tenant population;

(vi) Redevelopments should offer a variety of housing options suitable for singles, couples, and families, ensuring that people at different life stages can reside within the same neighbourhood. This approach fosters social diversity, enhances community stability, and supports aging in place;

(vii) In cases where public housing redevelopment includes mixed tenure, it should be impossible to distinguish public and community housing dwellings from affordable and private housing stock; and

(viii) All new dwellings resulting from public housing redevelopments should meet a minimum silver rating as outlined in the Liveable Design Guidelines, ensuring ease of accessibility upgrades for lifelong tenure. These new dwellings should also comply with a seven-star rating as defined under the National Construction Code 2022;

(g) Council seeks a substantial increase in public and social housing in Yarra and continues to call on the Victorian Government to leverage various state-owned sites in the municipality for this purpose, including the former sites of Fitzroy Gasworks in North Fitzroy, the Provan’s warehouse in Clifton Hill, and the police warehouse in Collingwood;

(h) Council directs officers to make a submission to the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee's Inquiry into the redevelopment of Melbourne’s public housing towers in accordance with the advocacy positions of this resolution;

(i) Council notes that a motion opposing the Demolition of Public Housing Towers has been lodged with the MAV for consideration at the State Council meeting on Friday, 23 August 2024; and

(j) Council notes the establishment of The Homes Victoria and M9 Reference Group (HVM9). This quarterly forum will enable information exchange between Homes Victoria, council CEOs, and senior executives concerning the redevelopment of 44 public housing estates.

76. The potential policy and advocacy positions outlined above are complementary to Yarra's Social and Affordable Housing Strategy, which seeks to ensure that Yarra maintains a diverse population by increasing the supply of affordable housing for households with various income levels and requirements.

77. Council remains committed to collaborating with partners and governments at all levels to ensure a substantial increase in public, community, and affordable housing.

Options

78. Council can adopt none, some or all of the policy and advocacy positions outlined above.

Community and stakeholder engagement

79. While there has not been public consultation in formulating the positions presented in this report, it's important to acknowledge that these positions generally align with Council's existing policies and decisions. The most relevant policy, the SAHS, was developed through extensive stakeholder engagement, and the draft document was made available for public comment before its adoption in 2019.

80. Council engages with other LGAs through the M9, the Inner-Metropolitan Partnership, and the Inter-Council Affordable Housing Forum (MAV) and fosters relationships with local specialist homelessness service providers and government housing agencies through Yarra Zero.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

81. Theme 5 of Yarra's 2036 Community Vision is Social Equity and states that: 'Our community advocates for access to equitable services including education, housing, employment and health. Yarra leads the way in transitioning homelessness to secure housing and employment.'

82. The second Social Equity priority in the Community Vision is to: 'Ensure that there are equitable opportunities for housing and services provided to all.'

83. Strategic Direction 2, Social Equity and Health, Strategy 6, in Yarra's Council Plan (2021–2025) is: 'Leverage opportunities and advocate for increased access to public, social and affordable housing stock in new and significant developments.'

84. Further to this, Initiative (h) under Strategic Direction 2 is to: '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.'

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

85. As with any new housing in Yarra, there is an expectation that new public, social and affordable housing in the municipality adhere to high ESD and accessibility standards. This is expressed in the Social and Affordable Housing Policy Guidance Note, section 3.4.

Community and social implications

86. More than 8% of Yarra residents live in social and public housing, the highest proportion for any LGA in the state. Yarra is home to 12 high-rise public housing towers, and the community will be directly and extensively impacted by the state government's plans to demolish, redevelop and infill these properties, should the mooted redevelopment plans proceed as announced in September 2023.

87. The Reserve Bank of Australia has increased the cash rate 13 times since mid-2022, from 0.10% in April 2022 to the current rate of 4.35%. The number of households experiencing mortgage stress continues to grow, particularly for those who have purchased within the last two years, and private rental prices have also increased, considerably impacting housing options.

Economic development implications

88. Numerous studies evidence the economic benefits that come from providing permanent and appropriate public, community and affordable housing for the range of target demographics. Having a stable and affordable home improves the capacity to engage with education and employment.

Human rights and gender equality implications

89. Access to housing is a human right under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 25.1: 'Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of [themselves] and of [their] family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond [their] control.'

90. While housing is not explicitly referred to in the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, an individual's housing status impacts the right to privacy and reputation (s13), the right to property (s20) and the right to liberty and security of person (s21).

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

91. There are no financial and resource impacts associated with this report.

Legal Implications

92. There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Conclusion

93. The Council Resolution from the meeting on 12 December 2023 outlined Council's opposition to the Victorian Government's plans to demolish 44 public housing towers across the state, including 12 towers in the City of Yarra, in Fitzroy, Collingwood and Richmond.

94. Informed by this resolution, this report articulates proposed advocacy positions to address the risks and impacts of Victorian Government housing initiatives, including Council's opposition to the demolition and privatisation of public housing in Yarra.

95. Given the urgency of the dual housing and cost of living crises, and potential impacts of the Victorian Government's Housing Statement, it is recommended that Council prioritises its advocacy focus on the matter of public housing redevelopment. This includes making submissions on behalf of Council to relevant state and federal government inquiries.

96. Officers will continue to work with Homes Victoria and the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing to identify opportunities to support communication of timely and accurate information to residents and mitigate any risks and impacts for residents of the public housing estates in Yarra.

97. The Homes Victoria and M9 Reference Group (HVM9) will facilitate communication between the Victorian Government and nine Melbourne Councils impacted by redeveloping 44 high-rise public housing estates. Quarterly meetings will allow Homes Victoria, council CEOs, and senior government executives to exchange information and advice. Starting in the second half of the year, this group will address public housing delivery impacts and complement direct council consultations with Homes Victoria.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) strongly opposes the Victorian Government's plans to demolish 44 public housing towers across the state, including 12 towers in the City of Yarra, in Fitzroy, Collingwood, and Richmond;

   (b) notes that the Victorian Government has published information concerning the feasibility of the Carlton estate, covering building compliance, structural integrity and other matters relating to its redevelopment;

   (c) asks the Victorian Government to consider alternatives to demolition:

      (i) noting that without adequate consideration of the conditions of each public housing tower, the potential for redevelopment, refurbishment, and renovation has not been fully explored; and

      (ii) urging the State Government of Victoria to carefully consider the options of renovating, retrofitting and/or refurbishing the existing high-rise public housing in Yarra and beyond on a case-by-case basis, instead of proceeding with wholesale replacement;

   (d) restates its commitment to the model of Public Housing, and:

      (i) calls on the Victorian Government to maintain existing public housing unless building or engineering advice states otherwise; and,

      (ii) advocates for a substantial increase in the number of public housing dwellings to address the housing affordability crisis;

   (e) seeks further information from the Victorian Government about the potential for the significant expansion of non-residential land uses within the public housing estate envelopes, noting that:

      (i) while there are already health and recreational facilities and some commercial uses such as small-form supermarkets, these have an evidential nexus with the needs of tenants; and

      (ii) Council is strongly opposed to large-scale broader commercialisation for any use that does not have relevance to tenant need;

   (f) advocates for the following considerations concerning any large-scale relocation of public housing residents, including from potential redevelopment of public housing estates or other groupings of public housing initiated by the Victorian Government:

      (i) public tenants must be kept fully informed about all processes and potential outcomes associated with public housing redevelopments;

      (ii) localised options for tenants to relocate within or near their existing neighbourhood to avoid displacement from access to jobs, services, and social networks;

      (iii) no net loss in the number and size (including number of bedrooms) of public housing dwellings within redevelopment sites;

      (iv) delivery of quality open space within a site and/or the surrounding neighbourhood to offset the loss of any open space resulting from the redevelopment and densification of public housing estates;

      (v) community services and infrastructure are equitably distributed across Yarra's public housing estates, tailored to the needs of the diverse tenant population;

(vi) redevelopments should offer a variety of housing options suitable for singles, couples, and families, ensuring that people at different life stages can reside within the same neighbourhood. This approach fosters social diversity, enhances community stability, and supports aging in place;

(vii) in cases where public housing redevelopment includes mixed tenure, it should be impossible to distinguish public and community housing dwellings from affordable and private housing stock;

(viii) all new dwellings resulting from public housing redevelopments should meet a minimum silver rating as outlined in the Liveable Design Guidelines, ensuring ease of accessibility upgrades for lifelong tenure. These new dwellings should also comply with a seven-star rating as defined under the National Construction Code 2022;

(g) seeks a substantial increase in public and social housing in Yarra and continues to call on the Victorian Government to leverage various state-owned sites in the municipality for this purpose, including the former sites of Fitzroy Gasworks in North Fitzroy, the Provan's warehouse in Clifton Hill, and the police warehouse in Collingwood;

(h) requests officers to make a submission to the Legislative Council Legal and Social Issues Committee's Inquiry into the redevelopment of Melbourne's public housing towers in accordance with the advocacy positions of this resolution;

(i) notes that a motion opposing the Demolition of Public Housing Towers has been lodged with the MAV for consideration at the State Council meeting on Friday, 23 August 2024; and

(j) notes the establishment of The Homes Victoria and M9 Reference Group (HVM9). This quarterly forum will enable information exchange between Homes Victoria, council CEOs, and senior executives concerning the redevelopment of 44 public housing estates.

Attachments

1⇩ Attachment 1 Draft Commercial and Retail Remand Study prepared for Homes Victoria

2⇩ Attachment 2 Terms of Reference for Legal and Social Issues Committee


Commercial & Retail Demand Study
Prepared for Homes Victoria
DRAFT
Reliance Restricted
19 June 2023 | Version 1.3
EY
Building a better working world

Reliance Restricted

Building a better working world

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Real Estate, Commercial and Financial Advisory Support | Stage 2 - Commercial/Retail Demand Study **19 June 2023**

Dear Daniel,

In accordance with the Engagement Agreement dated 30 May 2023, enclosed is EY's ("EY", "we" or "our") draft Stage 2 report with respect to the agreed professional services ("Services") for Homes Victoria ("HV", "you" or "Client"). We understand you requested Real Estate Advisory and Commercial/Financial Support relating to the regeneration of a number of HV's high-density housing sites within Melbourne ("Purpose"). EY's analysis is to be delivered across thee phases to support your internal deliberations. Enclosed is a copy of our Stage 2 - Commercial/ Retail demand study (the "Report").The report is subject to our Statement of General Assumptions and Limiting Conditions. Importantly our advice for Phase 2 herein is in draft only, and does not encompass the whole scope for Stage 2 and does not constitute as a recommendation but instead only reports factual evidence for HV's decision making.

The Report may be relied upon by HV, however, EY disclaims all liability to any parties other than HV for all costs, loss, damage and liability that a third party may suffer or incur arising from or relating to or in any way connected with the provision of the deliverables to a third party without any prior consent. You have agreed that you will not amend the Report or distribute the Report to outside parties without prior written approval from EY. If others choose to rely on the Report in any way, they do so entirely at their own risk.

While we have used reasonable endeavours to review the data and information we have received, we have not independently verified, or accepted any responsibility or liability for independently verifying, any information, nor do we make any opinion as to the accuracy or completeness of the information. Any locality point or alignment information within our analysis is indicative only. We accept no liability for any loss or damage which may result from your reliance on any research, analyses or information so supplied. The attached report provides the outcomes of our analysis.

Thank you for your instructions and entrusting this work with EY. We trust we have provided you with the information you require, however, should you have any queries regarding this matter please contact me on +61

Yours sincerely

DRAFT

Partner, Real Estate Advisory Project Management

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Background to this Report

In accordance with the Engagement Agreement dated 30 May 2023, enclosed is EY's ("EY", "we" or "our") draft Stage 2 report with respect to the agreed professional services ("Services") for Homes Victoria ("HV", "you" or "Client"). We understand you requested Real Estate Advisory and Commercial/ Financial Support relating to the regeneration of a number of HV's high-density housing sites within Melbourne ("Purpose").

EY's analysis and advice is to be delivered in a three-phased approach for your internal deliberations. Enclosed is a copy of our Stage 2- Commercial/ Retail demand study for the nine (9) identified high yielding focus sites (the "Report").

The Report is subject to our Statement of General Assumptions and Limiting Conditions. Importantly our advice for Phase 1 herein does not constitute as a recommendation but instead only reports factual evidence for HV's decision making.

Purpose of this Report

The Report has been prepared for the purpose stated above only and must not be used for any other purpose. This Report or any part of this Report (including without limitation any conclusions as to value, the identity of EY or any individuals signing or associated with this Report, or the professional associations or organisations with which they are affiliated) must not be disseminated to any third party by any means without the prior written consent and approval of EY.

No third party may rely on this Report without the prior written consent and approval of EY. EY disclaims all liability to any third party for all costs, loss or damage and liability that the third party may suffer or incur arising from, related to, or any way connected with the provision of this Report to the third party without EY's prior written consent and approval.

Scope of our Services

Stage 2- Commercial/ Retail Demand Supply

We have been engaged to assist HV with undertaking a demand study for retail and commercial space within nine (9) identified high yielding focus sites. The demand study will work in tandem with the massing and yield studies to be procured by HV. We have relied upon the indicative height limitations provided within the HV project brief. Data has been sourced from Census 2021 and 2016, real estate data and research reports prepared by EY and external sources such as MSCI, RP Data and discussions with agents.

The purpose of the analysis is to consider current levels of supply and determine the potential unmet levels of demand for commercial/ retail assets (either as a rental product or purchase product) within each proposed development with the output reflecting the process undertaken, data analysis and indicative rental and capital value ranges at the nine (9) sites.


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Commercial and Retail Assessment

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We have determined an appropriate range of commercial and retail GFA for each site based on our comprehensive analysis of the following:

- High-rise Build to Rent case studies in inner-Melbourne;
- Recent planning permit applications and approvals for mixed use developments of a similar scale to the Subject Properties;
- Discussions with local commercial real estate agents;
- Research and understanding of the retail and commercial markets

Our research and analysis of proxy developments have guided our recommendations regarding an appropriate apportionment of retail and commercial space within the total gross floor area ("GFA") of each site. We provide these recommendations below and overleaf. Our findings and the analysis and research to support these recommendations is provided in the proceeding pages of this Report.

North Melbourne: North Melbourne Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
3% - 8%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Hotham Estate can likely support circa 5.5% or 2,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as a single anchor tenant with a small number of supporting retail tenancies.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Canning Street.

North Melbourne: Hotham Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
3% - 8%	3% - 8%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Hotham Estate can likely support circa 5.5% or 2,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as a single anchor tenant with a small number of supporting retail tenancies.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Hotham Estate can likely support circa 5.5% or 2,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Boundary Road.

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Flemington: Crown Street Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend nil provision of retail.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

N/A

Flemington: Debney Park Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
5% - 10%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Debney Park Estate can likely support circa 5% or 3,500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as one to three anchor tenants with a small number of supporting retail tenancies.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Debney Park Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Racecourse Road, up to the intersection of Racecourse Road and Holland Court.

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Kensington: Kensington Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Kensington Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 200 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as one café or restaurant or one to two retail shops, such as a convenience store.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be along Derby Street and/or Ormond Street.

Carlton: Elgin & Nicholson Street Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend nil provision of retail.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

N/A

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Carlton: Lygon Street Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Lygon Street Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 250 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as a small number of retail tenancies and/or cafes.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Lygon Street Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education, government and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Lygon Street.

Collingwood: Collingwood Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 5%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Collingwood Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 1,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). Large and medium-format retail may be considered, as well as alternative uses such as gymnasium's.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Collingwood Estate can likely support circa 2.5% or 2,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education and/or support services.

Frontage:

Frontage for retail should be to Wellington Street. Frontage and approximate location for commercial office should be to either Wellington Street or Hoddle Street, and close to the southern boundary of the site, encouraging connection with the Collingwood Mixed Employment Precinct.

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Fitzroy: Atherton Gardens

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
2.5% - 7.5%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that Atherton Gardens can likely support circa 5% or 4,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as one to three anchor tenants with a small number of supporting retail tenancies.

Commercial:

EY recommend that Atherton Gardens can likely support circa 1.5% or 1,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education and/or support services as well as community and/or mission-based organisations.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Gertrude Street and Brunswick Street, with the height of street frontages to be consistent with the pattern of 2 and 3 level development along these streets.

Richmond: Langdon Park Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend nil provision of retail.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Langdon Park Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education, government and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Elizabeth and Church Street, with the height of podium street frontages to be consistent with the pattern of 2 and 3 level development along Church Street, and up to 6 levels along Elizabeth Street.

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South Yarra: Horace Petty Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
3% - 8%	0% - 5%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Horace Petty Estate can likely support circa 5.5% or 750 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser).

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Horace Petty Estate can likely support circa 2.5% or 500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education, government and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Malvern Road, with secondary frontages to Simmons Street and Little Chapel Street.

Prahran: King Street Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

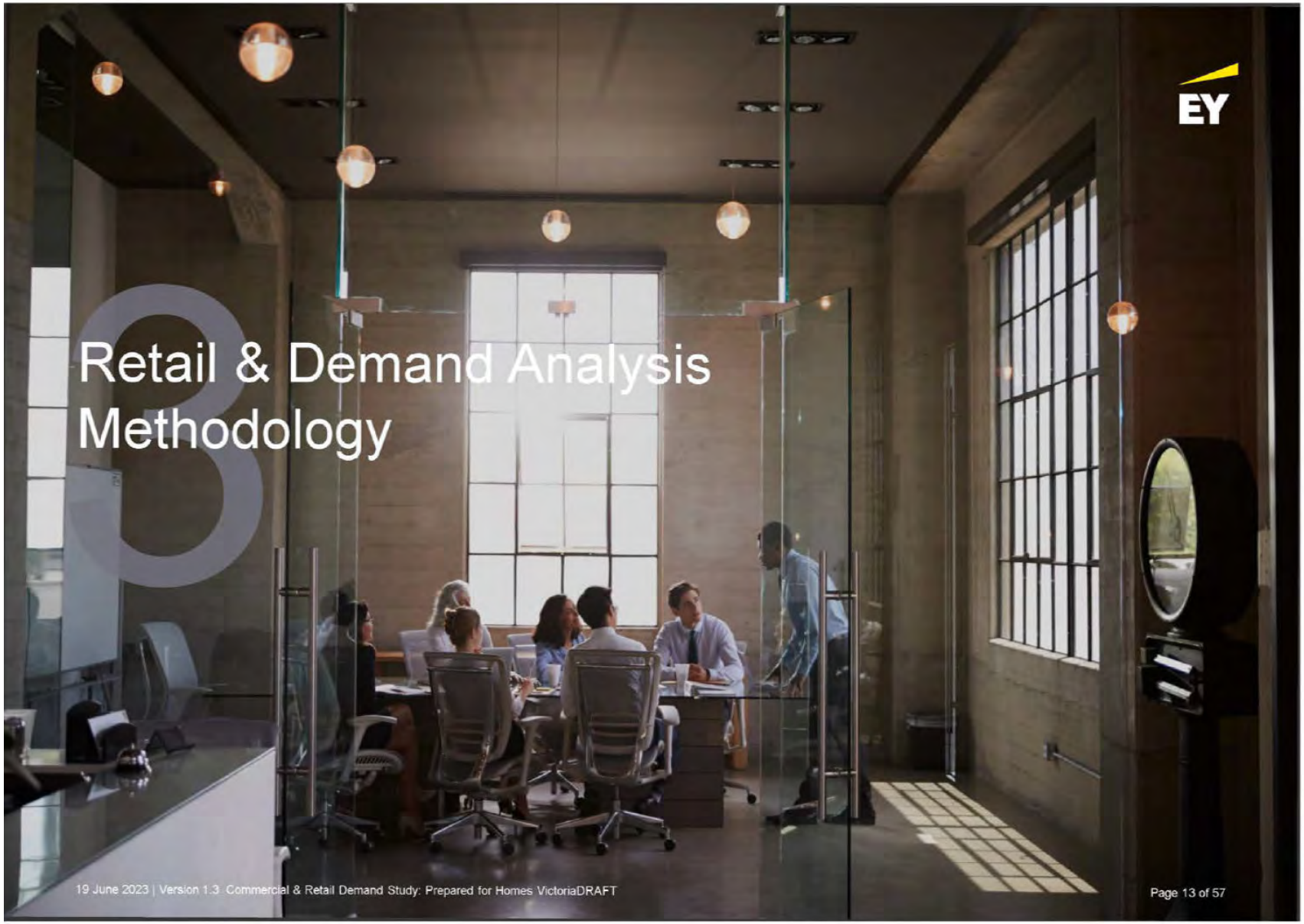
EY recommend that the King Street Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 250 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as a small number of retail tenancies and/or cafes.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Little Chapel Street.


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Proposed Methodology

Determining the appropriate allocation of retail and commercial space for each of HV's proposed sites requires careful consideration of multiple factors, including location, market demand, and local regulations. While specific information regarding each site is still in its preliminary design stages, general guidelines can be provided to inform decision-making within the context of this report.

In mixed-use developments, the percentage of GFA allocated to retail/commercial space typically falls within the range of 1% and 10%. However, it is important to note that these figures are approximate and subject to variation based on the unique characteristics and requirements of each site.

To assess the retail allocation for each of HV's proposed sites, a market analysis has to be conducted. This analysis has involved a high level evaluation of local market demand, assessing competition, and identifying the specific needs and preferences of the target demographic. As part of our investigations, we have engaged with local real estate professionals to understand the level of demand within each suburb as well as the rents and lease terms currently being achieved. We have not consulted with town planning experts or planning approval authorities, noting we consider these would also yield valuable insights for each location under consideration by HV. HV should independently seek to obtain formalised town planning advice to fully inform further analysis.

Moreover, it is crucial to be mindful of urban planning regulations and local development guidelines that may govern the allocation of space for different functions. These regulations could impose limitations or requirements on retail space allocation. Consequently, familiarizing oneself with the specific zoning regulations and guidelines relevant to the specific sites across Melbourne will ensure compliance and avoid potential setbacks.

In conclusion, determining the optimal percentage of retail and commercial space in a development requires an understanding of the local market dynamics and adherence to pertinent regulations. Conducting a thorough market analysis and seeking guidance from professionals will contribute to informed decision-making, enabling the creation of a successful and well-aligned development project within each site.

Our Approach on Likely Tenant /Lease Profile

EY has also undertaken a comprehensive independent research study to evaluate the various tenancy possibilities for retail and commercial purposes within the nine (9) HV sites. Our analysis encompasses properties that are currently available for sale, recently sold, up for lease, or already leased. Through this examination, we aim to provide valuable insights into the potential sizes, rental rates, and incentives that HV may consider when formulating their masterplan for each site.

Furthermore, our research process involved consulting with local real estate agents operating in the area, as well as leveraging research publications from reputable agencies that are active in the local area. Our consultations and research sources contributed to our understanding of the broader retail and commercial market, including demand and supply dynamics. Consequently, our findings and conclusions are informed by a robust foundation of industry expertise and comprehensive data analysis.

Key Considerations

We have made the following considerations whilst forming our suggestions on the volume of retail and/or commercial to be included in each project.

- Our recommendations serve as a guide to HV to consider during their design process and subsequent consultations with architects.
- We assume that the sites will be able to be granted planning permit exemptions to facilitate development beyond what is currently allowed under planning laws.
- EY are not planning advisors, and rather provide residential market commentary. It should not be adopted and relied upon without consulting with relevant planning professionals, including with Council.
- HV must exercise due diligence in adhering to the planning controls governing the area to ensure that the allocation of retail and commercial space aligns with the applicable planning requirements.
- HV must recognise that the market demand for retail and commercial space changes over time and our advice is current only at the date of this report.
- HV must consider the impact on the local community that occurs from increased pedestrian and vehicular traffic that may occur from the provision of commercial and retail uses within a development

Build to Rent Design Benchmarks

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Provision of Retail and Commercial in new Build to Rent Developments

As part of our analysis we have referenced new Build to Rent developments within inner-Melbourne as a proxy check for the provision of retail and office, given that we understand it likely that Build to Rent style product is to be considered of some of the nominated high value sites. The table presented below shows a selection of Build to Rent mixed-use high-rise projects that have received planning approval or are currently in the construction phase. We have chosen to remain silent on the project names in order to maintain confidentiality. These projects are expected to serve as significant benchmarks for the residential industry, setting standards for the appropriate proportion of commercial and retail spaces within the overall gross floor area (GFA) of mixed-use developments in each HV site. By analysing these projects, we aim to gain insights into the prevailing best practices and optimal configurations for achieving a harmonious blend of residential, commercial, and retail components in mixed-use developments which Build to Rent is considered to offer.

The provision of complementary uses for residential such as retail and commercial office that are incorporated within the development are critical for the following reasons:

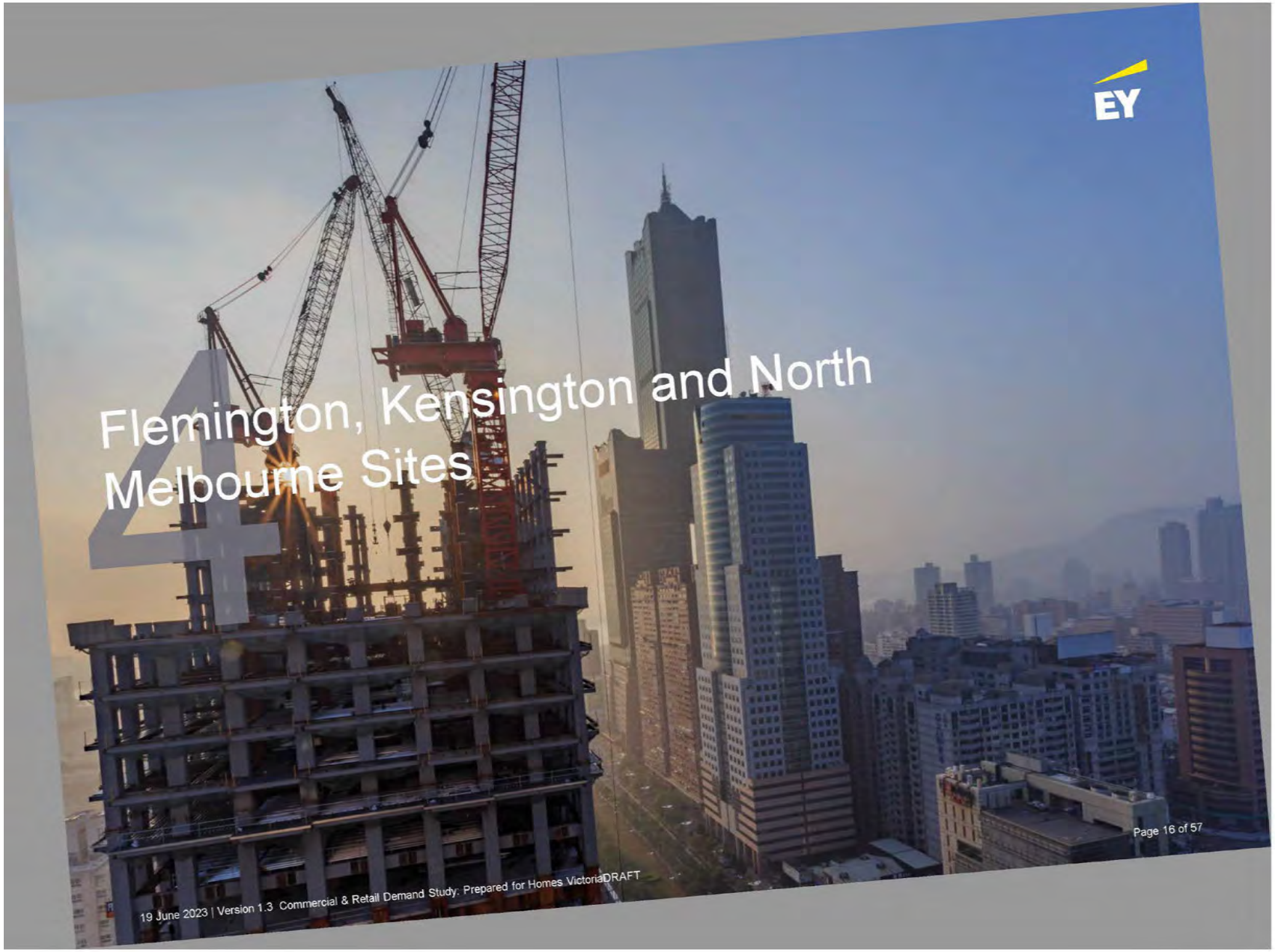
- Provides ground level and podium-level activation where residential uses would not be suitable.
- Complements residential uses and overall livability for the residential tenant within a residential development.
- Good quality retail and commercial office space can place-make, complement the wider community and attract occupier demand within the development.

Having regard to the above, retail is typically the preferred use as commercial office typically doesn't pertain to the same level of place-making and/or complement the residential tenant within the development. Co-working office is a type of commercial office that can be an exception should it be to the benefit of a residential tenant.

Build to Rent Tower Developments in Inner Melbourne

Project Metrics	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4	Project 5	Project 6	Project 7
Total Dwellings	267	1,155	816	702	125	474	284
Total Area (GFA)	36,143	98,037	89,547	52,547	15,014	54,044	27,380
Office / Commercial Area GFA	1,740	1,178	-	-	-	2,688	-
Retail Area GFA	1,643	425	1,832	445	1,455	701	642
Percentage of Commercial & Office / GFA	4.8%	1.2%	2.0%	-	-	5.0%	-
Percentage of Retail / GFA	4.5%	0.43%	-	0.84%	9.7%	1.3%	2.3%

Source: EY Analysis 2023


EY
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Flemington, Kensington and North Melbourne Sites
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Key Retail and Commercial Precincts

The following key commercial and retail precincts are in close proximity to the Flemington, Kensington and North Melbourne Subject Properties:

1. Racecourse Road and Pin Oak Crescent
2. Macaulay (proposed / under construction)
3. Macaulay Road

These precincts have been identified on the map at right.



Source: Nearmap, EY, 2023
Note: Locations are approximate

Provision of Retail and Commercial in Recent Developments within North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington

We have considered the provision of retail and commercial space within major recent planning applications within the proximity of the Subject Properties, looking specifically at recent mixed use developments of greater than 50 dwellings within two kilometres of the Subject Properties.

The proportion of GFA within these developments can be considered as an approximate benchmark for the redevelopment of the Subject Properties. We have considered this as a proportion of the GFA for retail or commercial against the total number of dwellings.

Development Address	Zoning	No. of Levels (above ground)	Permit Status	Total Dwellings	Retail GFA (sqm)	Retail Factor	Commercial GFA (sqm)	Commercial Factor
218-246 Macaulay Road, North Melbourne	C1Z	12	Applied	423	3,339	7.9:1	Nil	-
280-286 Macaulay Road, North Melbourne	C1Z	12	Applied	104	457	4.4:1	Nil	-
287-313 Macaulay Road, North Melbourne	SUZ7	12	Applied	120	2,048	17.1:1	Nil	-
59-101 Alfred Street, North Melbourne	MUZ	12	Applied	165	2,280	13.8:1	3,465	21.0:1
77 Sutton Street, North Melbourne	MUZ	12	Approved	213	150	0.7:1	205	1.0:1
103 Boundary Road, North Melbourne	MUZ	12	Approved	75	459	6.1:1	Nil	-
139-149 Boundary Road, North Melbourne	MUZ	12	Approved	276	245	0.9:1	Nil	-
68-102 Alfred Street, North Melbourne	MUZ	12	Approved	63	Nil	-	8,031	127.5:1
87-105 Racecourse Road, North Melbourne	C1Z	12	Approved	269	673	2.5:1	1,825	6.8:1
75 Racecourse Road, North Melbourne	C1Z	12	Approved	96	Nil	-	Nil	-
500 Epsom Road, Flemington	CDZ4	15	Approved	315	391	1.2:1	Nil	-
86-96 Stubbs Street, Kensington	MUZ	8	Under Construction	199	1,415	7.1:1	131	-
Median Ratio (Dwellings:GFA)						**3.4:1**		**0.0:1**

Source: City of Melbourne, 2023, EY Analysis, 2023

The above table shows that recent developments within the proximity of the Subject Properties provide a median of 3.4 sqm of retail space *per dwelling*, with a range of 0.7 to 17.1 sqm per dwelling in mixed use developments where retail is provided. The above tables also show a median of nil office space *per dwelling*, with a range of 1 to 127 sqm per dwelling of office space in mixed use developments where office is provided.

There is a clear pattern of ground floor retail across the majority of developments with a limited provision of office and other commercial space. There is however no clear correlation between the zoning of each Development within the above table and the provision of retail and commercial space.

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Flemington Overview

The Flemington Subject Properties include the Crown Street tower and the Flemington Estate. The estates are within 1 kilometre of each other and are both improved with high-density public housing residential towers. Factors affecting the demand and provision of retail and commercial are described below and at right:

Location

The urban character and predominant land uses of Flemington is consistent with other CBD fringe suburbs of Melbourne. The suburb is predominantly low-rise residential, and the majority of the land area within the Suburb is occupied by the Flemington Racecourse and the Melbourne Showgrounds. Former industrial land and land within the Flemington Racecourse is supporting the development of high density residential.

Surrounding Development

There is limited mixed use development of scale in Flemington with the exception of two development at the intersection of Epsom Road and Racecourse Road: The Darley, by PACE development group; and the Quest hotel.

Proximity to retail strips and urban centres

Racecourse Road in Flemington is a commercial strip that runs between Epsom Road and the Moonee Ponds Creek. Both Flemington Subject Properties are proximal to Racecourse Road. There is a full-line Woolworths Supermarket on Racecourse Road, with limited commercial office space within the suburb.

Strategic Planning

Plan Melbourne 2050 designates the Flemington-Racecourse Road as one of ~29 major activity centres in the western region of greater Melbourne. The Plan does not however specify Flemington as an area for targeted redevelopment and future provision of employment.

Statutory Planning Controls

The Flemington Subject Properties are included within the Melbourne Planning Scheme administered by the Moonee Valley City Council and affect the built form of any development as well as the provision of retail and commercial space.

Crown Street

- **Residential 1 Zone:** The provision of a shop or retail premises is *prohibited* under the zone. Under the zone the provision of retail and commercial use is highly restricted.

Flemington Public Housing Estate

- **Mixed Use Zone – Schedule 3:** A shop or retail premises requires a planning permit. For uses that do not require a planning permit, the maximum allowable leasable area (GFA) for office is as follows:
  - **Office:** Maximum of 250 square metres.
- **Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 8:** Requires a development plan to be provided as part of a permit application, specific to public housing renewal at the Flemington Estate. While not a requirement, the Development Plan could identify proposed non-residential uses such as retail and commercial that meet the needs of the local community.

Summary

The provision of commercial and retail space is encouraged for the Flemington Estate and is discouraged for the Crown Street estate. Functionally, the Flemington Estate is larger in area and has greater street frontages than the Crown Street Estate and could support a greater level of commercial and retail development, including ancillary development such as car parking.

Re-zoning of each land parcel may be considered if greater built form outcomes are being contemplated by HV.

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Kensington Overview

The Kensington Subject Property comprises the Kensington Estate. The estate is improved with two high-density social housing towers. Factors affecting the demand and provision of retail and commercial are described below and adjacent.

Location

The urban character and predominant land uses of Kensington is consistent with other CBD fringe suburbs of Melbourne. The suburb is west of the Melbourne CBD and is predominantly characterised by low and medium density residential land uses with a lesser amount of industrial and retail when compared to adjoining suburbs.

Surrounding Development

While Kensington is predominantly low-rise residential, there is a moderate amount of mid-rise residential in the immediate proximity of the Subject Property. To the east of the Subject Property where Kensington abuts the CityLink freeway there is a modest amount of light industrial land uses, with some of this former industrial land having been redeveloped into residential and mixed-use projects.

Proximity to retail strips and urban centres

Macaulay Road and Racecourse Road form the two primary commercial and retail strips within the suburb. These retail strips are small in scale, however Kensington is well connected by road and rail to adjoining suburbs including Flemington and North Melbourne.

Strategic Planning

Plan Melbourne 2050 designates the eastern portion of Kensington as being included within the Arden Precinct – an area of predominantly industrial land designated as a Priority Precinct for urban renewal. The plan does not however specify any strategic direction for the suburb of Kensington.

Statutory Planning Controls

The Kensington Subject Property is included within the Melbourne Planning Scheme administered by the City of Melbourne. The below planning zones and overlay(s) apply to the Subject Property and affect the built form of any development as well as the provision of retail and commercial space.

Kensington Estate

- **General Residential 1 Zone:** The provision of a convenience shop is allowed under the zone, however a planning permit is required. Other retail and commercial office uses are prohibited, with the exception of a medical centre which is allowed up to 250 square metres.

No planning overlays apply to the Subject Property.

Summary

The provision of commercial and retail space is not actively encouraged for the Kensington Estate. Given the Estate's lack of main road frontage and the fact that the Estate does not immediately adjoin existing retail and commercial areas, there is a low likelihood that the Estate could support retail and commercial office uses.

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North Melbourne Overview

The North Melbourne Subject Properties include the Hotham Estate and the North Melbourne Estate. The estates are within 300 metres of each other and are both improved with high-density public housing residential towers. Factors affecting the demand and provision of retail and commercial are described below and adjacent:

Location

The urban character and predominant land uses of North Melbourne is consistent with other CBD fringe suburbs of Melbourne. The suburb is currently predominantly low-rise residential, with a range of industrial land which is now supporting redevelopment into medium and high density residential.

Surrounding Development

West of Boundary Road is an area of former industrial land, bounded by Racecourse Road to the North, Macaulay Road to the south and the CityLink Freeway to the east. The surrounding land is zoned Mixed Use and a large number of landholdings have approved permits for re-development into multi-level residential towers supported by retail, commercial, education and community uses.

Proximity to retail strips and urban centres

Local activity centres are proposed along Boundary Road at its intersection with Mark Street, and on Boundary Road at its intersection with Alfred Street. Both centres are in close proximity to the North Melbourne Subject Properties. There is a full-line Woolworths Supermarket directly opposite the Hotham Estate.

Strategic Planning

Plan Melbourne 2050 designates the North Melbourne Subject Properties as being within the Macaulay Priority Precinct – an area designated for major urban renewal.

The City of Melbourne's *draft* **Macaulay Structure Plan** identifies an objective to rezone land adjacent to the Subject Properties to a Special Use Zone to encourage 20% of total GFA for employment uses, however no rezoning is proposed for the Subject Properties. The Plan also identifies support for local activity centres adjacent to but not within the Subject properties.

Statutory Planning Controls

The North Melbourne Subject Properties are included within the Melbourne Planning Scheme administered by the City of Melbourne. The below planning zones and overlay(s) apply to the Subject Properties and affect the built form of any development as well as the provision of retail and commercial space.

Hotham Estate

- **Commercial 1 Zone:** Included in the purpose of the Commercial 1 Zone is the objective to create vibrant mixed use commercial centres for retail, office, business, entertainment and community uses. There is no defined minimum or maximum allowance for commercial or retail GFA specified under the schedule to the zone.

North Melbourne Estate

- **Mixed Use Zone:** For uses that do not require a planning permit, the maximum allowable leasable area (GFA) for office and retail (shop) is as follows:
  - **Office:** Maximum of 250 square metres (other than Medical Centre).
  - **Shop:** Maximum of 150 square metres.

Both North Melbourne Subject Properties are affected by the following overlay:

- **Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 63:** Defines a range of objectives for planning, including encouraging the ground floor of buildings to be designed so that they can be used for a variety of uses over time.

Summary

The provision of commercial and retail space is encouraged for the Hotham Estate and is marginally encouraged for the North Melbourne Estate. The prevailing land use and pattern of development within North Melbourne includes increasing density of residential and an increasing provision of office and retail. It is likely that each North Melbourne Subject Property could support moderate levels of commercial and retail uses, based on surrounding permit approvals.

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Tenant and Lease Profile Analysis

In the table below we have undertaken an analysis of the likely tenancies and their lease profiles for the Retail/Commercial market within North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington. To ensure the accuracy of our findings, we have communicated with local real estate agents and researched property that have been leased or for lease which has provided valuable insights into the lease profiles commonly observed in mixed-use developments. While the North Melbourne, Kensington and Flemington sites are in close proximity to each other, there are still retail and commercial sub-markets in these areas. We note the following differences specific to each suburb and proposal:

North Melbourne

- Existing demand for retail and commercial space in North Melbourne is low, however this may improve with the development of the Arden Precinct.
- The built form of the proposed developments is less than in Flemington, with limited additional dwellings and occupants driving demand for increased retail and office space.

Flemington

- Demand for retail in the Flemington estate will feed off existing established retail and commercial along Racecourse Road, and is therefore likely to be able to absorb a greater GFA and may realise higher rental rates relative to North Melbourne.
- The proposed development of up to 20 storeys at the Flemington Estate will likely lead to increased demand for retail. The Flemington Estate will likely be able to support a major retail anchor tenant, such as a national supermarket chain, which would in turn support convenience retail and food and beverage shops on the site.

Kensington

- Kensington currently exhibits limited demand for retail and commercial space, reflective of the prevailing low-density residential land uses in the vicinity.

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Tenant and Lease Profile Analysis (Cont.)

Based on the above we have compiled a summary table of likely tenancy types and leases that may be applicable to both sites. We have made a **critical assumption** that the proposed tenancies will be "Cold Shells" and the lease profiles to reflect this, it is the expectation that the tenant will provide fit outs for each tenancy. We have demonstrated in the table below of the likely lease profiles that would be applicable to the three suburbs and their likely passing rents based on market research and discussion with local real estate agents.

Tenancy and Lease Profile Summary

Likely Tenancies	GFA Ranges (sqm)	Lease Duration (Years)	Options (Terms)	Passing Rents ($/sqm)	Incentives (%)
Retail					
Anchor Supermarket Tenant	1,500 – 3,500	10 – 15	2 – 3 Options	$300 – $500	25 – 35%
Specialty Shops	70 – 250	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$450 – $600	20 – 30%
Cafes	70 – 150	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$500 – $650	20 – 30%
Restaurant & Hospitality	100 – 300	3 – 5	3 – 4 Options	$400 – $500	20 – 30%
Commercial					
Office	150 – 500	3 – 7	2 – 3 Options	$350 – $500	20 – 40%

Source: EY Analysis, Real Commercial, 2023

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Commercial and Retail Assessment

We have determined an appropriate range of commercial and retail GFA for each site based on our comprehensive analysis of the following:

- High-rise Build to Rent case studies in inner-Melbourne;
- Recent planning permit applications and approvals for mixed use developments of a similar scale to the Subject Properties;
- Discussions with local commercial real estate agents;
- Research and understanding of the retail and commercial markets

Our research and analysis of proxy developments have guided our recommendations regarding an appropriate apportionment of retail and commercial space within the total gross floor area ("GFA") of each site. We provide these recommendations below and overleaf.

North Melbourne: North Melbourne Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
3% - 8%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Hotham Estate can likely support circa 5.5% or 2,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as a single anchor tenant with a small number of supporting retail tenancies.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Canning Street.

North Melbourne: Hotham Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
3% - 8%	3% - 8%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Hotham Estate can likely support circa 5.5% or 2,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as a single anchor tenant with a small number of supporting retail tenancies.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Hotham Estate can likely support circa 5.5% or 2,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Boundary Road.

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Commercial and Retail Assessment (continued)

Flemington: Crown Street Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend nil provision of retail.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

N/A

Flemington: Debney Park Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
5% - 10%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Debney Park Estate can likely support circa 5% or 3,500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as one to three anchor tenants with a small number of supporting retail tenancies.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Debney Park Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial (whichever is lesser). This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Racecourse Road, up to the intersection of Racecourse Road and Holland Court.

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Kensington: Kensington Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Kensington Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 200 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as one café or restaurant or one to two retail shops such as a convenience store.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be along Derby Street and/or Ormond Street.


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Key Retail and Commercial Precincts

The following key commercial and retail precincts are in close proximity to the Carlton, Collingwood and Fitzroy Subject Properties:

1. Melbourne CBD
2. Lygon Street
3. Gertrude Street
4. Smith Street
5. Brunswick Street
6. Johnston Street
7. Collingwood Mixed Employment Precinct

These precincts have been identified on the map at right.



Source: Nearmap, EY, 2023
Note: Locations are approximate

Provision of Retail and Commercial in Recent Developments within Fitzroy and Collingwood

We have considered the provision of retail and commercial space within major recent planning applications within the proximity of the Subject Properties, looking specifically at recent mixed use developments of greater than 50 dwellings within two kilometres of the Subject Properties.

The proportion of GFA within these developments can be considered as an approximate benchmark for the redevelopment of the Fitzroy and Collingwood sites. We have considered this as a proportion of the GFA for retail or commercial against the total number of dwellings.

Development Address	Zoning	No. of Levels (above ground)	Permit Status	Total Dwellings	Retail GFA (sqm)	Retail Factor	Commercial GFA (sqm)	Commercial Factor
Hoddle Street Collingwood[1]	C1Z	17	In Progress	404	1,525	3.8:1	-	0:1
1-57 Wellington Street & 71-77 Victoria Parade, Collingwood	MUZ, C1Z	11	Approved	241	1,608	6.7:1	1,511	6.3:1
60-72 Langridge Street, Collingwood	C2Z	8	In Progress	Nil	231	N/a	4,939	N/a

Source: City of Yarra, 2023; EY Analysis, 2023
[1]**Note:** Confidential Project, we have remained silent on the location of these residential developments.

The above table shows that recent developments within the proximity of the Subject Properties provide a range of 3.8 – 6.7 sqm of retail space *per dwelling*, with a range of 0 to 6.3 sqm per dwelling in mixed use developments where retail is provided, however we note a lack of publicly available data for developments within the City of Yarra.

There is a clear pattern of ground floor retail across the majority of developments with a limited provision of office space within predominantly residential developments. There are however a large number of developments of scale in Collingwood, similar to 60-72 Langridge Street, that wholly provide commercial office with ground floor retail.

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Carlton Overview

The Carlton Subject Properties includes Elgin & Nicholson Street and the Lygon Street Estate. The estates are within 650 metres of each other and are both improved with high-density social housing towers. Factors affecting the demand and provision of retail and commercial are described below and adjacent.

Location

The urban character and predominant land uses of Carlton is consistent with other CBD fringe suburbs of Melbourne. The suburb is immediately north of the Melbourne CBD and is predominately low and medium density with a number of parks and gardens. The Royal Exhibition Building, Melbourne University and RMIT University are within or adjacent to Carlton, with the key retail precinct being Lygon Street.

Surrounding Development

Carlton is well serviced by public transport, and its proximity to the CBD of Melbourne and major universities has contributed to it's gentrification and development. The surrounding area is zoned Commercial and Mixed with a large number of landholdings having approved permits for re-development into multi-level mixed use towers with the provision of residential, retail, commercial, education and community uses.

Proximity to retail strips and urban centres

Lygon Street is a key retail strip with an established range of restaurants and retail, bounded by Elgin Street to the north and Victoria Parade to the south. Woolworths is located within Lygon Court with limited commercial office activity within Carlton.

Strategic Planning

Plan Melbourne 2050 designates the Carlton - Lygon Street as a Major Activity Centre – an area designated for employment, housing, transport, social interaction that provide access to a wide range of goods and services.

Statutory Planning Controls

Both of the Carlton Subject Properties are included within the Melbourne Planning Scheme, administered by the City of Melbourne. The below planning zones and overlay(s) apply to the Subject Properties and affect the built form of any development as well as the provision of retail and commercial space.

- **Residential Growth Zone – Schedule 1:** Included in the purpose of the Residential Growth Zone – Schedule 1 is the objective to provide housing at increasing densities in buildings up to and including four storey buildings through encouraging a diversity of housing types in good locations.

For uses that require a planning permit, the maximum for office and retail (shop) is as follows:

- **Office:** Must be located within 100 metres of a commercial zone, and the land must share the same frontage as land within a commercial zone. The leasable area must not exceed 250 square metres.
- **Shop:** Must be in a building, not a dwelling and must be used in conjunction with the occupation of a resident of a dwelling on the lot.

The current location of both estates don't permit a commercial space to be built due to the Subject Properties being located greater than 100 metres apart.

The Carlton Subject Properties are affected by the following overlays:

- **Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 8:** Defines a range of objectives for development within specific precincts of Carlton. This overlay aims to ensure that historical architectural significance of the building is preserved.

Carlton is predominantly zoned for residential use, with a smaller number of mixed-use and commercial zoning.

Summary

Under the planning scheme, the provision of commercial and retail space is not actively encouraged for the Lygon Street Estate or the Elgin & Nicholson Street Estate. The prevailing land use and pattern of development within Carlton, and the restriction of retail activity to Lygon Street only means that the Subject Properties can support low to moderate levels of commercial and retail uses.

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Collingwood Overview

The Collingwood Subject Property comprises the Collingwood Estate. The estate is improved with three high-density social housing towers and a low-rise social housing tower. Factors affecting the demand and provision of retail and commercial are described below and adjacent.

Location

The urban character and predominant land uses of Collingwood is consistent with other CBD fringe suburbs of Melbourne. The suburb is located north-east of the Melbourne CBD and is predominately low and medium density with a significant proportion of the suburb comprising industrial warehouses and factories.

Surrounding Development

Collingwood is well serviced by public transport, and its proximity to the CBD of Melbourne has encouraged gentrification of the suburb and the redevelopment of former industrial warehouses into medium-density residential and office uses.

Proximity to retail strips and urban centres

Smith, Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, located west of the Subject Property, serve as major retail strips comprising an established range of hospitality and retail uses. Supermarkets Aldi, Coles and Woolworths are all located in immediate proximity to the Subject Property on Smith and Johnston Street. There is a moderate level of mid-rise commercial office development to the south of the Subject Property, located primarily along Langridge, Gipps and Wellington Street.

Strategic Planning

Plan Melbourne 2050 designates the nearby Fitzroy - Smith Street Precinct as a major Activity Centre - an area designated for employment, housing, transport, social interaction that provide access to a wide range of goods and services.

The City of Yarra's **2020 – 2025 Economic Development Strategy** designates the southern portion of the suburb of Collingwood as a mixed employment precinct, targeted as an area for future office and commercial re-development. Collingwood and Fitzroy together support approximately35,500 jobs as at 2016.

Statutory Planning Controls

The Collingwood Subject Property is included within the Yarra Planning Scheme administered by the City of Yarra. The below planning zones and overlay(s) apply to the Subject Properties and affect the built form of any development as well as the provision of retail and commercial space.

Collingwood Estate

- **General Residential Zone – Schedule 3:** The following uses apply for office and retail (shop):
  - **Office:** Office (other than medical centre) is prohibited.
  - **Shop:** Must be in a building, not a dwelling and must be used in conjunction with the occupation of a resident of a dwelling on the lot.
- **Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 2:** Affects land in proximity to the boundary of Wellington Street and Hoddle Street. Defines a range of objectives for planning, including encouraging design that considers the streetscape and built form along major roads and streets within the City of Yarra.

Summary

The provision of commercial and retail areas is not actively encouraged within the Collingwood Estate, however the established retail strips in Collingwood and Fitzroy and the designation of part of Collingwood as a mixed employment precinct identifies that the Subject Property can viably accommodate low to moderate levels of commercial and retail space.

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Fitzroy Overview

The Fitzroy Subject Property comprises Atherton Gardens. The estate is improved with four high-density social housing towers. Factors affecting the demand and provision of retail and commercial are described below and adjacent. .

Location

The urban character and predominant land uses of Fitzroy is consistent with other CBD fringe suburbs of Melbourne. Australian Catholic University, St Vincent's Hospital Precinct and the Melbourne Museum are within or adjacent to Fitzroy. Fitzroy is known for its multicultural identity and its strong retail and café culture.

Surrounding Development

Major arterial roads bounding the Subject Property includes Victoria Parade to the south and Johnson Street to the north. Hoddle Street is also located to the east of the Subject Property. The surrounding area is zoned Commercial 1 and Mixed Use with a large number of landholdings having approved permits for re-development into multi-level mixed use towers with the provision of residential, retail, commercial education and community uses.

Proximity to retail strips and urban centres

Gertrude Street, Brunswick Street and Smith Street in Fitzroy are key retail strips with an established range of restaurants and retail as well as community-related uses. These retail strips have a vibrant nature. There are major supermarkets within and adjacent to the suburb, including a Woolworths and Coles Supermarket on Smith and an Aldi and Coles Supermarket on Johnston Street. There is limited commercial office activity within Fitzroy.

Strategic Planning

Plan Melbourne 2050 designates the Fitzroy - Brunswick Street and Fitzroy - Smith Street as Major Activity Centres – an area designated for employment , housing, transport, social interaction that provide access to a wide range of goods and services.

Statutory Planning Controls

The Subject Property is included within the Yarra Planning Scheme administered by the City of Yarra. The below planning zones and overlay(s) apply to the Subject Property and affect the built form of any development as well as the provision of retail and commercial space.

Collingwood Estate

- **General Residential Zone – Schedule 3:** The following uses apply for office and retail (shop) :
  - **Office:** Office (other than medical centre) is prohibited.
  - **Shop:** Must be in a building, not a dwelling and must be used in conjunction with the occupation of a resident of a dwelling on the lot.
- **Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 10:** Promotes and protects certain features and characteristics of an area such as historical preservation and environmental conservation. Intended to identify areas which require the from and conditions of future use and development. Exempts an application from notice and review if a development plan has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Summary

The promotion of commercial and retail areas is not actively encouraged within Atherton Gardens, however the established Gertrude and Brunswick Street retail strips that form the southern and eastern boundaries of the Subject Property in Fitzroy mean that the Subject Property can likely viably accommodate low to moderate levels of retail space with a lesser amount of commercial office.

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Tenant and Lease Profile Analysis

In the table below we have undertaken an analysis of the likely tenancies and their lease profiles for the Retail/Commercial market within Carlton, Collingwood and Fitzroy. To ensure the accuracy of our findings, we have communicated with local real estate agents and researched property that have been leased or for lease which has provided valuable insights into the lease profiles commonly observed in mixed-use developments. While the Carlton, Collingwood and Fitzroy sites are in close proximity to each other, there are still retail and commercial sub-markets in these areas. We note the following differences specific to each suburb and proposal:

Carlton

- Existing demand for retail and commercial space in the immediate proximity of the Carlton Subject Properties is low, as these Subject Properties are isolated from the Melbourne CBD and are at or beyond the fringe of existing key retail strips along Lygon Street.

Collingwood and Fitzroy

- Demand for retail in the Collingwood and Fitzroy will feed off existing established retail and commercial along Johnston Street, Smith Street, Gertrude Street and Brunswick Street. Atherton Gardens' substantial frontages to Gertrude Street and Brunswick Street will support increased demand for retail, and Atherton Gardens will likely be able to absorb a greater GFA and may realise higher rental rates relative to the Collingwood Estate.
- The Hoddle Street frontage may be able to support large format retail, such as an Officeworks or Repco, however the impact on residents and functional elements relating to ingress and egress should be considered.
- The Collingwood Estate will likely be able to support a lower amount of retail, however may be able to support commercial office given the increase in development of mid-rise commercial office in Collingwood creating a small office sub-market.

Based on the above we have compiled a summary table of likely tenancy types and leases that may be applicable to both sites. We have made a **critical assumption** that the proposed tenancies will be "Cold Shells" and the lease profiles to reflect this, it is the expectation that the tenant will provide fit outs for each tenancy.

Tenancy and Lease Profile Summary

Likely Tenancies	GFA Ranges (sqm)	Lease Duration (Years)	Options (Terms)	Passing Rents ($/sqm)	Incentives (%)
Retail					
Anchor Supermarket Tenant	1,500 – 3,500	10 – 15	3 – 4 Options	$300 – $500	25 – 35%
Specialty Shops	50 – 200	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$400 – $600	20 – 25%
Cafes	50 – 150	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$400 – $600	20 – 25%
Restaurant & Hospitality	100 – 300	3 – 5	3 – 4 Options	$400 – $600	20 – 25%
Commercial					
Office	150 – 500	3 – 7	2 – 3 Options	$450-600	20 – 40%

Source: EY Analysis, Real Commercial, 2023

Commercial and Retail Assessment

We have determined an appropriate range of commercial and retail GFA for each site based on our comprehensive analysis of the following:

- High-rise Build to Rent case studies in inner-Melbourne;
- Recent planning permit applications and approvals for mixed use developments of a similar scale to the Subject Properties;
- Discussions with local commercial real estate agents;
- Research and understanding of the retail and commercial markets

Our research and analysis of proxy developments have guided our recommendations regarding an appropriate apportionment of retail and commercial space within the total gross floor area ("GFA") of each site. We provide these recommendations below and overleaf.

Carlton: Elgin & Nicholson Street Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend nil provision of retail.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

N/A

Carlton: Lygon Street Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Lygon Street Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 250 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as a small number of retail tenancies and/or cafes.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Lygon Street Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education, government and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Lygon Street.

Commercial and Retail Assessment (continued)

Collingwood: Collingwood Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 5%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Collingwood Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 1,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). Large and medium-format retail may be considered, as well as alternative uses such as gymnasium's. There may be the ability to support large-format retail along the Hoddle Street frontage, subject to consideration of ingress and egress and the impact on residential uses immediately north of the Subject Property.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Collingwood Estate can likely support circa 2.5% or 2,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education and/or support services.

Frontage:

Frontage for retail should be to Wellington Street. Frontage and approximate location for commercial office should be to either Wellington Street or Hoddle Street, and close to the southern boundary of the site, encouraging connection with the Collingwood Mixed Employment Precinct.

The Hoddle Street frontage may be able to support large format retail, however there are challenges with ingress and egress, noting that the site is not on a corner, is adjoined by residential uses immediately to the north, and the easter portion of the Subject Property is only easily accessible to northbound vehicular traffic along Hoddle Street.

Fitzroy: Atherton Gardens

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
2.5% - 7.5%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

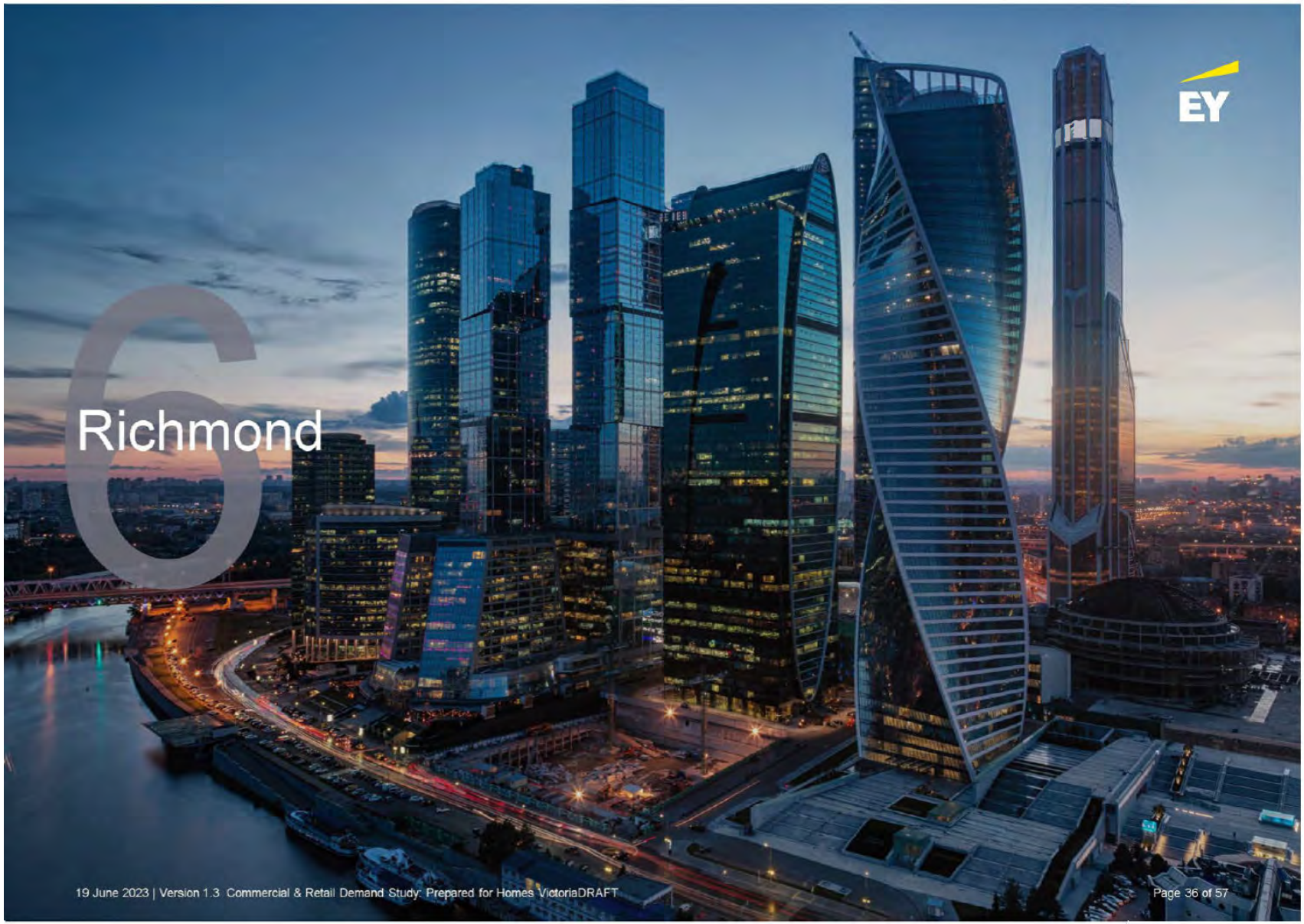
EY recommend that Atherton Gardens can likely support circa 5% or 4,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as one to three anchor tenants with a small number of supporting retail tenancies.

Commercial:

EY recommend that Atherton Gardens can likely support circa 1.5% or 1,000 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education and/or support services as well as community and/or mission-based organisations.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Gertrude Street and Brunswick Street, with the height of street frontages to be consistent with the pattern of 2 and 3 level development along these streets.


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Richmond
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Key Retail and Commercial Precincts

The following key commercial and retail precincts are in close proximity to the Richmond Subject Property:

1. Melbourne CBD
2. Bridge Road
3. Victoria Street
4. Abbotsford Commercial Precinct
5. Church Street
6. Swan Street

These precincts have been identified on the map at right.



Source: Nearmap, 2023

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Provision of Retail and Commercial in Recent Developments within Richmond

We have considered the provision of retail and commercial space within major recent planning applications within the proximity of the Subject Property, looking specifically at recent mixed use developments of greater than 50 dwellings within two kilometres of the Subject Properties.

The proportion of GFA within these developments can be considered as an approximate benchmark for the redevelopment of the Richmond site. We have considered this as a proportion of the GFA for retail or commercial against the total number of dwellings.

Development Address	Zoning	No. of Levels (above ground)	Permit Status	Total Dwellings	Retail GFA (sqm)	Retail Factor	Commercial GFA (sqm)	Commercial Factor
271 Bridge Road, Richmond (Home Richmond)	GRZ1, GRZ2, C1Z	10	Approved (Construction Complete)	364	6,766	18.6:1	2,716	7.4:1
Hoddle Street Collingwood[1]	C1Z	17	In Progress	404	1,525	3.8:1	-	0:1
1-57 Wellington Street & 71-77 Victoria Parade, Collingwood	MUZ, C1Z	11	Approved	241	1,608	6.7:1	1,511	6.3:1
60-72 Langridge Street, Collingwood	C2Z	8	In Progress	Nil	231	N/a	4,939	N/a

Source: City of Yarra, 2023; EY Analysis, 2023
[1]Note: Confidential Project, we have remained silent on the location of these residential developments.

The above table shows that recent developments within the proximity of the Subject Properties provide a range of 3.8 – 18.6 sqm of retail space *per dwelling*, with a range of 0 to 7.4 sqm per dwelling in mixed use developments where retail is provided, however we note a lack of publicly available data for developments within the City of Yarra.

There is a clear pattern of ground floor retail across the majority of developments with a limited provision of office space within predominantly residential developments. There are however a large number of developments of scale in Collingwood and Richmond, similar to 60-72 Langridge Street, that wholly provide commercial office with ground floor retail.

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Richmond Overview

The Richmond Subject Property comprises the Langdon Park Estate. The estate is improved with five high-density social housing towers. Factors affecting the demand and provision of retail and commercial are described below and adjacent.

Location

The urban character and predominant land uses of Richmond is consistent with other CBD fringe suburbs of Melbourne. Richmond is three kilometres east of Melbourne's CBD and includes a mix of residential, commercial, and light industrial land uses. Richmond is substantially gentrified, with former industrial areas in having been redeveloped into commercial and residential uses.

Surrounding Development

The surrounding area is predominantly low-rise residential however there is more intensive development along Bridge Road to the south and south-west of the Subject Property. There are a large number of landholdings having approved permits for re-development into multi-level mixed use low-mid level towers with the provision of residential, retail and commercial.

Proximity to retail strips and urban centres

Major retail precincts within the proximity of the Subject Property includes Victoria Street to the north and Bridge Road to the south. Victoria Street and Bridge Road are key retail strips with an established range of restaurants and retail as well as community-related uses. There are major supermarkets within proximity of the Subject Property, including a Woolworths and Aldi on Victoria, a Coles on Bridge Road and a Coles Supermarket on Burnley Street in the Victoria Gardens Shopping Centre. There is a moderate level of commercial office activity within Richmond, with a number of modern commercial office and light industrial developments immediately south of the Subject Property.

Strategic Planning

Plan Melbourne 2050 designates the Richmond – Bridge Road, Richmond – Victoria Street and Richmond – Swan Street as Major Activity Centres – an area designated for employment, housing, transport, social interaction.

Statutory Planning Controls

The Subject Property is included within the Yarra Planning Scheme administered by the City of Yarra. The below planning zones and overlay(s) apply to the Subject Property and affect the built form of any development as well as the provision of retail and commercial space.

Langdon Park Estate

- **General Residential Zone – Schedule 3:** The following uses apply for office and retail (shop) :
  - **Office:** Office (other than medical centre) is prohibited.
  - **Shop:** Must be in a building, not a dwelling and must be used in conjunction with the occupation of a resident of a dwelling on the lot.
- **Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 2:** Affects the western portion of the Subject Property along its frontage to Church Street, and generally encourages design and planning that responds to main roads and adjacent residential uses.
- **Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 10:** Promotes and protects certain features and characteristics of an area such as historical preservation and environmental conservation. Intended to identify areas which require the from and conditions of future use and development. Exempts an application from notice and review if a development plan has been prepared to the satisfaction of the responsible authority.

Summary

The promotion of retail within the Langdon Park Estate is not actively encouraged, however the proximity of the Subject Property to commercial areas of Cremorne, Richmond and Abbotsford mean that the Subject Property can likely viably accommodate low to moderate levels of commercial office. Considering the impact of COVID-19, Richmond's Victoria Street retail markets have experienced fluctuating rental rates and retail demand, as reported by local agents. We have taken this into account when formulating our recommendations.

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Tenant and Lease Profile Analysis

In the table below we have undertaken an analysis of the likely tenancies and their lease profiles for the Retail/Commercial market within Richmond. To ensure the accuracy of our findings, we have communicated with local real estate agents and researched property that have been leased or for lease which has provided valuable insights into the lease profiles commonly observed in mixed-use developments.

Richmond

- The demand for retail within Richmond is strongly driven by proximity and frontage to major east-west roads including Victoria Street, Bridge Road and Swan Street, and to a lesser extent Church Street, where there are established retail strips. Frontage to these strips is key, as retail activity is strongly driven by pedestrian traffic and visibility to main roads. As the primary frontages for the Langdon Park Estate are to Elizabeth Street and Lennox Street, relatively quiet streets, there is likely a limited ability for retail within the Estate.
- There is a consolidation of office activity in Cremorne, south of the Subject Property, with isolated commercial office developments being established elsewhere in Richmond and north of the Subject Property in Abbotsford. The proximity of Richmond and the Subject Property to key public transport routes and the CBD of Melbourne means that there is a likelihood for commercial office to be supported within the Estate, albeit to a limited extent.

Based on the above we have compiled a summary table of likely tenancy types and leases that may be applicable to both sites. We have made a **critical assumption** that the proposed tenancies will be "Cold Shells" and the lease profiles to reflect this, it is the expectation that the tenant will provide fit outs for each tenancy.

Tenancy and Lease Profile Summary

Likely Tenancies	GFA Ranges (sqm)	Lease Duration (Years)	Options (Terms)	Passing Rents ($/sqm)	Incentives (%)
Retail					
Anchor Supermarket Tenant	1,500 – 3,500	10 – 15	3 – 4 Options	$300 – $500	25 – 35%
Specialty Shops	50 – 200	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$400 - $750	20 – 25%
Cafes	50 – 150	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$400 - $750	20 – 25%
Restaurant & Hospitality	100 – 300	3 – 5	3 – 4 Options	$400 - $750	20 – 25%
Commercial					
Office	150 – 500	3 – 7	2 – 3 Options	$300 - $650	20 – 40%

Source: EY Analysis, Real Commercial, 2023

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Commercial and Retail Assessment

We have determined an appropriate range of commercial and retail GFA for each site based on our comprehensive analysis of the following:

- High-rise Build to Rent case studies in inner-Melbourne;
- Recent planning permit applications and approvals for mixed use developments of a similar scale to the Subject Properties;
- Discussions with local commercial real estate agents;
- Research and understanding of the retail and commercial markets

Our research and analysis of proxy developments have guided our recommendations regarding an appropriate apportionment of retail and commercial space within the total gross floor area ("GFA") of each site. We provide these recommendations below and overleaf.

Richmond: Langdon Park Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

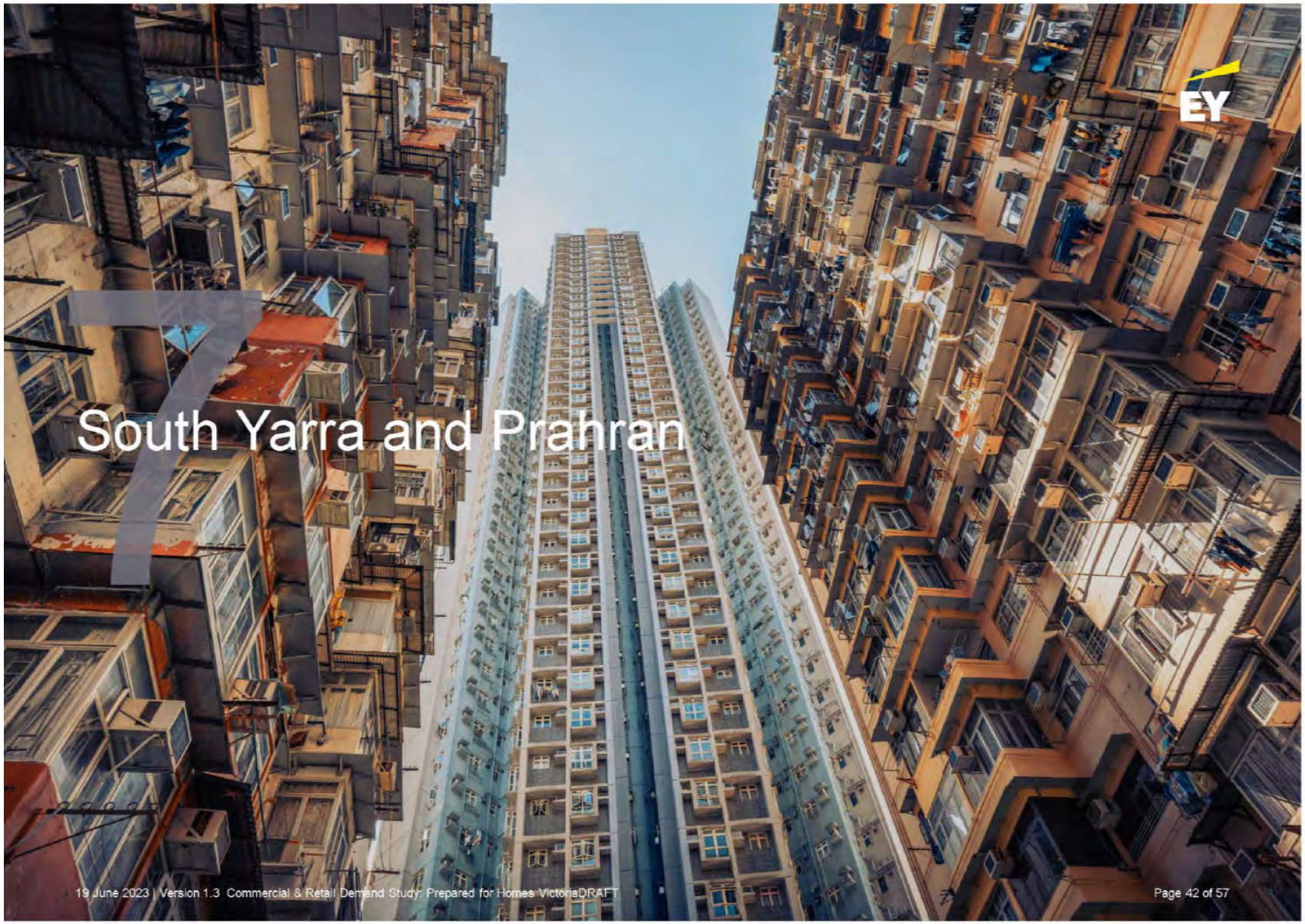
EY recommend nil provision of retail.

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Langdon Park Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education, government and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Elizabeth and Church Street, with the height of podium street frontages to be consistent with the pattern of 2 and 3 level development along Church Street, and up to 6 levels along Elizabeth Street.


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South Yarra and Prahran
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Key Retail and Commercial Precincts

The following key commercial and retail precincts are in close proximity to the South Yarra and Prahran, Subject Properties:

1. Commercial Road and Malvern Road
2. Chapel Street
3. High Street

These precincts have been identified on the map at right.



Source: Nearmap, EY, 2023
Note: Locations are approximate

South Yarra and Prahran

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South Yarra and Prahran Overview

The South Yarra and Prahran Subject Properties comprise of the Horace Petty Estate and King Street Estate. Both Estates are each improved with two high-density social housing towers. Factors affecting the demand and provision of retail and commercial are described below and adjacent.

Location

The urban character and predominant land uses of South Yarra and Prahran is consistent with other CBD fringe suburbs of Melbourne. Both suburbs are located adjacent to each other, south-east of the Melbourne CBD and comprise of predominately of low and medium density developments. South Yarra and Prahran are both known for it's strong retail, bars and café culture.

Surrounding Development

Horace Petty is bounded by major arterial roads including Chapel Street and Malvern/ Commercial Road. Both Prahran and South Yarra are well serviced by public transport with trams running across Chapel Street, Toorak and Commercial Road. The surrounding area is zoned Activity Zone 1 and General/ Neighbourhood Residential Zone 1 and 3.

Proximity to retail strips and urban centres

Chapel Street, Toorak Road and Commercial Road are key retail strips with an established range of restaurants and retail as well as community-related uses. These retail strips boast a vibrant and lively nature. There are major supermarkets adjacent to both estates including, a Woolworths located on Wattle Street, Coles Supermarket on Chapel Street, Aldi on Elizabeth Street and Prahran Market (major fresh food market) located on Commercial Road. There is limited commercial office activity within both South Yarra and Prahran, however there is a range of first floor commercial office above retail shops.

Strategic Planning

Plan Melbourne 2050 designates Prahran and South Yarra as Major Activity Centres – an area designated for employment , housing, transport, social interaction that provide access to a wide range of goods and services.

Statutory Planning Controls

The Subject Properties are included within the Stonnington Planning Scheme administered by the City of Stonnington. The below planning zones and overlay(s) apply to the Subject Properties and affect the built form of any development as well as the provision of retail and commercial space.

Activity Centre Zone – Schedule 1: The following uses are allowed within the Activity Centre Zone precinct relevant to both Subject Properties:

- **Shop:** Allowed
- **Office:** Must not be located at ground floor on land designated for Main Street Uses. Any frontage at ground floor must not exceed 2 metres.

- **Development Plan Overlay – Schedule 5:** This schedule to the Development Plan Overlay is specific to the Prahran Housing Precinct, which includes various social housing estates inclusive of the Subject Properties. The schedule promotes housing diversity and access to health and community services, retail services, employment and educational opportunities.

Summary

Horace Petty

The promotion of retail within the Horace Petty Estate is encouraged, given its frontage to Malvern Road and proximity to Chapel Street. There is however a lower likelihood that the Subject Property could sustain commercial office given the limited demand for office accommodation in southern South Yarra and Prahran.

King Street Estate

The promotion of retail within the Horace Petty Estate is not actively encouraged, given its lack of main road frontage, however the Subject Property does have proximity to Chapel Street. There is a low likelihood that the Subject Property could sustain commercial office given the limited demand for office accommodation in southern South Yarra and Prahran.

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Provision of Retail and Commercial in Recent Developments within South Yarra and Prahran

We have considered the provision of retail and commercial space within major recent planning applications within the proximity of the Subject Properties, looking specifically at recent mixed use developments of greater than 50 dwellings within two kilometres of the Subject Properties.

The proportion of GFA within these developments can be considered as an approximate benchmark for the redevelopment of the Horace Petty site and King Street Estate sites. We have considered this as a proportion of the GFA for retail or commercial against the total number of dwellings.

Development Address	Zoning	No. of Levels (above ground)	Permit Status	Total Dwellings	Retail GFA (sqm)	Retail Factor	Commercial GFA (sqm)	Commercial Factor
500 Chapel Street, South Yarra (Jam Factory)	ACZ1	25[1]	Approved	400	18,500	46.3:1	20,000	50:1
14-16 Yarra Street, South Yarra	ACZ1	29	Approved	382	365	1.0:1	2,252	5.9:1
35-41 Claremont Street, SouthYarra	ACz1	29	Approved	304	149	0.5:1	-	-

Source: City of Yarra, 2023; EY Analysis, 2023
[1]**Note:** Project details TBC - comprises of four residential towers including two 25 level towers with the other two comprising of 17 and 12 storeys. Two 10 level commercial buildings will also be constructed

The above table shows that recent developments within the proximity of the Subject Properties provide a range of0.5 – 46.3 sqm of retail space *per dwelling*, with a range of 0 to 50 sqm per dwelling in mixed use developments where retail is provided, however we note a lack of publicly available data for developments within the City of Yarra. The most substantial development currently in planning is the redevelopment of the Jam Factory on Chapel Street, into a multi-tower development comprising retail, office and residential. This development was previously earmarked for circa 50% commercial office, which has been downgraded to circa 20% in favour of a higher provision of residential.

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Tenant and Lease Profile Analysis

In the table below we have undertaken an analysis of the likely tenancies and their lease profiles for the Retail/Commercial market within South Yarra and Prahran. To ensure the accuracy of our findings, we have communicated with local real estate agents and researched property that have been leased or for lease which has provided valuable insights into the lease profiles commonly observed in mixed-use developments.

South Yarra and Prahran

- Existing demand for retail space in the immediate proximity of the South Yarra and Prahran Subject Properties is high, due to key retail strips located on Chapel Street, Toorak, Malvern Road and Commercial Road. There is not an established office precinct in the area, with a lower level of demand expected for commercial office.
- Demand for retail in both South Yarra and Prahran will feed off existing established retail and commercial along Chapel Street, Toorak and Malvern Road. Horace Petty has substantial frontage to Malvern Road, and its proximity to Chapel Street will support increased demand for retail. Ingress and egress to and from Horace Petty will likely be able to absorb a greater GFA and its main road frontage means that it will likely realise higher rental rates relative to the King Street Estate.
- The Horace Petty Estate therefore will likely be able to support a higher amount of retail compared to the King Street Estate.

Based on the above we have compiled a summary table of likely tenancy types and leases that may be applicable to both sites. We have made a **critical assumption** that the proposed tenancies will be "Cold Shells" and the lease profiles to reflect this, it is the expectation that the tenant will provide fit outs for each tenancy.

Tenancy and Lease Profile Summary

Likely Tenancies	GFA Ranges (sqm)	Lease Duration (Years)	Options (Terms)	Passing Rents ($/sqm)	Incentives (%)
Retail					
Anchor Supermarket Tenant	1,500 – 3,500	10 – 15	3 – 4 Options	$350 – $550	25 – 35%
Specialty Shops	50 – 200	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$500 - $850	15 – 25%
Cafes	50 – 150	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$500 - $850	15 – 25%
Restaurant & Hospitality	100 – 300	3 – 8	3 – 4 Options	$550 - $850	15 – 25%
Commercial					
Office	150 – 500	3 – 5	2 – 3 Options	$450 - $650	20 – 40%

Source: EY Analysis, Real Commercial, 2023

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Commercial and Retail Assessment

We have determined an appropriate range of commercial and retail GFA for each site based on our comprehensive analysis of the following:

- High-rise Build to Rent case studies in inner-Melbourne;
- Recent planning permit applications and approvals for mixed use developments of a similar scale to the Subject Properties;
- Discussions with local commercial real estate agents;
- Research and understanding of the retail and commercial markets

Our research and analysis of proxy developments have guided our recommendations regarding an appropriate apportionment of retail and commercial space within the total gross floor area ("GFA") of each site. We provide these recommendations below and overleaf.

South Yarra: Horace Petty Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
3% - 8%	0% - 5%

Recommendation

Retail:

EY recommend that the Horace Petty Estate can likely support circa 5.5% or 750 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser).

Commercial:

EY recommend that the Horace Petty Estate can likely support circa 2.5% or 500 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as commercial office, whichever is lesser. This can include similar uses such as a medical centre, education, government and/or support services.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Malvern Road, with secondary frontages to Simmons Street and Little Chapel Street.

Prahran: King Street Estate

Likely GFA Range (% of Total Proposed GFA)

Retail	Commercial
0% - 3%	0% - 3%

Recommendation

Retail:

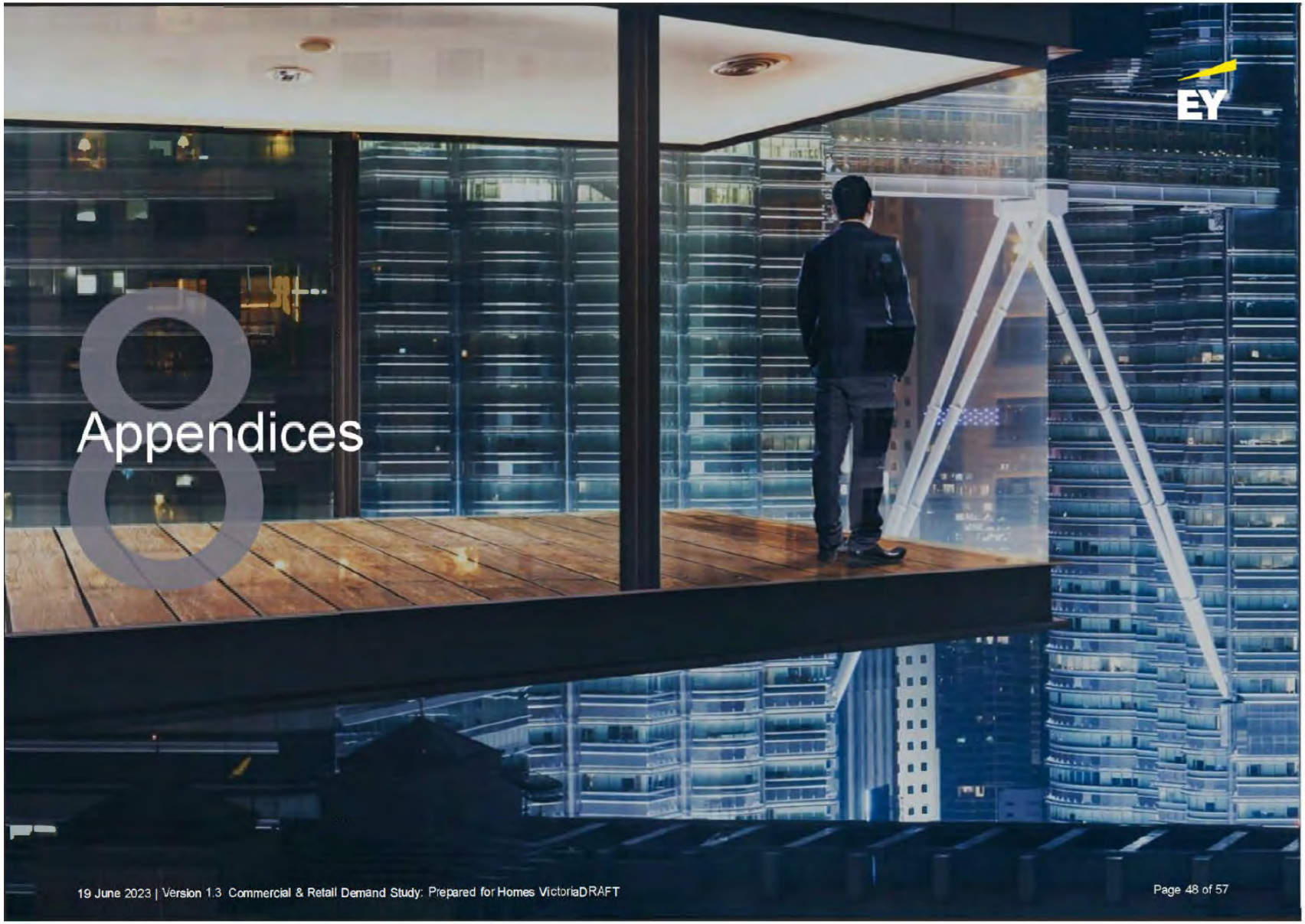
EY recommend that the King Street Estate can likely support circa 1.5% or 250 square metres of the development's total gross GFA as retail (whichever is lesser). This can be considered as a small number of retail tenancies and/or cafes.

Commercial:

EY recommend nil provision of commercial office.

Frontage:

The frontage for any retail and commercial should be to Little Chapel Street.


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Engagement Letter



EY
Building a better working world

[redacted]

Thank you for inviting EY to prepare a letter of engagement to Homes Victoria ("HV") for the provision of Real Estate Advisory and Commercial/Financial Support relating to the regeneration of a number of HV's high-density sites within Melbourne ("Purpose"). This support will comprise Estimates of Value (EOV), retail/commercial demand study, commercial structure design and a feasibility review ("Scope").

EY are pleased to have the opportunity to provide continued support to HV to assist in the delivery of social housing projects that will improve tenant and community outcomes.

Our proposal contained herein presents our understanding of your needs, the capabilities and experience of our project team, the scope of works and our projected fee proposal.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this proposal with you in further detail. If you have any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact [redacted]

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

Source: EY, 2023

Scope of Works

2. Scope of Works

It is proposed that EY undertakes the required scope of works in three stages as detailed below. We note that several of these stages can be undertaken concurrently:

Stage 2 – Commercial/Retail Demand Study

Undertake a demand study for retail and commercial space within the nine (9) identified high yielding focus sites. The demand study will work in tandem with the massing and yield studies to be prepared by HV to understand the scale and type of retail/commercial product proposed at each location.

We will use a range of data sources including high level data from Census 2021, detailed data from Census 2016, real estate data and research reports prepared by EY and external sources such as MSCI, Rp Data and discussions with agents/developers/investors active within this sector and geography.

The purpose of the analysis is to consider current levels of supply and determine the potential unmet levels of demand for retail/commercial assets (either as a rental product or purchase product) within each proposed development with the output reflecting the process undertaken, data analysis and indicative rental and capital value ranges at the (nine) 9 sites.
This phase of works will seek to produce a table outlining an optimal Gross Floor Area (GFA) range for both commercial and retail uses across the 9 precincts in addition to some retail and commercial uses considered suitable for the respective sites.

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National Retail Market Overview

- The retail market was heavily impacted by the pandemic and its lockdowns but has rebounded since the reopening of the economy, although plateauing with the increase in cost-of-living pressures. ABS reports indicate that retail trade rose +0.4% month on month, in March 2023, with an increase of 5.4% compared to March of 2022
- Transaction volumes totalled $1.35 billion in Q1 2023 across 21 transactions, which was the second highest transactional volume for a first quarter in seven years (CBRE). The transactions were driven by high levels of shopping centre transactions occurring (92% of activity), according to CBRE.
- Yields have seen an expansion across all retail asset sub-classes, bar CBD super prime, although at a slower rate than other sectors due to the greater impact of the current macroeconomic backdrop on retail industries (CBRE). Australia has become more desirable for global retailers and investors due to its proven economic stability, in comparison with the American and European markets who face fears of a recession (Colliers).
- Currently, yields for CBD assets have remained the same as Q4 2022 at 3.58% in VIC, 4.50% in NSW, 5.00% in QLD, 5.25% in WA, 4.25% in SA, with the only change being recorded within ACT of an increase to 6.50%. Over the same period, rents remained stable in all states except VIC, with a 10.7% decreases y-o-y and a 6.9% decrease q-o-q (CBRE).
- Ecommerce spending was rapidly accelerating as a market during the pandemic, but this has begun to ease within Q1 2023. As of result of unrestricted movement the largest growth has been seen in-store, with sales growing 11.5% while online sales grew 7.3% in comparison for Q1 2023 (Dexus).
- According to Colliers, elevated retail spending and improving occupancy, positive leasing momentum has been evident across Regional and Neighbourhood centres during Q1 2023. With Regional centre recording a growth rate for Q1 2023 of +0.5% and +0.4% for Neighbourhood centres (Colliers).

Super Prime CBD Retail Metrics



Source: CBRE Q1 Research, 2023

Appendix B: Retail Market Outlook

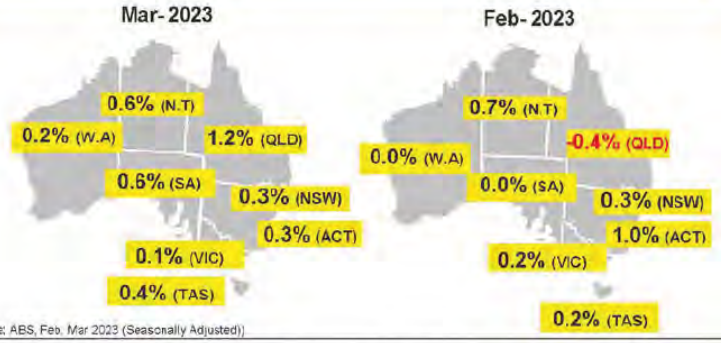
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Retail turnover (Seasonally adjusted)



Source: ABS, October 2023

State by State Retail Turnover Growth (Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: ABS, Feb. Mar 2023 (Seasonally Adjusted))

Retail Trade

- The ABS graph to the left depicts the effect the pandemic had on the retail sector. Nationally, retail trade turnover rose 0.4% per cent in March 2023 after a 0.2% increase in February 2023. The decrease in retail turnover in late 2022 was attributed to the rising prices and costs of living due to inflation (ABS). The decrease in retail turnover is seen across many states in Australia, with ACT, TAS and NT having the most significant impact. However, given a subsequent rise on rates again in May 2023, after the pause in RBA increases, the growth throughout the coming year is expected to flatten.
- The turnover from February to March 2023 for cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services (seasonally adjusted) had the largest increase at 1.5%, followed by a 1% increase in food retailing. The other industries faced decreases, with Household goods (-0.4%), clothing, footwear and person accessories (-1.0%) and Department stores (-0.2%) all recording decreases in turnover. Other retailing industries turnover was relatively unchanged (0.0%).These figures illustrate the effects that higher interest rates and inflationary pressure are having on specific industries. (ABS 2023).
- The image to the bottom-left shows the retail turnover growth by state over the period of February and March 2023. Within March 2023, all states recoded growth ranging between 0.1% to 1.2%. The inflation rate holding high at 7.0% in March 2023 and the rising in interest rates, despite the short-lived pause, have severely impact on household discretionary spending over the second half of 2022 and begging of 2023

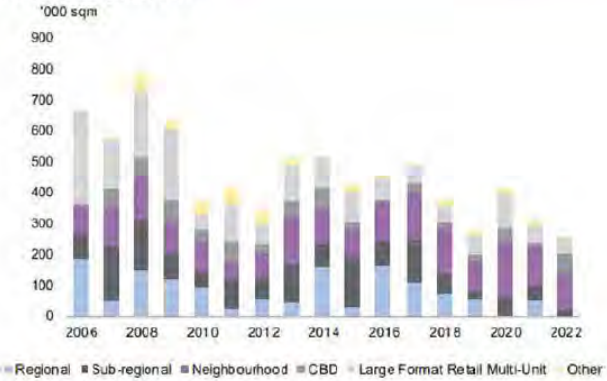
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Retail Market Outlook

- According to Colliers, retail sales in Australia continue to outperform market expectations, with the exception being the monthly decline in December-22 after seven consecutive interest rate rises. This decline was the worst outside of the introduction on GST and the pandemic, with Colliers predicting future retail sales declines to represent a correction of consumer spending patterns to more sustainable levels.
- There are a number of different factors that are affecting the retail market at present. There have been benefits seen from the pandemic reset, revitalized tenancy compositions due to sustainable rents and increased sales growth all creating a positive outlook for the sector entering 2023 (Colliers, 2023).However, the macroeconomic uncertainty will bring more challenges in restricted discretionary spending and potential outflows.
- Consumer sentiment remains well below the 1990 long-term average due to the rising cost-of-living, inflationary pressure and uncertain economic outlook. (Colliers, 2023)
- Furthermore, the labour market remains intense as most of the retail employers are encountering difficulties in finding workers. This comes at no surprise with stable unemployment rates holding at 3.5% in March 2023, moving to what is typically viewed as full employment.
- With the softening of the 10-year bond yield to its lowest level since August-22, Colliers suggest that the market is gaining further clarity on economic conditions, with Australia's proven economic stability being attractive to both global retailers and investors.
- Whilst economic headwinds will continue to raise challenges for the retail market throughout 2023, Colliers states that the underlying fundamental for retail centres are at their strongest since the onset of the pandemic, with increased sales growth nationally, stabilized foot traffic and healthy tenancy mixes on the back of average gross face rents being below 2019 levels.
- In Q1 2023 off the back of strong recovery from the affects of the pandemic and continual economic shocks, the number of potential business looking to start works in retail improved to 10% after falling in Q4 2022, albeit still below the survey average (NAB, 2023). With the business prospects for 2023 looking positive.

Total Completions



Source: JLL Australian Retail Market Overview, Q4 2022

Potential Impacts

- Potential financial market instability.
- Lower purchasing power in the medium term due to higher inflation / interest rates.
- Higher levels of required capex to compete with online retailers.
- Uncertainty in investor confidence
- Yield compression.

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Office Market Overview

- Vacancy rates throughout Melbourne and Sydney increased through 2022 and are expected to remain elevated over the coming years, as working from home conditions are normalised. This is attributed to the moderate supply within pipeline across Australia being completed in a subdued market. Sydney's net supply is said to grow 0.8% annually until FY25, while Melbourne will see a 2.0% growth annually over the next three years.
- Following consecutive interest rate rises market sentiment has fallen causing office rents to fall coinciding with the high vacancy rates well above the 8%-9% equilibrium rate traditionally seen.
- The labour market has continued to strengthen to date with unemployment rate remaining at 3.5% as at March 2023 (ABS). However, the rise in global uncertainty could weigh on the demand within the office sector throughout 2023. With the number one being the fall in commercial property values.
- A key theme present for all sectors in 2023 is the desire for high quality assets, as they are likely to outperform secondary offerings within the coming years.
- Australia's major office markets are seeing an ongoing flight to quality as employers look to attract and retain talent, coupled with an ever-increasing emphasis on ESG mandates. The flight to quality is driving rental growth in major markets including Sydney CBD where net effective rents for premium segment grey by 2.1% in contrast to net effective rents declined by 2.2% and 3.3% for A grade and B grade segments.
- Net face rent growth has been held up by rising incentives, which are likely to remain increased over the coming year. Corporates are increasingly settling on a hybrid approach to work; however, employees are still spending more than half their time in the office.
- Brisbane and Perth CBD markets experienced a positive net absorption for the year 2022, with Brisbane now having the tightest vacancy rate among Australia's big four CBDs. While Melbourne and Sydney in comparison had increased vacancy rates and a correlated negative absorption seen through 2022.

National CBD Office Averages

	Avg Premium Vacancy*	Avg. A Grade Vacancy*	Prime Yield (Low-High)	Secondary Yield (Low-High)
Sydney CBD	11.1%	11.7%	4.40% - 5.10%	5.25% - 5.75%
Melbourne CBD	12.4%	17.2%	4.75% - 5.50%	5.50% - 6.00%
Brisbane CBD	17.2%	16.7%	5.50% - 7.25%*	6.25%-8.00%*
Perth CBD	12.8%	19.8%	6.58%	7.93%
Adelaide CBD	5.9%*	11.8%*	6.13%*	N/A
Canberra Civic	7.0%	9.6%	6.00%-6.50%	7.00%-7.50%

Source: PCA Feb-22 OMR, Knight Frank CBD Office Reports February 2023, Colliers Metro Snapshot Q4 2022
*Q4 2022 Data , JLL

National CBD Prime Office Key Market Indicators & Forecast – Q4 2022



Source: Colliers Research Q1 2023

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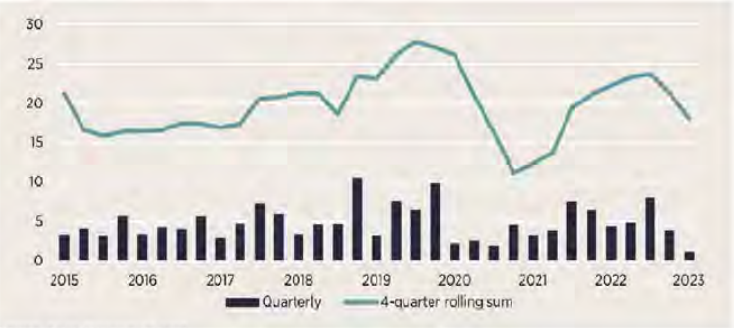
Transaction/Investment Activity Moving Forward

- Office sector investment has slowed further right across Australia reflecting the uncertainty over the outlook for inflation and interest rates, higher debts costs and the constant gap between buyer and seller expectations. Office investment volume declined by 70% in Q1 2023 compared to Q1 2022 with Investment activity also falling by 18% (Savills).
- In accordance to Colliers, higher interest rates and debt costs have put pressure on office property yields right across major CBD markets in Australia. Sydney CBD, has seen average prime yields rising by 20 basis points in Q1 to range between 4.625% - 5.25% with Melbourne's CBD, average prime yields increased by 22 basis points to an average of 5.10%. Nationally, A and B- grade CBD yields have softened by 25 basis points and 30 basis points respectively.
- Domestic institutional investors have become more active over the past year with net acquisitions of office markets totalling c. $3.7 billion over the year to Q1 2023 which is a c. $1.4 billion increase on the year before. In contrast, international investors fell by c.$487 million after several years of strong activity.
- With the softening of yields capital values have been lowering. According to MSCI Real Assets, capital growth in the office sector declined by 1.7% in Q4 which is the first quarterly fall since Covid impacted Q2 2020. Prime assets are outperforming secondary ones, with capital values for premium and A grade office assets have declined by 1.7% and 1.4%.
- The most significant transactions occurring for the first quarter to April 2023 were the ATO HQ in Canberra by Charter Hall for $290m from Real I.S and The Currency House, Hunter Street Sydney by the Milligan Group for $155.25m.

Market Trends

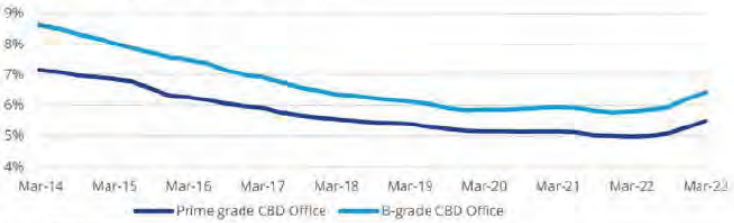
- It is anticipated that yields will continue to soften further in Q2 2023 as more transactions occur throughout the two major markets in Sydney and Melbourne.

National Office Investment Volumes



Source: Savills Research Q1 2023

National Weighted Average Yields



Source: Colliers Research Q1 2023

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Rental Movement by Grade

- Net effective rent has been on the rise as demand increases for premium grade assets (Colliers). Labour market has stabilised with the unemployment rate remaining at 3.5%.In Q1 2023, average prime net effective rents have risen by 5.6% YoY, which is the strongest result since Q4 2019 as the drive for premium-grade office buildings continue. A- grade and B- grade have shown smaller rates of growth with a 0.6% and 1.5% increase in the respective grades.
- Incentives remain relatively stable across all grades but face pressure as owners seek to attract tenants to new locations. The combination of stable incentives and face rental growth is aiding effective rents recovery (Colliers).
- As per Savills, rental growth has been boosted by the strong leasing marking. In the premium market, the cumulative increase in net absorption since H1 2020 across the Australian markets totalled around nearly 400,000 sqm, equivalent to 12.3% premium office stock, while net absorption in the A grade segment was 266,100 sqm, equivalent to 2.3% of A grade office stock. Brisbane has seen strong demand for office space due to strong employment growth and net interstate migration in contrast to Sydney and Melbourne which has seen a decline in the net absorption.

Economic influences on the national office sector

- Strong demand for high quality office spaces has continued to place upward pressure on the Prime net face rents according to Colliers, with a 2% growth in Q1 2023. Meanwhile, A and B grade face rents showed more subdued growth, with A-grade up 0.6% and B-grade up 1.5%.
- According to Savills, an increase in supply has driven the national vacancy rate higher from 12.9% in July 2022 to 13.3% in January 2023. Vacancy rose for all major cities except for Perth and Brisbane. Less supply in Melbourne and Sydney is expected to limit the upward pressure on the vacancy rate.
- Inflation remains the key challenge facing the economy, as well as higher trending interest rates and the fall in consumer sentiment also playing a role. Rising construction costs continue to increase face rental growth, despite effective rents in all CBD markets outside of Adelaide and Perth remaining below pre-covid levels (Colliers & CBRE).

National CBD Office Rental Rates ($/sqm)

CBD Market	Net Face Rents ($/sqm p.a.)		Net Effective Rents ($/sqm p.a.)	
	Q4 2022	Q1 2023	Q4 2022	Q1 2023
Sydney				
Prime Grade	$1,131	$1,157	$678	$689
Secondary Grade	$834	$844	$492	$489
Melbourne				
Prime Grade	$747	$747	$445	$445
Secondary Grade	$522	$533	$319	$324
Brisbane				
Prime Grade	$711	$719	$356	$365
Secondary Grade	$515	$526	$213	$219
Perth				
Prime Grade	$681	$684	$374	$377
Secondary Grade	$425	$433	$213	$221
Adelaide				
Prime Grade	$434	$439	$233	$234
Secondary Grade	$337	$337	$151	$151
Canberra				
Prime Grade	$435	$440	$297	$300
Secondary Grade	$340	$345	$229	$224

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Office Market Outlook

- CBRE's Pacific Market Outlook report for Q1 2023 suggests that the Australian economy will grow at a rate of 1.7% in 2023, with cash rates and inflationary pressure to peak in the coming months.
- With the normalisation of working from home ("WFH") and the continuation of this trend to be seen within the foreseeable future, employers continue to strive for the right balance between in-person collaboration and workplace flexibility.
- High demand for prime office space has resulted in a further increase in prime net face rents, and this trend is expected to be continually seen throughout 2023.
- According to Colliers, inflationary pressures are continuing to drive an upward interest rate cycle, however a modest decline to 6.9% for the inflation figure within the end of 2022 is encouraging. With the inflation peak and greater certainty on rates expected by mid-2023, asset liquidity should therefore return to the market.
- Knight Frank's 2023 Report concluded that rents are correlated to inflation to a degree, but the relationship is not particularly strong. Most markets are showing a positive correlation between rental growth rates and CPI inflation. However, there is strong evidence that rents do keep pace with inflation over the long-term, and in most cases have grown much more strongly. Rents ultimately respond to the dynamics of demand and supply, but cost pressure across the economy have a bearing on both sides of the equation.
- In response to the pandemic, many businesses are still recalibrating their office environment to cater for new hybrid work patterns. According to Savills, assets in central location with strong transport links will continue to outperform throughout 2023. Alongside high-quality office spaces that support business community.
- Construction cost pressures are also set to ease within 2023, with international freight shipping rates falling back to 2019 levels. Reducing constraints put on pipeline projects (CBRE).

Q1 2023 Indications

- CBRE research shows that rental recovery is seen in the overall office market. The upwards pressure on construction prices have led to costlier new projects forcing developers to increase rents. This then flows through to the existing markets where Landlords are therefore achieving higher face rents.
- Incentive are high within the office sector, with these values likely to remain elevated.
- Continuation of capitalisation rate softening.
- Market momentum is slowing given the increased number of failed marketing campaigns. Re-pricing expected over Q4 and softening cycle to be divergent by grade with spread between Premium A and B grade assets to return to the longer-term average around 100bps (Colliers).

Potential Impacts to Values

- Incentive level is showing signs of falling with focus shifting towards income.
- Potential slowdown in yield compression.
- Signs in rental growth.

As we progress **towards the end of Q1 2023** and beyond, interest rates and government bond rates have **softened** which may potentially impact on capital values and see potential **compressions** in yield. However, there may likely be limited transactional evidence due to the differences in the **vendor** and **purchaser's** expectations and as such it is difficult to determine the level of yield compression.

We note, these figures have been provided for indicative purposes only. Not all assets will be impacted in the same manner as changes in value will be dependent on asset specific attributes and factors.

Capitalisation Rate	Discount Rate
5.25%- 5.75%	6.25%- 6.75%


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Terms of Reference

Legal and Social Issues Committee

Inquiry into the redevelopment of Melbourne's public housing towers

On 20 March 2024, the Legislative Council agreed to the following motion:

That this House requires the Legal and Social Issues Committee inquire into, consider and report by December 2025 on:

(a) the rationale and cost modelling for the decision to demolish and redevelop the 44 high-rise public housing buildings and associated sites ('the plan'), including alternatives to demolition, such as refurbishment and renovation;

(b) the impact of the plan, including the compulsory relocation and displacement of public housing residents on the future net availability of public community housing and the existing decanting plans and the department estimates on the number of people who will permanently leave the area being developed;

(c) the findings and adequacy of consultations with:

(i) public housing tower residents and their representatives;

(ii) relevant local stakeholders, such as health, community and education service providers, residents and councils;

(iii) state and federal government departments and agencies;

(d) the efficacy of the proposed financial, legal and project delivery models (including the ground lease model) to be used for the plan, versus alternative models to improve and increase the number of public and community homes on the sites in question and in Victoria;

(e) building standards for the developments, including whether there will be the same standards for public, community and private housing;

(f) how different development and ownership models will be integrated within each site to enhance community integration and achieve a diversity of tenants;

(g) the likely impacts of the plan on:

(i) the number of bedrooms currently at each location versus the proposed number of new bedrooms per site;

(ii) the number of public and community housing homes at each location and how remaining public land will be used;

(iii) the Victorian Housing Register and homelessness while the plan is being delivered;

(iv) the future of public housing in Victoria; and

(h) any other related matters.

7.5 Animal Pound Services - Extension of Contract C1498

Reference	D24/233447
Author	Aoife Mulligan - Manager Parking and Compliance
Authoriser	General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. To provide Councillors with a response to the resolution from the Council meeting dated 18 June 2024:

   That Council requests a report be presented to the next Council meeting before a contract is awarded:

   (a) on all options available to Council for Animal Pound services;

   (b) that takes into account ethical considerations not just financial or logistic ones;

   (c) that references Mandatory reporting of animal welfare outcomes in shelters and pounds | Domestic Animals Act | Animal Welfare Victoria | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria; and

   (d) provides information in order to minimise euthanasia and maximise the reclaiming or rehoming of lost pets in Yarra.

2. This resolution was in response to Council Officers seeking approval for an extension to contract C1498 with The Lost Dogs Home, to provide animal pound services for a further three-year term (see attachment 1 – 18 June Council Meeting report).

Critical analysis

History and background

3. The City of Yarra requires a pound service that can manage any animal related matters, including stray animals, impoundment of dogs or cats that are not contained and the impoundment of dangerous dogs following an attack (public safety reasons).

4. Without this service, Council will not meet its obligation under section 68 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994.

5. Currently, there are no other organisations within an acceptable distance to City of Yarra that are be able to provide the service that City of Yarra require.

6. Should Council choose not to exercise the option to extend the contract, a new procurement process would need to commence. Council does not currently have time to complete a full procurement process, that would meet the current deadline of 30 September 2024.

7. Officers have carried out investigations into the questions raised. This report responds accordingly and provides the legislative requirements for animal shelters, statistics and comparisons across the shelters.

Discussion

Legislation:

8. In June 2022, the Victorian State Government updated the Code of Practice for the management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds, to make data reporting about animal welfare outcomes mandatory for all shelters and pounds.

9. The purpose of the Code of Practice is to specify the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in establishments operating as an animal shelter or Council pound.

10. The code is made under section 59 of the Domestic Animals Act 1994 (the Ac). It sets the minimum standards for how registered shelters and pounds should take care of dogs and cats and specifies the records they must keep.

11. The mandatory reporting requirements include the following data sets on the number of dogs and cats;

    (a) In care at the establishment, or in foster care, on the first day of the reporting period;

    (b) Physically presented at an establishment but not admitted (and reason they were not admitted);

    (c) Accepted for admission;

    (d) Admitted into foster care;

    (e) That waited more than 14 days to access foster care;

    (f) Permanently transferred to other establishments or groups for rehoming;

    (g) Reclaimed by their owner;

    (h) Rehomed;

    (i) Rehomed but returned (including the reason the animal was returned);

    (j) Euthanised (including the reason why euthanasia was the appropriated outcome); and

    (k) That died, in the establishment or while in foster care, but were not euthanised.

12. Any breach of the Code of Practice is to be investigated by Council in which the shelter / pound is located or by the Animal Welfare Bureau.

13. A copy of the Code of Practice and the data requirements are attached to this report (see attachment 2).

Euthanasia:

14. It should be noted that Pounds and Shelters will make every reasonable effort to rehome, adopt, or foster animals where possible, prior to moving to the destruction of animals. However, it should also be noted that there is no specific period in terms of days outlined. It depends on each case, e.g. if the dog is danger to the public, diseased or wild the timeline will be shorter than an animal that is appropriate for adoption of fostering.

15. At the conclusion of the statutory period in the Act, surrendered animals must be;

    (a) Made available for rehoming to a new owner, or

    (b) Euthanised because of disease, injury, behaviour, age, unsuitability for sale, or

    (c) Released under a written agreement to a person or body which operates in accordance with the Act to care for and dispose of the animal, at the discretion of the operations manager or veterinary practitioner.

Annual Report / Statistics:

16. Currently, the Lost Dogs Home is the only shelter Council is aware of that provides all services required by City of Yarra. The statistics provided below should read with this in mind.

Lost Dogs Home: Annual Report 2022 / 2023		
Statistic	**No. of;**	**Comments**
Animals placed into care	18,032	20% increase to previous year
Animals adopted	8,132	22% increase to previous year
Animals reunited with family	4,462	90% of dogs and 70% cats
Animals fostered	4,365	23% increase to previous year
Cats euthanised	30%	-3% to previous year
Dogs euthanised	10%	+3% to previous year

Geelong Animal Welfare Society 2021/ 2022 (Not in close proximity to City of Yarra)	
Statistic	**No. of;**
Animals placed into care	3,360
Animals adopted	1,920
Animals fostered	1,246
Cats euthanised	14%
Dogs euthanised	8%

17. Below are some comments regarding other shelters / pounds. It was noted that not all data was available of their website. A full report from Animal Welfare Victoria has been attached to this report for reference.

Premises	Comments
Save a Dog	• City of Stonnington ran shelter / pound • Annual report unavailable on website • A full procurement process would be required should Council wish to partner.
Wat djerring Animal Facility	• Managed by Whittlesea City Council in partnership with Merri-bek and Darebin Councils. • Annual report unavailable on website • A full procurement process required should Council wish to partner.
Lort Smith Animal Hospital	• Pound services unavailable at this location
Burwood East RSPCA	• Not accepting Council contracts.

18. **The Lost Dogs Home Roadmap:**



Options

19. There are currently no other available options to Council for Animal Pound Services.

Community and stakeholder engagement

20. Not applicable.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

21. The appropriate and safe management of animals align with the following actions of the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

    (a) Strategic Objective three, Local Economy; Strategy 5. Manage access, safety and amenity to enhance people's experience when visiting Yarra;

    (b) Objective three, Local Economy; Initiative d) Partner with local stakeholders and analyse available evidence to understand community attitudes towards safety to improve; and

    (c) Social equity and health: Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes social, physical and mental well-being.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

22. Not applicable.

Community and social implications

23. The contract provides staff the requirements needed relevant to animal management (Domestic Animals Act 1994) across the City.

Economic development implications

24. Not applicable.

Human rights and gender equality implications

25. Not applicable.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

26. The forecast for expenditure for 2024/25 is approximately $400,000.

Legal Implications

27. This report seeks to exercise the option to extend the current contract C1498 Animal Pound Services.

Conclusion

28. Contract C1498 includes the option for Council to extend the contract for a further 1 by 3-year period. The variation is accounted for in Council's 2024/25 operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) notes the additional information provided in response to the Council resolution of 18 June 2024; and

   (b) endorses the option to extend Contract C1498 for pound services for a further three years.

Attachments

1⇩ Attachment 1 - Council Meeting Report - 18 June 2024 - Animal Pound Services - Extension of Contract C1498

2⇩ Attachment 2 - Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds

7.11 Animal Pound Services - Extension of Contract C1498

Reference	D24/196733
Author	Aoife Mulligan - Manager Parking and Compliance
Authoriser	General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. To seek approval from Council to exercise its option to extend contract C1498 for Pound Services for a further 3 year term.

History and background

2. Council awarded contract C1498 to The Lost Dogs Home with a commencement date of 01 October 2019 for an initial term of five years. The contract included the option for Council to extend the contract for a further 1 x 3 year period.
3. The primary purpose of the contract is for The Lost Dogs Home to provide the Council with the following services:
   (a) the total care, management, handling accommodation of animals;
   (b) disposal of domestic animals delivered to the pound by Council's authorised officers; and
   (c) assisting with improving reclaim rates and assist with education programs.
4. The current contract includes a notice period of three months should Council wish to exercise the option to extend the terms of the contract.

Critical analysis

Discussion

5. Due to the limited number of options for this type of service, there are no current available options for Council to consider for these services as the Lost Dogs Home is the only facility that is proximate geographically to Council.
6. As the initial term of the contract was ending 1 October 2024, Council received on 30 April 2024 the proposed new fee structure to be implemented by the Lost Dogs Home.
7. The new fees for the main, common/ most used services is provided below (not all fees are listed below):

	Current Fee	New Fee
Impounding of Dogs	$259.99	$625.94
Impounding of Cats	$284.75	$625.94
Collection of animals	$136.19	$450.50

8. Council has been advised that the Lost Dogs Home is now standardising its cost across all contracts.
9. Currently Council charges fees for the release of animals when they have been impounded. The current and proposed fees for the release of animals is shown below.

Preview

	Current fee 23/24	Proposed fee 24/25
Release fee – Dog	$175	$182
Release fee - Cat	$120	$125

10. It is noted that these fees do not cover the cost of the Lost Dogs Home impounding or collection. It is acknowledged that the fees as drafted for the 24/25 budget are divergent from a cost recovery position for Council. Officers recommend for the preparation of the 2025/26 budget work be undertaken to review this position and a benchmarking exercise be undertaken.

11. Additionally, officers note that should a pet owner be suffering financial hardship in the instance of animal pick up, a process is followed in line with Council's financial hardship policy on a case-by-case basis.

Options

12. This report seeks the exercising of the option to extend the contract for a further three years for Contract C1498.

Community and stakeholder engagement

13. N/A

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

14. The appropriate and safe management of animals align with the following actions of the Council Plan 2021 – 2025.

    (a) Strategic Objective three, Local Economy; Strategy 5. Manage access, safety and amenity to enhance people's experience when visiting Yarra;

    (b) Objective three, Local Economy; Initiative d) Partner with local stakeholders and analyse available evidence to understand community attitudes towards safety to improve; and

    (c) Social equity and health: Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes social, physical and mental well-being.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

15. Not applicable.

Community and social implications

16. The contract provides staff the requirements needed relevant to animal management (Domestic Animals Act 1994) across the City.

Economic development implications

17. Not applicable.

Human rights and gender equality implications

18. Not applicable.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

19. The forecast for expenditure for 2024/25 is approximately $400,000.

Legal Implications

20. This report seeks to exercise the option to extend the current contract.

Preview

Conclusion

21. Contract C1498 includes the option for Council to extend the contract for a further 1 by 3-year period. The variation is accounted for in Council's 2024/25 operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) endorses the option to extend Contract C1498 for pound services for a further three years.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

Preview

Code of Practice for the

Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds

Revision 1



ANIMAL WELFARE VICTORIA

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Introduction

This Code of Practice is made under the provisions of section 59 of Division 4 of the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*.

The purpose of the Code of Practice is to specify the minimum standards of accommodation, management and care that are appropriate to the physical and behavioural needs of dogs and cats housed in establishments operating as an animal shelter or Council pound.

The Code of Practice is designed to cover all animal shelters and Council pounds, and includes any holding facilities used by these establishments. Holding facilities for the short term housing of animals prior to transportation to an establishment must comply with this Code of Practice. Specific conditions apply to the long term housing of dogs seized and held for legislative purposes.

The Code of Practice is to be observed by the proprietor, operations manager and all other staff of an establishment. All establishments must comply with State and local government legislation and permits.

This Code of Practice does not apply to wildlife shelters operated by persons holding an authorisation under the *Wildlife Act 1975* to establish a shelter for the rehabilitation of native wildlife.

Definitions

These definitions are provided solely for the purpose of interpreting this Code of Practice.

Act: the **Domestic Animals Act 1994**.

Animal: dog, puppy, cat or kitten.

Authorised officer: a person appointed as an authorised officer under section 71, 71A, 72 or 72A of the Act.

Animal housing area: all pens, cages or modules used to house animals at the establishment.

Bed: an impervious structure, raised off the level of the floor that is large enough to cater for the animal to lie comfortably when housed in the pen, cage or module.

Behavioural rehabilitation foster care: care for an animal outside of the establishment to rectify a behavioural problem to prepare the animal for return to the establishment for rehoming.

Cage: a structure designed to house a cat or kitten.

Cat: any animal identified as *Felis catus*.

Colony pen: a walk in structure designed to house up to eight cats or kittens.

Council: a municipal Council that may be constituted as a City Council, Rural City Council or Shire Council.

Disinfectant: a chemical used on an inanimate surface to destroy micro-organisms likely to cause infection in cats and dogs.

Dog: any animal identified as *Canis lupus familiaris*.

Establishment: an animal welfare shelter or Council pound.

Exercise area: an area separate to the animal housing area, which an establishment may use for additional exercise of animals.

Euthanasia: to cause the deliberate and painless death of an animal.

Foster care agreement: a written agreement between the establishment and foster carer, in relation to the animal's needs and foster carer's responsibilities. If the animal is placed in juvenile or veterinary rehabilitation foster care the agreement must include the veterinary care requirements and be signed and endorsed by the veterinary practitioner.

Foster carer: a person who undertakes behavioural foster care, juvenile foster care, short-term relief foster care or veterinary rehabilitation foster care for an animal outside of the establishment until the animal is fit for sale and returned to the establishment for rehoming.

Holding facilities: pens, cages or modules for housing animals for a period of less than 24 hours.

Impervious: materials or sealed materials that prevent water, urine or any other liquids penetrating the material or being absorbed and held by the material.

Isolation housing: pens, cages or modules that are kept in a separate area to general housing and used for animals suspected of having, or diagnosed with, an infectious disease.

Juvenile: a puppy or kitten.

Juvenile foster care: care for a juvenile animal outside of the establishment until the animal is strong enough to return to the establishment for rehoming.

Kitten: a cat aged less than 16 weeks.

Operations manager: a person responsible for the day to day operation of an establishment.

Module: a structure designed to house a cat or kitten after the quarantine period.

Pen: a structure designed to house a dog or puppy.

Pound: any premises maintained for the purpose of impounding dogs or cats.

Proprietor: For the purposes of this code:

- if local government owns the land and runs the pound = Council;
- if local government owns the land and a contractor runs the pound = Contractor / Executive Officer;
- if Contractor owns the land and Council run the pound = Council;
- if Contractor owns the land and runs the pound = Contractor / Executive Officer.

In the case of a Shelter, with a board of management, the Executive Officer is considered to be the proprietor.

Quarantine: separation from other animals until eight days after vaccination.

Puppy: a dog aged less than 16 weeks.

Rehoming: preparing and offering the animal for sale.

Short term relief foster care: care for an animal, outside of the establishment to allow a healthy animal respite from the pound or shelter environment to be cared for in preparation for rehoming by the establishment.

Staff: includes the proprietor, operations manager, animal attendants, volunteers and foster carers.

Transitional period: the period after a cat has been impounded for eight days.

Veterinary Practitioner: a veterinary practitioner registered under the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997.*

Veterinary rehabilitation foster care: care for an animal, outside of the establishment, whilst it recovers from a medical condition including an illness, injury or disease, until the animal is well enough to return to the establishment for rehoming.

Washable: an impervious surface that allows for cleaning.

Weatherproof: protection from the wind, rain and extreme temperatures to safeguard the welfare of the animals housed in the establishment.

1 Staff

1.1 Proprietor

The proprietor of an establishment must have a written health management plan that has been formulated in consultation with a veterinary practitioner. The proprietor may act as the operations manager or appoint a person to that role.

The health management plan must include protocols for:

- assessment for admission to the pound or shelter;
- vaccination programs;
- parasite prevention;
- response to an outbreak of disease;
- approved methods of euthanasia;
- management of isolation facilities;
- environmental enrichment;
- assessment programs for fostering animals;
- temperament and health assessment for rehoming animals;
- behavioural and welfare assessment of animals impounded longer than six weeks;
- processes for assessing and removal of animals deemed unfit for continued pound/shelter care.

The proprietor of an establishment is responsible for:

- the overall management and conduct of the establishment;
- ensuring compliance with relevant legislation and Codes of Practice;
- the health and wellbeing of all animals in the establishment and in foster care;
- promoting and supporting relevant formal and informal training to staff;
- ensuring there is a written and signed agreement stating who will be responsible for any building or plant work, where both parties' responsibilities are clearly defined if the proprietor is leasing the premises;
- having a written agreement with sufficient veterinary practitioners to provide prompt treatment other than first-aid and, if necessary, euthanasia;
- establishing and maintaining written foster care agreements;
- the protection of staff health at the establishment.

1.2 Operations manager

To operate an animal shelter or pound an operations manager must have relevant experience or qualifications in the husbandry of dogs and cats to meet their physical and behavioural requirements.

If an operations manager is in training and has not yet attained qualifications or experience then the operations manager must be under the supervision of the proprietor or a veterinary practitioner.

The operations manager is responsible for the day to day operation of the establishment which includes:

- the health and wellbeing of all animals in the establishment;
- reporting to the proprietor on matters of compliance and disease outbreaks;
- carrying out the directions of the veterinary practitioner;
- the supervision of staff and the provision of training;
- the maintenance and collation of records and statistics;
- supervision of daily feeding, watering and inspection of all animals;
- supervision and examination of animals upon entry;
- the overall level of hygiene in the establishment, including the disposal of waste materials;
- provision of prompt veterinary attention for animals when required;
- developing and prominently displaying at the establishment a plan to respond to emergency situations for both humans and animals;
- monitoring physical and psychological health of animals;
- seeking relevant expert advice for adverse behavioural change in an animal;
- removal of animals deemed not fit for a pound or shelter environment.

1.3 Animal attendants

Animal attendants who work at the establishment must be trained and experienced to properly manage the type of animals kept at the establishment. The minimum equivalent of one full-time animal attendant must be employed for every 50 animals housed at the establishment.

Animal attendants are responsible for carrying out the following duties and must report to the operations manager on these duties:

- daily feeding, watering and inspection of all animals;
- daily cleaning of animal housing areas; i.e., hose out, replace bedding, litter trays, feeding and watering utensils;
- administering medication and treatment as prescribed by veterinary practitioner;
- routine disinfection of animal housing areas and equipment;
- exercising of animals as required;
- provision of environmental enrichment for the animals.

The animal attendant must promptly report to the operations manager animals showing any of the following symptoms:

- any serious physical or behavioural abnormality;
- any change in behaviour in an animal;
- apparent pain;
- bleeding or swelling of body parts;

- bloating of abdomen;
- coughing;
- diarrhoea, especially if bloodstained;
- difficulty or inability to urinate or defecate;
- fits or staggering;
- inability to stand or walk;
- lack of appetite;
- lameness;
- pregnancy;
- red or brown coloured urine;
- repeated sneezing;
- runny nose;
- runny or inflamed eyes;
- vomiting;
- weight loss;
- whelping or queening.

1.4 Veterinary practitioner

The written agreement between the proprietor and the veterinary practitioner must include arrangements for:

- the use of the veterinary practitioner's facilities for the treatment of animals;
- the provision of isolation housing if the establishment does not have a separate first aid and treatment area, or isolation housing and the supervision of animals in isolation at the establishment.

Animals housed for veterinary treatment or isolation at a veterinary clinic and under direct veterinary supervision can be housed in pens, cages or modules contrary to this Code of Practice.

Where directed by a veterinary practitioner, unweaned, injured and diseased animals must be euthanased.

1.5 Vehicle driver

Any driver of an establishment, Council contractor, or Council animal transport vehicle must be experienced or adequately trained to carry out the following tasks:

- assessment, handling and care of animals being transported in accordance with admissions section 2.2 of this code;
- ensuring the hygiene and cleanliness of the vehicle and the cages and equipment used in the vehicle, including routine cleaning and disinfection;
- clean and disinfect the cargo area of the vehicle before another animal is placed in the cargo area if an animal shows signs of infectious disease or defecates, vomits or urinates in the cargo area.

Animals must be transported for the minimum time practicable, taking into consideration the most direct route from the area where the animal was collected back to the holding facility or establishment.

Where the pick-up of stray or injured animals is conducted on a shuttle basis to the establishment or veterinary care, the timetable must ensure the minimum time in transit for distressed or injured animals.

Severely injured or diseased animals must be examined and euthanased, where appropriate, by an authorised officer or veterinary practitioner as soon as possible.

1.6 Foster carer

This section applies to foster care programs conducted as part of a Council pound or animal shelter operation. A foster carer who undertakes foster care must have and comply with a written foster care agreement.

Foster carers conducting foster care for an establishment must:

- have the permits, where required by local government, to keep the number of animals at their premises;
- not have more animals requiring foster care in their care at any one time than they can singularly manage;
- notify the establishment and present the animal to a veterinary practitioner if symptoms of illness develop;
- provide environmental enrichment and socialisation in accordance with the written foster care agreement;
- follow any veterinary instructions on medication or treatment regimes as directed by the establishment veterinary practitioner for the animal in their care;
- follow any training or exercise regime as instructed in the written foster care agreement;
- not allow animals kept on their premises to leave the premises unless as specified in the written foster agreement;
- ensure that animals leaving the premises are in a crate or restrained by a chain, cord or leash that is held by the approved foster carer or a person designated in the written agreement as being able to control that animal. No more than two dogs can be walked outside at one time;
- return the animals under foster care to the establishment within the specified time set in the written foster care agreement.

In addition, foster carers conducting juvenile, veterinary rehabilitation or behavioural rehabilitation foster care for an establishment must:

- be trained or experienced to care for and meet the needs of the animals placed in their care for rehabilitation;
- keep the animals and their records in accordance with the instructions of the written foster care agreement;

- present the animal and all related records to a veterinary practitioner or operations manager or nominated person as requested or required by the written foster care agreement.

1.7 Staff health

Potential health risks for humans exist when working with animals. Some animals may harbour disease-causing organisms, which can be transmitted to humans (zoonoses). To protect staff health, a list of common zoonoses associated with animals must be prominently displayed throughout the establishment and staff must be educated in prevention of zoonoses. All personnel working with cats, especially women of childbearing age, must be made aware of the risk of contracting toxoplasmosis.

Staff health must be protected by being provided with or have access to:

- personal protective clothing;
- hot and cold hand washing facilities with disinfectant soap at the establishment;
- adequate information and training on health, hygiene and safety at the induction session;
- tetanus immunisation.

Members of the public must be provided with access to hot and cold water hand washing facilities with disinfectant soap.

2 Handling, treatment and care of animals

2.1 Handling

Staff handling animals must be able to demonstrate the knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour to undertake the appropriate handling techniques for the animals impounded at the establishment. Handling methods must be as humane as possible with minimum risk to the animals, staff and members of the public. The behaviour of the species and individual animal concerned must be taken into account when deciding on the methods used to handle the animal.

2.2 Admission

Every animal admitted to the establishment must be examined by a veterinary practitioner or by an experienced person, who is responsible for classifying the animals into the health status (Table 1) for appropriate action.

2.3 Vaccination

All dogs sold from an establishment must be vaccinated to cover the following diseases:

- Canine Distemper;
- Infectious Canine Hepatitis;
- Canine Parvovirus;
- Canine Cough (Parainfluenza (Type II) and Bordetella bronchiseptica).

All cats sold from an establishment must be vaccinated to cover the following diseases:

- Infectious Feline Enteritis;
- Feline Respiratory Disease (feline calicivirus and feline herpes virus).

Table 1. Health status and appropriate action to be taken upon admission

Health status	Action
healthy animal	for general admission process
moderately or slightly injured animal	to be given prompt first aid and treatment to relieve pain if required, or referred to a veterinary practitioner for treatment
severely injured animal	to be assessed immediately by a veterinary practitioner
unidentified cat that is wild, uncontrollable or diseased	may be euthanased in accordance with the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*
unweaned and orphaned animal	may be euthanased or veterinary practitioner approval granted to place in appropriate foster care
animal suspected of having an infectious disease	must be housed in isolation as approved by a veterinary practitioner

2.4 Quarantine

All animals must be vaccinated and serve an eight day quarantine period prior to animals being made available for rehoming. The only exception is if the animal was previously vaccinated and presented with a current vaccination certificate and is free from infectious disease.

At the end of the quarantine period, all animals must again be examined by the operations manager or a veterinary practitioner to assess their suitability
for sale.

2.5 Isolation

All establishments must provide an area for isolation for animals suspected of having an infectious disease or must have a written agreement with a veterinary practitioner to provide isolation facilities off site.

Isolation housing within the establishment must be physically separated by an impervious barrier or a distance of at least ten metres from other types of animal housing at the establishment. Animals must be maintained in an area approved in the animal health management plan – with particular reference to the area's airflow, workflow and cage or pen design.

All animals confined in isolation housing must be under the supervision of a veterinary practitioner and the fate of an animal must be decided by a veterinary practitioner.

2.6 Euthanasia or removal of an animal from the establishment

At the conclusion of the statutory period specified in the *Domestic Animals Act 1994* for seized or surrendered animals, animals must be:

- made available for rehoming to a new owner; or
- euthanased because of disease, injury, behaviour, age, unsuitability for sale; or
- placed in appropriate foster care and returned at an appropriate date for rehoming; or
- released under a written agreement to a person or body which operates in accordance with the Act to care for and dispose of the animal, at the discretion of the operations manager or veterinary practitioner.

The preferred method of euthanasia is barbiturate overdose, which must be carried out by a veterinary practitioner. Any method of euthanasia must be carried out humanely.

Euthanasia must be performed in an area that is separated from animal accommodation at the establishment and must not be carried out in view of any other animals or members of the public.

2.7 Care

2.7.1 Nutrition

Food must be provided in sufficient quantity and nutritional quality to meet the daily requirements for the condition and size of the animal.

Dogs and cats must be fed at least once a day.

Animals between four and six months of age must be fed a minimum of twice daily.

Animals up to four months of age must receive a minimum of three feeds a day.

Food must be stored in sealed containers which must be vermin proof. The preparation of food must be conducted in hygienic areas which must be cleaned and disinfected after food is prepared. The establishment must hold a minimum of five days food, the equivalent of that required under full capacity for the establishment.

All animals must have access, in their housing area, at all times, to a sufficient supply of fresh, clean water. The amount of water needed daily is approximately 50 millilitres of water per one kilogram of body weight but the amount may vary depending on a number of factors including health status, environmental temperature, amount of exercise, lactating animal, water content of diet, age etc.

Food and water containers must be non-spillable and designed to be easily cleaned and disinfected. Containers must not cause injury to the animals.

For dogs and weaned puppies, one food and water container must be provided for each animal. For cats, there must be one feeding bowl per adult and one feeding bowl per three kittens.

2.7.2 Disinfection and hygiene

Maintenance of hygiene in an establishment will prevent build-up of disease causing organisms including viruses and parasitic worm eggs. An establishment must be clean and hygienic at all times.

All pens, cages and modules used to house animals must be cleaned out at least once per day (or more often as required) by hosing or other appropriate means. Animal housing areas must not be allowed to remain wet if the animal is returned to the area. All faeces, used bedding, used cat litter and uneaten food must be removed prior to cleaning. Used litter and uneaten food must be placed in a waste disposal device. Waste disposal must be in accordance with the requirements of the appropriate statutory authority. Use of a trade waste service for collection and disposal of wastes is preferable. Wastes must not be incinerated unless the incinerator is registered with the appropriate authority.

Establishments must have an adequate water supply and must be sewered, on a septic system, or have some other adequate method of disposing of faeces.

All watering and feeding utensils must be cleaned daily using chemicals in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Utensils must be rinsed after disinfection to avoid poisoning.

Cats must be provided with clean litter daily. The trays, that hold the litter, must be cleaned and disinfected weekly or more often if required. Litter trays must be cleaned and disinfected between uses for different cats. Sufficient quantities of suitable litter material, such as commercial cat litter, sawdust or shredded paper, must be provided for each cat or kitten.

Disinfection of pens, cages, and modules must be done whenever the animal housing area is vacated or every eighth day with a hospital grade disinfectant. Products containing Phenol must not be used. Manufacturer's instructions for the use of these agents must be followed.

Pests including fleas, ticks, flies, mosquitoes and rodents must be effectively controlled at the establishment. Registered chemicals used for pest control must be used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and must be either prescribed by a registered veterinary practitioner or used in accordance with the appropriate authority. Material Safety Data Sheets for all chemicals used at the establishment must be current and kept on site in an accessible format.

2.7.3 Inspection

All animals, housed at the establishment must be inspected by staff, at least once each day and each animal's general appearance and behaviour noted. Puppies and kittens must be inspected at least twice each day.

It is the responsibility of animal attendants at establishments to report any animal that appears sick, injured or whose behaviour has changed, to the operations manager or proprietor or veterinary practitioner as soon as possible. Animals suspected of having an infectious disease must be housed in isolation.

2.7.4 Enrichment

Environmental enrichment must be provided regularly for all animals. This could be in the form of exercise, foraging opportunities, toys, play materials, grooming and socialisation with humans and the animal's own species. Grooming is encouraged and long haired animals should be groomed regularly to prevent coat entanglement. All enrichment and socialisation must be controlled to avoid risk of contamination of other animals. Items must be able to be disinfected between uses by animals or be disposable.

The proprietor or operations manager is responsible for ensuring that where an animal enters the establishment and is likely to be housed for an extended period for legal reasons, the animal must be assessed on entry for their physical,

psychological and social wellbeing by a veterinary practitioner and then at least once a month by a veterinary practitioner during the stay of the animal.

Animals housed long term must have environmental enrichment daily. Enrichment activities must be assessed for safety to the handler and the animal and should be varied regularly.

The type of enrichment could vary depending on the animal, the type of containment required for the animal and the period of confinement, as suggested in Tables 2 and 3 (see pages 14 and 15).

2.7.5 Exercise/socialisation areas for dogs

Exercise areas must be securely fenced and designed to prevent the escape of the animal and a person must directly supervise animals when more than one animal is placed in the area, to ensure the animals are not in danger of attack or other injury.

The type of exercise and socialisation could vary depending on the animal, the type of containment required for the animal and the period of confinement, as suggested in Table 2.

2.7.6 Exercise/socialisation areas for cats

Exercise areas must be completely enclosed and designed to prevent the escape of the animal and a person must directly supervise animals when more than one animal is placed in the area to ensure the animals are not in danger of attack or other injury.

The type of exercise and socialisation could vary depending on the animal, the type of containment required for the animal and the period of confinement, as suggested in Table 3.

After assessment, for compatibility in exercise and socialisation, up to eight socially compatible cats can be exercised together provided they are the same sex or desexed.

Exercise areas must:

- contain litter trays for each cat;
- be the minimum equivalent size of a colony pen;
- be well maintained;
- offer a form of enrichment (such as scratch posts, toys, access to high and low areas for hiding or rest);
- have a secure roof and be escape proof;
- have some shade within/over the area;
- take into consideration the health and hygiene of both animals and humans;
- allow access to water.

Table 2. Enrichment, exercise and socialisation of dogs and puppies

Quarantine period (eight days)	**Post quarantine period for all dogs except dogs seized for legislative purposes**	**Long term housed dogs seized for legislative purposes**
• Dogs must be singularly exercised, with the exception of puppies from the same litter or dogs surrendered together. • If there is an exercise area suitable for quarantine animals, the area and route to the area must be disinfected after use. • Exercise can occur in the dog's own pen or cage by encouraging activity (such as tug of war, hiding food treats). • Environmental enrichment should be provided – using equipment that can be disposed of, sterilised or decontaminated. • Grooming is encouraged – using equipment allocated to only that dog and equipment that is disposable or can be sterilised or decontaminated. • Human interaction should be encouraged but human safety, hygiene and risk of contamination must be considered and addressed.	• Grooming is encouraged. Grooming areas may be provided by a grooming service if the grooming is completed inside an establishment's premises and the establishment has a written agreement with the grooming service. • Dogs can be exercised within the establishment. • Dogs that have not been seized can be exercised outside the establishment. The dog must be restrained by a chain, cord or leash that is held by a trained or experienced animal attendant. No more than two dogs per animal attendant can be walked outside the establishment. A proprietor must conduct a risk assessment to determine if offsite exercise is necessary and develop a policy for walking dogs outside of the establishment for public safety. • For exercise and socialisation periods, up to six compatible dogs can be exercised in an area. An animal attendant must be in visual or audible range of animals in each enclosure at all times. • Exercise can occur in the dog's own pen or cage by encouraging activity (such as 'fetch', hiding treats, etc). • Human interaction should be encouraged but human safety, hygiene and risk of contamination must be considered and addressed.	• Can be provided with time in a secure exercise area but human safety, hygiene and risk of contamination must be considered and addressed. • Exercise can occur in the dog's area by encouraging activity (such as foraging). • Environmental enrichment must be provided – (such as toys, shredded paper, boxes, and chew toys). • Grooming is encouraged. • Human interaction should be encouraged but human safety, hygiene and risk of contamination must be considered and addressed.

Table 3. Enrichment, exercise and socialisation of cats and kittens

Quarantine period (eight days)	**Post quarantine period**
• Cats must be singularly housed, with the exception for kittens from the same litter or cats surrendered together. • If there is an exercise area suitable for quarantine animals, the area and route to the area must be decontaminated after use. • Exercise can occur in the cat's own pen or cage by encouraging activity. • Environmental enrichment should be provided – using equipment that can be disposed of, sterilised or decontaminated. • Grooming is encouraged – using equipment allocated to only that cat and equipment that is disposable or can be sterilised or decontaminated. • Human interaction should be encouraged but human safety, hygiene and risk of contamination must be considered and addressed.	• Grooming is encouraged. • Grooming areas may be provided by a grooming service if the grooming is completed inside establishment's premises and the establishment has a written agreement with the grooming service. • Exercise/play time in a secure exercise area. • Exercise can occur in the cat's area by encouraging activity (such as hunting). • Environmental enrichment must be provided (such as toys, shredded paper, boxes, and chew toys). • Climbing, scratching, hide and retreat areas. • Vertical space. • Sunbaking or heat bank area. • Pheromones or aromatherapy areas. • Music. • Cat toys. • Human interaction should be encouraged but, human safety, hygiene and risk of contamination must be considered and addressed.

2.8 Foster care

Foster care must only be undertaken with a written foster care agreement between the establishment and foster carer, in relation to the animal's needs and foster carer's responsibility. If the animal is placed in juvenile or veterinary rehabilitation foster care the agreement must include the veterinary care requirements and be signed and endorsed by the veterinary practitioner.

This section provides minimum standards for the operation of foster care arranged by establishments. An animal can be placed in foster care for reasons including juvenile foster care, behavioural rehabilitation foster care, veterinary rehabilitation foster care, or to provide for short term relief for an animal.

Animals placed in foster care must be permanently identified by microchip unless the animal is the subject of written veterinary practitioner advice that the health of the animal is liable to be significantly prejudiced if it is implanted with a microchip. Foster animals remain the property of the establishment.

If for any reason an animal has a litter whilst in foster care the animal and all of the young must be returned to the establishment for its rehoming process.

The establishment's written foster care agreement must identify the requirements for:

- each animal being placed in foster care;
- the appropriate care, nutrition, hygiene, exercise and husbandry of the animal;
- other animals in the carer's home;
- expected progress or outcomes for the animal whilst in care;
- any specific veterinary treatments or requirements;
- any required treatment or training to be provided to the animal;
- action should the animal become ill, escape or die;
- any record keeping requirements;
- return date for the animal to the establishment.

2.8.1 Juvenile foster care

The purpose of juvenile foster care is to allow a healthy kitten or puppy to be cared for off site in preparation for sale: to ensure the kitten or puppy is the health, age and weight required for vaccination and desexing prior to being rehomed by the establishment.

Dogs can be exercised outside of the foster carer's premises provided they are restrained by a chain, cord or leash that is held by the approved foster carer or a person designated in the written agreement as being able to control that animal. No more than two dogs, in foster care, can be exercised off the premises at any one time.

Animals must be returned to the establishment when it is deemed appropriate by the veterinary practitioner to desex the animal post vaccination.

2.8.2 Veterinary rehabilitation foster care

The purpose of veterinary rehabilitation foster care is to provide an opportunity for animals with a recoverable injury or illness to be treated off site and then, to be rehomed by the establishment.

Animals that are placed in veterinary rehabilitation foster care must be microchipped, vaccinated and wormed prior to leaving the establishment and they must have completed the eight day quarantine vaccination period. A veterinary practitioner must provide in the health plan an expected date of return to the establishment for rehoming and must assess the progress of the animal for medical improvement.

If approved by the veterinary practitioner, dogs in veterinary rehabilitation foster care may be exercised outside of the foster carer's premises provided they are restrained by a chain, cord or leash that is held by the approved foster carer or a person designated in the written agreement as being able to control that animal. No more than two dogs in foster care can be exercised off the premises at any one time.

Animals placed in veterinary rehabilitation foster care must be returned to the establishment for the purposes of desexing and rehoming.

2.8.3 Behavioural rehabilitation foster care

The purpose of behavioural rehabilitation foster care is to provide an opportunity for animals to be retrained to rectify a behavioural trait restricting the animal being rehomed by the establishment.

Animals that fail temperament tests must only be placed in behavioural rehabilitation foster care under the instruction of the operations manager. It is recommended that the operations manager seeks advice from an animal behavioural specialist. The written foster care agreement must provide a training plan and expected date for return to the establishment for rehoming and must assess the progress of the animal for behavioural improvement.

Animals that are placed in behavioural rehabilitation foster care must be microchipped, vaccinated and wormed prior to leaving the establishment and they must have completed the eight day quarantine vaccination period.

If approved suitable under the written foster care agreement, dogs in rehabilitation foster care may be exercised outside of the foster carer's premises provided they are restrained by a chain, cord or leash that is held by the approved foster carer or a person designated in the written agreement as being able to control that animal. No more than two dogs in foster care can be exercised off the premises at any one time.

During the period of behavioural rehabilitation foster care, the animal must be assessed to ensure that the animal is making acceptable improvement as per the written foster care agreement.

Animals placed in behavioural rehabilitation foster care must be returned to the establishment for the purposes of desexing and rehoming.

2.8.4 Short term relief foster care

The purpose of short term relief foster care is to allow a healthy animal to be cared for outside of the establishment in preparation for being rehomed by the establishment.

Animals that are placed in short term relief foster care must be microchipped, vaccinated and wormed prior to leaving the establishment and they must have completed the eight day quarantine vaccination period. A written foster care agreement must be prepared for each animal that includes an expected date of return to the establishment for rehoming.

Dogs can be exercised outside of the foster carer's premises provided they are restrained by a chain, cord or leash that is held by the approved foster carer or a person designated in the written agreement as being able to control that animal. No more than two dogs in foster care can be exercised off the premises at any one time.

Animals must be returned to the establishment as per the written foster care agreement.

2.9 Responsible pet ownership

Establishments which rehome animals must assist in promoting responsible pet ownership in the community by the following methods:

- providing prospective buyers with advice on the most suitable type of pet for their environment (consider yard size, exercise requirements, children etc.). Prospective owners should be encouraged to seek advice on numbers of pets allowed or legal requirements from their local Council and to gain approval from landlords in the case of rental premises, prior to acquiring an animal;
- providing new pet owners with advice on pet care and information leaflets about the veterinary attention required for animals after purchase (such as follow-up vaccination), and current legislation covering the registration of animals.

2.10 Rehoming

All animals rehomed from an establishment must be microchipped, wormed, desexed and vaccinated.

Aggressive, anti-social animals or an animal with known vices such as excessive barking, or habitual escapees must not be made available for sale.

Animals with a defect that does not significantly affect the quality of life of the animal can be made available for sale. This decision must be made by a veterinary practitioner and brought to the attention of the prospective owner prior to sale or giving away.

New owners must be supplied with a microchip, desexing and vaccination certificate. New owners must be given literature about Council registration, feeding, housing, training and responsible pet ownership and instructed to seek advice about problems with the pet/s from veterinary practitioners or people with experience in animal care and management.

Establishments must develop and practice standard procedures for the assessment of health, temperament and sociability in animals selected for rehoming.

2.11 Guarantee

If an animal is not acceptable to a purchaser because of health, physical or other reasons (excluding accidents), which is supported by a statement from a veterinary practitioner, within seven days of purchase, proprietors must accept the animal back and refund the purchase price of the animal.

If an animal is returned within three days for any other reason, the proprietor must refund 75% of the purchase price or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.

If the animal dies or is euthanased as a result of a disease that is traceable to the point of sale, the proprietor must refund the purchase price or offer a replacement animal with the same guarantee.

2.12 Returning long term seized dogs (that have been held due to legislative process) to owners

Owners must be advised that the animal has been managed according to legislative requirements and informed of any behavioural issues or problems that have been noted. They must be strongly encouraged to seek advice from an animal behavioural specialist or training expert on rehabilitating the animal back into the home environment.

2.13 Public access to establishments

Reasonable periods for public access to the establishment must be provided during working hours. Public access after hours or on weekends at an establishment may be made by appointment with the authorised officer or an animal attendant at the establishment.

3 Transport vehicles and animal housing

3.1 Council, contracted to Council and establishment animal transport vehicles

Council, Council contracted and establishment vehicles used for the transport of animals must have the following features for the confinement of animals:

- provision for animals to be physically separated and restrained or individually enclosed by compartment or cage;
- if dogs and cats are transported in the same vehicle there must be visual separation between the dogs and cats;
- any cages in the cargo area are to be secured to the vehicle to prevent movement of the cage;
- no protrusions or sharp edges in the framework, doors, partitions, etc.;
- any additional stored equipment must be secured or separated to prevent movement or injury to an animal being carried;
- a design that is both escape-proof and prevents the protrusion of head and/or limbs of any animal carried;
- floors must be strong enough to bear the weight of the animals being transported, and must have a non-slip surface to minimise the likelihood of injury;
- be weatherproof with adequate ventilation of vehicles both when stationary and in motion;
- facilities for ease of loading and unloading animals with minimal risk of injury to the animals and humans;
- materials and a design that allows for effective cleaning and disinfection.

Animals must not be transported in the cabin of animal transport vehicles unless secured in a crate.

3.2 Animal housing

Temperature, humidity and ventilation must be considered at the establishment.

The animal housing areas must have:

- natural lighting or lighting that duplicates the characteristics of natural light including a simulated day/night period;
- adequate fire extinguishers or other fire protection in each of the animal housing facilities;
- sufficient ventilation to keep animal housing areas free of dampness, noxious odours and draughts;
- supply of fresh air.

Where animals are housed in a totally enclosed area, where forced ventilation is the only form of air movement, the following is required:

- an air change rate of a minimum of eight changes per hour and sustained to prevent the build up of foul odours;
- ventilation must not cause draughts and must distribute fresh air evenly to all of the animal housing areas;
- temperature must be maintained in the range of 15-27 °C;
- air recirculation units incorporating effective air cleaning and filtration to ensure the removal of infectious organisms and chemicals;
- a back-up and alarm system in case of power failures or breakdown of ventilation and temperature control mechanisms.

3.2.1 Design of animal housing areas, isolation housing and holding facilities

Animal housing areas**,** isolation housing and holding facilities separating dogs and cats must be physically separated by an opaque and impervious barrier. Areas must be constructed of impervious, washable materials designed to facilitate cleaning and disinfection.

The floors of animal housing areas and holding facilities must be constructed of an impervious material that is free of cracks and sealed to assist with drainage and disinfection. Animal housing areas and holding facilities must be constructed so as to not allow water, wastes or urine to pass between individual pens, cages or modules.

Animal housing areas and holding facilities must be completely enclosed with a solid or wire roof to prevent the escape of animals. Animal housing areas and holding facilities must not have gaps in the design that would allow an animal to protrude its head outside the housing area.

Outdoor animal housing areas and holding facilities must be encircled by a 1.8 metre high fence with lockable gates to prevent the escape of animals. Outdoor animal housing areas and holding facilities must have weatherproof sleeping quarters and a bed to provide protection from extremes of weather.

Preferably, animal housing areas should not be built to face each other as this will increase the noise and spread of diseases between animals.

Cat cages and modules must have an impervious barrier between them. Where cat cages and modules face each other, in isolation areas and quarantine, the distance between the cat cages and modules must not be less than 1.2 metres.

Where dog housing areas face each other and the drainage line is centrally located between the pens, an impervious partition one metre high must be centrally installed in the area to reduce the possibility of the spread of disease into the opposite housing area during cleaning.

Individual drainage outlets must be incorporated in each pen and connected to a completely enclosed drain or pipe. Drains at the front of dog pens must be enclosed to prevent the animal or person walking through waste water. Floors of dog pens must be graded to this drainage outlet. An impervious barrier one metre high and sealed to the floor must separate all dog pens and dog exercise areas.

3.2.2 Examination and treatment areas

If the establishment does not have a written agreement with a veterinary practitioner for the use of their facilities then a separate first aid treatment area must be provided and equipped with a table which can be readily cleaned and disinfected, lighting and shelving, and first-aid materials including dressings, disinfectants and medicines to treat open wounds. Restricted drugs kept on the premises must be stored and used in accordance with the appropriate legislation. Hot and cold running water must be available in the examination area of the establishment.

3.2.3 Size of animal housing areas, isolation areas and holding facilities

a. Dogs

During the statutory and quarantine period, adult dogs must be housed only one dog to a pen. Up to four weaned puppies can be housed in a pen together if they are from the same litter or, if from different litters, at the conclusion of the quarantine period following vaccination.

Post quarantine, compatible dogs that are assessed suitable for rehoming, may be housed two to a pen.

Dogs surrendered together may be housed together providing the owner states that they are compatible and were normally housed together.

Where dogs are housed together they must have separate beds and food containers.

One third of the area of each pen must be weatherproof and include a bed.

Table 4. Minimum pen sizes for dogs or up to four puppies

Height of dog/puppies at shoulders (centimetres)	**Minimum Area** (square metres)	**Minimum Width** (centimetres)	**Minimum Height** (centimetres)	**Increased floor area for each additional dog** (square metres)
above 70	3.5	120	180	1.7
40 to 70	2.4	100	180	1.2
below 40	1.5	90	180	1.0

b. Cats

Cats must be housed individually in cages or modules constructed of impervious, washable materials during the statutory and quarantine period. Cats surrendered together may be housed together providing the owner states that they are compatible and were normally housed together and they are housed in colony pens.

Statutory eight day period cages or transitional period cages can accommodate up to three kittens providing that the kittens are from the same litter or, if from different litters, at the conclusion of the quarantine period following vaccination. Up to six kittens can be held together in module cages providing that their temperament has been assessed as suitable for colony housing.

Cats must not be kept in statutory eight day period cages for more than eight days. Cats kept for longer than eight days must be housed in transitional period cages, modules or colony pens.

Male cats kept in colony pens must be desexed and all cats must have completed their vaccination period. Desexed males (that have completed a six week post-surgery period) and females can be housed together. It is recommended that females be desexed if they are to be housed long term.

Colony pens must contain, for each cat housed in the colony pen, an individual litter tray and food container and a bed for each cat/kitten that provides a visual barrier from the shared area.

Table 5. Minimum cage, module and colony pen sizes for cats or up to three kittens

Cat housing (single cat or up to three kittens)	**Minimum Floor Area** (square metres)	**Minimum Width** (centimetres)	**Minimum Height** (centimetres)
Statutory eight day period	0.49	70	50
Transitional period	1.5	-	90
Modules**	0.8	90	180
Colony Pens (area per cat) for up to eight cats**	2.0	200	180

** A module or colony pen must contain at least two levels, excluding the floor, and these levels must be connected to the floor by means of a ramp or pole.

4 Records

The proprietor must record the following details and retain these records for a period of not less than five years:

(a) For animals handed in by their owners or owner's agent:

- species of animal
- name of the animal
- name of the owner of the animal
- contact telephone number and address of the owner or owner's agent
- a description of the animal including:
  - sex and whether the animal is desexed
  - breed type
  - colour
  - age
  - details of medical, dietary, bathing and grooming requirements
  - vaccination status
  - heartworm treatment (dogs)
  - any behaviour problems
  - any permanent identification
- reason the animal was handed in.

(b) For animals seized under the *Domestic Animals Act 1994*:

- species of animal
- location where animal was seized
- time and date animal was seized
- name and address of person who seized the animal (business address of authorised officers or Council contractors)
- reason why animal was seized
- a description of the animal including:
  - sex and whether the animal is desexed
  - breed type
  - colour
  - age
  - any injuries noted when seized
  - any behaviour problems noted when seized, e.g. aggression
  - any permanent identification.

(c) For animals in foster care:

- species of animal
- address where animal is in foster care
- date animal was taken to foster care
- date animal was returned to establishment
- name, address and telephone number of foster carer
- reason why animal is in foster care
- a description of the animal including:
  - sex and whether the animal is desexed
  - breed type
  - colour
  - age
  - details of medical, dietary, bathing and grooming requirements
  - vaccination status
  - heartworm treatment (dogs)
  - any behaviour problems
  - permanent identification.

(d) Fate of animal - including recovery by owner, rehoming or euthanasia

- In the event that the animal is recovered by an owner:
  - name and address of person who recovered the animal
  - registration status of the animal at time of recovery
  - Council registration and microchip number of the animal
  - municipal area in which the animal is to be kept.
- In the event that the animal is rehomed:
  - microchip number and date of implantation
  - date Domestic Animal Registry was notified
  - date Council notified that new owner lives in that Council area
  - date animal was wormed
  - date animal was desexed
  - date animal was vaccinated and by whom it was vaccinated.
- In the event that the animal is euthanased:
  - Date, reason and method for the animal's destruction.

vic.gov.au/pets

7.6 Gertrude and Brunswick Street Public Space Project

Reference	D24/229406
Author	Aimee Pilven - Senior Landscape Architect and Open Space Planner
Authoriser	Senior Coordinator Design and Place Making
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to:

   (a) report on the Gertrude and Brunswick Street Public Space Project, including the findings and feedback from the community/stakeholder and targeted engagement;

   (b) endorse the Final Concept Design for Gertrude and Brunswick Street Public Space Project which responds to the community/stakeholder and targeted engagement; and

   (c) seek approval to write to the Minister for Housing and Multicultural Affairs to seek approval for the use of a portion of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) land on the Atherton Gardens Estate.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. The Site is located at the north-east corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets. It includes a small triangle of land within Atherton Gardens Estate (owned by DFFH) and adjacent footpaths along Gertrude and Brunswick Streets (owned by Yarra). Refer to *Figure 1: Location Map.*



Figure 1: Location map

3. The triangle shaped pocket within DFFH land has a noticeable level change rising up from the footpaths towards the estate. A tram stop and shelter is located on the Brunswick Street side to service the southbound Route 11 trams. The site is currently occupied by dense shrubbery which limits views across the space and creates hiding spaces and space where litter collects. Refer to photos below, *Figures 2: View of Brunswick Street frontage & View of Gertrude Street frontage.*



Figures 2: View of Brunswick Street frontage & View of Gertrude Street frontage

4. The Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan identifies an opportunity for a new public space at this location. A high-level artist's impression was provided showing the potential of the space, as shown in *Figure 3: Extract from Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan*. This includes:

   (a) removing the shrubs and opening up the corner (1);

   (b) make the path into Atherton Gardens more visible (2);

   (c) provide ample space at the intersection (3);

   (d) potential integrated artwork (4);

   (e) improved lighting (5); and

   (f) new seating and greenery (6).

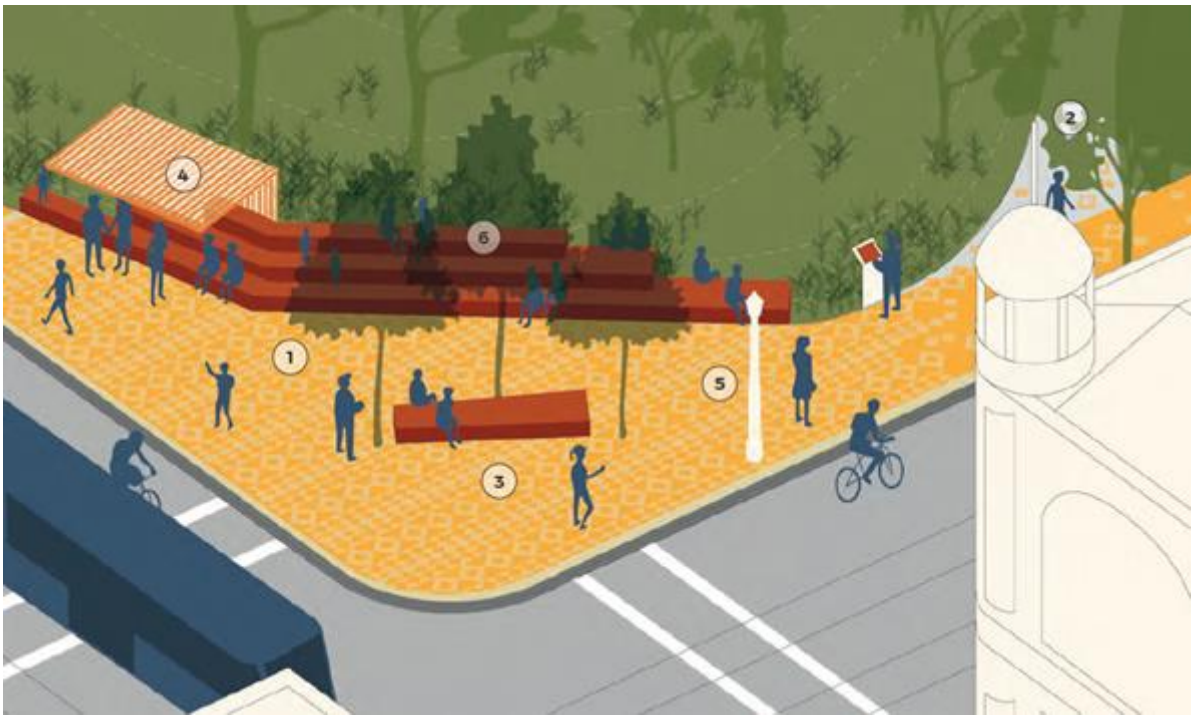


Figure 3: Extract from Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan

Discussion

5. $97,000 has been allocated to this project through the 2023/24 annual budget, to progress with concept and detailed design for the space.

6. Council has engaged Openwork, a landscape architectural company to work with Council in developing the designs. The consultants used the Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan ideas in *Figure 3* to develop an initial draft concept design for community consultation (refer *Attachment 1 - Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Concept Design Report Draft October 2023*).

7. The Draft Concept Design October 2023, was placed on public exhibition in late 2023 for general comment with targeted stakeholder sessions occurring into 2024. Refer to: *Figures 4 and 5: Draft concept design October 2023* – Plan and physical model; view looking south-east.

8. The Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan identified an opportunity to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history in this precinct. The project team has given careful consideration to reflect this cultural significance in the Final Concept Design.

9. In addition, the designers are considering the option of including an integrated words/text element that incorporates text/stories that reflect the place's important history and continuing connection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

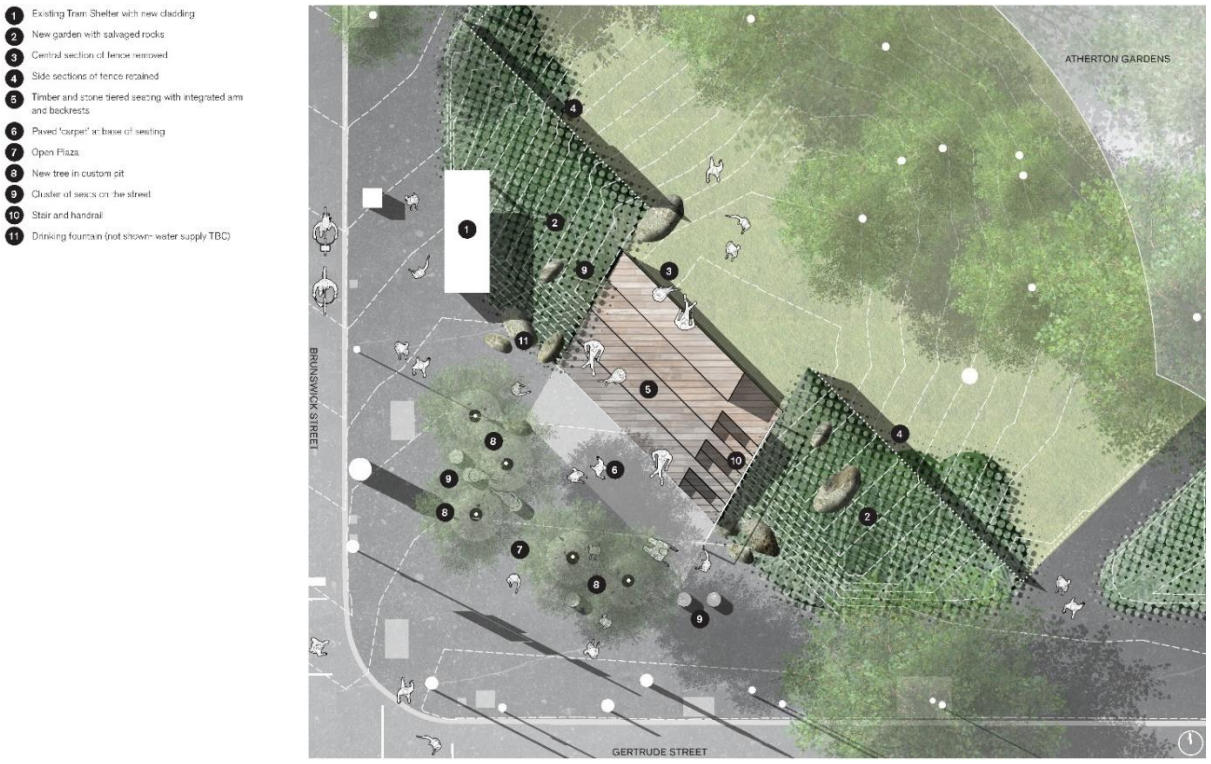


Figure 4: Draft Concept design October 2023



Figure 5: Draft Concept Design October 2023

Community and stakeholder engagement

10. The original proposal for the Brunswick/Gertrude Streets corner in the Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan received high levels of support from the community.
11. A Community Engagement Plan for the Draft Concept Design was prepared working with the Communications and Engagement team. This included Council's standard consultation practices such as the Your Say Yarra webpage, online survey, and pop-up events.
12. The community/stakeholder engagement on the Draft Concept Design was held from 20 November to 18 December 2023 to:
    (a) Inform the community about the proposed plans to create a new public space at the north-east corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets;
    (b) To present the draft concept design and seek feedback from the community on the proposed design and layout of the space, how they would use the space, and any issues to consider; and
    (c) To ensure there is feedback received from the range of people that use the space (Atherton Gardens residents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, tram passengers, local shops, residents and visitors).
13. Refer to *Attachment 2: Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Community Engagement Report* for further details.
14. During the engagement planning process, Council officers actively sought to remove any known barriers to allow all interested stakeholders to participate (including culturally and linguistically diverse CALD and people with disability).
15. The consultation included:
    (a) Council's Your Say Yarra page with information about the project, FAQs and with a link to an online survey;

(b) Postcards distributed to local residents and businesses;

(c) Posters displayed in the Atherton Gardens residential buildings and DFFH office;

(d) Two corflutes displayed at the Site;

(e) Emails sent to internal and external stakeholders to share with their networks;

(f) Emails sent to people who contributed to the Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan consultation, which had included a proposal for this site;

(g) Information published on Council's Yarra Life and Your Say Yarra email newsletters;

(h) Information circulated on Yarra Estates Update email newsletter;

(i) Social media posts and ads;

(j) Posters and postcards displayed at Fitzroy Library, Connie Benn Centre and Fitzroy Youth Centre;

(k) Visit to Fitzroy Learning Centre to speak with morning tea visitors and distribute posters and postcards;

(l) Postcards distributed to Atherton Gardens Community Grocer and Atherton Gardens Community Market; and

(m) Two in-person pop-up events on Site, with information about the project and a physical model of the proposed design.

16. Council officers held approximately 70 in-person conversations with the community throughout the two pop-up session events. Refer *Figure 6: In-person pop-up event on Saturday 9 December 2023*.



Figure 6: In-person pop-up event on Saturday 9 December 2023

17. Two individual responses were also received.

18. Council received survey feedback from over 100 participants. 76.9% of participants live in Yarra, 43.3% indicated that they own a property or mortgage in Yarra, 50% of participants live in Fitzroy, and 38% work in Yarra.

19. From the online surveys, 7.7% of respondents are from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, 11.5% live with a disability, 28.9% are from the LGBTIQA+ community. These figures are higher than what we receive for similar consultations, and likely reflect people who have a connection with this part of Fitzroy and use local services in the area.

20. Some of the main feedback received included the following:
    (a) When asked ‘How would you like to use the space’ people’s responses showed that they would like the space to be used in a variety of ways. The most common responses were:
        (i) Walk through on my way somewhere (73.1%);
        (ii) Using the tram stop to board or get off the tram (63.5%);
        (iii) Passive recreation, for example ‘watching the world go by’ (59.6%);
        (iv) Meeting up with a friend (57.7%); and
        (v) Eat lunch or drink coffee (57.7%); and
    (b) When asked ‘When do you usually like to visit the area’, responses were varied showing that the space will need to cater for use during the day and evening, and through the week and weekend. The main responses were:
        (i) Weekend morning and afternoon (40%); and
        (ii) Weekday morning and afternoon (40%).
21. A number of open-ended questions were asked. The text from these responses was analysed and broken down into the key themes below.
22. When asked ‘What do you like about the proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design’ Council received lots of positive feedback including:
    (a) Creating a more open space (27% of responses);
    (b) Improving the use of the space and upgrading the area (23% of responses);
    (c) Providing a public space for people (20% of responses);
    (d) Providing trees and greenery (20% of responses); and
    (e) Provision of seating (16% of responses).
23. When asked ‘What do you think could be improved about the proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design’ the following responses were received:
    (a) More trees, greenery and shade needed (15% of responses);
    (b) Suggestions for different plant species (15% of responses);
    (c) Anti-social behaviour, graffiti, skating, litter (14% of responses);
    (d) Ensure design reflects the significance of the area and provides education and acknowledgement of Aboriginal history and connection (11% of responses);
    (e) Accessibility (11% of responses);
    (f) Suggestion for Uncle Jack Charles statue (10% of responses);
    (g) More shelter needed (9% of responses); and
    (h) Add play space or features for children (9% of responses).
24. Targeted engagement was carried out in October 2023 and March 2024 with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
25. The following activities were carried out:
    (a) 26 October 2023 - The project was presented to the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation;

(b) 15 March 2024 - The project was presented to the Yana Ngargna Advisory Group, and members were encouraged to give their feedback at or after the meeting. A Menti board was set up to allow interested people to submit their thoughts online if preferred; and

(c) Two drop-in sessions were held for community to attend and discuss their connection with Fitzroy:

(i) Session 1: Dardi Munwurro (7 March 2024); and

(ii) Session 2: Charcoal Lane (21 March 2024).

26. The aim of this engagement was to understand the significance of the space to individuals and their families and better understand, through storytelling, connections with the area.

27. The inclusion of some embedded words/text landscape elements into the space, that reflect the input and learnings from these discussions, is currently under consideration.

28. Detailed notes from the two community sessions are provided within *Attachment 3: Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Targeted Engagement Report* (Appendix B).

29. These rich conversations at the sessions covered a number of themes, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Importance of family and community;

(b) Values – personal and community;

(c) Sacred place – more than a park or a tram stop;

(d) Community resilience and place of activism;

(e) Place of opportunity;

(f) Important that stories, memories and identity are kept alive in space and allow people to keep learning; and

(g) Importance of trees and views through the area.

30. Throughout these sessions, constructive feedback was provided about the design of the space. This included the following:

(a) Design needs to improve accessibility of space, in particular to upper part of tiered seating;

(b) Orientation of space should be revisited so that it does not turn its' back on the Atherton Gardens;

(c) Design needs to better support the flow and energy of this space and how it relates to other elements in Atherton Gardens (space is fluid like a river system); and

(d) Views are important, including to trees, meeting place, Stolen Generations Marker and to the future statues of Uncle Archie Roach and Aunty Ruby Hunter.

Final Concept Design

31. In response to the community, stakeholder and targeted consultation feedback received, Council and Openwork carefully considered and revisited the Draft Concept Plan (October 2023). Significant changes have been made and are reflected in the Final Concept Design (refer to plans below, *Figures 7, 8 and 9* as well as *Attachment 4 - Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Concept Design Report Final June 2024*).

32. It is considered that the Final Concept Plan has addressed the majority of the consultation feedback and in particular from the conversations and time spent with the Aboriginal groups and individuals.

33. These changes include:

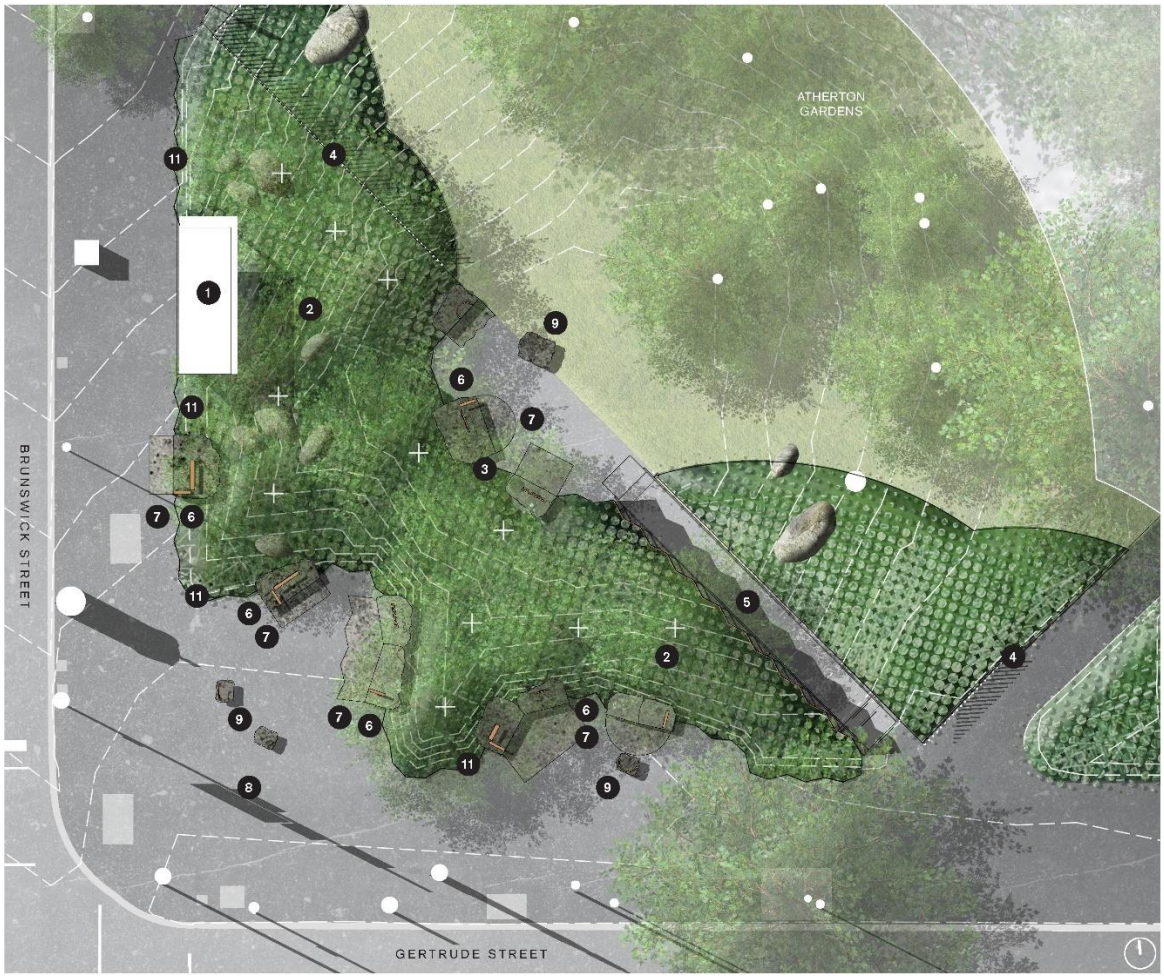
(a) Improved accessibility into the space through the installation of a compliant ramp to allow for access to the upper tiered space;

(b) Rework of the orientation and layout of the space to improve passive surveillance and strengthen visual connections to Atherton Gardens and sites of significance;

(c) Addressed the physical barriers between the street, this new public space and Atherton Gardens, creating a more fluid transition between these spaces;

(d) Created a greener, shadier space, by enlarging the softscape garden bed area and increasing proposed tree numbers (which will also allow for further diversity in plant species and an increase in shelter provision); and

(e) Provided gathering nooks and a variety of stone furniture items for informal, playful engagement.



1 Existing Tram Shelter
2 New garden with trees and salvaged rocks
3 Central section of fence removed
4 Side section of fence retained
5 New 1:14 ramp with steel wall to replace existing fence
6 Stone seating with integrated arm and backrests
7 Paved 'carpet' at base of seating
8 Open Plaza
9 Small stone seating
10 Drinking fountain (not shown)
11 Steel edge at street

Figure 7: Final Concept Design – plan and legend - June 2024

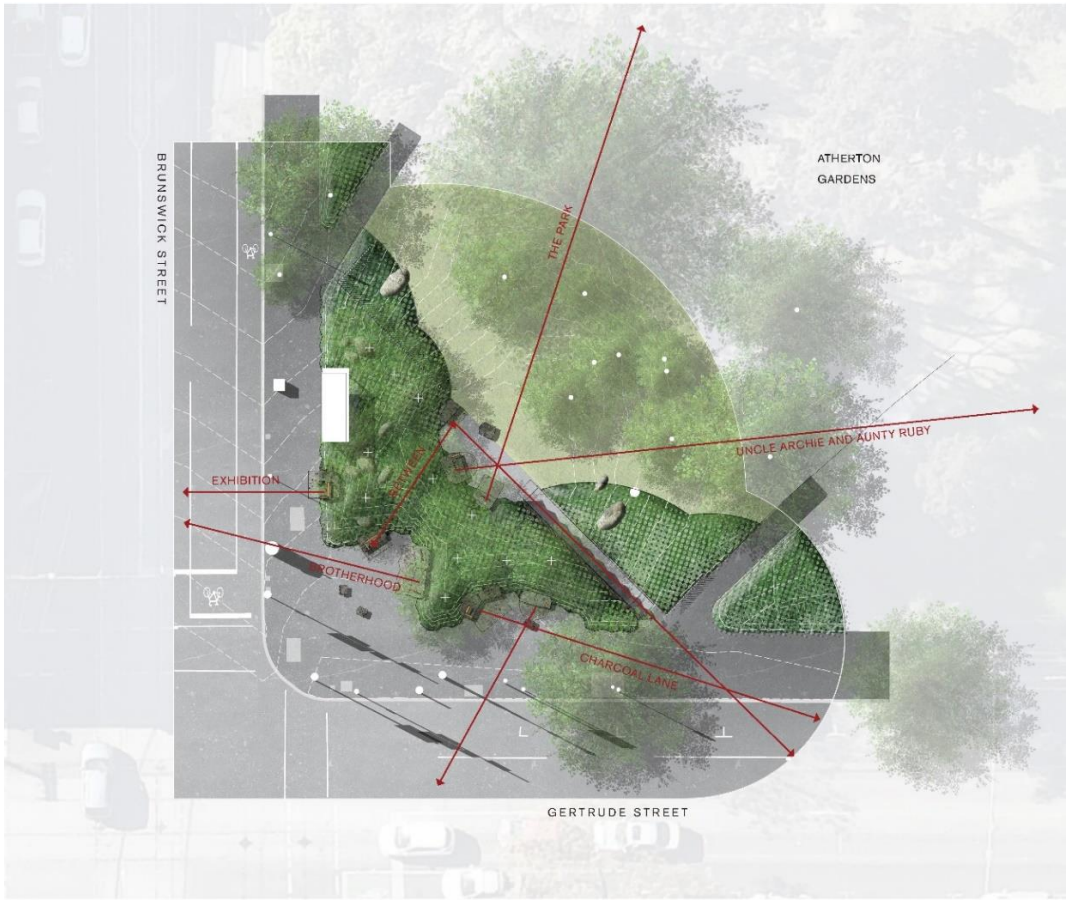


Figure 8: Final Concept Design – 'Looking to place' - June 2024

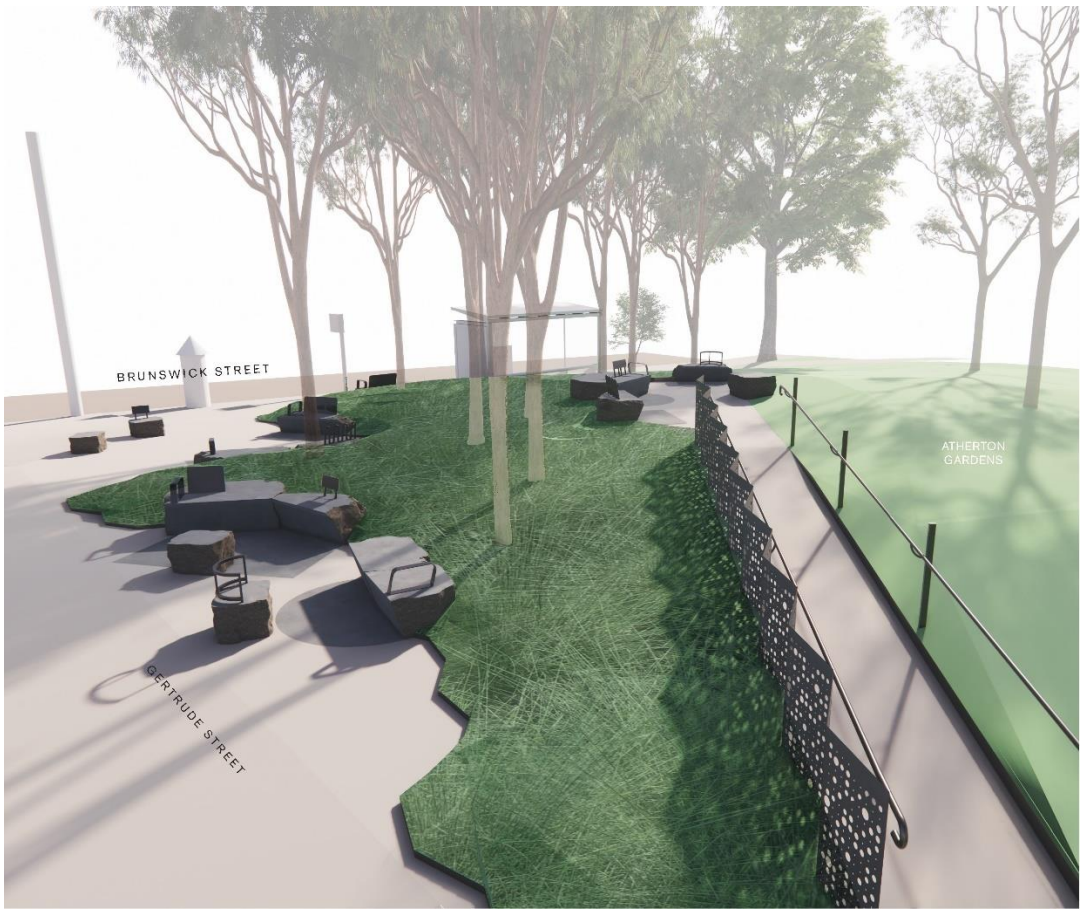


Figure 9: Final Concept Design – View from Gertrude Street looking North West - June 2024

34. The final design proposes the removal of 7 shrubs and 5 trees which all sit within the DFFH land of Atherton Gardens Estate. The site contains 27 trees and 8 shrubs. An arborist report prepared by an external consultant in September 2023 assessed all of the upper story vegetation.

35. The vegetation to be removed is classified as low arboricultural value, including 3 woody weed species of trees which are detrimental to the environment. The removal of this vegetation is required to improve sightlines, safety and opens the space to the Atherton Gardens Estate as demonstrated in the image below (see Figure 10).



Figure 10: Corner of Gertrude Street and Brunswick Street – showing the existing shrubs blocking views into Atherton Gardens Estate

36. 19 mature canopy trees are proposed to be retained. These trees contribute significantly to this space and the precinct (see Figure 11 below).



Figure 11: Mature eucalyptus within the Atherton Gardens Estate located adjacent to the project site.

37. Eleven new native canopy trees with slender trunks are proposed to be planted to acknowledge the Aboriginal history and connection to this site. Significant numbers of new native low shrubs, grasses and ground covers are also proposed.

Further Consultation and Approvals

38. The Site sits within a Cultural Heritage Overlay.

39. Heritage consultants have been engaged to provide advice on the process required and to undertake any necessary heritage approvals. This will be completed early July 2024.

40. Following Council's endorsement of the Final Concept Design, it will be submitted to the Minister for Housing and Multicultural Affairs to seek formal approval for the use of DFFH land. Yarra officers have consulted and involved DFFH and Homes Victoria officers throughout the process.

41. Construction of the public space is planned to take place in 2024/25.

42. In addition to the community and targeted engagement, the Urban Design team have continued to work closely with the following internal stakeholder teams to update and collaborate on the project:

    (a) Aboriginal partnerships;

    (b) Arts and Culture;

    (c) Strategic Transport;

    (d) Traffic and Civil Engineering;

    (e) City Works;

    (f) Open Space Plan and Design;

    (g) Open Space Services;

    (h) Economic Development;

    (i) Statutory Planning; and

    (j) Communications and Engagement.

43. Further meetings will be held with the below mentioned stakeholders as the project progresses:

    (a) Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH);

    (b) Homes Victoria; and

    (c) Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

44. The proposal aligns with the Community Vision by creating high quality places that people feel safe and comfortable in and enable people to make connections with their community and their local area.

45. The project also supports a number of strategies from the Council Plan. This includes:

    (a) Objective 2: Social equity and health:
    Strategy 2. "Build a more resilient, inclusive, safe and connected community, which promotes social, physical and mental wellbeing"; and

    (b) Objective 4: Place and nature:
    Strategy 1. "Create safe, accessible active spaces that provide diverse physical activity opportunities for the whole community".
    Strategy 5, "Encourage people to connect with Yarra's natural and cultural heritage and prioritise the voices of Traditional Owners".

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

46. The project will provide environmental benefits such as seating in shaded areas, improved greenery and increase in tree canopy, use of sustainable materials and use of efficient lighting.

47. It will also provide an improved space around the tram stop to encourage people to use public transport and walk in the area.

Community and social implications

48. The design will create a safe and welcoming space that can be used by various members of the community. It will improve accessibility, lighting, view lines and surveillance of the space.

49. The design explores opportunities for an integrated words/text element that reflects the place's significance and continuing connection for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This will support the identity of the area, educate the local community and visitors about the space, and foster community ownership of the space.

Economic development implications

50. The project will provide an improved public space at the corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, which will encourage people to spend more time in the area which will evidentially support the local economy. The space will also provide a place to rest/gather for local workers.

Human rights and gender equality implications

51. The design will create a safe and welcoming space that can be used by all members of Yarra's diverse community and people visiting the area. Elements such as lighting will make the space feel safer at night for more vulnerable users.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

52. $97,000 has been allocated through 2023/24 budget to carry out concept and detailed design work for the space.

53. The construction budget for this project is $600K and is budgeted for in 2024/25.

54. The creation of this new space will require additional maintenance of the space by Council including the seating, lighting, integrated words/text element, and greenery.

Legal Implications

55. The use and maintenance of the space will need to be formalised with DFFH. This process has been initiated.

56. Confirmation from Statutory Planning that a planning permit is not required.

Conclusion

57. Council officers are progressing project work to create a new public space at the north-east corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets in Fitzroy.

58. Once endorsed, the Final Concept Design will be submitted to the Minister for Housing and Multicultural Affairs to seek approval for the use of DFFH land.

59. Construction of the public space is planned to take place in around March 2025.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) endorses the Final Concept Design for the Gertrude Brunswick Public Space Project;

   (b) submits the endorsed Final Concept Design for the Gertrude Brunswick Public Space Project to the Minister for Housing and Multicultural Affairs and seeks approval for the use of a portion of the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) land;

   (c) notes that construction of the public space is provided for in the 2024/25 budget and is planned to take place in second quarter 2025 (subject to approvals); and

   (d) thanks the community for their involvement in the engagement process.

Attachments

1⇩ Attachment 1 - Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Concept Design Report Draft October 2023

2⇩ Attachment 2 - Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Community Engagement Report

3⇩ Attachment 3 - Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Targeted Engagement Report

4⇩ Attachment 4 - Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Concept Design Report Final June 2024

Corner of Brunswick and Gertrude Street

Workbook 3: Draft Concept Design

OPENWORK+SARAH LYNN REES +DECLAN FRY+WSP



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Rev	Date	Issue
00	230913	Internal Stakeholder Workshop
00	231016	Internal Stakeholder Workshop
00	231026	Draft Concept Design
00	231027	Draft Concept Design



Issue: 00

Issued by:
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Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

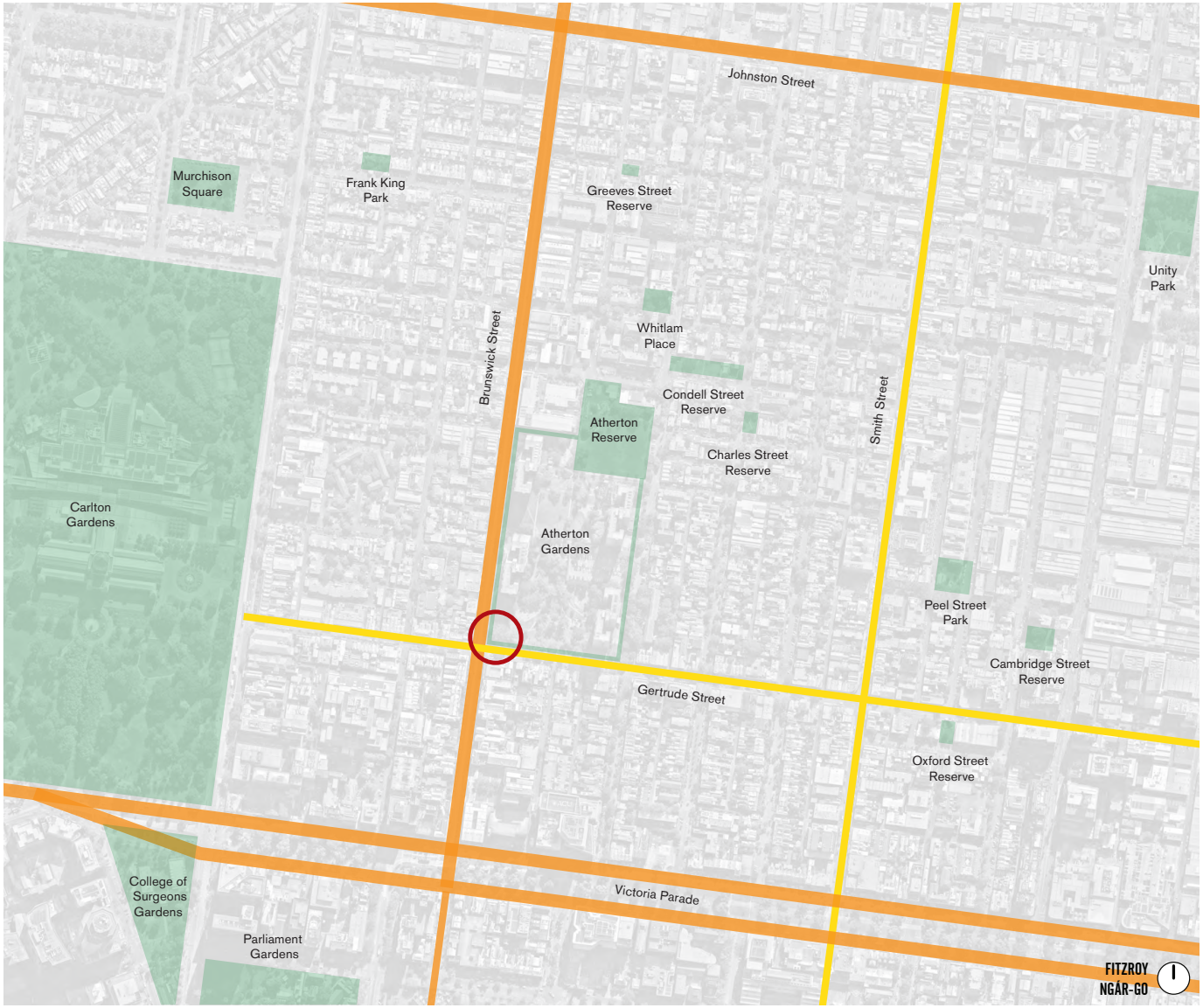
Study Area and Overview

Gertrude and Brunswick Streets are located close to Melbourne's CBD and form part of a tight knit network of shopping streets in the Fitzroy/Collingwood precinct. Both streets are identified as Activity Centres in the City of Yarra and are expected to grow.

Brunswick Street and Gertrude Street are made up of a diverse range of shops, cafes, restaurants and creative businesses, a bustling night time economy and a mix of established and new residents.

The area has a strong heritage character evidenced by the Victorian terraced buildings along large sections of Brunswick Street and in the surrounding area. The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (a World Heritage Site) are located further afield and can be seen from the corner of Brunswick and Gertrude Streets.

The site sits on the south-west corner of the Atherton Gardens Estate (owned by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing), which includes a collection of taller apartment buildings built in the 1970's surrounded by open land.



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Site and Context

1. The Rob Roy Hotel
2. Brotherhood of St Laurence
3. Post Office
4. Playspace
5. The Meeting Place
6. Uncle Archie Roach and Aunty Ruby Hunter Memorial
7. "Remember Me" Stolen Generations Marker (2018)
7. Charcoal Lane (closed)



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

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Site and Context

The site comprises a triangle shaped piece of land at the south-west corner of Atherton Gardens Estate (land owned by Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)) as well as adjacent footpaths.

Over the last Century, Fitzroy and Collingwood established itself as an important social and political hub for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Melbourne. There are a number of sites in the area, including Atherton Gardens and along Gertrude Street which continue to be important places for people to reunite, connect and support each other.

There are a number of civic and community facilities that are located around the site and centred around the Fitzroy Town Hall, creating a hub for different members of the community to come together.

Brunswick and Gertrude Streets are Council managed roads and sit on the Route 11 and 86 tram routes. The southbound tram stop for Route 11 is within the project site.









1	Corner of Brunswick and Gertrude with existing vegetation
2	Southbound Route 11 Tram Stop (looking south)
3	Southbound Route 11 Tram Stop (looking north)
4	Existing Corymbia maculata on Gertrude Street
5	Brunswick Street (looking south toward study site)
6	Study site from Atherton Gardens





Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

A Survey of Fitzroy Corners

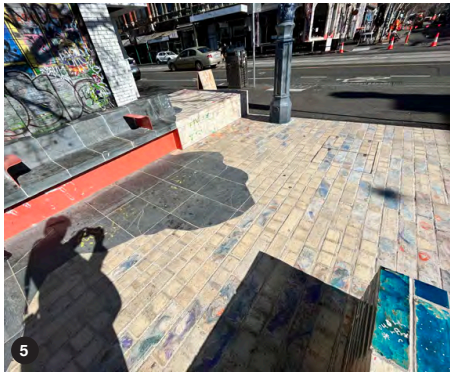
The corner of Gertrude Street and Brunswick Street will soon be part of a very particular Fitzroy typology - a corner that has been invested with character, human scale and kindness. The experience of walking up Brunswick Street is an experience of serial invitation - invitation to stop, to dwell and to converse. Our vision for the project is to bring our understanding of permission and invitation in public space and to design a corner whose offer of kindness and generosity is embedded in its place and that in turn, its place is written into the fabric of the city.



















1	Brunswick and Greeves
2	Smith and Stanley
3	Smith and Gertrude
4	Brunswick and Victoria
5	Brunswick and Kerr
6	Brunswick and Kerr
7	Brunswick and Victoria
8	Brunswick and Argyle
9	Brunswick and Argyle

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Urban Text and Anonymous Writing

Brunswick Street is dense with the words of authors who are often unsolicited and generally unknown. This anonymous and uninvited writing is both a conversation with and a confession of what this place is. The writing is sometimes official, sometimes irreverent, it is frequently not in English, regularly overwritten and famously hieroglyphic. In our response and in our vision for the project, we see the diversity and difference of language in and around the site as a starting point - a conversation to engage in.

























1. Negotiate with DHHS to open up the corner to create a new meeting place and gateway to Gertrude Street
2. Create a welcoming entry to the Atherton Gardens. Make the Aboriginal Heritage marker more prominent.
3. Commission a significant art work which celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history in Gertrude Street
4. Locate a custom tram stop shelter that is integrated with new artwork and public realm improvements on this corner
5. Retain heritage lamp post and install feature lighting to structure corner at night
6. Explore opportunities for new trees and greenery at the corner and along the edges with the estate to offer improved amenity and shade and reflect the local identity



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Internal Stakeholder Workshop: Key Questions and Responses

Maintenance

Area requires a high level of maintenance.

Both roads and footpaths are swept daily using street sweepers. Untaken at night/early morning (operators don't leave vehicle).

Litter collected daily. Corner may require additional bins (with an increase in occupation) and inclusion of recycling bin. Ensure bin locations can be easily collected without obstructing access.

Avoid locating art components near underground services. If asset maintenance is required, it can be hard to ensure like for like reinstatement is achieved.

All elements require YCC approved anti-graffiti coating.

Asset Ownership

Yarra Trams: Shelter, poles

Department of Transport & Planning (DTP): Yellow traffic poles & signals

City of Yarra: Roads & footpaths, remaining fixtures.

Unknown: Post box

Graffiti/ Art component

Graffiti is a huge problem, levels of vandalism over street art are variable and hard to judge.

Consider potential for rocks to be graffitied – if they are cleaned the chemicals will run into garden beds.

No sanctioned graffiti within municipality.

Murals are considered as Temporary artworks and not included within Council's collection. Ownership of Temporary Artworks is by the commissioning unit (maintenance budget needs to be considered).

No budget to commission changing art.

Acknowledge the finished artwork component and artist. Consider how this is best communicated with the community.

Access/ Future usage

Diversity of seating required.

Consider integrating handrails to bleachers.

Yarra Trams TGSI setout guidelines received.

Consider potential uses/issues including the following:

+ People congregating, such as people who may have moved on from Connie Benn
+ Rough sleeping
+ Smoking/drinking
+ Skating (if not intended to be a skating space)
+ People hiding themselves/things behind the top step at the back of the space.

Trees and low planting

Minimal canopy clearance required to Yarra Trams overhead communications cables (currently unbundled).

Confirm extent of tree removal (outside of scope) with DFFH.

Supportive of Stratacells and porous paving.

Tree roots will seek moisture rich and oxygenated soil.

Trees hand watered during establishment period (2 years).

Low planting is to be drought tolerant and hardy.

Roads/ Traffic/ Access/ Drainage

Sawn bluestone kerb and channel can be used for Brunswick Street.

Single pitcher channel is appropriate given cycle access is required.

Pram ramps are to incorporate tactiles and sawn bluestone pitchers (to tie in with surroundings).

Altering traffic signals can be quite involved and relies heavily on DTP.

Flood impacted areas to be confirmed.

Streetscape Fixtures

Womenjika sign: required to be near Atherton Gardens Gertrude Street entry.

Bicycle Hoops: no demand, but additional hoops would be nice to have. (Ensure potential locations are not conflicting with trams stops).

Drinking Fountain: huge demand for water source. Supply TBC.

Wayfinding Signage: Corner is a key location.

Heritage lights: are reproduction gas lamps. Original location noted at the apex of corner.

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

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Study Area

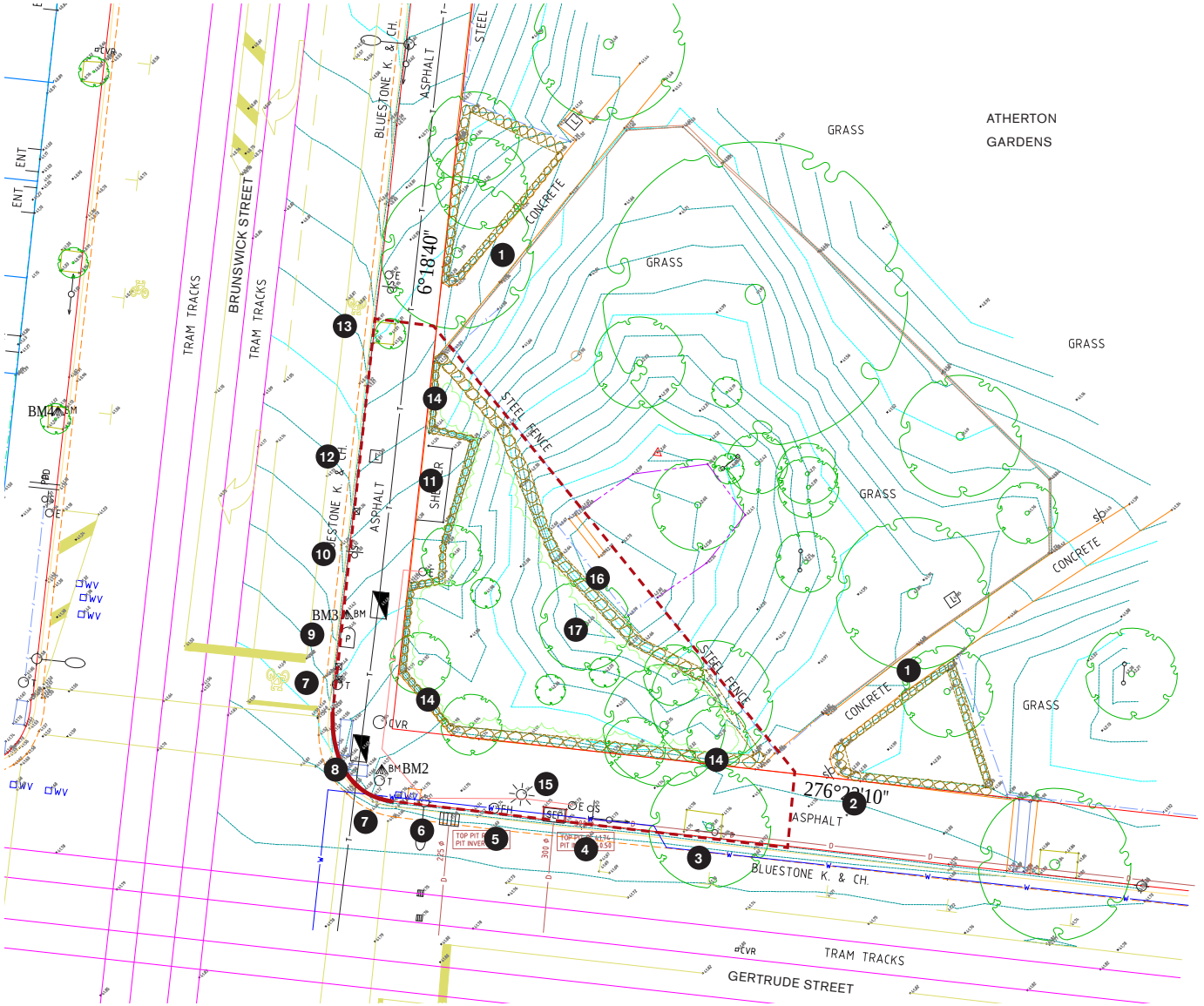


Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

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Features and Levels Survey

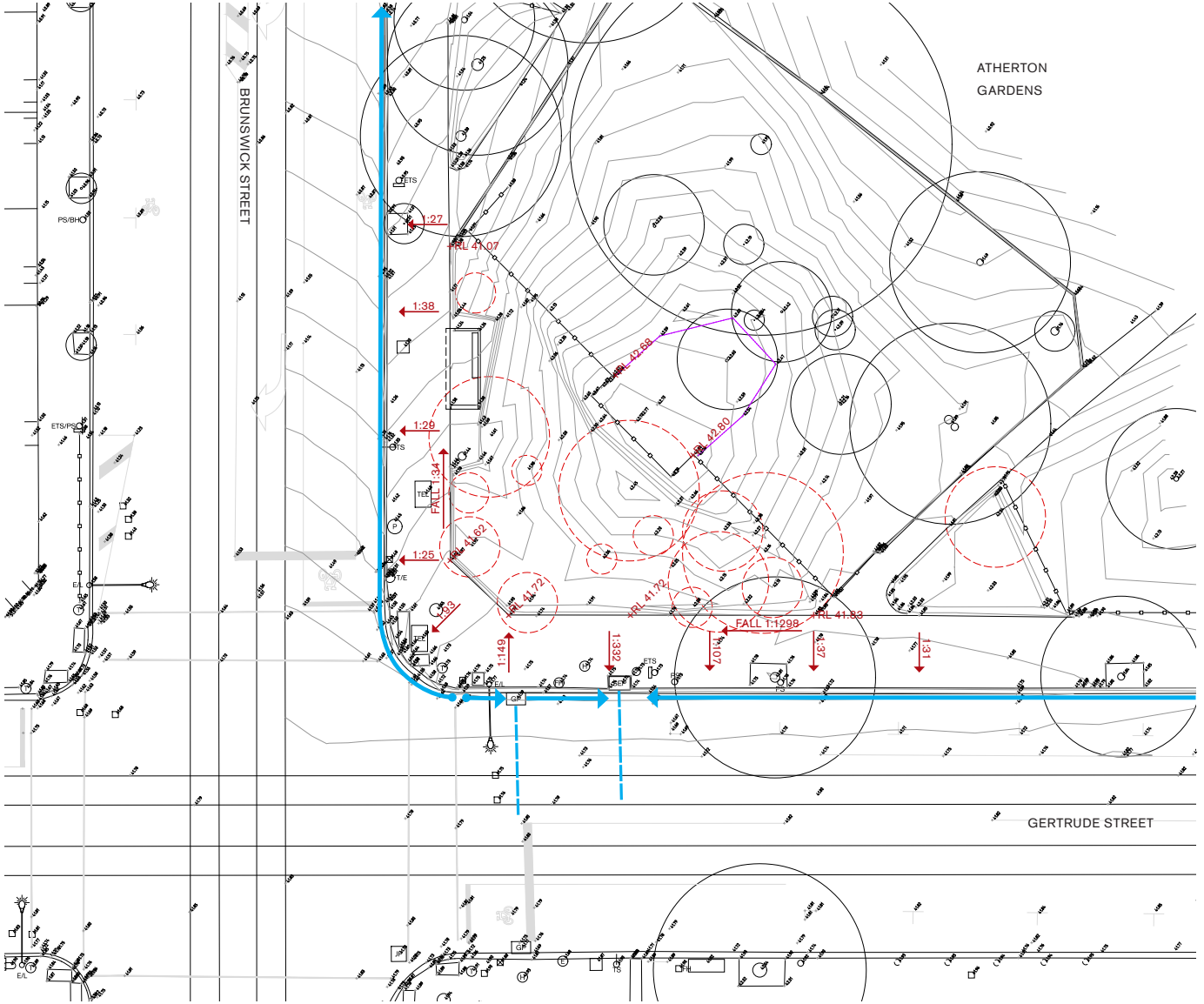
1. Access path to Atherton Gardens
2. William Barak interpretive signage
3. Street tree with parking sign
4. Parking sign
5. Fire hydrant
6. Light pole
7. Tram catenary pole
8. Pedestrian crossing / pram ramp
9. Heritage post box
10. Tram sign
11. Tram stop
12. Rubbish bin
13. Street tree
14. Rock border to planting
15. Reproduction heritage lamp post
16. Palisade fence to Atherton Gardens
17. Dense planting



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

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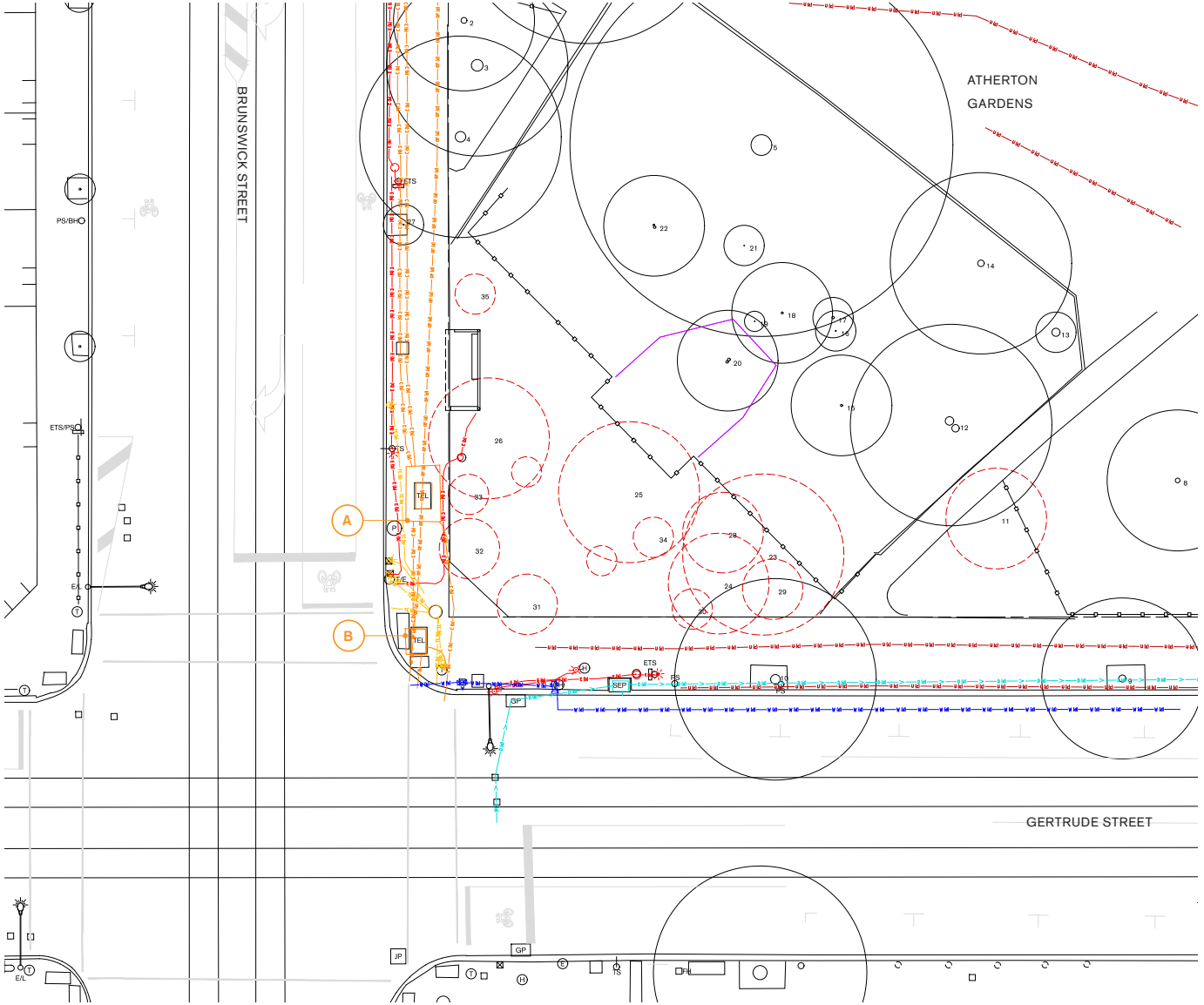
Levels and Grading



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Services and Utilities



KEY

- Communications cable/pipe
- Comms optic fibre pipe
- (B) Communcations chamber
- Drainage pipe
- Low Voltage electric cable /pipe
- Traffic cable/pipe
- Water pipe
- Unidentified pipe /anomaly

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Tree Planting

Trees 9 and 10 are street trees along Gertrude Street. Tree 27 is a small street tree along Brunswick Street. The remaining trees and shrubs are located within Atherton Gardens.

The copse of trees to the North-east of the project site are trees native to Australia and include a mix of Eucalyptus and Corymbia species.

There were no naturally occurring trees indigenous to the local area among those assessed.

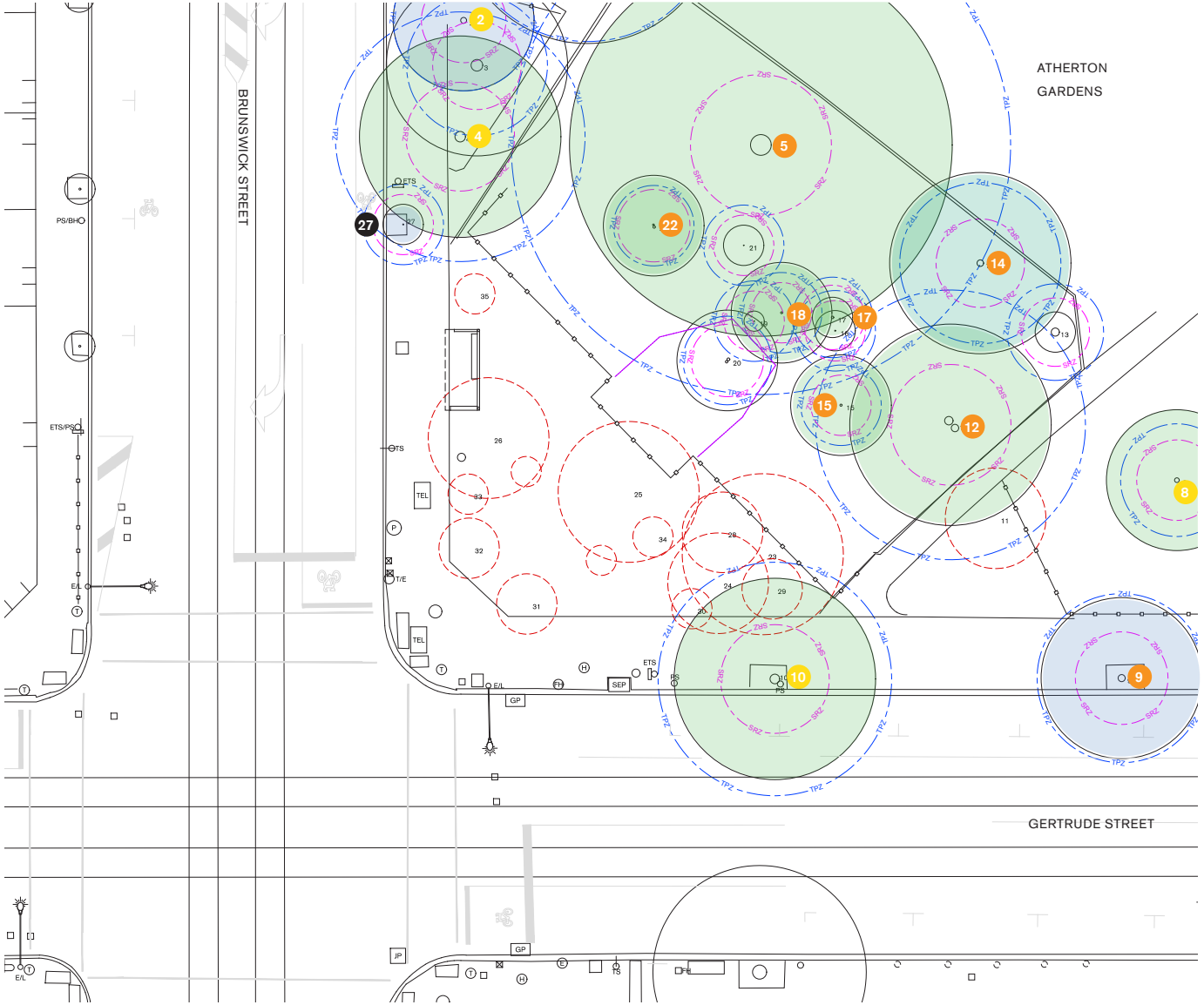
Trees and shrubs within the project site are of a low arboricultural rating and are proposed to be removed.

Street trees and tree planting of a high arboricultural value within Atherton Gardens are listed below.

- 2 Cinnamomum camphora - Camphor Laurel (13mH x 7mW)
- 4 Casuarina cunninghamiana - River She-oak (17x10)
- 5 Eucalyptus cladocalyx - Sugar Gum (25x19)
- 8 Corymbia citriodora - Lemon-scented Gum (11x7)
- 9 Alnus acuminata subsp. glabrata - Evergreen Alder (8x8)
- 10 Melia azedarach - White Cedar (9x10)
- 14 Eucalyptus sideroxylon - Red Ironbark (14x10)
- 15 Corymbia maculata - Spotted Gum (16x9)
- 17 Eucalyptus cladocalyx - Sugar Gum (9x2)
- 18 Eucalyptus cladocalyx - Sugar Gum (8x5)
- 22 Eucalyptus cladocalyx - Sugar Gum (7x5)
- 27 Acer buergerianum - Trident Maple (3x2)

KEY

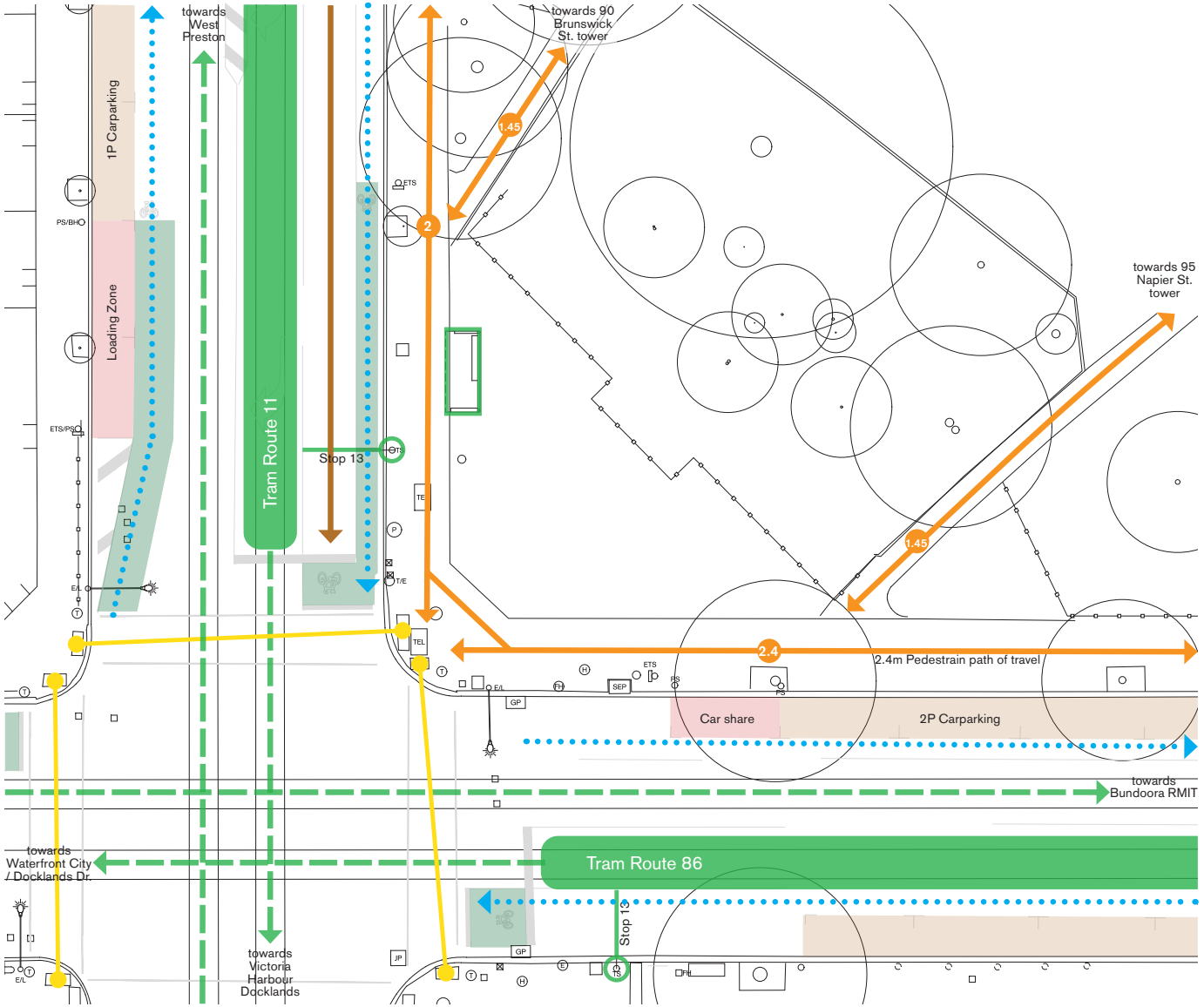
- Existing trees to be removed
- Existing trees to be retained - Arboricultural Rating High: Mod.B
- Existing trees to be retained - Arboricultural Rating High: Mod.C
- Australian native
- Victorian native
- Evergreen exotic
- SRZ — Structural root zone
- TPZ — Tree protection zone



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Acess and Circulation



KEY

- Pedestrian circulation
- 2.4 Path width (m)
- Signalised pedestrian crossing
- On road bicycle lane
- Green pavement treatment to highlight cyclist path of travel and head start box.
- Tram route (with 33.45m L x 2.65mW tram shown)
- Vehicle lane
- Car parking (timed)
- Car parking (special)

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Existing Features: Furniture and Objects



1


2


3


4



5


6

1 Tram shelter
2 Heritage post box (redundant)
3 Fire hydrant
4 Reproduction heritage light post
5 Electronic speed limit signs (Brunswick St/ Gertrude St)
6 Tram stop signage
7 Rubbish bin with cigarette bin and 'Put in Bin' wrap
8 Loop top fencing panels
9 'Wominjeka' Atherton Gardens entry signage



7


8



9

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

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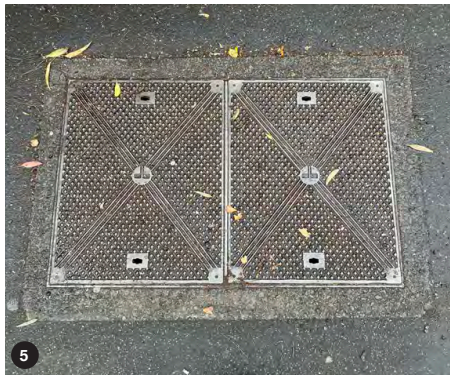
Existing Features: Pits and Services



















1	Gertrude Street side entry pit
2	Gertrude Street grated pit
3	Gertrude Street water valve
4	Pedestrian crossing Telstra pit lid (and chamber)
5	Brunswick Street Telstra pit lid (and chamber)
6	Brunswick Street traffic sensor pits
7	Typical LV electrical pit
8	Typical Brunswick Street tree pit
9	Typical Atherton Gardens basalt rock edge

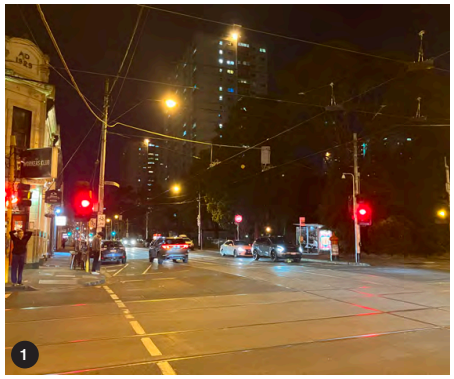
Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

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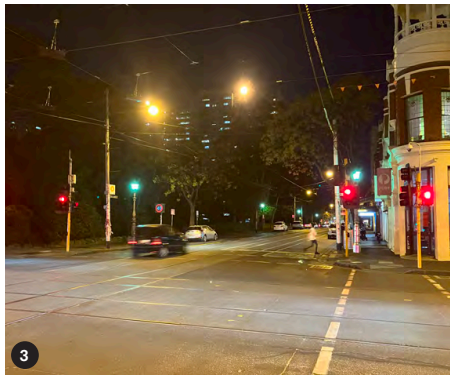
Existing Features: Lighting

Site inspection observations

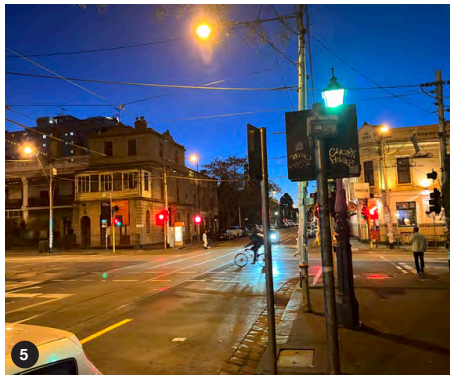
+ The spill light from the existing street lighting including the heritage lights, provides sufficient lighting for people to be able to negotiate their way safely in the area which sits outside the fence line of Atherton Gardens.
+ The existing street lighting uses high pressure sodium and metal halide technologies. We expect that these will be updated at some point to LED technology. The upgrade is likely to significantly impact the ambience of the space as the warm orange light (perceived as low brightness) may transition to cool white light (perceived as brighter).
+ The roof mounted lighting on top of the social housing towers provide significant lighting to Atherton Gardens, and have a distracting glare component. The lighting matches the existing street lighting technology, and may at some point be transitioned to an LED solution, the colour temperature of which is as yet not determined.
+ The corner being proposed for redevelopment appears dark, when viewed from within the garden at a distance. This is due to there being a higher level of brightness on the buildings across the street.
+ Similarly the corner appears dark from the opposite corner of the intersection due to the brightness of the intersection.
+ Readily accessible council owned electrical distribution boards were not identified as part of the site visit. This is an important issue to address, as we need to provide a power supply and a distribution board can cost upwards of $10,000. We cannot draw power from the Tram or street lighting schemes, as they do not allow luminaires which are not approved by them, and the approved luminaires do not provide the type of light we need.
+ The existing pole mounted lighting in Atherton garden was not energised. It is unknown if the lighting no longer works or is simply perceived as not being needed. Several of the poles were vandalised. We believe that vandalism may prove to be an issue and should look to ways we can prevent people from accessing the luminaires.
+ The existing shelter for the tram stop has integrated lighting and backlit advertising signage. It is a bright space which acts in competition with other lighting. We suggest that as part of the works the shelter and the integrated lighting is rethought to create a holistic approach to the space.
+ The existing planting on the corner provides a level of seclusion to the play spaces deeper within the garden. It would be good to understand if the seclusion is considered valuable, and if nighttime lighting being provided is needed to draw attention away from the main garden.











1 Brunswick Street looking North
2 Site from opposite corner
3 Gertrude Street looking East
4 Brunswick Street tram shelter
5 Gertrude Street looking West

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Lighting

Lighting opportunities

There is sufficient spill light in the space to provide safe movement lighting.

The lighting objective is to create a transitionary zone that better balances the higher brightness of the streetscape with the lower brightness of the gardens, whilst accentuating the story telling elements of the artist.

+ Excellent results can be achieved using tightly controlled lighting located at high level, or integrated into the tiered seating.
+ All lighting at an accessible height will be integrated into fixtures and furniture so it is not easily spotted or reached. No in ground lighting will be proposed.
+ Potential to use gobo projection to project a shape or word, or soft pattern into the space.
+ Potential to use colour changeable lighting with minimal control infrastructure.
+ Potential to control the brightness of lighting through dimming protocols and enable a dynamic shift in light, whether white only or coloured.
+ There is the potential to have different scenes for when you want the space to be awake, and when it is to “sleep”.
+ Potential to apply a stencil to the rear of tram shelter.


1

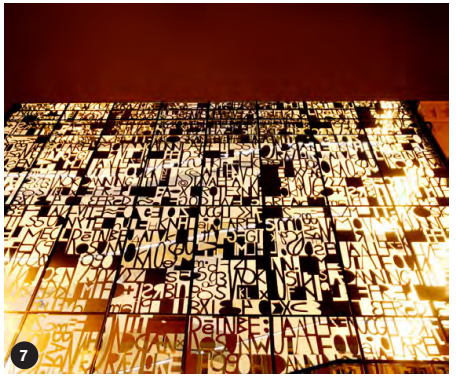

2


3


4


5


6


7

1 Projected light - The Lighthouse: Patch Theatre
2 Projected light - Tallinn Light Biennale
3 Integrated furniture lighting - Hobart Waterfront: Street & Garden
4 Projected light - Urban Sun: Studio Roosegaarde
5 Projected light - La Duchere, Lyon: LEA Lighting
6-7 Stenciled light - The Teachers House, Oslo: Element Arkitekter AS

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Existing Features: Traffic signal post

The traffic signal post associated with the North-South crossing of Gertrude Street is situated within the pedestrian crossing width.

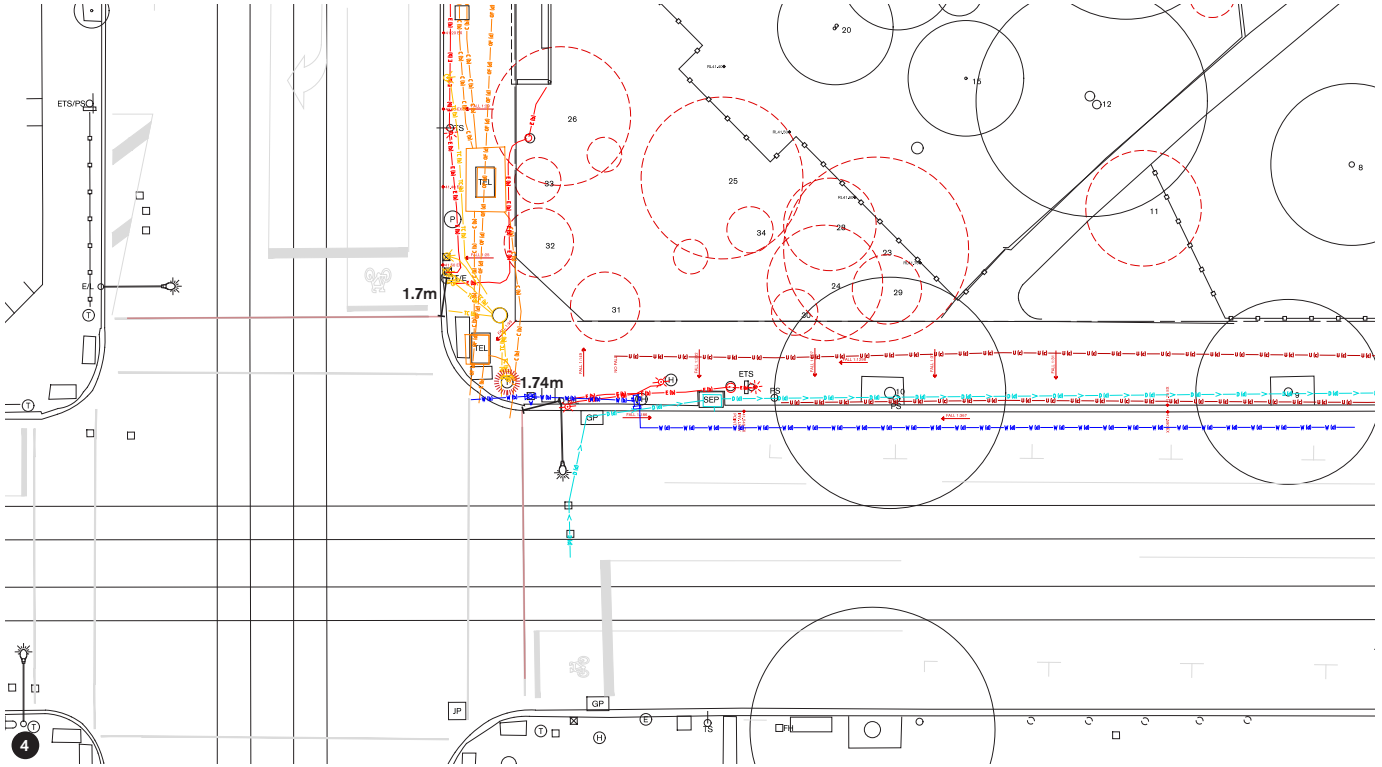
To remove this obstruction we are seeking to understand if the adjacent light pole can receive the required traffic signal infrastructure.

The existing offset from light pole to pedestrian crossing is similar to the layout of the Brunswick street crossing.









1 Brunswick Street looking South
2 Brunswick Street looking South
3 Gertrude Street looking West
4 Services plan detail

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Study Model: Plan

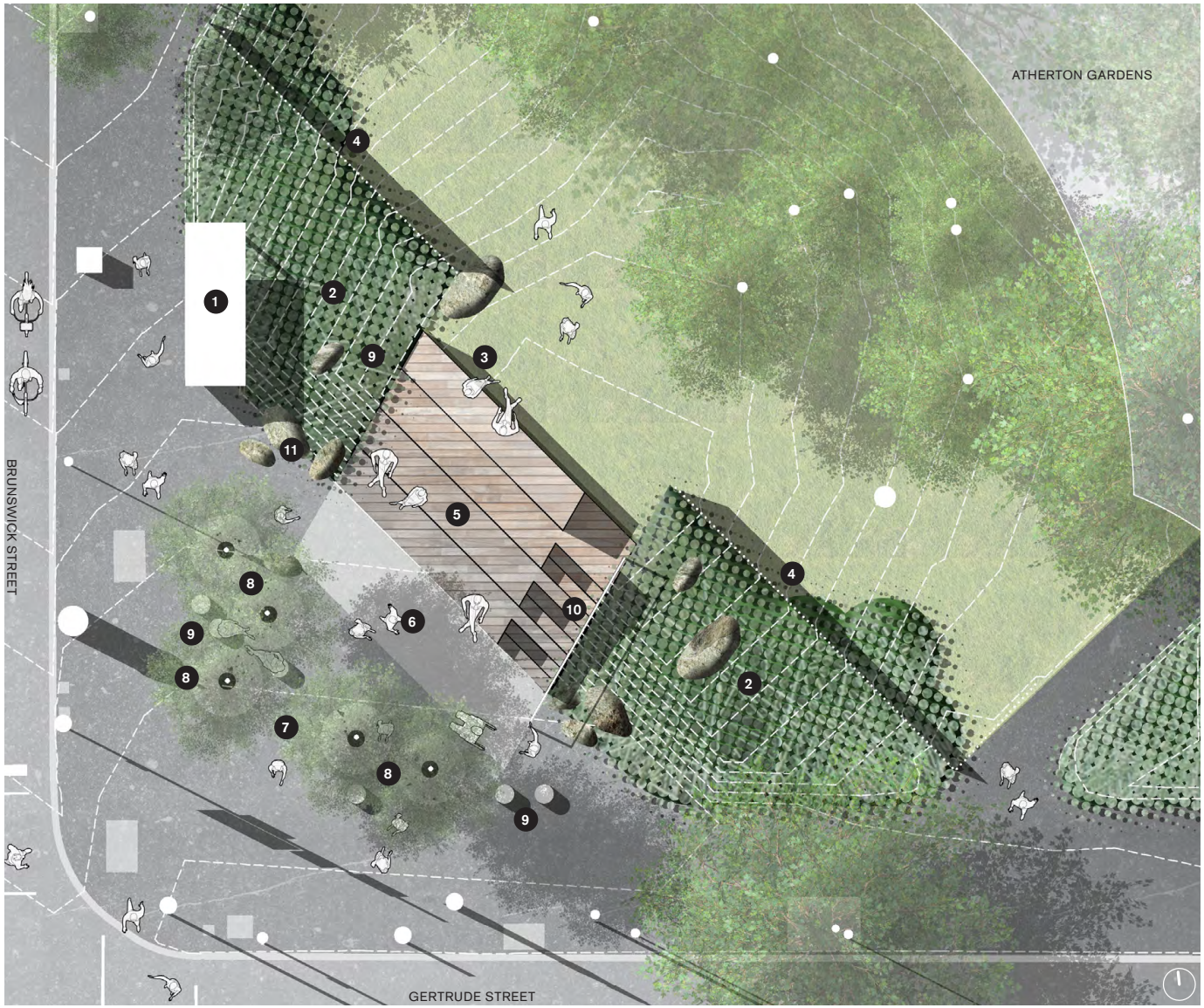


Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Study Model: Plan

1. Existing Tram Shelter with new cladding
2. New garden with salvaged rocks
3. Central section of fence removed
4. Side sections of fence retained
5. Timber and stone tiered seating with integrated arm and backrests
6. Paved 'carpet' at base of seating
7. Open Plaza
8. New tree in custom pit
9. Cluster of seats on the street
10. Stair and handrail
11. Drinking fountain (not shown- water supply TBC)



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Study Model: Overview

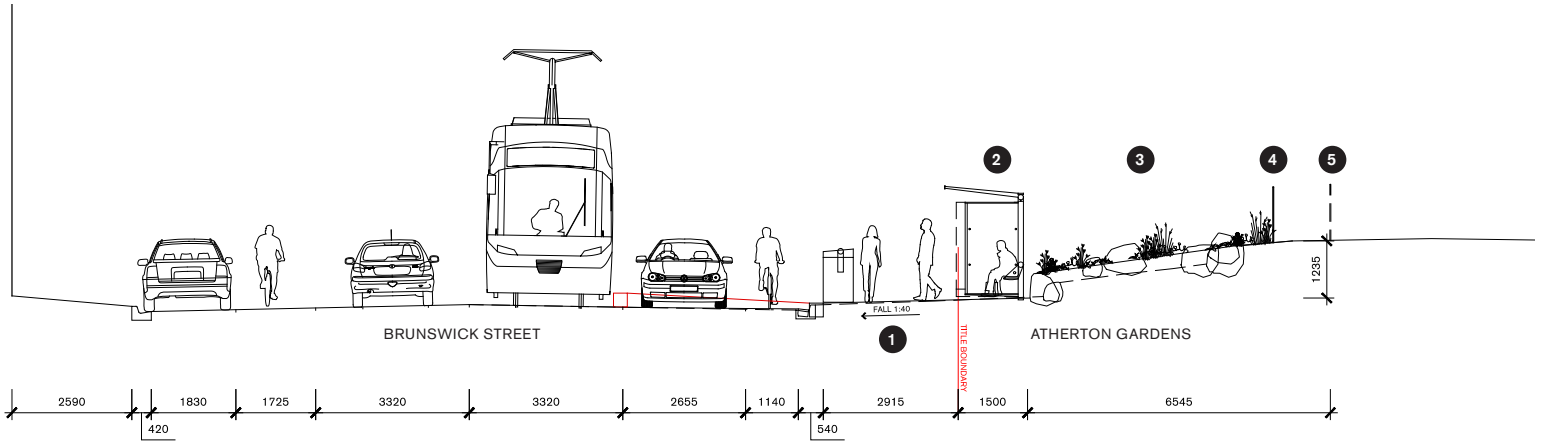


Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

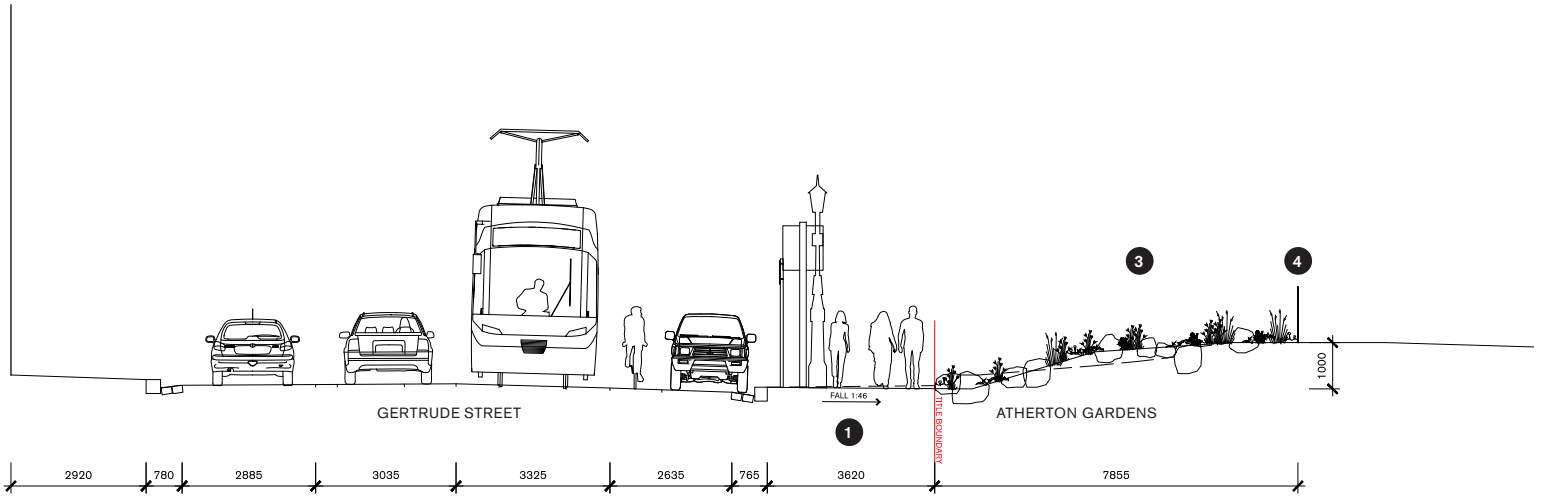
Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Sections

1. Regraded footpaths (1:40 Max. crossfall)
2. Existing Tram Shelter with new cladding
3. New garden with salvaged rocks
4. Side sections of fence retained
5. Central section of fence removed



Section 01: Brunswick Street



Section 02: Gertrude Street

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Sections

1. Open Plaza
2. New tree in custom pit
3. Cluster of seats on the street
4. Paved 'carpet' at base of seating
5. Timber and stone tiered seating with integrated arm and backrests
6. Stair and handrail
7. Established native trees



Section 03: Corner plaza & tiered seating

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Study Model: Birds-Eye

1. Existing Tram Shelter with new cladding
2. New garden with salvaged rocks
3. Central section of fence removed
4. Side sections of fence retained
5. Timber and stone tiered seating with integrated arm and backrests
6. Paved 'carpet' at base of seating
7. Open Plaza
8. New tree in custom pit
9. Cluster of seats on the street
10. Stair and handrail
11. Drinking fountain (not shown)



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

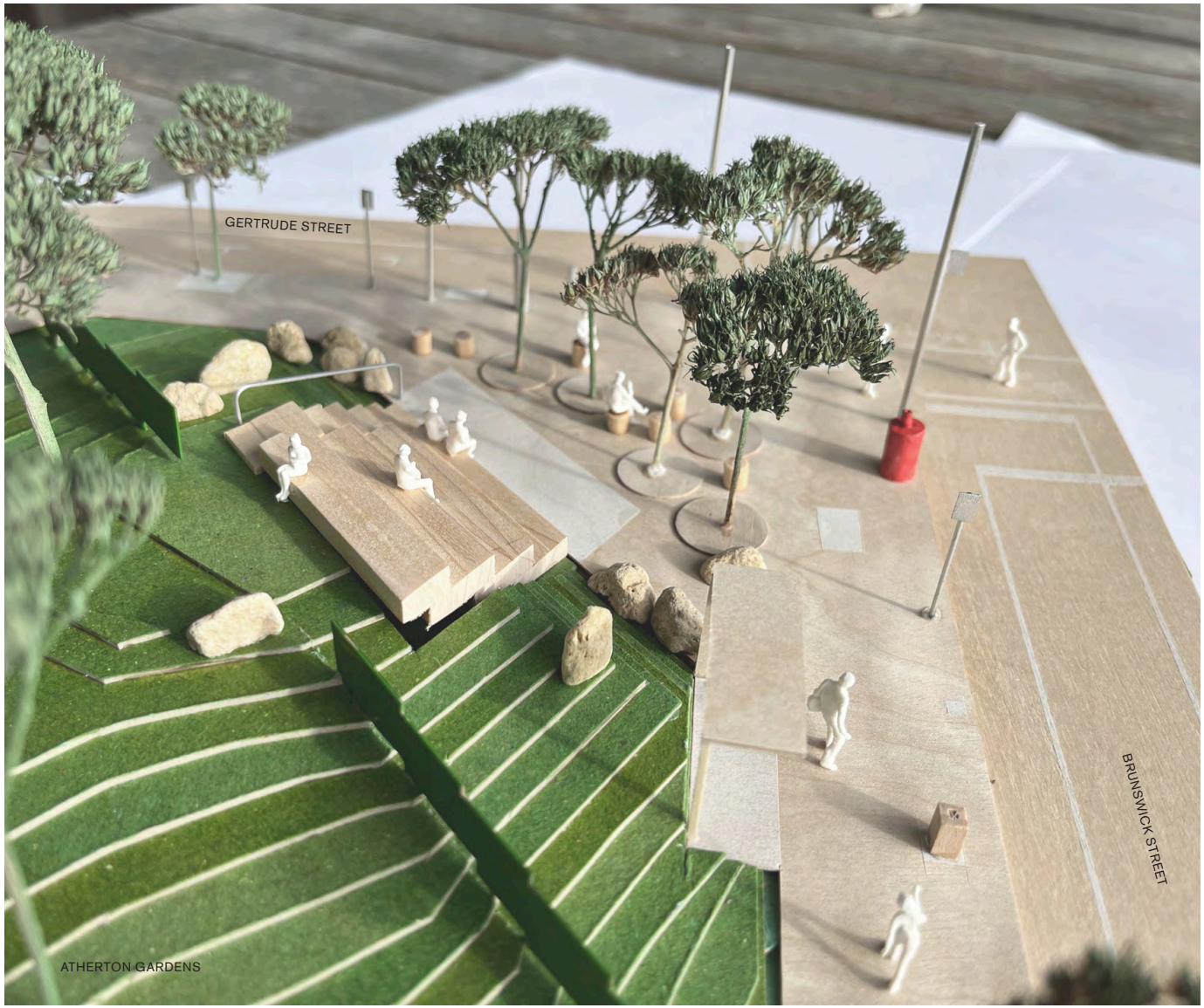
Study Model: Above looking toward Brunswick Street



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Study Model: Above looking toward Gertrude Street



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Study Model: Gertrude Street looking North West



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Embedding Words and Text: Written in Place

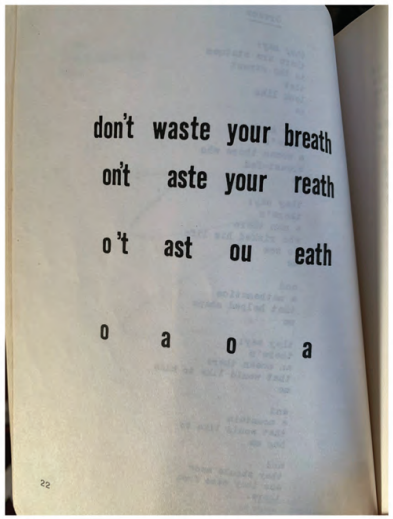
Written In Place

Brunswick Street is dense with the words of authors and the voices of its inhabitants. We propose a conversation with these voices and an exchange with these words, that is written into the place. We will embed the diversity and difference of language in and around the site into the elements of this new space - in its seating, rocks, paving, furniture and planting. This conversation will sometimes be a shout and sometimes be a whisper.

Declan Fry statement

My plan is to incorporate an original piece of writing with the location, one which is made in the context of my own awareness of some of the vast amount of writing that has been made in and around Gertrude Street and Fitzroy. I hope to think not only about the form in which the writing may be presented, but how people will come to and experience that form – for example, by designing the writing in a way that encourages people to engage in piecing its meaning and logic together through both physical movement and an awareness of the other stories and languages the writing is informed by.



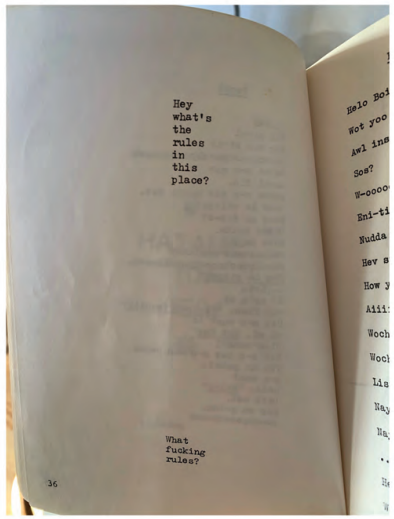

don't waste your breath

on't aste your reath

o 't ast ou eath

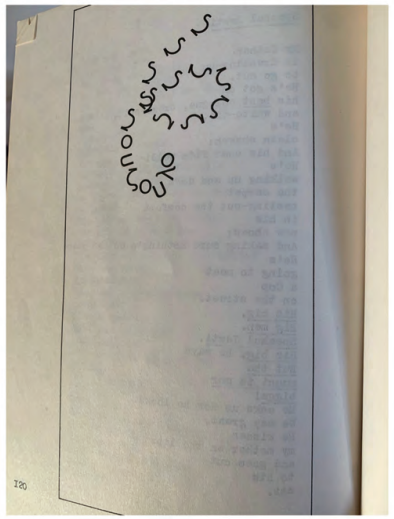
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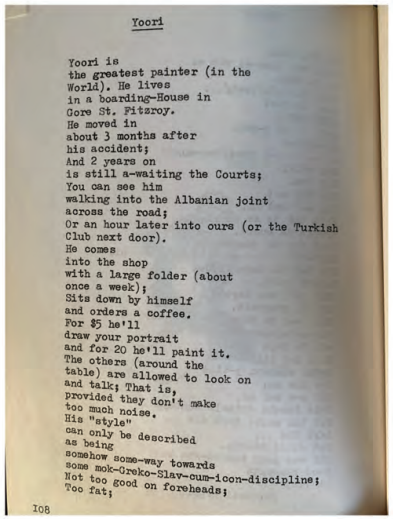
22


Hey what's the rules in this place?

What fucking rules?

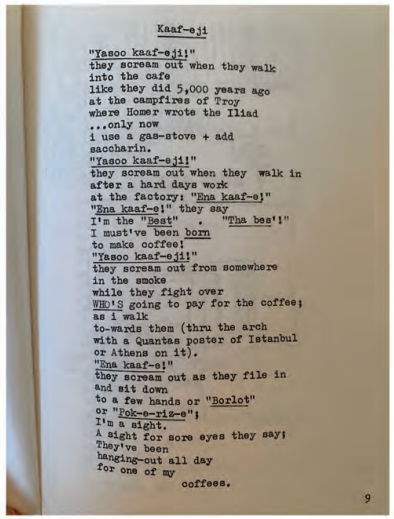
36


120


Yoori

Yoori is
the greatest painter (in the
World). He lives
in a boarding-House in
Gore St. Fitzroy.
He moved in
about 3 months after
his accident;
And 2 years on
is still a-waiting the Courts;
You can see him
walking into the Albanian joint
across the road;
Or an hour later into ours (or the Turkish
Club next door).
He comes
into the shop
with a large folder (about
once a week);
Sits down by himself
and orders a coffee.
For $5 he'll
draw your portrait
and for 20 he'll paint it.
The others (around the
table) are allowed to look on
and talk; That is,
provided they don't make
too much noise.
His "style"
can only be described
as being
somehow some-way towards
some mok-Greko-Slav-cum-icon-discipline;
Not too good on foreheads;
Too fat;

108


Kaaf-eji

"Yasoo kaaf-eji!"
they scream out when they walk
into the cafe
like they did 5,000 years ago
at the campfires of Troy
where Homer wrote the Iliad
...only now
i use a gas-stove + add
saccharin.
"Yasoo kaaf-eji!"
they scream out when they walk in
after a hard days work
at the factory; "Ena kaaf-ej"
"Ena kaaf-ej" they say
I'm the "Beat" . "Tha bes'!"
I must've been born
to make coffee!
"Yasoo kaaf-eji!"
they scream out from somewhere
in the smoke
while they fight over
WHO'S going to pay for the coffee;
as i walk
to-wards them (thru the arch
with a Quantas poster of Istanbul
or Athens on it).
"Ena kaaf-ej"
they scream out as they file in
and sit down
to a few hands or "Borlot"
or "Fok-e-riz-e";
I'm a sight.
A sight for sore eyes they say;
They've been
banging-out all day
for one of my
coffees.

9


KOMMOTHPEION

Scenes from a door

There's
a r storey terrace across
the street
that was built
around 1880
where about an army of poor
live
.
Next door
a man is shaving in the bathroom
which is on the balcony.
.
Someone
in one of those windows
doesn't like us;
Everyone-is-entitle
they throw
an egg
over
.
At ground-level
there's a Chemist shop,
a barber shop,
a bookmaker's shop,
a Yugoslav ROAST CHICKEN BBQ joint,
and a shop
where you can get
all sorts of broken
furniture.
.
A bald man
waves at the Barber from across
the street.

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

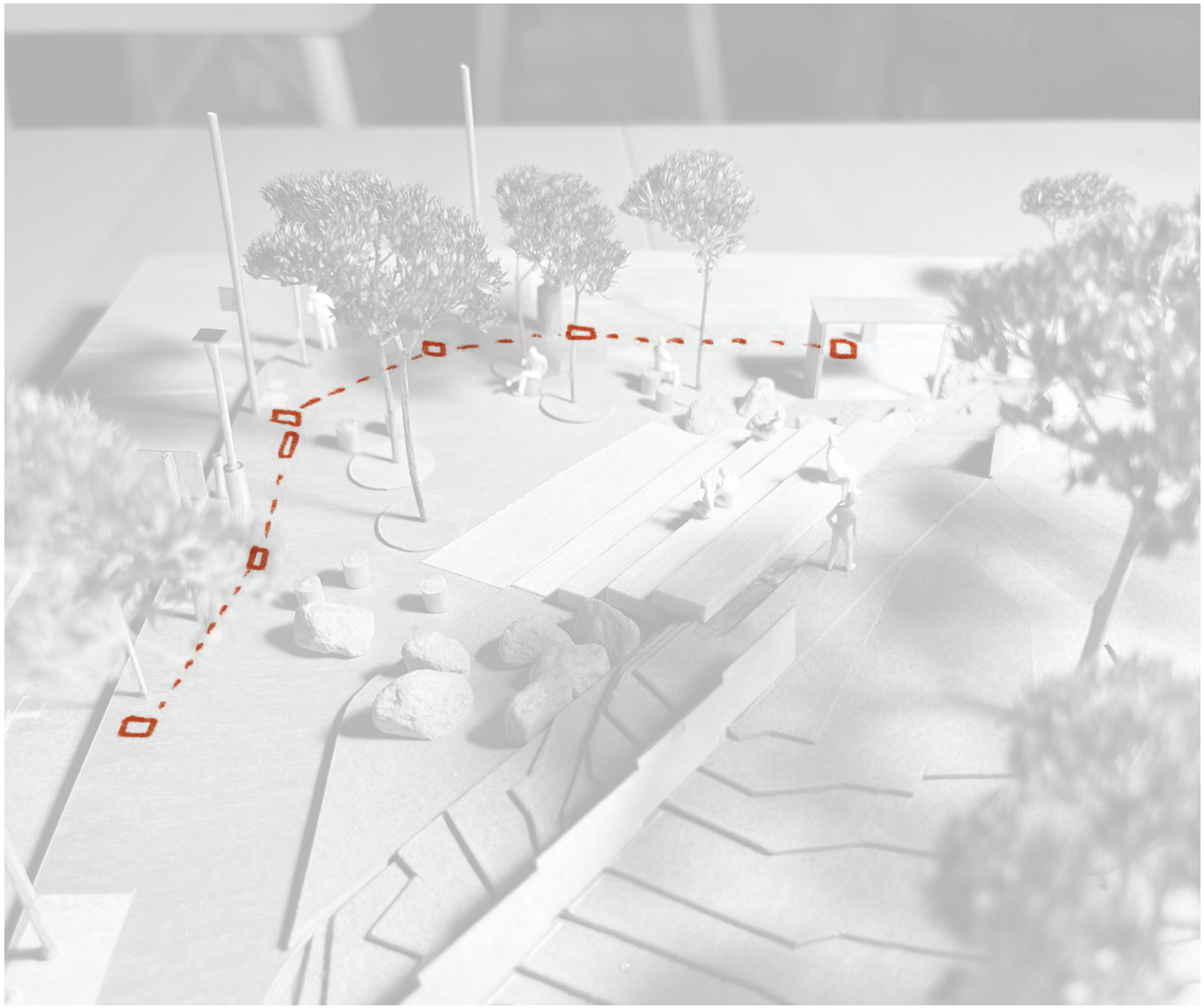
Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Embedding Words and Text: Written with metal









Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

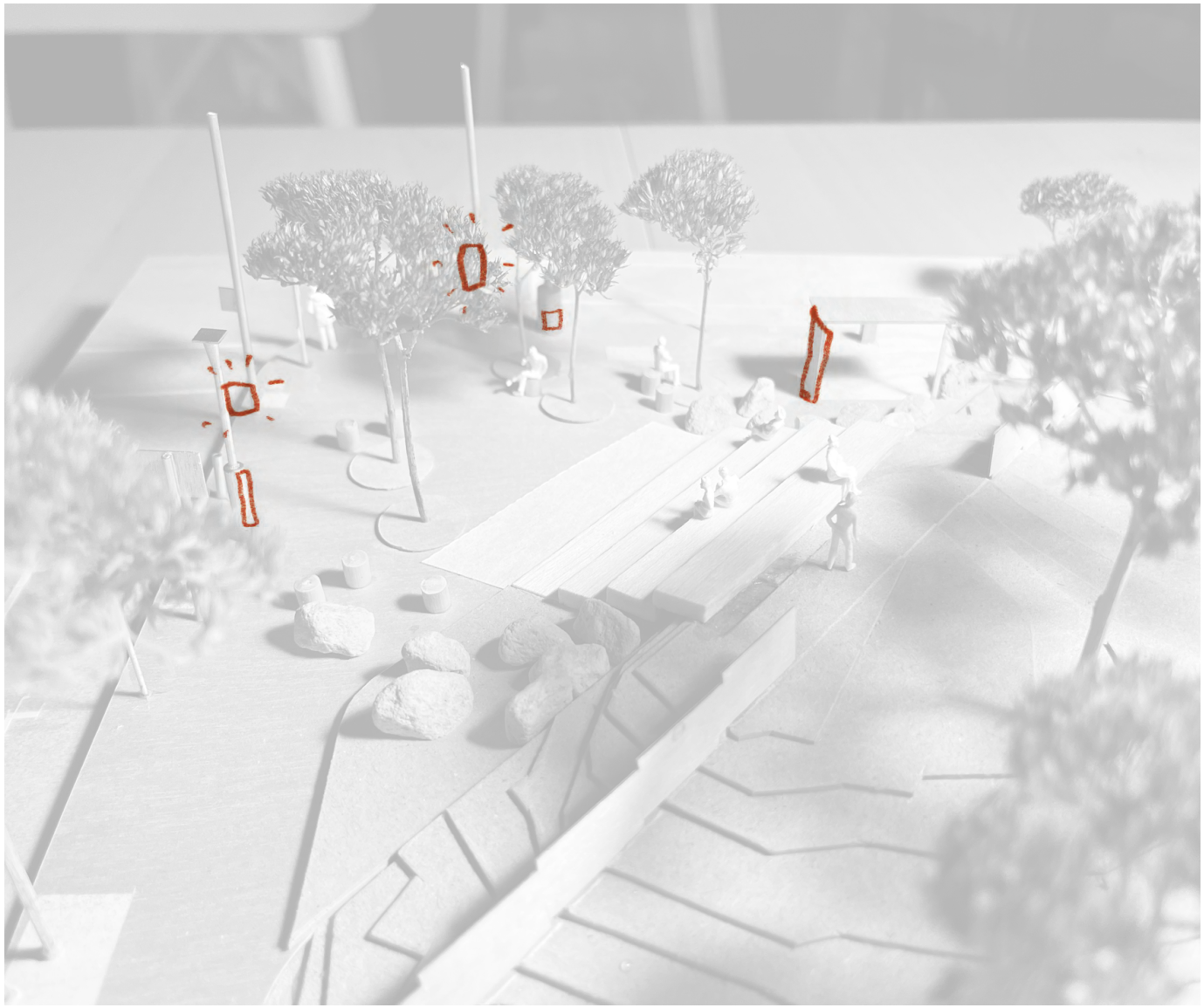
Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Embedding Words and Text: Written into the surface









Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

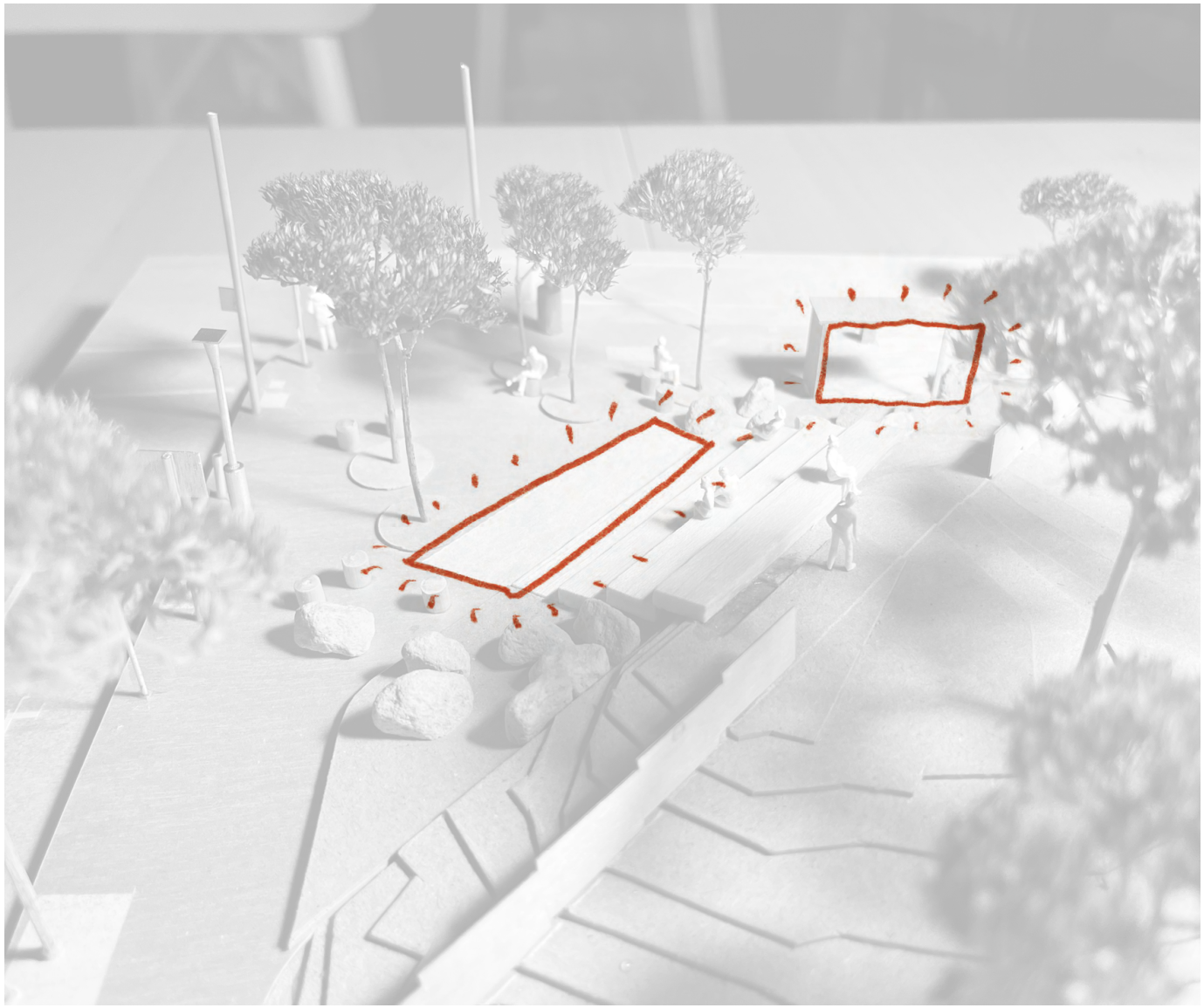
Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Embedding Words and Text: Written with road marking









Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

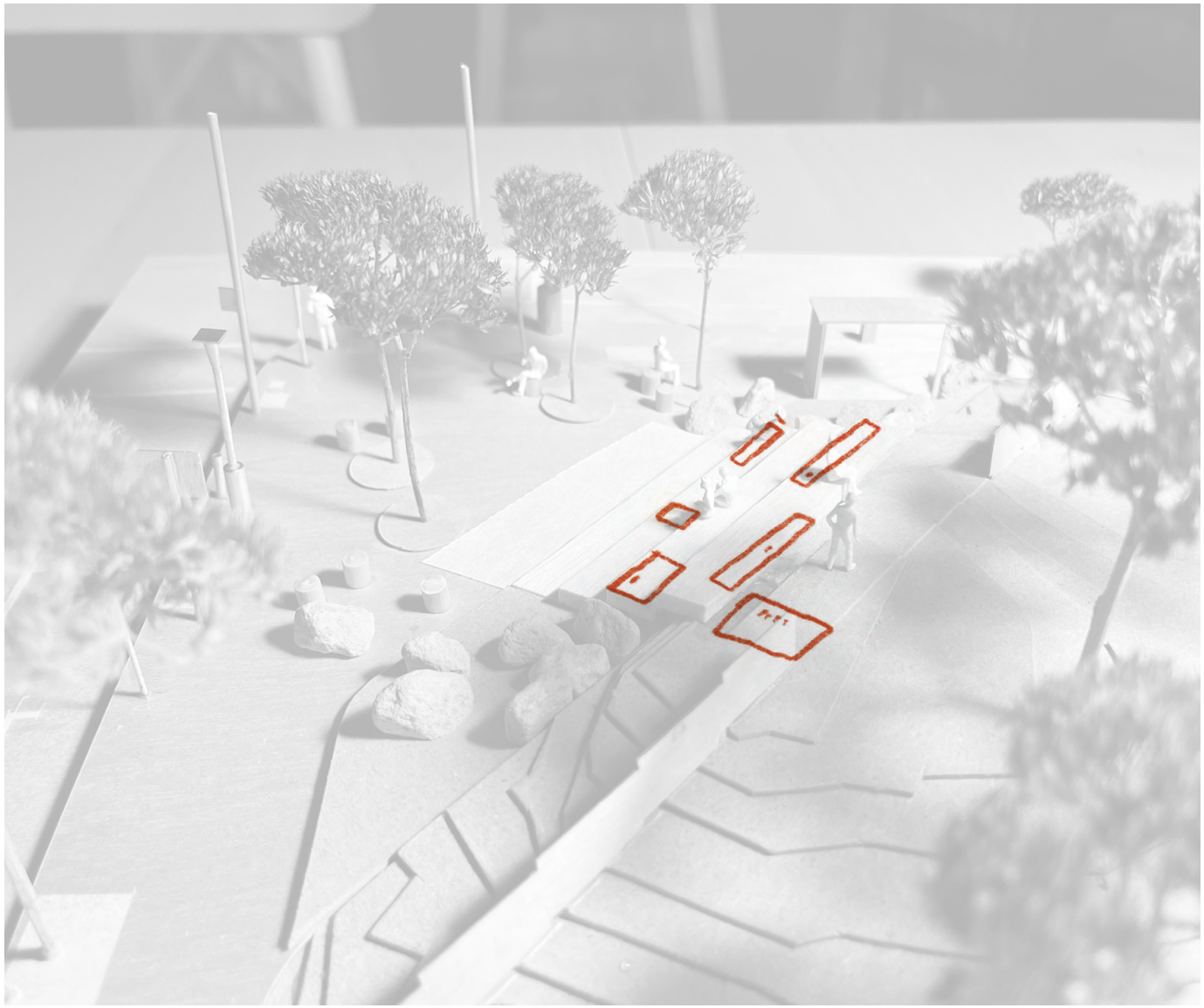
Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Embedding Words and Text: Written in seating









Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

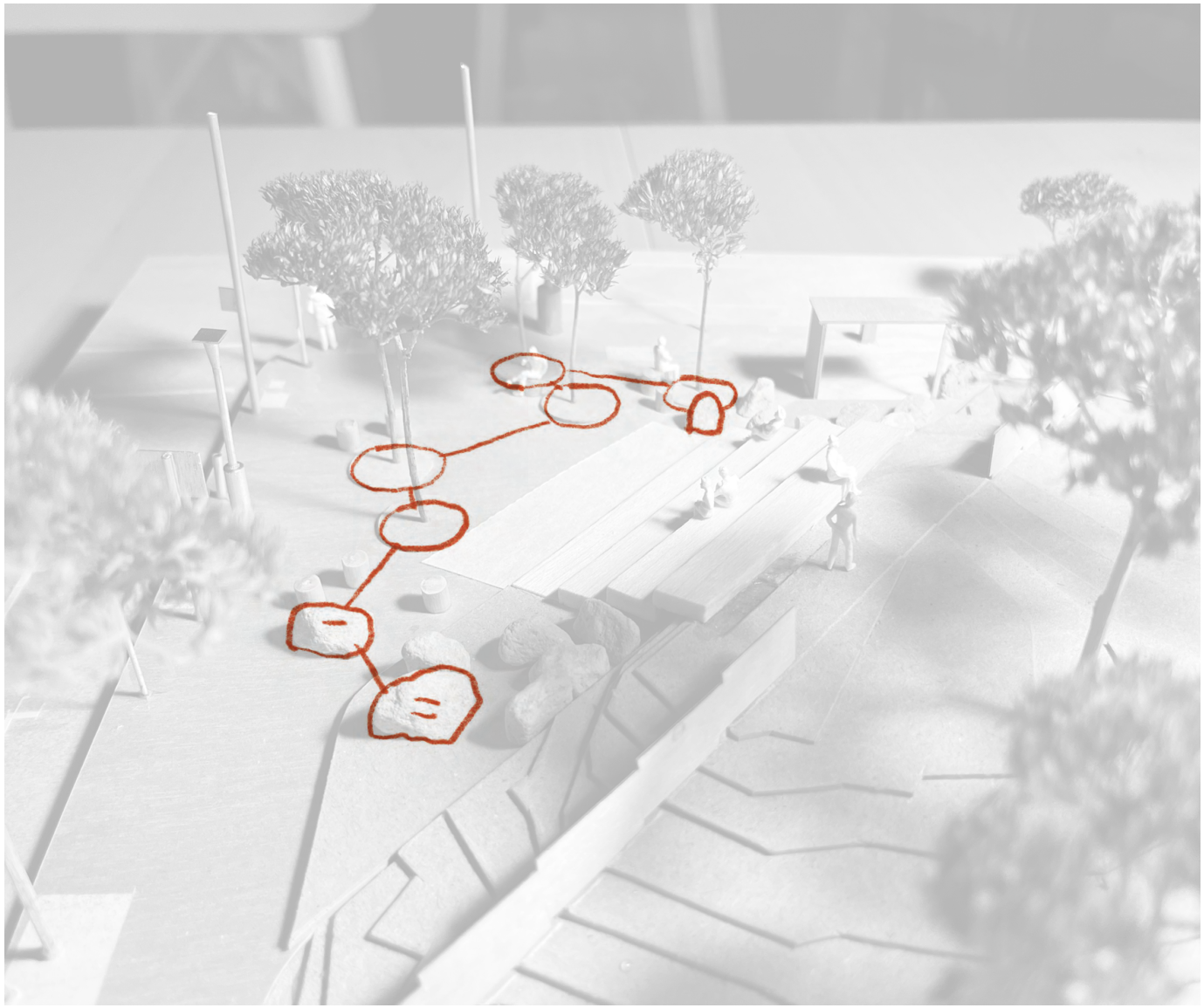
Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Embedding Words and Text: Written in water and stone









Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 3 Draft Concept Design

Country and Diaspora

Gathering Place

Brunswick and Gertrude Street is a significant site for Indigenous Victorians and represents a place of gathering, organisation and solidarity. The proposed stoop - a gathering place - at the corner of the streets presents an opportunity to acknowledge the coming together of these people by acknowledging their material of Country. The expression of the tiered bleacher seating should express a diversity of material brought together into a unified whole. An urban artefact that talks of difference and solidarity.







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Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Community Engagement Report

This report details the specifics and evaluates participation rates in the community engagement in the Gertrude and Brunswick Streets Corner project. The consultation opened on 20 November and was live until 9am on 18 December 2023.

Why we ran this consultation?

We have created a design for a vibrant new public space at the northeast corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets.

This idea was raised during our consultation for the Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan and there was strong community support for a new public space at this location (over 80%).

The new public space will provide seating, trees and greenery, an improved tram shelter, lighting and embedded words/text (which will be integrated in the surfaces of the space such as seating, tram shelter and paving) that reflect the significance of the area for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Part of the site is located on Atherton Gardens, which is owned by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH). The use of this land as a public space will require formal approval, with negotiations currently taking place with DFFH and Homes Victoria.

The new proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design will also complement other initiatives in the surrounding areas, including the upcoming installation of the Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter statues in Atherton Gardens.

We will be having separate discussions with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and key stakeholders from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to understand how the space is significant for them, so that this can be incorporated into the design as part of an integrated piece for the space.

The Yarra community were given an opportunity to view the concept design and have their say from 20 November to 9am on Monday 18 December 2023. There were also two in-person pop up sessions held on Thursday 30 November and Saturday 9 December at the northeast corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets.

Objectives of this engagement

1. To inform the community about the proposed plans to create a new public space at the north-east corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets.
2. To present the draft concept design and seek feedback from the community on the proposed design and layout of the space, how they would use the space, and any issues to consider.
3. To ensure there is feedback received from the range of people that use the space (Atherton Gardens residents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, tram passengers, local shops, residents and visitors).

Level of Community influence

Negotiables

The community could influence:

1. the design, layout and components of the proposed new public space.
2. the type, location and orientation of seating and other fixtures.
3. the justification for street furniture on footpaths and the introduction of new elements i.e., lighting and bike hoops.

Non-negotiables

The community could not influence:

1. the size of space as it is set, particularly within DFFH land.
2. TPZs and SRZs. Certain trees may not be removed to make space for facilities.
3. signalised crossings at the intersection as that will not change.
4. the footpath function as it must be retained.
5. the budget as that is set.

6. the content of embedded words/text in the space – targeted engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community will be carried out about the Aboriginal history and continued significance that help inform this element of the design.

What did we ask?

Participants were asked:

- What do you like about the proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design?
- What do you think could be improved about the proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design?
- How would you like to use the space? Select all that apply.
    - Eat lunch or drink coffee
    - Meeting up with a friend
    - Using the tram stop to board or get off the tram
    - Socialising with a group of people
    - Ceremonies
    - Enjoying the bar/restaurant scenes
    - Passive recreation (e.g. watching the world go by)
    - Relax and recharge
    - Walk through on my way somewhere
    - Other (please specify)

- When do you usually like to visit the area? Select all that apply.
    - Weekday morning
    - Weekday lunch break
    - Weekday afternoon
    - Weekday evening
    - Weekend morning
    - Weekend afternoon
    - Weekend evening

- Do you have any other comments about the proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design?

Methods included:

- Online survey on Your Say Yarra webpage
- Paper surveys
- Pop-up events on site
- Informal in person engagement at key locations nearby

Participation

- 105 survey responses in total
- 2 individual responses (email/Oracle)
- At the two pop-up sessions we engaged with approximately 70 people overall. This included either handing out postcards and directing people to the survey, or having more detailed discussions with individuals.

Who did we hear from?

Demographic data was collected from 105 survey contributions (online and paper copies).

- Most people who completed this survey (76.9%) live in Yarra. 43.3% indicated that they own a property or mortgage in Yarra and 38% work in Yarra.
- The most common age range for people who completed this survey was 35-49 (29.8%) closely followed by 50-59 (26.9%).
- More women (54.8%) than men (33.7%) completed this survey, with the remaining people self-described or preferring not to answer this question.
- Our key target groups were well represented in the survey results:
    - Person who speaks a language other than English – 10.6% (slightly below average)
    - Person with a disability – 11.5% (above average)

- Member of the LGBTIQA+ community – 28.9% (more than double our average)
- Someone of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent – 7.7% (around 7x average)

What's your connection to Yarra?	Numbers	Percentage
I live in Yarra	80	76.9%
I work in Yarra	39	37.5%
I visit Yarra	22	21.2%
I study in Yarra	6	5.8%
I own a property or mortgage in Yarra	45	43.3%
I rent in Yarra	6	5.8%
I own a business in Yarra	2	1.9%
What gender do you identify as?	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Man	35	33.65%
Woman	57	54.8%
Self-described	4	3.85%
I prefer not to say	8	7.7%
What is your age range?	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Under 11	0	0%
12 to 17	0	0%
18 to 24	5	4.8%
25 to 34	17	16.4%
35 to 49	31	29.8%
50 to 59	28	26.9%
60 to 69	12	11.5%
70 to 84	7	6.7%

85 and older	0	0%
I prefer not to say	4	3.8%
What suburb do you live in	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Abbotsford	5	4.8%
Alphington	0	0%
Burnley	0	0%
Carlton North	2	1.9%
Clifton Hill	5	4.8%
Collingwood	15	14.4%
Cremorne	0	0%
Fairfield	1	0.96%
Fitzroy	52	50%
Fitzroy North	5	4.81%
Princes Hill	1	0.96%
Richmond	2	1.9%
I live outside of Yarra	16	15.4%
Select all that apply. I am…..	**Numbers**	**Percentage**
Someone who speaks a language other than English at home.	11	10.6%
A person living with a disability.	12	11.5%
A member of the LGBTIQA+ community.	30	28.9%
Someone of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent.	8	7.7%
None of the above.	46	44.2%
I prefer not to say.	11	10.6%

Engagement Reach

Engagement and Communications Activity
Your Say Yarra page set up with information about the project and link to the online survey.
Postcards distributed to local residents and businesses.
Posters displayed in the Atherton Gardens residential buildings and DFFH office.
Two corflutes displayed at the site.
Email sent to internal and external stakeholders to share with their networks.
Email sent to people who contributed to the Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan consultation, which had included a proposal for this site.
Information published on Council's Yarra Life and Your Say Yarra email newsletters
Information circulated on Yarra Estates Update email newsletter
Social media posts and ads
Posters and postcards displayed at Fitzroy Library, Connie Benn Centre and Fitzroy Youth Centre.
Visit to Fitzroy Learning Centre to speak with morning tea visitors and distribute posters and postcards.
Postcards distributed to Atherton Gardens Community Grocer and Atherton Gardens Community Market.
Two in-person pop-up events on site, with information about the project and a physical model of the proposed design.



In-person pop-up event on Saturday 9 December 2023

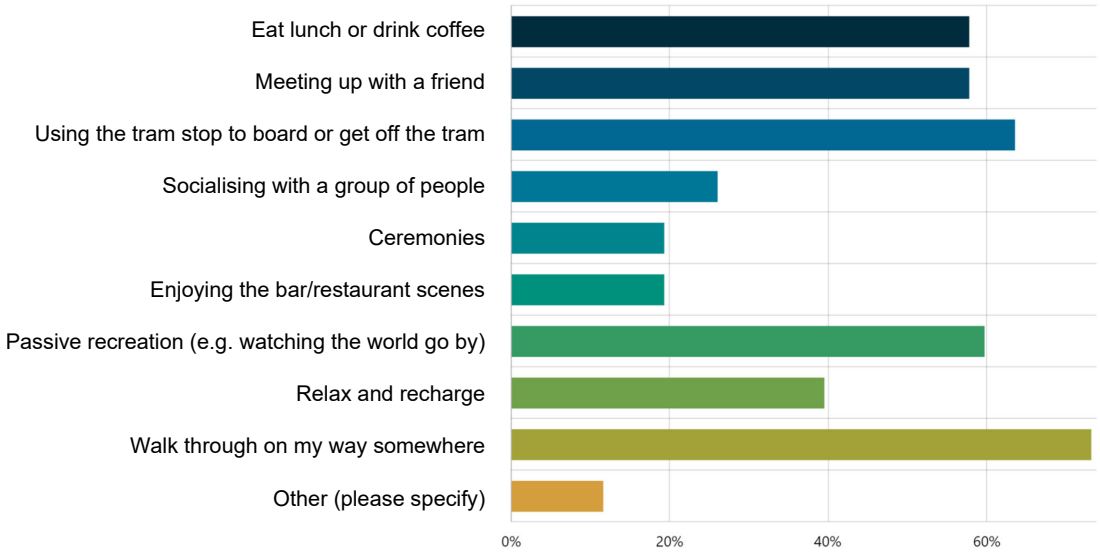
What did we hear?

The consultation asked a number of open ended and multiple-choice questions.

In terms of the multiple-choice questions, results are as follows:

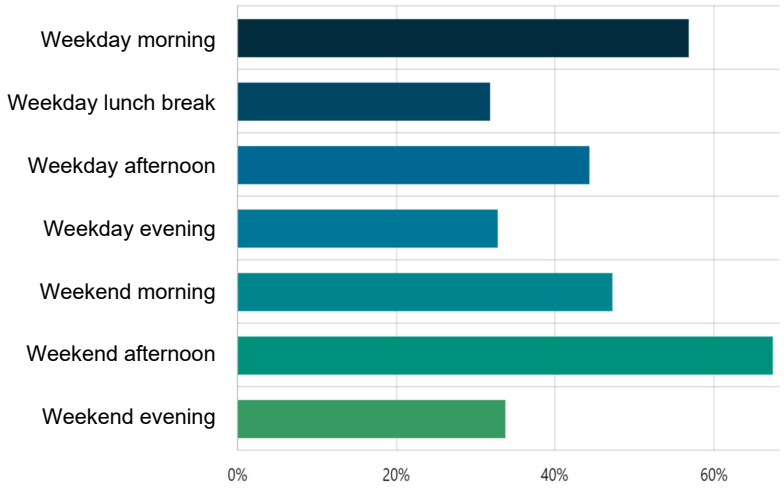
How would you like to use the space? Select all that apply.

People's responses showed that they would like the space to be used in a variety of ways, however the most common responses were 'Walk through on my way somewhere' (73.1%), 'Using the tram stop to board or get off the tram' (63.5%), 'Passive recreation (e.g. watching the world go by)' (59.6%), 'Meeting up with a friend (57.7%)' and 'Eat lunch or drink coffee (57.7%)'.



When do you usually like to visit the area? Select all that apply.

Responses were varied showing that the space will need to cater for use during the day and evening, and through the week and weekend. The main responses (over 40% each) were weekend morning and afternoon and weekday morning and afternoon.



A number of open-ended questions were asked. The text from these responses was analysed and broken down into key themes below.

What do you like about the proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design?

Council received lots of positive feedback about the proposal. Many people felt that the design was an improvement of the space and liked that the space is more open, is public space and has trees and greenery.

Creating a more open space (27% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *Love how it's open to the streets and creates a community space.* • *The openness of the design.* • *I like that it opens up the corner and adds seating and trees.* • *I like the open concept design and the amount of seating.* • *I like the way that it opens up the corner of the street to make it usable and communal - it integrates Atherton Gardens with the sidewalk nicely.* • *The design opens out what is at present a dirty and poorly maintained corner of Yarra city.*	This feedback is noted. The open nature of the design improves access and views through the space, and provides a space that has better passive surveillance.
Improving the use of the space and upgrading the area (23% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *Making use of land that is currently wasted.* • *Using this space that's been empty for so long.*	This feedback is noted.

• *Turning a under-utilised space in to a new more accessible public space.* • *Love it! Makes such better use of this important and prominent corner. Will be a real "welcome to Brunswick street".* • *A much better and more appealing use of the space.* • *Removal of the dire planting. Refresh of a tired area.* • *Looks great - the current site is often used to store rubbish in the trees and is not appealing at all.* • *Looks great! This area of Gertrude Street really needs upgrading and will make it a fantastic social space.* • *I like the beautifying of the corner, as it's quite drab and un-Inviting at the moment.*	The design will improve the amenity of the area and create a place that fosters social connections and more liveable spaces.
Providing a public space for people (20% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *Safe visible seating for people waiting for transport/friends.* • *Another green space for community to enjoy.* • *Open social gathering place.* • *It seems like a way of enabling people to stop and spend time in this location.* • *I like that it is a friendly, social space, and encourages people to stop and relax at this spot.* • *It looks to be an inclusive shared space. A gathering place.*	This feedback is noted. The design will provide an improved and flexible public space for people to enjoy.
Providing trees and greenery (20% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *More open, green space.* • *I like the increased planting to green Fitzroy and the opening up of the intersection as an urban node.* • *Lots of green space and trees is always welcome.* • *I like the greenery.* • *The open space and trees.*	This feedback is noted. The design removes the dense shrubs and provides improved garden bed areas with new trees to offer improved amenity for people using the space. Some additional feedback was provided in response to the second question below, requesting more trees and suggesting particular plant species. Please refer to response to these points on pages 9-10.
Provision of seating (16% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *Various seating options.* • *It will provide some seating area for people.* • *Tiered steps for sitting and viewing street life.*	This feedback is noted. A variety of seating options have been provided and changes will be made to the design to provide greater

• *Love the concept, especially the amphitheatre style seating.* • *I really like the steps facing the intersection as well as the rocks.* • *Safe visible seating for people waiting for transport/friends.* • *Green space, integrated seating with shade. Tiering.*	seating options to allow people to enjoy different views, including into Atherton Gardens and along Brunswick and Gertrude Streets.

What do you think could be improved about the proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design?

More trees, greenery and shade needed (15% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *The proposed design should comply with Yarra's street tree policy for shading the heat absorbing surfaces of pavements with appropriate plantings that provide necessary tree canopies. Four trees on the south are manifestly insufficient to shade the sitting area from the northern sun.* • *I would like to see more shrubs, trees to provide shade that people can lie on/under.* • *More shade. The main seating/steps are completely exposed. Either plant shade trees within the tiered area or provide shade sail structure to protect people from UV.* • *I think some kind of shading for people would be useful. It would be great in summer to be able to seek shade.* • *The opening of the space has significant reduced greenery. The area has reduced biodiversity and very little options for growth.* • *Given our warming climate, I believe the dominance of exposed hard surfaces and the fact that the tiered seating is without any shade means that in warm weather those seats will be hot and people will get sunburnt.* • *There needs to be more trees - there are a lot of hard surfaces in the plan.*	It's noted that while some respondents supported the trees and greenery in the design, others wanted more trees (and shade) and greenery. In terms of trees and shade: • We have considered the future shade that would be cast over the space, and agree that some more shade could be provided, particularly to protect the space over the afternoon period. In finalising the design, we will consider opportunities to provide additional trees in the space particularly where there is seating. • It is noted that due to the orientation of the site and proximity to the traffic lights, it is difficult to plant trees directly west of the new public space. • The new tree planting will provide suitable sized trees that complement the eucalypt planting within Atherton Gardens and allow for better view lines. It's considered that the existing shrubs and smaller trees in the corner are too dense and create visibility issues and hiding nooks close to the footpath and tram stop. The existing vegetation is unable to be pruned to an appropriate shape/size. The existing plantings at the corner are of low arboriculture value, the majority are exotic species, and they offer little amenity value. In terms of greenery: • We agree that the space could offer more greenery to support the character of the area and provide environmental and biodiversity benefits. • In finalising the design, we will look to expand the garden bed areas further into the space and reduce the extent of hardscaped areas, whilst still providing places to sit. In addition, the design will explore the feasibility of a water fountain in the space to provide further amenity and comfort during hotter periods.

Suggestions for different plant species (15% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *I think that the "new garden with salvaged rock" areas need to include rich pollinator food sources and dense-cover insect habitat since, given the urban location, we mustn't further limit these scarce resources.* • *Plant fruit trees.* • *I think including native plants should be a top priority.* • *I think having deciduous tree species as the primary planting for the new trees would be a great choice.* • *Some flowers or native plants on the hill to add some colour or connection to nature.* • *Remember the site is windy so plantings need to take that into consideration.*	The responses show that people have a variety of preferences in relation to plant species on site. The species selection is yet to be finalised, but the following approach is proposed: • For new trees: – Supplement/strengthen the Atherton Gardens Eucalypt 'Forest' tree planting. – Focus on native tree species to acknowledge Aboriginal history and connection. Note that there are no endemic tree species at present, however we will consider use of local species. – Canopy heights will be reviewed with the intent to allow access to winter light whilst providing shade in summer. • For the garden bed planting: – Focus on Indigenous 'wildflower' embankments with salvaged basalt rocks. – Provide flowering shrubs, grasses, and groundcovers (prostrate to 500mm high) to maintain open/visible sightlines. – Select species that are robust and aligned with future use and maintenance of the space. – Focus on native plant species to acknowledge Aboriginal history and connection. Palette to draw from endemic species that would have been found on site prior to colonisation. – Provide variety of species that contributes to local biodiversity and supports spaces and habitat for fauna and pollinators. – Ensure planting design considers seasonal change.

Anti-social behaviour, graffiti, skating, litter (14% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *Ensure the landscaping and trees aren't of a scale that hides/facilitates antisocial behaviour.* • *There is a danger that this area could attract antisocial gatherings.* • *It needs to be skate proof.* • *If your design is to encourage people to linger and sit etc you need rubbish bins otherwise it will end up being squalid.* • *Syringes are a concern.* • *My only concern is vandalism and graffiti tags.*	It's noted that the space is located at a busy intersection and has good passive surveillance, which will support people using the space. The following measures will be considered through the design process to help improve the function of the space and help deter anti-social behaviour: • The existing dense shrubs will be removed and new planting will maintain clear view lines – planting to be prostrate (flat) to approximately 500mm high. • Design will consider integrated measures to deter skating. • Lighting design to provide adequate and ambient lighting at night.

	• Design will consider appropriate graffiti protective coating to be applied to furniture. • Design will consider opportunity for an additional bin here if required.

Ensure design reflects the significance of the area and provides education and acknowledgement of Aboriginal history and connection (11% of responses)	
What did we	**Our response**
• *Important place for Aboriginal community and Parkies, especially Stolen Generations.* • *First Nations (Native) garden and plants and local Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung designs incorporated into the space. Will complement stolen generation marker and Archie Roach & Ruby Hunter statue.* • *More connection with local Aboriginal history and stories. Fitzroy is so significant.* • *I'd love to see some first nations public art here too given the history of the area.* • *More Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung education. Also audible so anyone or age can be educated.*	As part of the design, it is proposed to integrate words and text that reflect the significance of the area for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. These words would be embedded into the space, for example on the surfaces of the seats, paving and tram shelter. The content and design of this will be informed by targeted engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a connection with Fitzroy, due to be carried out over March 2024. There is also the opportunity to install an additional sign to complement the suite of signs that extend through Atherton Gardens towards the Meeting Place. The final design will consider the feasibility of a sign and how this can be integrated in the new public space to draw people in at this prominent corner. In finalising the design, we will also consider how the layout and orientation of the space can be improved so that it: • strengthens views into Atherton Gardens (including the meeting place, Stolen Generations Marker and future Uncle Archie Roach and Aunty Ruby Hunter Statues) and other key places such as Charcoal Lane; and • provides better flow between the street and Atherton Gardens, so that they are not seen as separate spaces.

Accessibility (11% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *consider how mobility impaired people and wheelchair users and carers would be able to use the space. There are lots of steps - this is immediately off-putting. Consider integrating some ramps / walkways to maximise access/enjoyment for all.* • *The hill and stairs creates a barrier to seeing and entering the green public space beyond and is not accessible for many.* • *Not sure about the accessibility for people with disabilities.* • *Also the steps are a barrier for me and for my friends in the local area who use wheelchairs. Providing other seating options with back*	The new public space is located at the corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets next to a busy intersection. The site itself does not form a path or cut through to Atherton Gardens, and it's noted that there are pathways directly next to the site from both Gertrude Street (towards the Meeting Place) and Brunswick Street. Furthermore, the existing space is small and constrained, and there is approximately 1m level difference between the footpaths and the back fence. However, we acknowledge the feedback received and agree that some changes are needed to make the space feel more inclusive.

support and less stairs would increase accessibility. • *Accessibility for wheelchairs and prams - the design does not seem to have a ramp.*	In finalising the design, we will explore the potential for a ramp leading up to the top of the space to allow people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the space. This will require some changes to the seating and layout of the design. The final design will also look to ensure that: • there is more generous footpath space at the corner of Brunswick and Gertrude Streets next to the busy intersection and pedestrian crossings; • there are various seating options, including some with arm and back rests; and • the space caters for a range of users, including people waiting for a tram or a friend, passersby, and people wanting to spend more time in the space.

Suggestion for Uncle Jack Charles statue (10% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *Honour Uncle Jack! Great opportunity!* • *Would love to see a sculpture of Uncle Jack Charles installed at this significant site.* • *Would love to see something to honour the late Uncle Jack Charles.* • *A tribute to Uncle Jack would be great! He was such a charismatic and much loved person.* • *Would be deadly to have a statue of Uncle Jack Charles in this space.*	We acknowledge that several respondents suggested the late Uncle Jack Charles as a prominent local figure and noted the opportunity to recognise his contributions by providing a statue of him within the space. We note that the installation of a statue is not currently part of the scope of the project. The design proposes to embed words and text that reflect the significance of the place for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This is currently being developed in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have a connection with Fitzroy. However, we appreciate the feedback about honouring Uncle Jack Charles and this has been passed onto relevant teams, should there be any future feasible opportunities in this area or other suitable locations.

More shelter needed (9% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *More seating under cover.* • *Some all weather cover for the tram stop.* • *The corner will be heavily exposed to Melbourne's inclement weather and would benefit from a semi-enclosed shelter over the steps to protect people from the sun, rain and hail.* • *There is very little cover for people from the rain and sunshine. This will limit the usefulness.* • *More shelter from the sun and rain.*	The proposed new public space will include a tram shelter and trees. In response to the feedback about providing more shelter and protection we will consider opportunities to provide more trees to achieve more shade for the seating and footpath areas, particularly during the afternoon. The design does not provide an additional larger shelter (such as a custom shelter over the seating or a larger tram shelter). It is considered that natural shade is more appropriate and will complement the landscape character within Atherton Gardens. A physical shelter would further obstruct views into Atherton Gardens and may inadvertently encourage rough sleeping, storage of belongings and anti-social behaviour, therefore is not considered appropriate.

	If more shelter is required for people waiting for the tram in future, a second tram shelter could be explored further north along Brunswick Street.

Add play space or features for children (9% of responses)	
What did we hear	**Our response**
• *Playground for children.* • *Include updating the play area for kids from the flats.* • *Non-traditional/sculptural play options.* • *- If intended to be a space for socialising, would be good to have some kid friendly elements like a small gated playground.* • *The space should incorporate activities for children.* • *Kids are going to want to climb over the rocks on either side of the seating so consider designing them with this in mind.*	It is noted that this new public space is small in size, is located directly next to a busy signalised intersection, and is approximately 50 metres from an existing playground within Atherton Gardens. For these reasons it is considered that traditional play equipment is not appropriate for this space. However, the design will provide informal play opportunities: • The seating and salvaged rocks will allow children to climb and play while their carers use the space. • The embedded words and text element of the design will be playful and engaging in nature, and will provide the opportunity for children and people of all ages to find, read and discuss these words.

Do you have any other comments about the proposed Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner design?

The responses to these generally repeated previous comments or raised other opportunities for improvement. These have been incorporated into the above themes for the previous questions.

Other feedback

Targeted engagement sessions were held in March 2024 about the embedded words/text element of the design, inviting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have a connection with Fitzroy to share their connections to the space and consider what sentiments the words/text element could reflect. Through these sessions some feedback was raised about the design of the space. This included the following:

- Design needs to improve accessibility of space, in particular to upper part of tiered seating.
- Orientation of space should be revisited so that it does not turn its back on the gardens.
- Design needs to better support the flow and energy of this space and how it relates to other elements in Atherton Gardens (space is fluid like a river system).
- Views are important, including to trees, meeting place, Stolen Generations Marker and to the future statues of Uncle Archie Roach and Aunty Ruby Hunter.

Some of these issues were also raised through the public consultation and are captured in the themes above. In response to these points raised, the final design will investigate how accessibility in the space can be improved, including the potential for a ramp leading to the upper part of the space. The design will also revisit the orientation and layout of the space to improve visual connections to Atherton Gardens and important sites as well as make the transition between the street, this new public space and the gardens, more fluid.

Evaluating the engagement

Objective	Evaluation
To inform the community about the proposed plans to create a new public space at the north-east corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets.	The consultation provided a wide outreach to inform the community about the project. In addition to the online survey, in-person events were carried out in the local area and information was displayed at the project site which is next to a busy intersection and tram stop.
To present the draft concept design and seek feedback from the community on the proposed design and layout of the space, how they would use the space, and any issues to consider.	The draft concept design was presented for feedback. This included online images as well as posters and a physical model at the in-person events. The consultation received 105 responses. The turnout at the two in-person pop up events on site was slightly lower than expected given the wet weather on the day (and inability to reschedule at late notice). However, officers used the time to distribute postcards to engage people about the project and encourage them to respond to the survey.
To ensure there is feedback received from the range of people that use the space (Atherton Gardens residents, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, tram passengers, local shops, residents and visitors).	Feedback was received from a range of respondents who use the space. It is not clear exactly how many Atherton Gardens residents responded to the survey, however officers carried out additional engagements within Atherton Gardens to help promote the project and encourage people to respond to the survey. From the online surveys, 7.7% of respondents are from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, 11.5% live with a disability, 28.9% are from the LGBTIQA+ community. These figures are higher than what we receive for similar consultations, and likely reflect people who have a connection with this part of Fitzroy and use local services in the area.

Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner Targeted Engagement Report

This report details the specifics of the Gertrude and Brunswick Streets corner targeted engagement that took place over March 2024 on the embedded words/text component of the design.

Why we ran this consultation?

Council ran a public consultation on a draft proposed design for a new public space on the north east corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets in Fitzroy. The consultation ran from 20 November to 18 December 2023.

The draft concept design proposed to remove the dense shrubs and open up the corner, creating a new public space. The proposed design includes a central set of tiered steps that follow the topography of the site, new trees and garden beds, integrated ambient lighting, improvements to the existing tram shelter, and words/text embedded visually into the landscape.

The design proposes to embed words/text that reflect the significance of the place for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The design suggests ways that these words/text could be integrated into the surfaces and furniture, however the content of the words/text need to be informed through targeted engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a connection to Fitzroy.

The original idea for a public space at this location came from the Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan, which was adopted in 2020. As part of this streetscape masterplan, we engaged with the Yana Ngargna Advisory Group in August 2019 to seek their feedback. The group noted, amongst other things, that it is important to reflect on the local significance and activism in the area, particularly around the Gertrude/Brunswick Street intersection (refer to **Appendix A** for meeting notes).

The streetscape masterplan identifies that *"The corner of Gertrude Street and Brunswick Street, co-located with the tram stops and some of the important stops on the Aboriginal Heritage Walking Trail is an important gateway into the precinct and there is the opportunity to create a new space and focus on Aboriginal culture and art at this intersection to provide education about significance of the area for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and make the walking trail more visible in close consultation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community."*

Purpose of this engagement

Council has commenced work to prepare a design for the space that builds on the original concept in the streetscape masterplan. The design of the space aims to:

- Provide an increase in public space in the precinct.
- Improve the public realm by providing places to sit, meet/gather and socialise, incorporate additional trees/greenery and use high-quality materials.
- Provide acknowledgement and education of the area's important history and continued significance for the Aboriginal and Torres Islander community.
- Encourage people to spend more time in the precinct.

The purpose of this targeted engagement is to understand from representatives of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community:

- how the area is significant for them and their families; and
- any key words or stories they want to share, that reveal this significance and their connection with this area.

It is intended that the input from these discussions would be used to develop some text and words that are embedded in the landscape, for example in the paving, seating and tram shelter. The words and text would be developed by the landscape design team which includes a Yorta Yorta poet.

Format of targeted engagement sessions

The following activities were carried out to seek feedback from community representatives.

- The project was presented to the Yana Ngargna Advisory Group on 15 March 2024, and members were encouraged to give their feedback at or after the meeting.
- A Menti board was set up to allow interested people to submit their thoughts online if preferred.
- Two drop-in sessions were held for community to attend and discuss their connection with Fitzroy.
    - Session 1: Dardi Munwurro (7 March 2024)
    - Session 2: Charcoal Lane (21 March 2024)

The format of the two community drop-in sessions was informal to allow people to share their thoughts and stories in a way that they felt comfortable. Four questions were displayed to provide a broad outline for the discussion:

- Who's your mob?
- What significance does Gertrude Street hold for you?
- Are there any stories or memories you'd like to share?
- What three words sum up the area for you?

Boards were displayed providing historic images of the area, existing site photos and examples of words/text in a public space to assist the group discussion.

Participation

Overall, we spoke to 8 people to seek their feedback. Two of these people attended both the Yana Ngargna and Dardi sessions.

- Yana Ngargna – 3 people
- Dardi – 3 people (2 of these people also attended the Yana Ngargna Advisory Group meeting)
- Charcoal Lane – 4 people

What did we hear?

Although we had a limited number of participants, attendees were very generous with giving input and they provided valuable and quality feedback based on their own direct experiences and/or what they had learnt from family. We also heard from people who have a longer family history with the area, people who define themselves as a product of previous generations who established themselves in the space, and people with a more recent connection with the place.

Detailed notes from the two community sessions are provided at **Appendix B**. These rich conversations at the sessions covered a number of themes, including but not limited to the following:

- Importance of family and community
- Values – personal and community
- Sacred place – more than a park or a tram stop
- Community resilience and place of activism
- Place of opportunity
- Important that stories, memories and identity are kept alive in space and allow people to keep learning
- Importance of trees and views through the area

It is also noted that some feedback was received about the design of the space. Feedback on the public space is captured in **Appendix B** and includes (but is not limited to) the following points:

- Design needs to improve accessibility of space, in particular to upper part of tiered seating.
- Orientation of space should be revisited so that it does not turn its back on the gardens.
- Design needs to better support the flow and energy of this space and how it relates to other elements in Atherton Gardens (space is fluid like a river system).
- Views are important, including to trees, the Meeting Place, Stolen Generations Marker and to the future statues of Uncle Archie Roach and Aunty Ruby Hunter.

Next steps

The following will be carried out from here:

- The notes from the two drop-in community sessions will be circulated to participants to make sure that they capture the discussion accurately.
- The design team will use the input received to develop some initial ideas regarding the embedded words/text and will also consider how the design can be changed to respond to the feedback on the public space design.
- The initial ideas will be shared with the Aboriginal Partnerships team, and (depending on the content and language of the words/text) we will confirm the required process for reporting back to key stakeholders and how the work will be finalised/approved by Council.

Appendix A

Notes from Yana Ngargna meeting dated 8 August 2019

Notes from this meeting captured the following points:

- Important to reflect on the local significance and activism in the area, particularly around Gertrude/Brunswick Street intersection.
- Opportunity for more public art by Wurundjeri and Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander people.
- Opportunity to use existing street furniture (e.g. sign poles, bike hoops) for public art.
- Spaces along Smith Street (e.g. Smith/Stanley Streets) are an example of public spaces that reflect the local identity and provide places to meet.
- Provide more trees and greenery, and native species (plane trees not appropriate).
- Some footpaths, including kerbs, drains and utility covers are not accessible and cause trip hazards.
- Provide more seating.
- Consider future improvements to tram stops (managed by Department of Transport). For example, providing information at the tram stops about the local area, or providing talking trams (a soundscape) to tell stories and provide information about the significance of the area.

Appendix B

Notes from drop-in community session at Dardi Munwurro on 7 March 2024

Stories and reflections from participants:

- We grew up here.
- Learnt my values here.
- Would catch the tram here.
- Grew up in Fitzroy. 1 of 11 kids. Grandfather came to Fitzroy in the late 1920's.
- Second home.
- Still go down (to Fitzroy). Love going down there.
- Opportunity to be guided, mentored, set straight.
- Everyone looked after each other like a big family.
- Everyone knows each other. If you don't, you ask them who their mob is.
- Aboriginal Community found home here. Proud of it.
- Unclear who is this for? Who is it dedicated to? Who is the audience?
- Names of significant families (are missing).
- Works at the Brotherhood of St Lawrence; located opposite the site at 67 Brunswick St.
- Took a long time to find identity and put that to good use.
- Long time to learn about yourself, learnt through working.
- Taken a long time to learn and meet people.
- Outreach work- How can we serve community. Through working, knowledge base and connections grow. Can be heartwarming, sad.
- Interconnected.
- People don't seem to be able to absorb that fact that there was community living on country for eons.

Feedback on design of space:

- Project needs to be inclusive; wheelchair accessible.

Other discussion points in the group:

- People want to know how you are connected. What is your lineage, how are you related?
- Surnames of significant families. [Noted as problematic- how to extensively list all relevant names]. Names may prompt to explore ideas, words further.
- How to reconnect Country with language. Language is only good if 2 people know it (2 telephones). Amazing if language can be understood without translation.
- Gathering place – recognise that this (general area) is a Wurundjeri meeting place. Corner doesn't seem to be of particular significance.
- Another opportunity to celebrate Indigenous history. One of many stories.
- Hope we can delve into pre-colonisation time. Acknowledge Wurundjeri elders.
- Elevator pitch – bite size portions. Broad canvas – what who where.
- Leave blank space for future stories.
- How to create connection? (Deck bells, touch pads)

Notes from drop-in community session at Charcoal Lane on 21 March 2024

Stories and reflections from participants:

- This is a special place.
- Its design should be about cultural realignment and spiritual alignment.
- Lots of our people came here before we were citizens of this country.
- We fought hard to be here and to be seen as human beings.
- We're seen as fierce - seen as troublemakers.
- Thanks god people have empathy. People come here wanting to learn about this place and its story.
- Fitzroy and Collingwood is sacred ground.
- Before the population was here today, the Wurundjeri hunted in this place.
- Things happened there that were full on and we all stand here as people - we are the people that show the experiment has failed - we're pushing hard for justice.
- It's not a park to us. It's more than a park. It's a saviour, it's our heaven. Our message stick, history, mirror.
- This park connects to many many people all around the country.
- All the people - all those black fellas - came here because of the opportunity.
- VAHS was a space where people who came together.
- If you were looking for someone you hit the area - you'd find them or someone who had seen them - because we're a transient mob.
- Having the trees is so important.
- Being able to see and touch and feel trees is a great grounding - like going over and talking to people.
- So many stories, so much life. On that corner.
- I'm a product of the community that was here.
- I owe it to my family.
- Can't thank them enough.
- Change the way that we work on Country. Bring identify back to place. So that material memory isn't lost.
- Its more than a tram stop.
- Would love to see a soap box - a place for activism and that acknowledges activism.
- We're not hidden in the corners - not extinct - the mob's still here and still mobilising. We never stopped talking - never stopped coming together.
- We don't have an office - the park is home.
- What happened in terms of activism on the corner edge.
- What is the page, chapter and the story behind the open space?
- Ceremony space could be everywhere.
- A place of celebration
- A place to get peace.
- Importance of the gardens for Atherton Gardens residents. Provides an area for the kids to play.
- Street culture.
- The struggle for the community.
- Power of the place.
- The bloodline of the people.
- The country and the country wo/men are the priority.
- A door to connect with the history of the place.

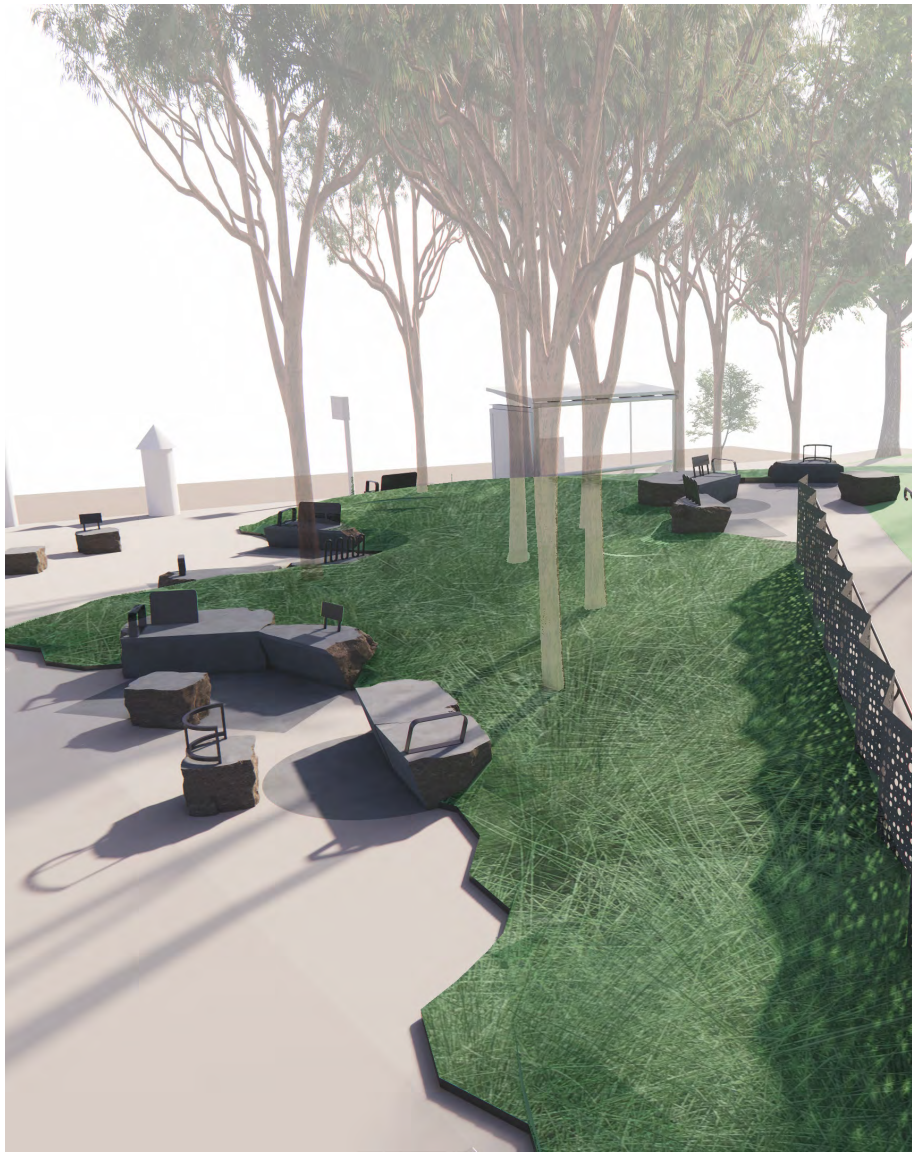
Feedback on the proposed concept design:

- Why does it turn its back on the park?
- How's it feed into the space? The space is fluid like a river. This stair flows the wrong way. The park pushes out to the street. Water flows from the park to the street - not the street into the park. Make design more fluid.
- Let the energy of the park out - open up the flow.
- The tram is a canoe in the river.
- "The street has a story to tell".
- The stair tells you where you have to look - you get no choice. Note that the benches in Atherton Gardens are positioned away, interrupts the way of thinking and leaves the people to sit in one way rather than giving them the opportunity to choose where they want to look.
- We want to look at trees. At Archie and Ruby.

Corner of Brunswick and Gertrude Street

Workbook 5: Concept Design Report

OPENWORK+SARAH LYNN REES +DECLAN FRY+WSP



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Rev	Date	Issue
01	230913	Internal Stakeholder Workshop
02	231016	Internal Stakeholder Workshop
03	231026	Draft Concept Design
04	231027	Rev Draft Concept Design
05	240611	Concept Design



Issue: 05

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Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

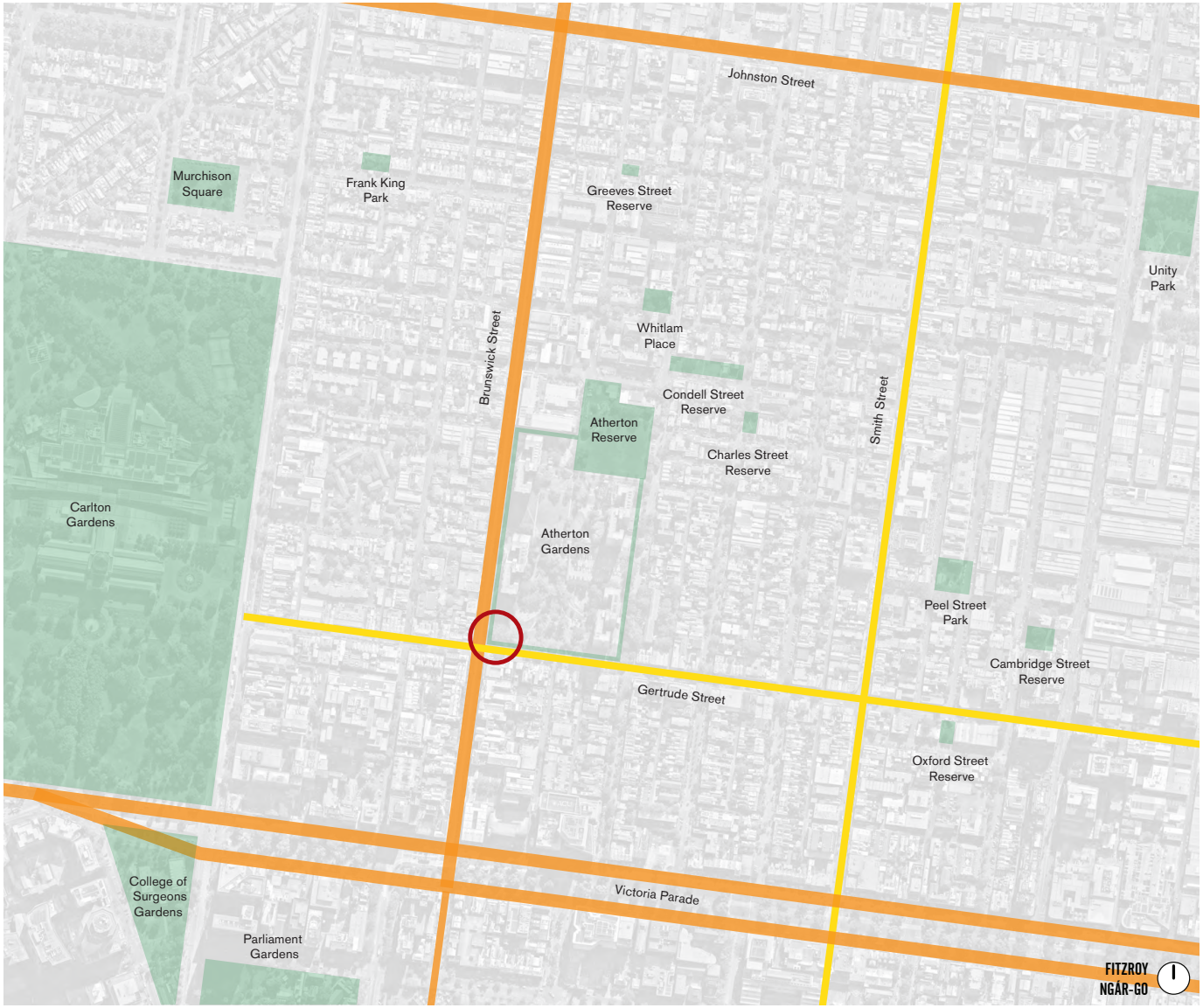
Study Area and Overview

Gertrude and Brunswick Streets are located close to Melbourne's CBD and form part of a tight knit network of shopping streets in the Fitzroy/Collingwood precinct. Both streets are identified as Activity Centres in the City of Yarra and are expected to grow.

Brunswick Street and Gertrude Street are made up of a diverse range of shops, cafes, restaurants and creative businesses, a bustling night time economy and a mix of established and new residents.

The area has a strong heritage character evidenced by the Victorian terraced buildings along large sections of Brunswick Street and in the surrounding area. The Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (a World Heritage Site) are located further afield and can be seen from the corner of Brunswick and Gertrude Streets.

The site sits on the south-west corner of the Atherton Gardens Estate (owned by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing), which includes a collection of taller apartment buildings built in the 1970's surrounded by open land.



Site and Context

1. The Rob Roy Hotel
2. Brotherhood of St Laurence
3. Post Office
4. Playspace
5. The Meeting Place
6. Uncle Archie Roach and Aunty Ruby Hunter Memorial
7. "Remember Me" Stolen Generations Marker (2018)
7. Charcoal Lane (closed)



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Site and Context

The site comprises a triangle shaped piece of land at the south-west corner of Atherton Gardens Estate (land owned by Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)) as well as adjacent footpaths.

Over the last Century, Fitzroy and Collingwood established itself as an important social and political hub for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Melbourne. There are a number of sites in the area, including Atherton Gardens and along Gertrude Street which continue to be important places for people to reunite, connect and support each other.

There are a number of civic and community facilities that are located around the site and centred around the Fitzroy Town Hall, creating a hub for different members of the community to come together.

Brunswick and Gertrude Streets are Council managed roads and sit on the Route 11 and 86 tram routes. The southbound tram stop for Route 11 is within the project site.









1	Corner of Brunswick and Gertrude with existing vegetation
2	Southbound Route 11 Tram Stop (looking south)
3	Southbound Route 11 Tram Stop (looking north)
4	Existing Corymbia maculata on Gertrude Street
5	Brunswick Street (looking south toward study site)
6	Study site from Atherton Gardens





A Survey of Fitzroy Corners

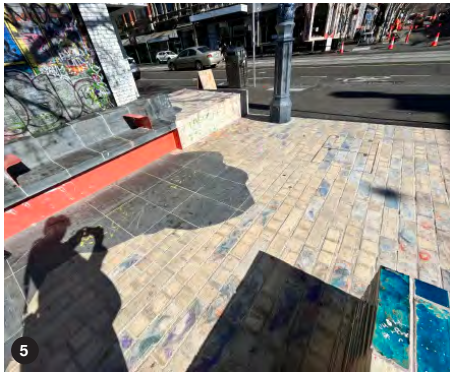
The corner of Gertrude Street and Brunswick Street will soon be part of a very particular Fitzroy typology - a corner that has been invested with character, human scale and kindness. The experience of walking up Brunswick Street is an experience of serial invitation - invitation to stop, to dwell and to converse. Our vision for the project is to bring our understanding of permission and invitation in public space and to design a corner whose offer of kindness and generosity is embedded in its place and that in turn, its place is written into the fabric of the city.


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1	Brunswick and Greeves
2	Smith and Stanley
3	Smith and Gertrude
4	Brunswick and Victoria
5	Brunswick and Kerr
6	Brunswick and Kerr
7	Brunswick and Victoria
8	Brunswick and Argyle
9	Brunswick and Argyle


7



8


9

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Urban Text and Anonymous Writing

Brunswick Street is dense with the words of authors who are often unsolicited and generally unknown. This anonymous and uninvited writing is both a conversation with and a confession of what this place is. The writing is sometimes official, sometimes irreverent, it is frequently not in English, regularly overwritten and famously hieroglyphic. In our response and in our vision for the project, we see the diversity and difference of language in and around the site as a starting point - a conversation to engage in.











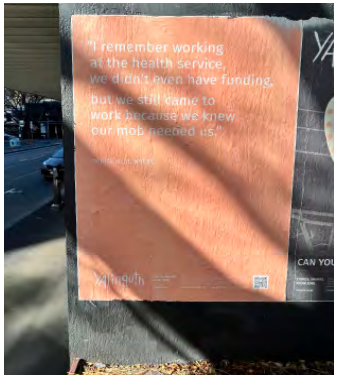














Key Document Review: Brunswick Street Streetscape Masterplan

1. Negotiate with DHHS to open up the corner to create a new meeting place and gateway to Gertrude Street
2. Create a welcoming entry to the Atherton Gardens. Make the Aboriginal Heritage marker more prominent.
3. Commission a significant art work which celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history in Gertrude Street
4. Locate a custom tram stop shelter that is integrated with new artwork and public realm improvements on this corner
5. Retain heritage lamp post and install feature lighting to structure corner at night
6. Explore opportunities for new trees and greenery at the corner and along the edges with the estate to offer improved amenity and shade and reflect the local identity



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Internal Stakeholder Workshop: Key Questions and Responses

Maintenance

Area requires a high level of maintenance.

Both roads and footpaths are swept daily using street sweepers. Untaken at night/early morning (operators don't leave vehicle).

Litter collected daily. Corner may require additional bins (with an increase in occupation) and inclusion of recycling bin. Ensure bin locations can be easily collected without obstructing access.

Avoid locating art components near underground services. If asset maintenance is required, it can be hard to ensure like for like reinstatement is achieved.

All elements require YCC approved anti-graffiti coating.

Asset Ownership

Yarra Trams: Shelter, poles

Department of Transport & Planning (DTP): Yellow traffic poles & signals

City of Yarra: Roads & footpaths, remaining fixtures.

Unknown: Post box

Graffiti/ Art component

Graffiti is a huge problem, levels of vandalism over street art are variable and hard to judge.

Consider potential for rocks to be graffitied – if they are cleaned the chemicals will run into garden beds.

No sanctioned graffiti within municipality.

Murals are considered as Temporary artworks and not included within Council's collection. Ownership of Temporary Artworks is by the commissioning unit (maintenance budget needs to be considered).

No budget to commission changing art.

Acknowledge the finished artwork component and artist. Consider how this is best communicated with the community.

Access/ Future usage

Diversity of seating required.

Consider integrating handrails to bleachers.

Yarra Trams TGSI setout guidelines received.

Consider potential uses/issues including the following:

+ People congregating, such as people who may have moved on from Connie Benn
+ Rough sleeping
+ Smoking/drinking
+ Skating (if not intended to be a skating space)
+ People hiding themselves/things behind the top step at the back of the space.

Trees and low planting

Minimal canopy clearance required to Yarra Trams overhead communications cables (currently unbundled).

Confirm extent of tree removal (outside of scope) with DFFH.

Supportive of Stratacells and porous paving.

Tree roots will seek moisture rich and oxygenated soil.

Trees hand watered during establishment period (2 years).

Low planting is to be drought tolerant and hardy.

Roads/ Traffic/ Access/ Drainage

Sawn bluestone kerb and channel can be used for Brunswick Street.

Single pitcher channel is appropriate given cycle access is required.

Pram ramps are to incorporate tactiles and sawn bluestone pitchers (to tie in with surroundings).

Altering traffic signals can be quite involved and relies heavily on DTP.

Flood impacted areas to be confirmed.

Streetscape Fixtures

Womenjika sign: required to be near Atherton Gardens Gertrude Street entry.

Bicycle Hoops: no demand, but additional hoops would be nice to have. (Ensure potential locations are not conflicting with trams stops).

Drinking Fountain: huge demand for water source. Supply TBC.

Wayfinding Signage: Corner is a key location.

Heritage lights: are reproduction gas lamps. Original location noted at the apex of corner.

Study Area

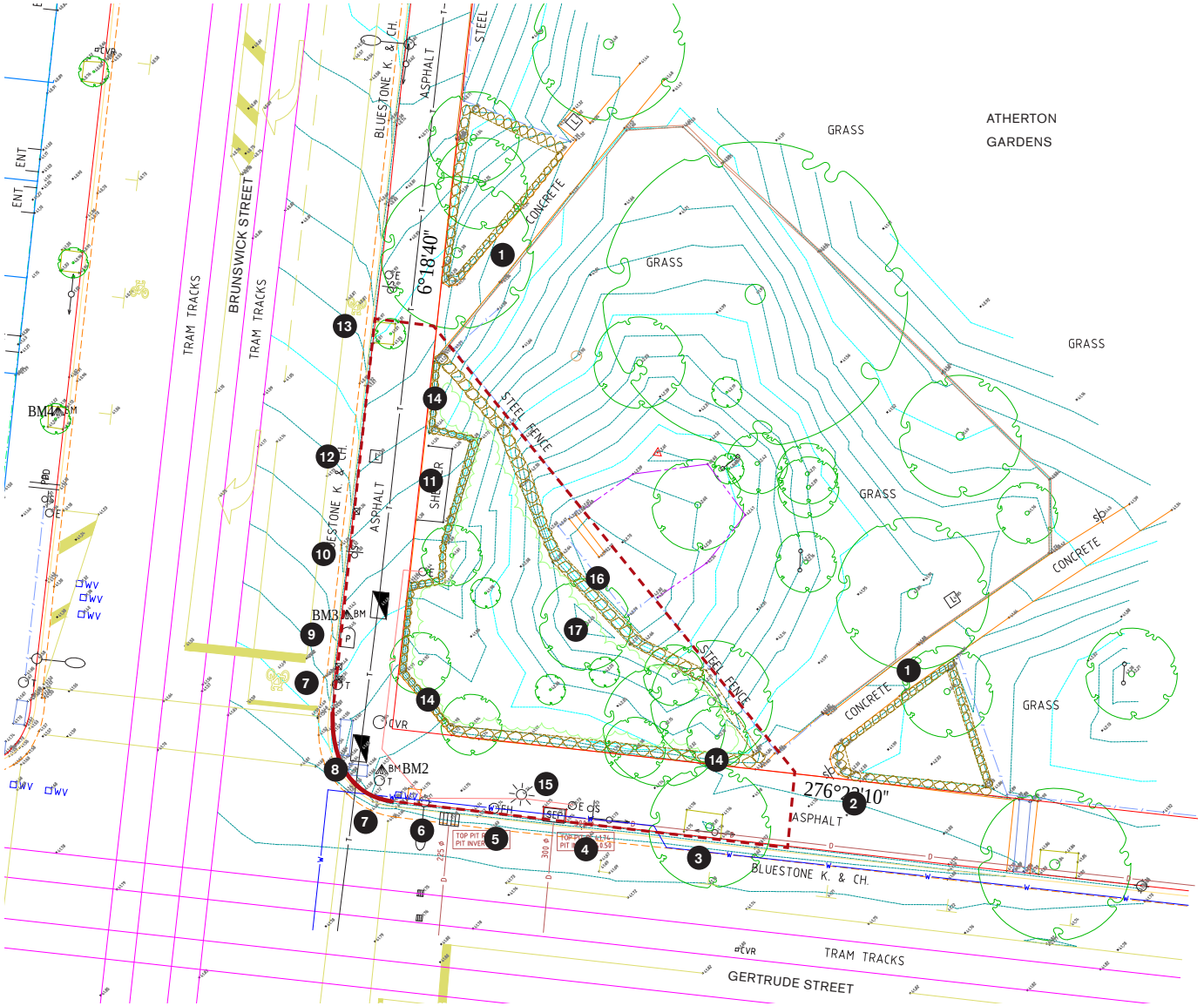

BRUNSWICK STREET
ATHERTON
GARDENS
3.1m
24.2m
366sq.m
17.5m
28.4m
3.9m
23.3m
GERTRUDE STREET

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

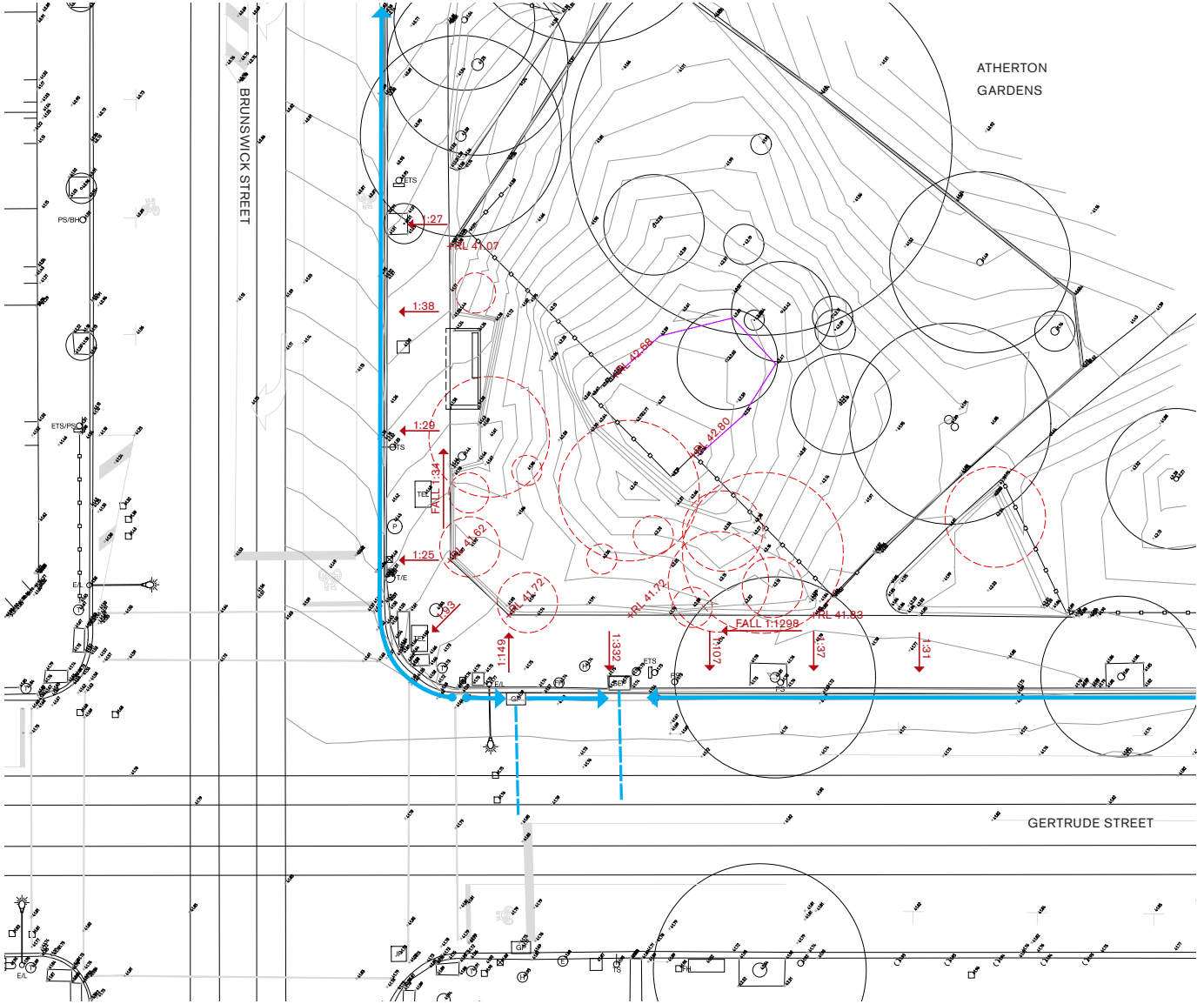
Workbook 5 Concept Design

Features and Levels Survey

1. Access path to Atherton Gardens
2. William Barak interpretive signage
3. Street tree with parking sign
4. Parking sign
5. Fire hydrant
6. Light pole
7. Tram catenary pole
8. Pedestrian crossing / pram ramp
9. Heritage post box
10. Tram sign
11. Tram stop
12. Rubbish bin
13. Street tree
14. Rock border to planting
15. Reproduction heritage lamp post
16. Palisade fence to Atherton Gardens
17. Dense planting



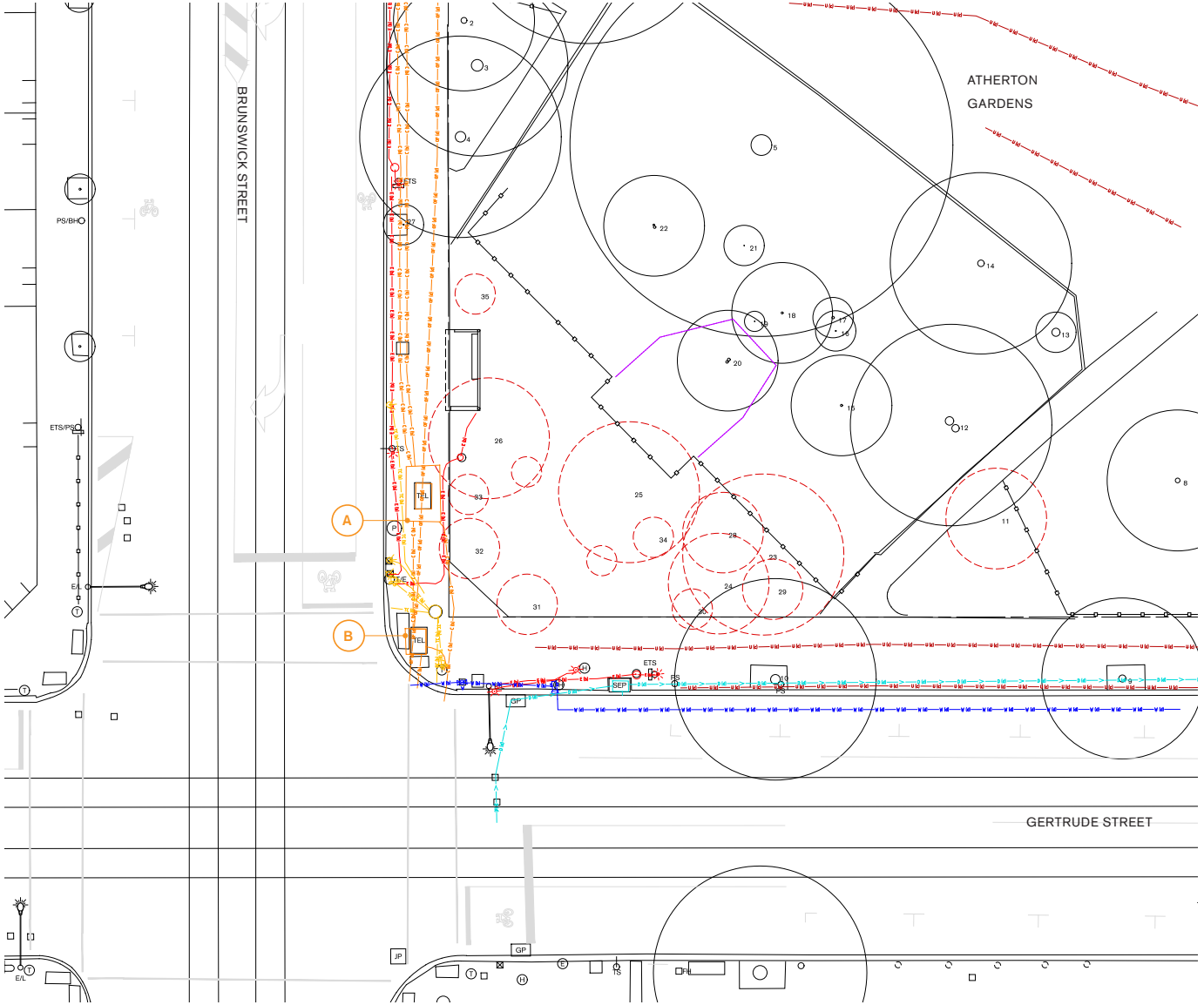
Levels and Grading



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Services and Utilities



KEY

- Communications cable/pipe
- Comms optic fibre pipe
- (B) Communcations chamber
- Drainage pipe
- Low Voltage electric cable /pipe
- Traffic cable/pipe
- Water pipe
- Unidentified pipe /anomaly

Tree Planting

Trees 9 and 10 are street trees along Gertrude Street. Tree 27 is a small street tree along Brunswick Street. The remaining trees and shrubs are located within Atherton Gardens.

The copse of trees to the North-east of the project site are trees native to Australia and include a mix of Eucalyptus and Corymbia species.

There were no naturally occurring trees indigenous to the local area among those assessed.

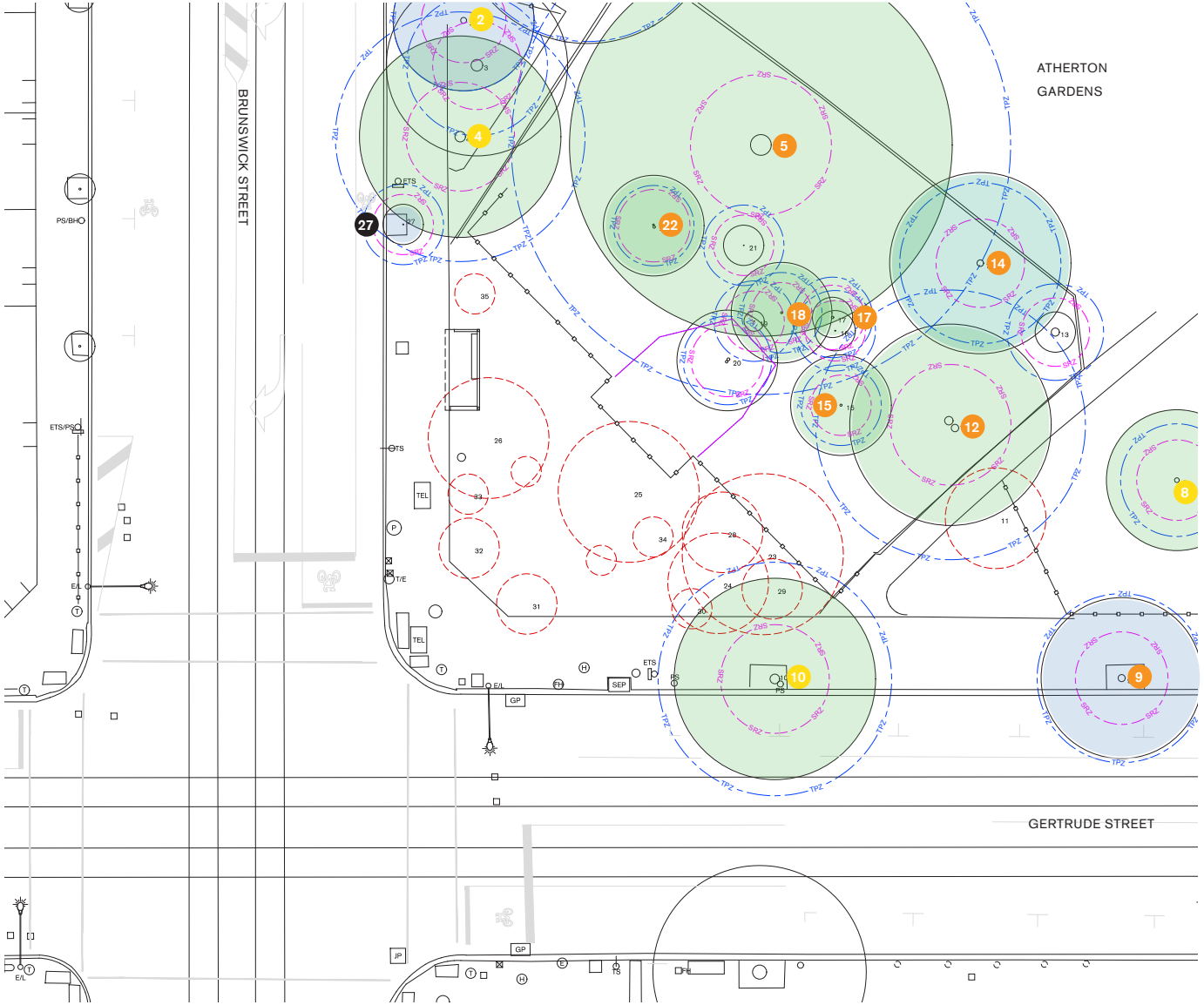
Trees and shrubs within the project site are of a low arboricultural rating and are proposed to be removed.

Street trees and tree planting of a high arboricultural value within Atherton Gardens are listed below.

- 2 Cinnamomum camphora - Camphor Laurel (13mH x 7mW)
- 4 Casuarina cunninghamiana - River She-oak (17x10)
- 5 Eucalyptus cladocalyx - Sugar Gum (25x19)
- 8 Corymbia citriodora - Lemon-scented Gum (11x7)
- 9 Alnus acuminata subsp. glabrata - Evergreen Alder (8x8)
- 10 Melia azedarach - White Cedar (9x10)
- 14 Eucalyptus sideroxylon - Red Ironbark (14x10)
- 15 Corymbia maculata - Spotted Gum (16x9)
- 17 Eucalyptus cladocalyx - Sugar Gum (9x2)
- 18 Eucalyptus cladocalyx - Sugar Gum (8x5)
- 22 Eucalyptus cladocalyx - Sugar Gum (7x5)
- 27 Acer buergerianum - Trident Maple (3x2)

KEY

- Existing trees to be removed
- Existing trees to be retained - Arboricultural Rating High: Mod.B
- Existing trees to be retained - Arboricultural Rating High: Mod.C
- Australian native
- Victorian native
- Evergreen exotic
- SRZ — Structural root zone
- TPZ — Tree protection zone

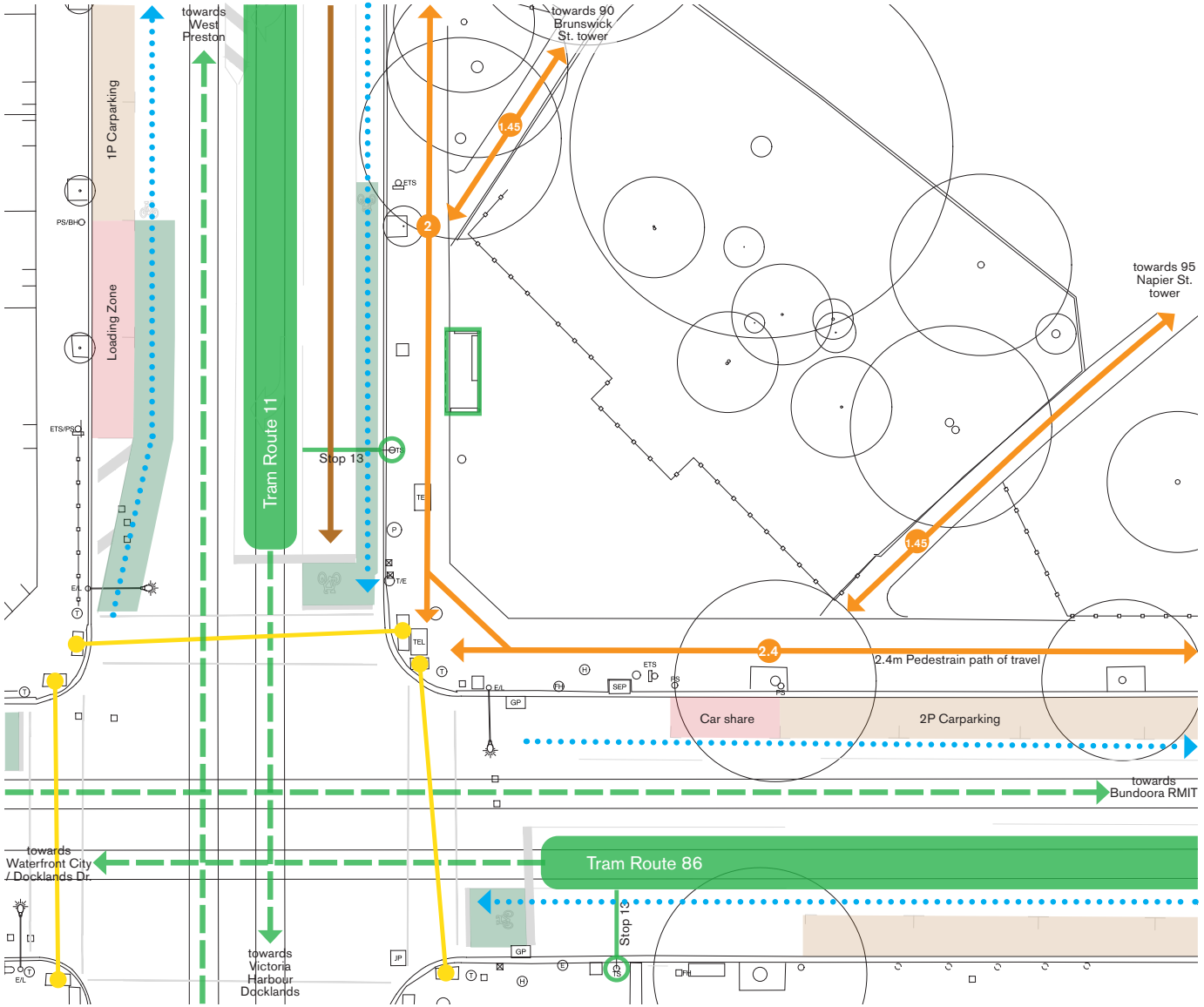


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Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Acess and Circulation



KEY

- Pedestrian circulation
- 2.4 Path width (m)
- Signalised pedestrian crossing
- On road bicycle lane
- Green pavement treatment to highlight cyclist path of travel and head start box.
- Tram route (with 33.45m L x 2.65mW tram shown)
- Vehicle lane
- Car parking (timed)
- Car parking (special)

Existing Features: Furniture and Objects

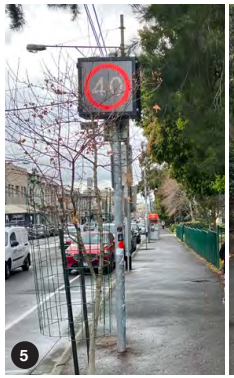


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1	Tram shelter
2	Heritage post box (redundant)
3	Fire hydrant
4	Reproduction heritage light post
5	Electronic speed limit signs (Brunswick St/ Gertrude St)
6	Tram stop signage
7	Rubbish bin with cigarette bin and ‘Put in Bin’ wrap
8	Loop top fencing panels
9	‘Wominjeka’ Atherton Gardens entry signage

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

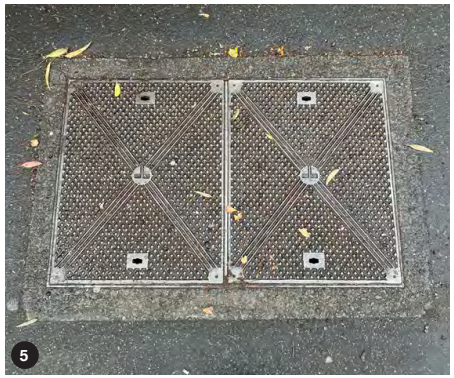
Existing Features: Pits and Services

















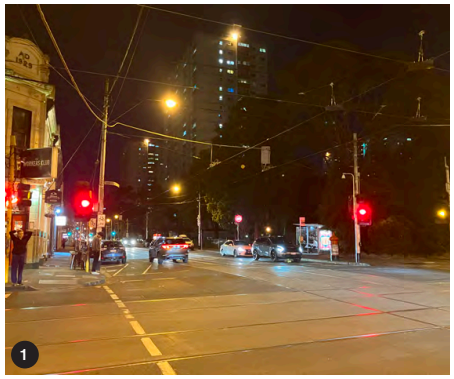


1	Gertrude Street side entry pit
2	Gertrude Street grated pit
3	Gertrude Street water valve
4	Pedestrian crossing Telstra pit lid (and chamber)
5	Brunswick Street Telstra pit lid (and chamber)
6	Brunswick Street traffic sensor pits
7	Typical LV electrical pit
8	Typical Brunswick Street tree pit
9	Typical Atherton Gardens basalt rock edge

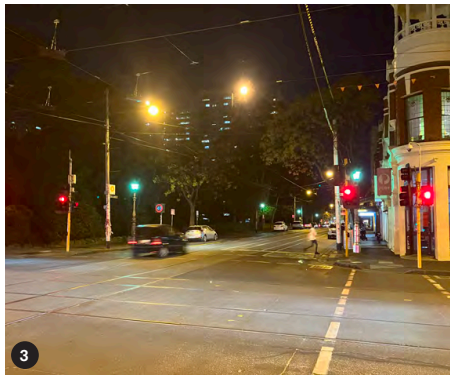
Existing Features: Lighting

Site inspection observations

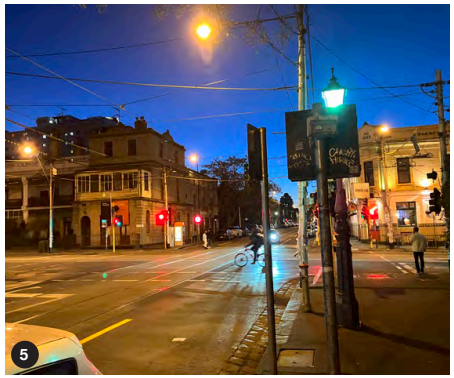
+ The spill light from the existing street lighting including the heritage lights, provides sufficient lighting for people to be able to negotiate their way safely in the area which sits outside the fence line of Atherton Gardens.
+ The existing street lighting uses high pressure sodium and metal halide technologies. We expect that these will be updated at some point to LED technology. The upgrade is likely to significantly impact the ambience of the space as the warm orange light (perceived as low brightness) may transition to cool white light (perceived as brighter).
+ The roof mounted lighting on top of the social housing towers provide significant lighting to Atherton Gardens, and have a distracting glare component. The lighting matches the existing street lighting technology, and may at some point be transitioned to an LED solution, the colour temperature of which is as yet not determined.
+ The corner being proposed for redevelopment appears dark, when viewed from within the garden at a distance. This is due to there being a higher level of brightness on the buildings across the street.
+ Similarly the corner appears dark from the opposite corner of the intersection due to the brightness of the intersection.
+ Readily accessible council owned electrical distribution boards were not identified as part of the site visit. This is an important issue to address, as we need to provide a power supply and a distribution board can cost upwards of $10,000. We cannot draw power from the Tram or street lighting schemes, as they do not allow luminaires which are not approved by them, and the approved luminaires do not provide the type of light we need.
+ The existing pole mounted lighting in Atherton garden was not energised. It is unknown if the lighting no longer works or is simply perceived as not being needed. Several of the poles were vandalised. We believe that vandalism may prove to be an issue and should look to ways we can prevent people from accessing the luminaires.
+ The existing shelter for the tram stop has integrated lighting and backlit advertising signage. It is a bright space which acts in competition with other lighting. We suggest that as part of the works the shelter and the integrated lighting is rethought to create a holistic approach to the space.
+ The existing planting on the corner provides a level of seclusion to the play spaces deeper within the garden. It would be good to understand if the seclusion is considered valuable, and if nighttime lighting being provided is needed to draw attention away from the main garden.











1 Brunswick Street looking North
2 Site from opposite corner
3 Gertrude Street looking East
4 Brunswick Street tram shelter
5 Gertrude Street looking West

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Lighting

Lighting opportunities

There is sufficient spill light in the space to provide safe movement lighting.

The lighting objective is to create a transitionary zone that better balances the higher brightness of the streetscape with the lower brightness of the gardens, whilst accentuating the story telling elements of the artist.

+ Excellent results can be achieved using tightly controlled lighting located at high level, or integrated into the tiered seating.
+ All lighting at an accessible height will be integrated into fixtures and furniture so it is not easily spotted or reached. No in ground lighting will be proposed.
+ Potential to use gobo projection to project a shape or word, or soft pattern into the space.
+ Potential to use colour changeable lighting with minimal control infrastructure.
+ Potential to control the brightness of lighting through dimming protocols and enable a dynamic shift in light, whether white only or coloured.
+ There is the potential to have different scenes for when you want the space to be awake, and when it is to “sleep”.
+ Potential to apply a stencil to the rear of tram shelter.


1

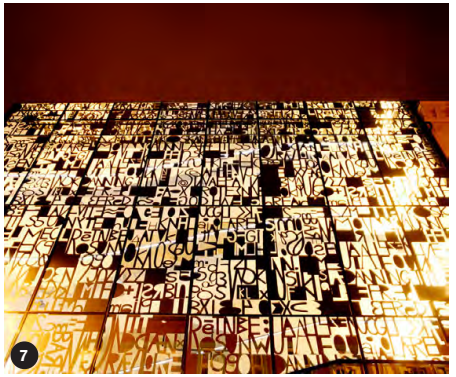

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1	Projected light - The Lighthouse: Patch Theatre
2	Projected light - Tallinn Light Biennale
3	Integrated furniture lighting - Hobart Waterfront: Street & Garden
4	Projected light - Urban Sun: Studio Roosegaarde
5	Projected light - La Duchere, Lyon: LEA Lighting
6-7	Stenciled light - The Teachers House, Oslo: Element Arkitekter AS

Existing Features: Traffic signal post

The traffic signal post associated with the North-South crossing of Gertrude Street is situated within the pedestrian crossing width.

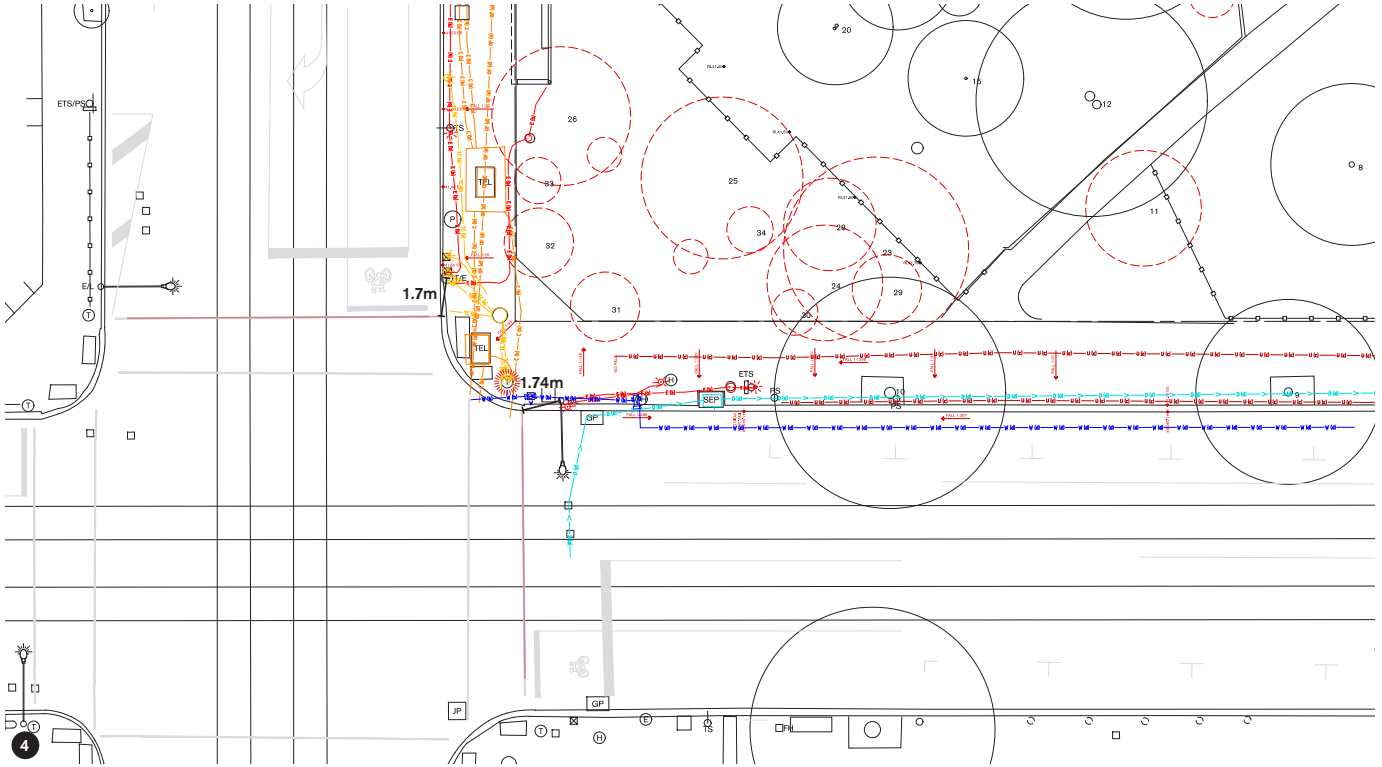
To remove this obstruction we are seeking to understand if the adjacent light pole can receive the required traffic signal infrastructure.

The existing offset from light pole to pedestrian crossing is similar to the layout of the Brunswick street crossing.







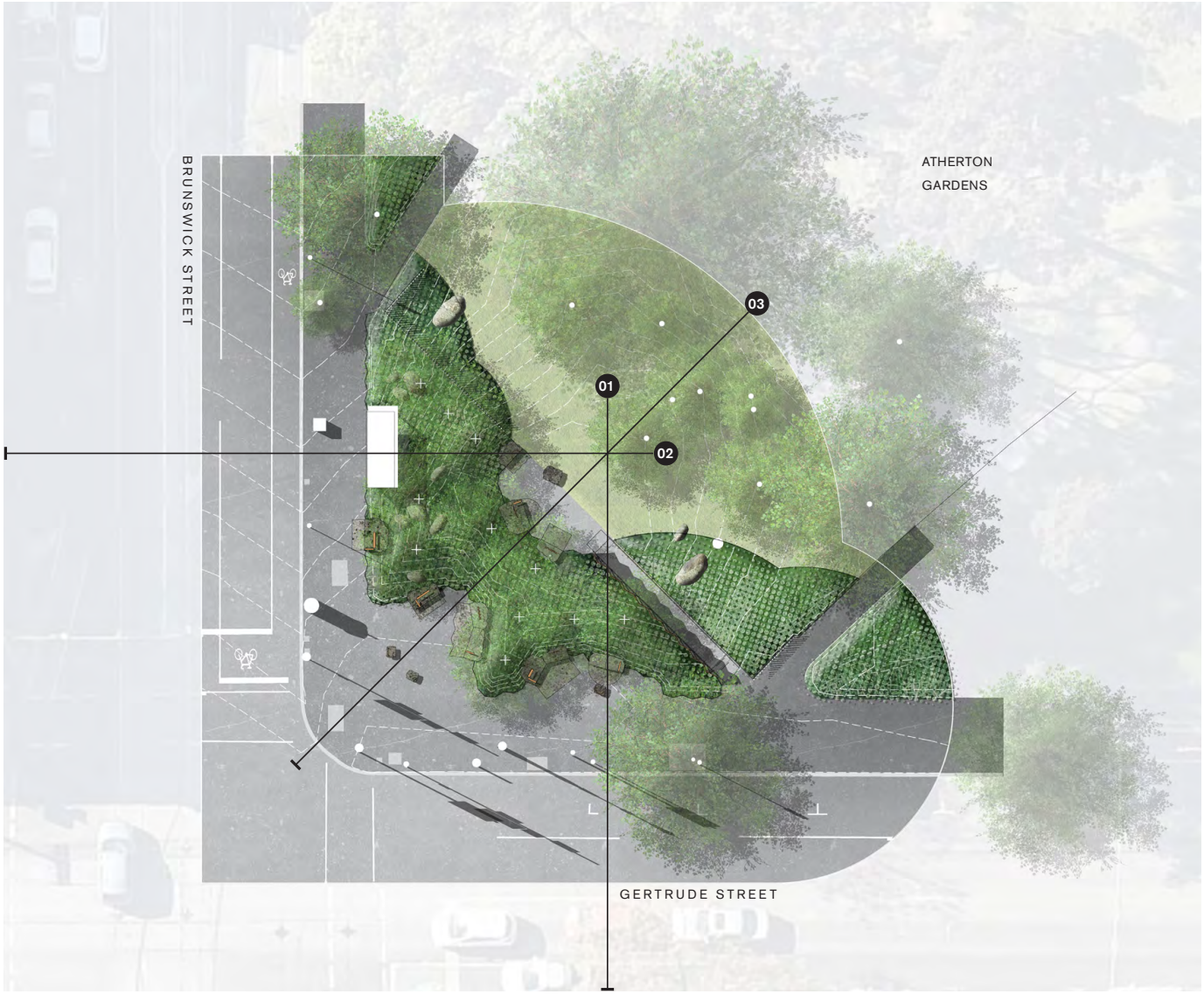


1 Brunswick Street looking South
2 Brunswick Street looking South
3 Gertrude Street looking West
4 Services plan detail

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

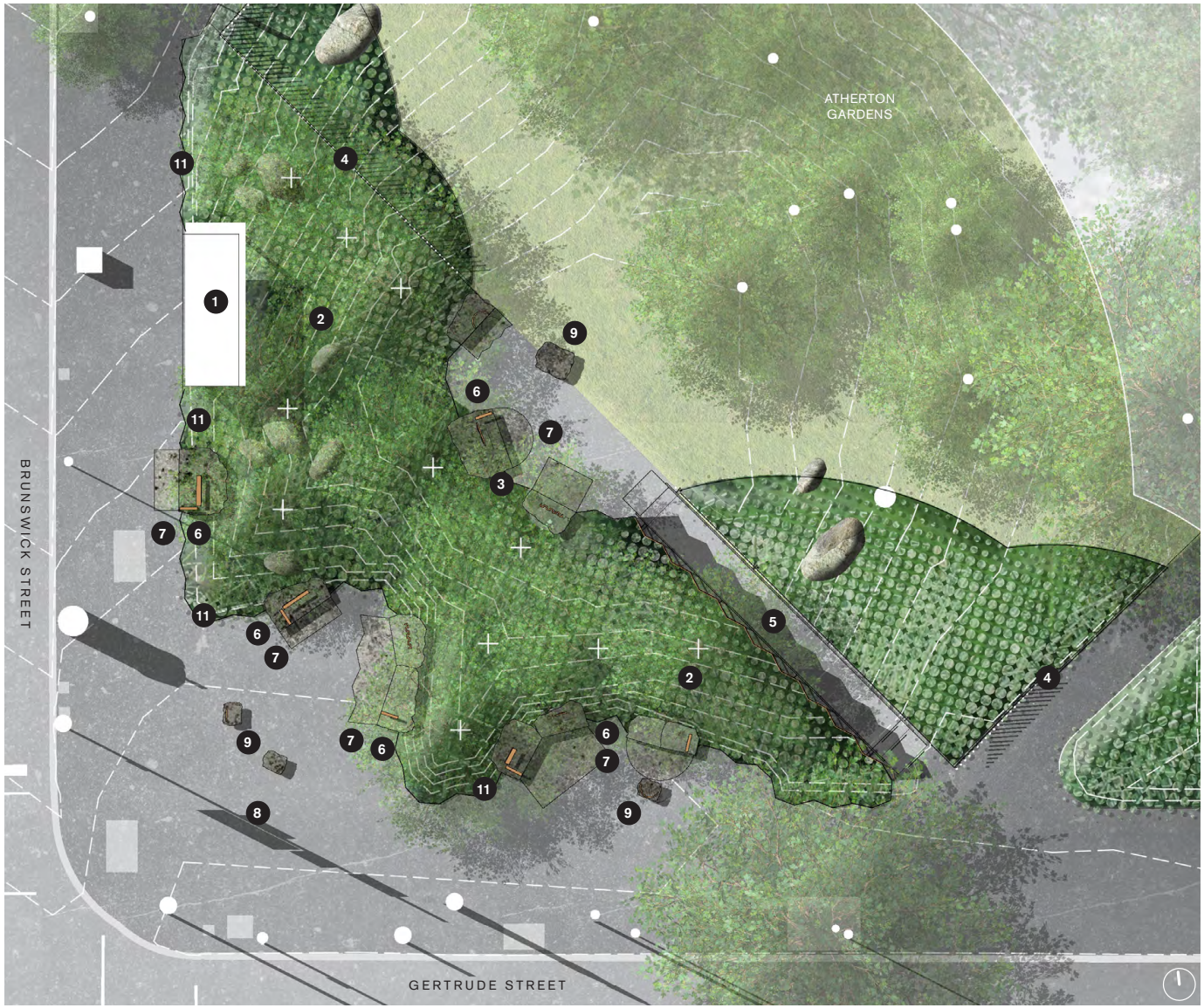
Workbook 5 Concept Design

Study Model: Plan



Study Model: Plan

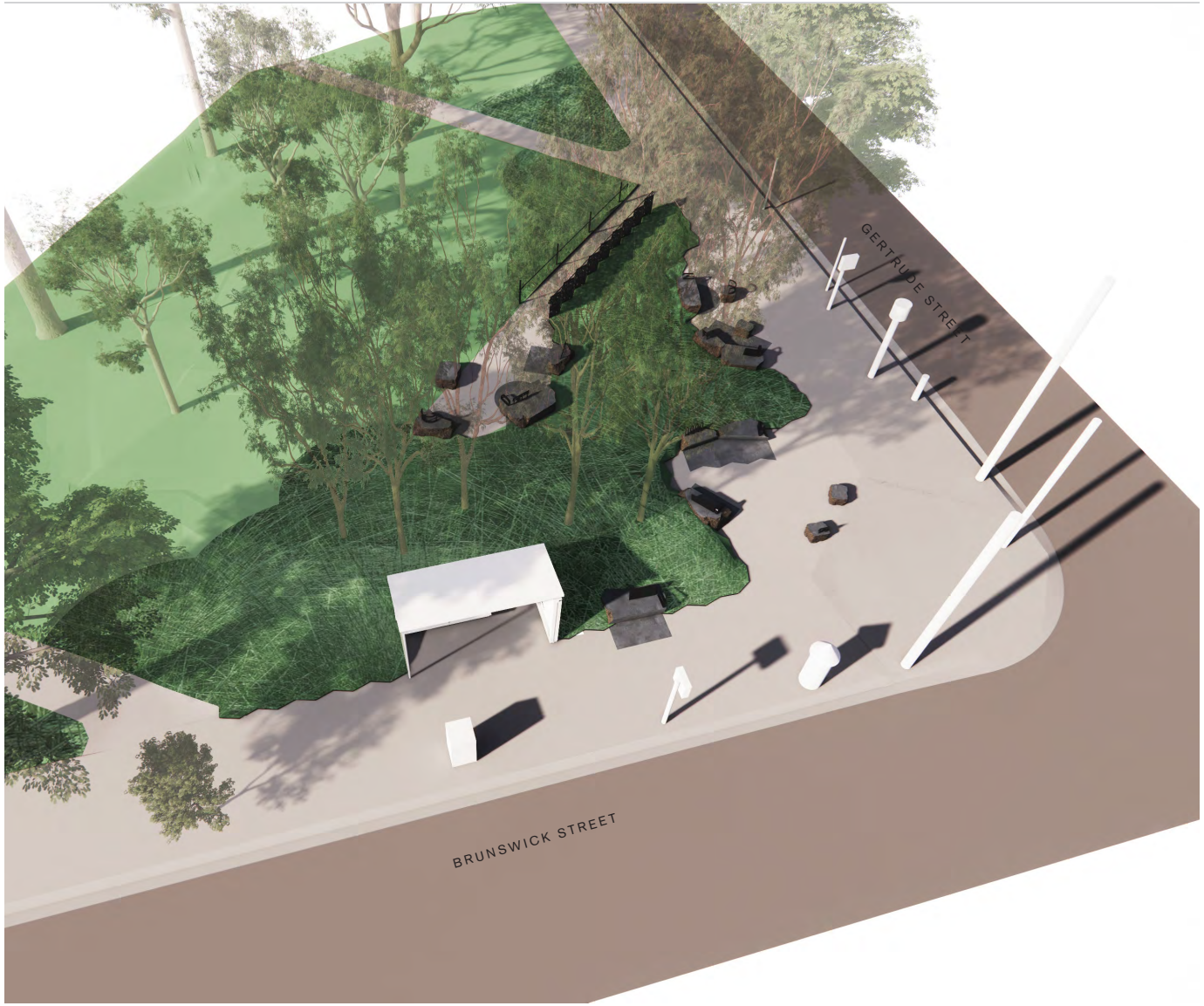
1. Existing Tram Shelter
2. New garden with trees and salvaged rocks
3. Central section of fence removed
4. Side section of fence retained
5. New 1:14 ramp with steel wall to replace existing fence
6. Stone seating with integrated arm and backrests
7. Paved 'carpet' at base of seating
8. Open Plaza
9. Small stone seating
10. Drinking fountain (not shown)
11. Steel edge at street



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

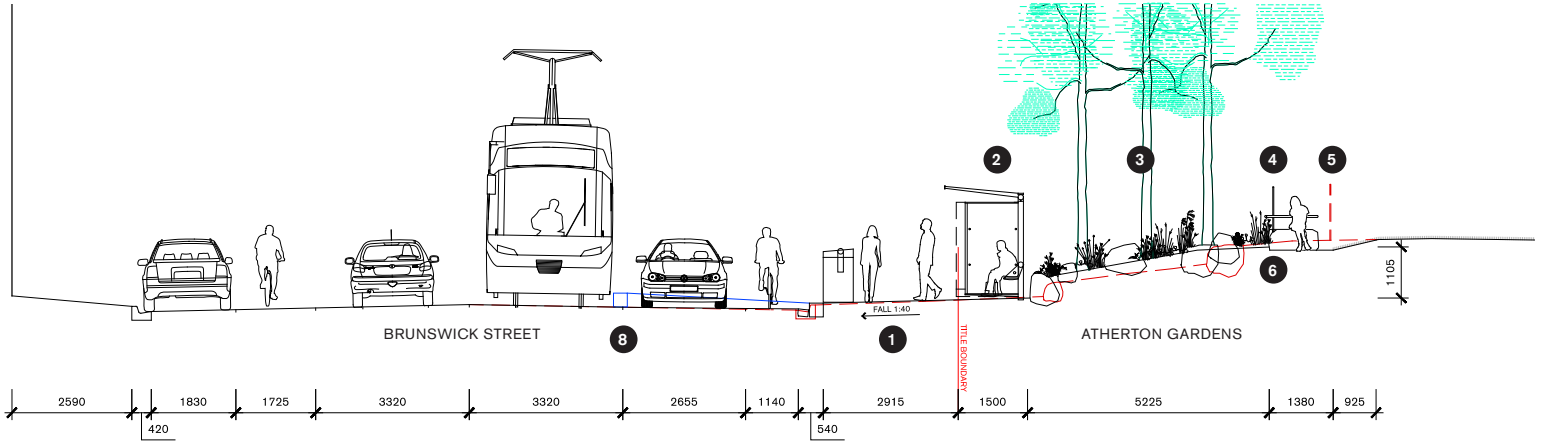
Workbook 5 Concept Design

Study Model: Overview

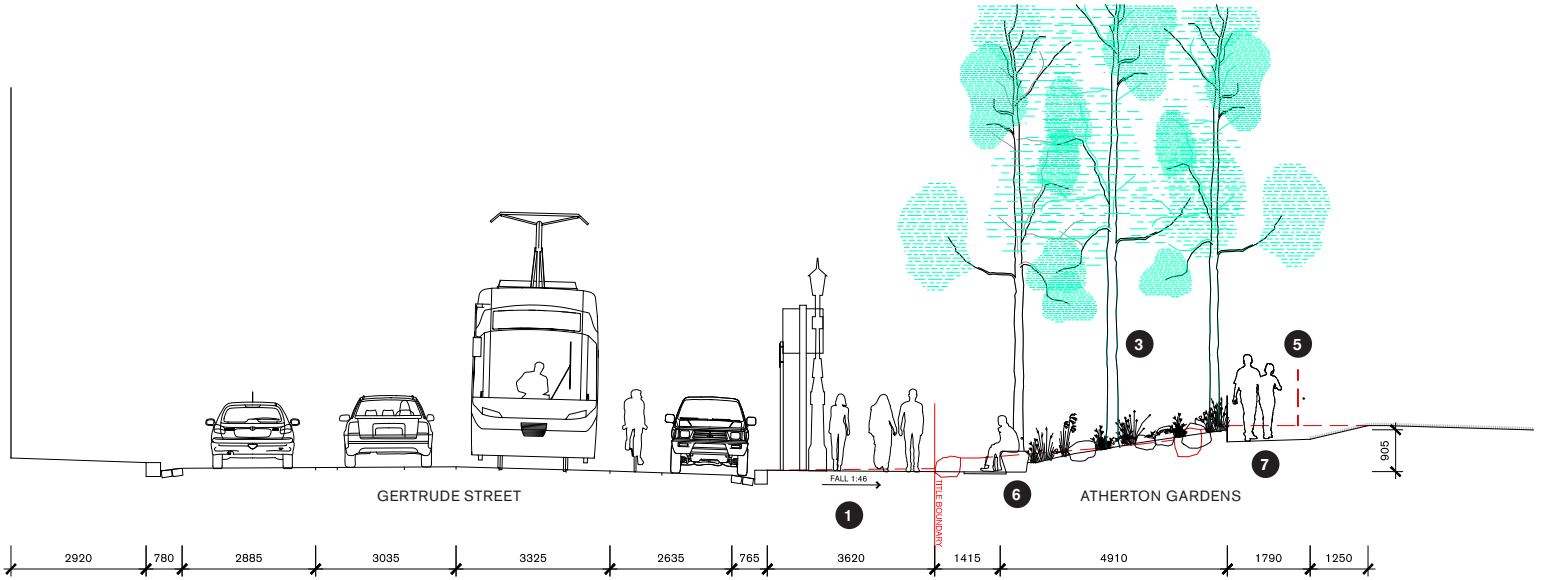


Sections

1. Regraded footpaths (1:40 Max. crossfall)
2. Existing Tram Shelter with new cladding
3. New garden with trees and salvaged rocks
4. Side section of fence retained
5. Central section of fence removed
6. Stone seating with integrated arm and backrests
7. New 1:14 ramp with steel wall to replace existing fence
8. Level of future accessible tram stop (shown in blue for information only)



Section 01: Brunswick Street



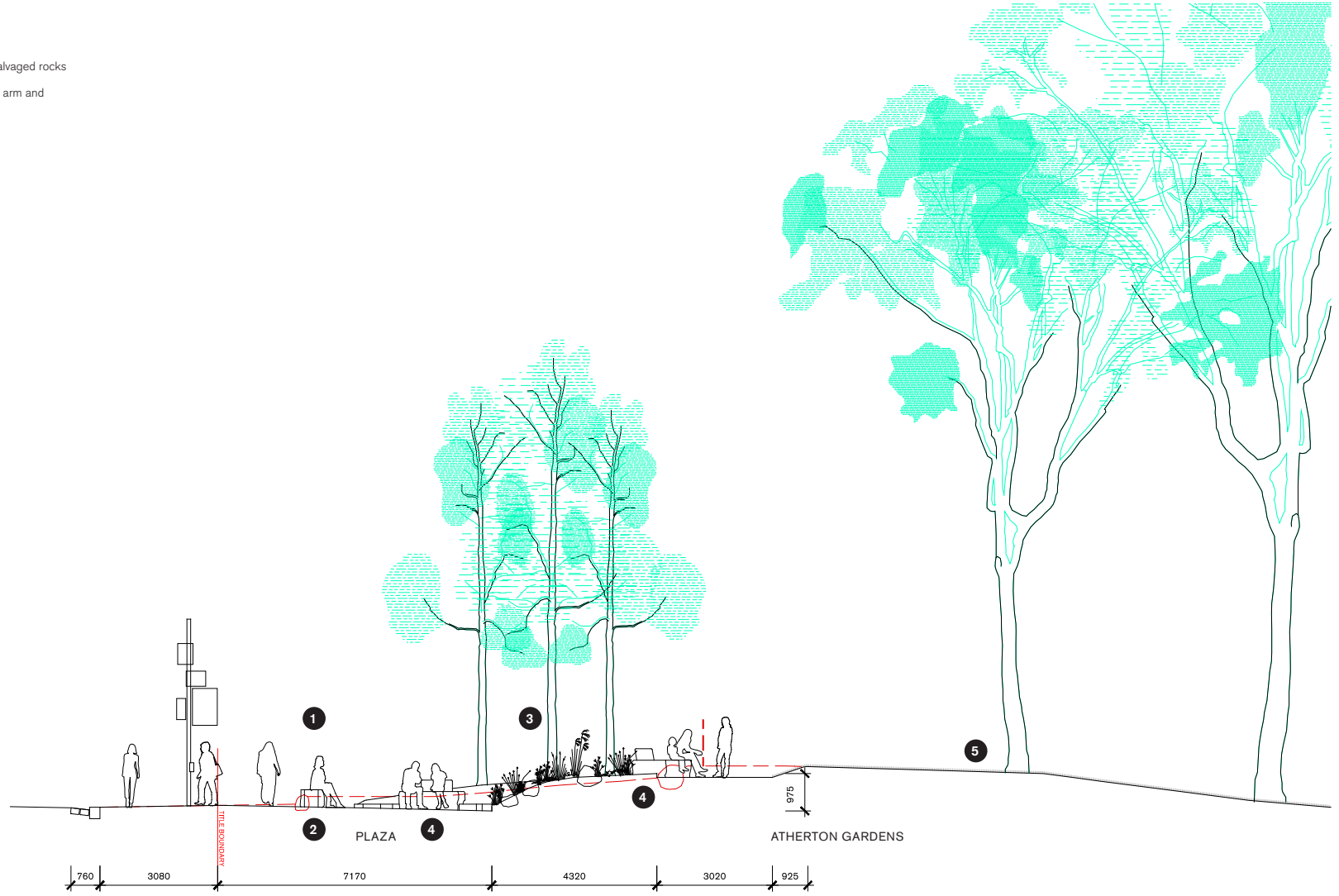
Section 02: Gertrude Street

Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Sections

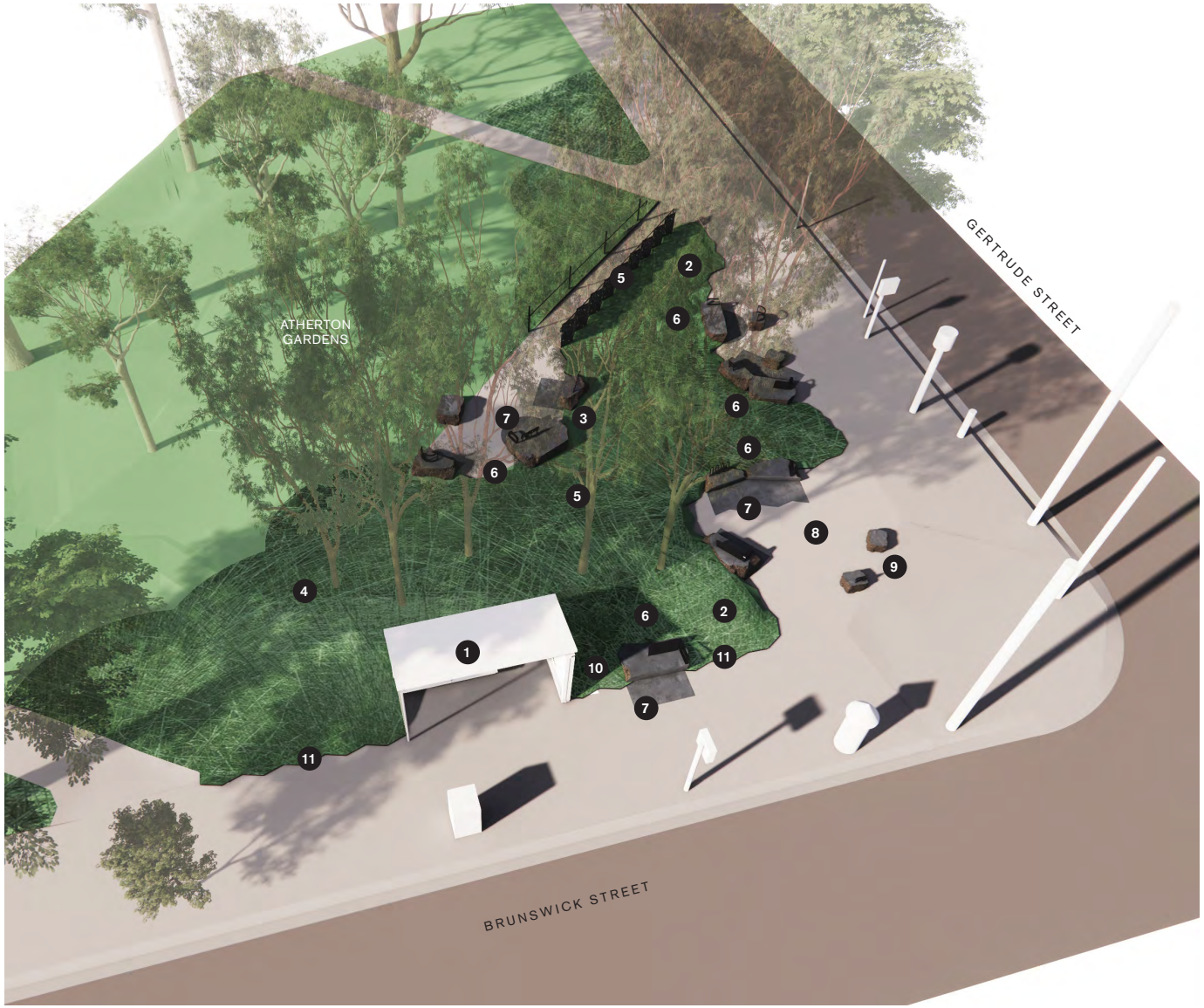
1. Open Plaza
2. Small stone seating
3. New garden with trees and salvaged rocks
4. Stone seating with integrated arm and backrests
5. Established native trees



Section 03: Corner plaza

Study Model: Birds-Eye

1. Existing Tram Shelter
2. New garden with trees and salvaged rocks
3. Central section of fence removed
4. Side section of fence retained
5. New 1:14 ramp with steel wall to replace existing fence
6. Stone seating with integrated arm and backrests
7. Paved 'carpet' at base of seating
8. Open Plaza
9. Small stone seating
10. Drinking fountain (not shown)
11. Steel edge at street



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Study Model: Above looking toward Brunswick Street



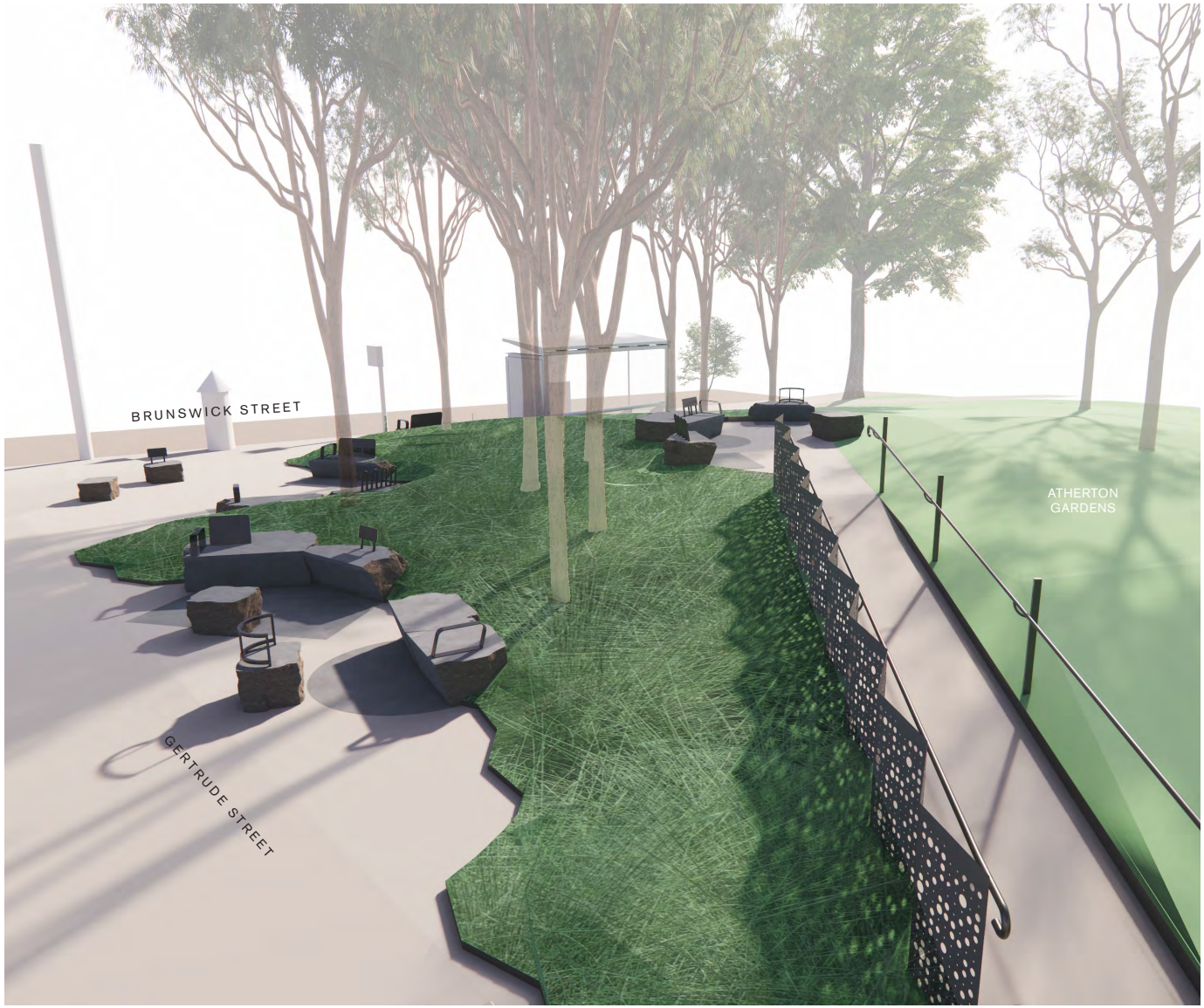
Study Model: Above looking toward Gertrude Street



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Study Model: Gertrude Street looking North West



Country and Diaspora

Gathering Place

Brunswick and Gertrude Street is a significant site for Indigenous Victorians and represents a place of gathering, organisation and solidarity. The proposed seats - a gathering place - at the corner of the streets presents an opportunity to acknowledge the coming together of these people by acknowledging their material of Country. The expression of the stone seating and paved 'carpet' at base of seating should express a diversity of material brought together into a unified whole. An urban artefact that talks of difference and solidarity.





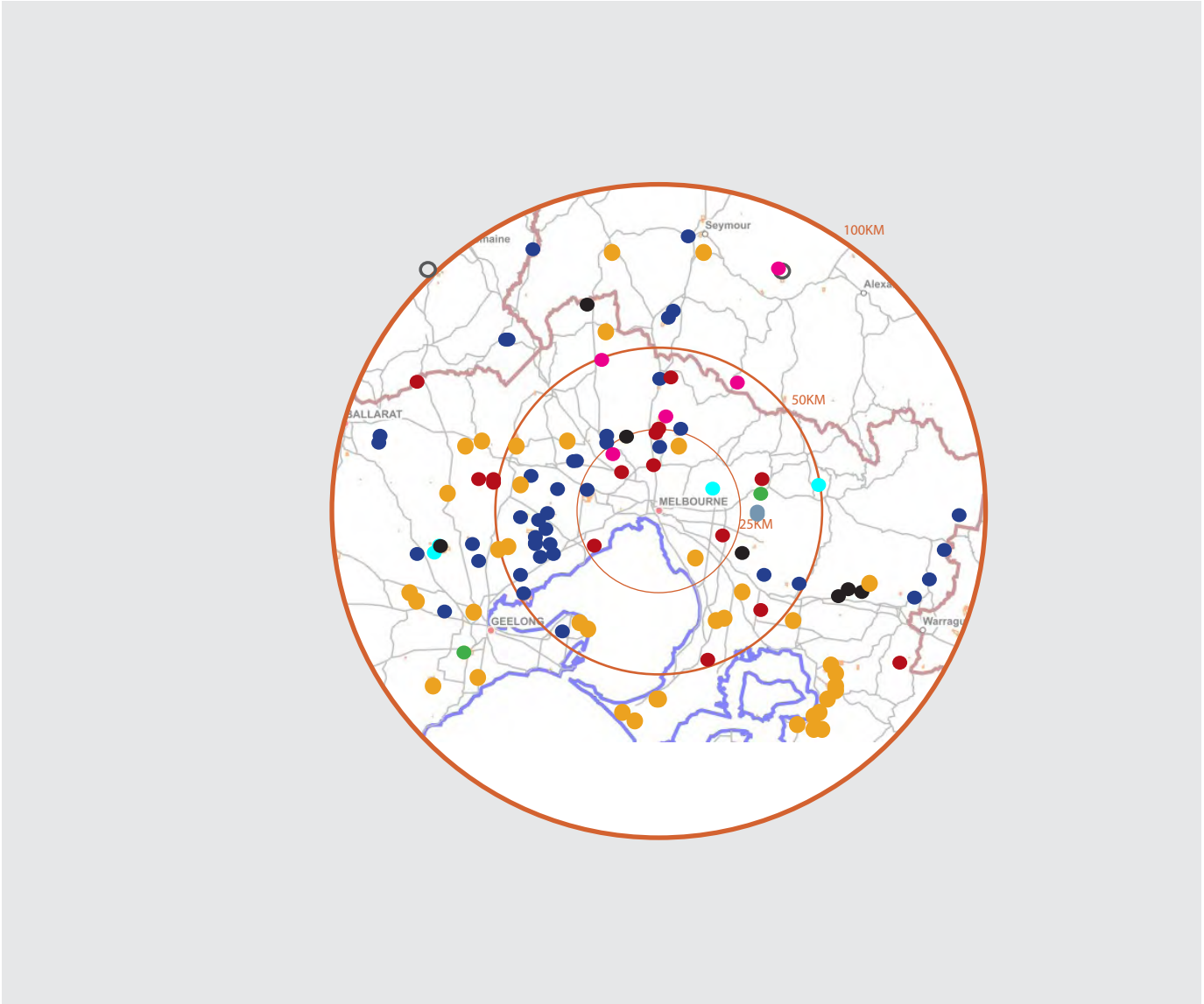


Workbook 5 Concept Design

Country and Diaspora

Gathering Place

We propose to work with existing sites of material extraction and their suppliers in and around the project site to source material of place. These will be gathered in Fitzroy as the material of the project.

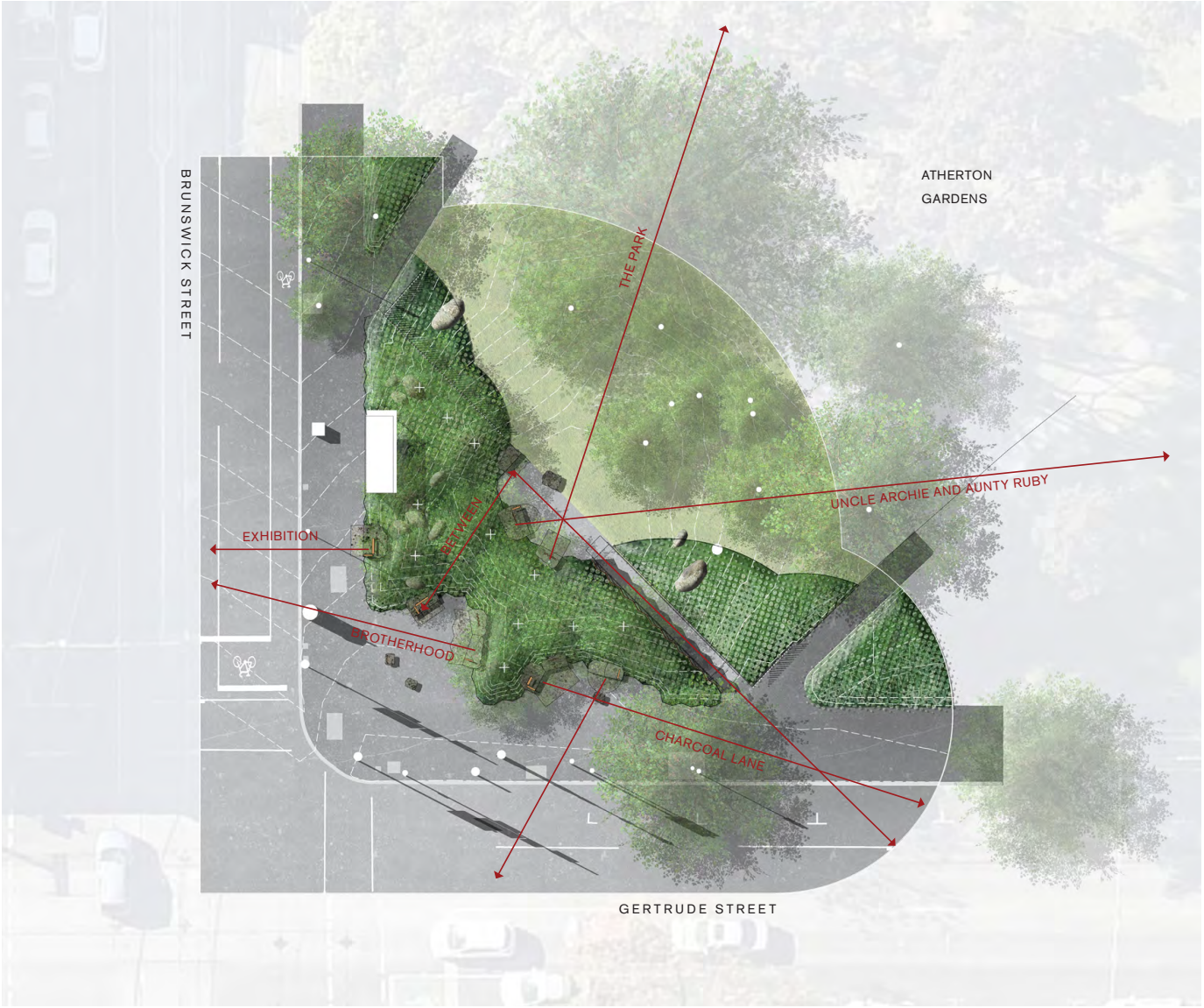


- Basalt
- Clay
- Granite
- Limestone
- Quartzite
- Rhyodacite
- Sand, Gravel, Scoria
- Sedimentary Hard Rock
- Slate

Looking to Context and Looking to History

Looking to Place

Each of the seats will be located to encourage an orientation toward a significant place in the neighborhood. This encouragement is gentle - suggested through orientation and alignment. It is not prescriptive - people can choose where to site and choose which way to face when sitting. This orientation is another gathering - the gathering of the places that have been of such significance to the Indigenous community of Fitzroy - and a reminder of those places continuing significance.



Corner of Gertrude and Brunswick Streets, Fitzroy / Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Land

Workbook 5 Concept Design

Embedding Words and Text: Written in Place

Declan Fry statement

We move through life as embodied beings.

Language – spoken, written, and otherwise – forms part of this embodiment. Language allows us to travel across time and space. It also roots us in time and space, alongside:

Country

Culture

Memory

Geography

Sound

The transit of people is also the transit of place: places of belonging, places of sustenance, places of memory, places of presence. Encouraging an embodied relationship to place, the work asks us to engage with sound (sounding out words), touch (tracing Country), and other forms of sensory appreciation.

Sound puts us inside our bodies. It asks us to engage our body and to engage with our body. Sound is one of the senses we can use to locate where we are, to learn how we feel. Sound calls for response: let's use text that encourages touch and voice, asks for engagement.

The sounding of language means that anyone, regardless of language, can engage in placemaking. It encourages ways of placemaking that are not possessive. Contesting possession, destabilised and fragmented languages tend to require the involvement of others – the languages of others, sounds of others, knowledge of others – in order to create sense.

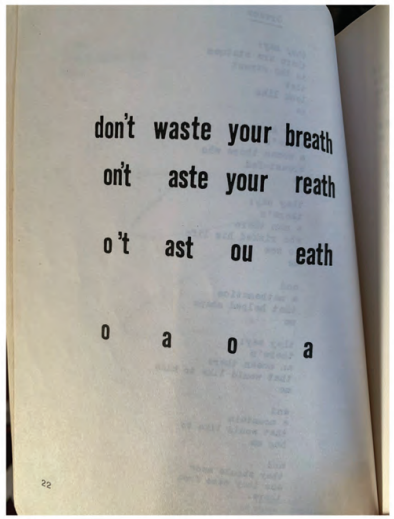
The use of phonetics and splicing of language is part of refusal. A refusal to recolonise country. A questioning of colonial literacies. It represents the way languages form and are used – organically, flexibly, responsive to surroundings and the different peoples who encounter them, who use and take them up. Language is always changing. It remains always susceptible to change. These translations of languages open up spaces for play.

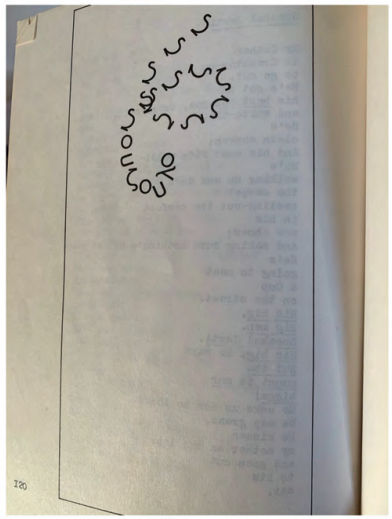
They allow for the recombination of words and ideas, for people to return and ponder. To read and voice words and language differently. Sometimes reading means the book is closed. There is only one fixed point and interpretation. The availability of multiple readings means things may go on. The stories continue.

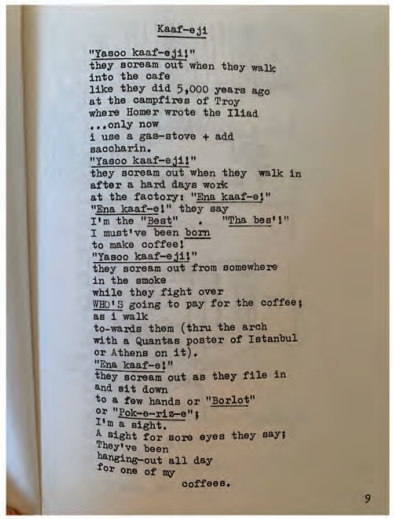
Written In Place

We propose to use phonetic language to engage people who use this space. The work encourages us to engage with language physically by touching, tracing, piecing together, voicing, sounding it out. The etching of words in stone places language and Country together, encourages the eye to follow lines, fingers and bodies to trace words.

It encourages us to utter language - unfamiliar at first, but well accustomed soon enough.










Museum
Insel Hombroich
Raketenstation
Hombroich


MANWARE




SEEK OUR




GOODHOOD




DJIYADI-talk


MARIE CURIE, 1867-193
THE FIRST, AWARDED IN
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7.7 Mechanisms to Increase the Urban Forest on Private Land

Reference	D24/192343
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Authoriser	General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to respond to Part 7 of Item 7.7 of the Council's Business Report for the Street Tree Canopy Cover and Urban Forest Strategy Target Update presented to Council on 15 August 2023 that required:

   (a) *that officers provide a report to Council on possible mechanisms for increasing the urban forest on private land*.

2. The report presents analysis findings on the theoretical potential for increasing canopy tree coverage on private land and informs on the potential mechanisms that are available to Council.

Critical analysis

History and background

Urban Forest Strategy 2017

3. Council adopted the *Urban Forest Strategy* (UFS) in 2017. The UFS sets a vision to create a more liveable city supported by a healthy and growing urban forest.

4. The target for canopy cover in the UFS states: "*Canopy cover in Yarra will increase by 25% (from 2014 levels) by 2040*". This represents an increase from 17% to 21.25% total canopy cover across the municipality.

Street Tree Canopy Cover and Urban Forest Report

5. The *Street Tree Canopy Cover and Urban Forest report* was presented to Council on 15 August 2023.

6. The purpose of the report was to measure tree canopy cover across the municipality and to review canopy coverage rates as part of five-yearly monitoring and evaluation of the Yarra Urban Forest Strategy 2017.

7. In 2021, Yarra achieved a canopy cover of approximately 17.7% across the municipality, with 60% on Council land (incl. streets and roads) and 40% on private property.

8. It showed that the distribution of the canopy cover in Yarra is highly uneven, with Cremorne's and Collingwood's being historically lowest and Alphington's and Fairfield's being the highest.

9. On 15 August 2023, Council resolved that officers "*provide a report to Council on possible mechanisms for increasing the urban forest on private land*".

Method

10. Urban Design and Strategic Planning officers prepared a method (see Attachment 1) to approach this project and analysed geospatial information, aerial imagery, planning permit applications, enquired about existing Council programs, and sought advice from other councils to inform this report.

11. Whilst the analysis was sufficiently comprehensive to provide a strong indication regarding the theoretical potential to increase the urban forest on private land, it does not replace the need for more detailed analysis should further work be pursued in the future.

12. The officers' analysis found that:

    (a) Tree canopy cover loss differs across areas in the municipality and likely has different causes depending on the area;

    (b) Determining the potential area for increasing canopy cover is difficult to ascertain;

    (c) At this point in time, private land could theoretically contribute a 1% increase to reaching a canopy coverage of 21.25% across Yarra by 2040 (currently coverage is at approximately 17.7%);

    (d) The most impactful mechanisms to reach the desired target are likely a combination of:

        (i) Continuing to support programs targeting Council controlled land such as the street tree planting program;

        (ii) Further pursuing educational pathways to encourage and support the retention or increase of canopy trees and more natural landscaping on private land;

        (iii) Advocating to State Government to finalise and release its work on a cooling and greening initiative (Action 91 of Plan Melbourne) aimed at increasing sustainability and resilience through green infrastructure;

        (iv) Investigating the resource impact of providing internal landscape advice for planning applications for smaller developments; and

        (v) Continuing to provide internal landscape advice on planning applications for large site and precincts especially where canopy coverage is historically low; and

    (e) Stronger statutory mechanisms to protect and increase canopy coverage on private land are very time and resource intensive and currently unlikely to be successful based on recent experience from other councils.

Discussion

Role of Private Land in the Urban Forest Strategy

13. Private land equates to 57% of all land in Yarra. For the purpose of this report, private land includes:

    (a) Residential landowners (41%);

    (b) Commercial property owners;

    (c) Industrial property owners; and

    (d) Other government property ownership (i.e. Department of Housing, Department of Education and Melbourne Water).

Canopy cover changes on private property 2016 – 2021

14. It is difficult to establish the exact impact of each of the different causes for canopy cover changes in Yarra. This is due to:

    (a) The historically diverse subdivision pattern;

    (b) The dense nature of development patterns (historic and current);

    (c) The resulting variety in development proposals, particularly regarding extensions and townhouses; and

    (d) Varying climate change and weather patterns.

15. Between 2016 and 2021, canopy coverage on private property increased overall by 2.8% (UFS Mapping 2016-2021).

16. While a positive outcome, the increases are unevenly distributed across Yarra, with some suburbs showing losses or only modest gains.

17. Abbotsford, Burnley Collingwood, Fairfield, and Fitzroy have increased private canopy coverage significantly while Alphington, Carlton North, Clifton Hill, Cremorne, Fitzroy North, Princess Hill, and Richmond have made modest gains or losses. See Chart 1 and Table 1 for a comparative overview.

18. Losses, likely due to development, have in most suburbs been offset by growth of mature trees. However, this growth cannot be expected to continue indefinitely considering spatial limits to tree growth and life expectancy of mature trees.

Chart 1: Canopy change on private land private between 2016-2021

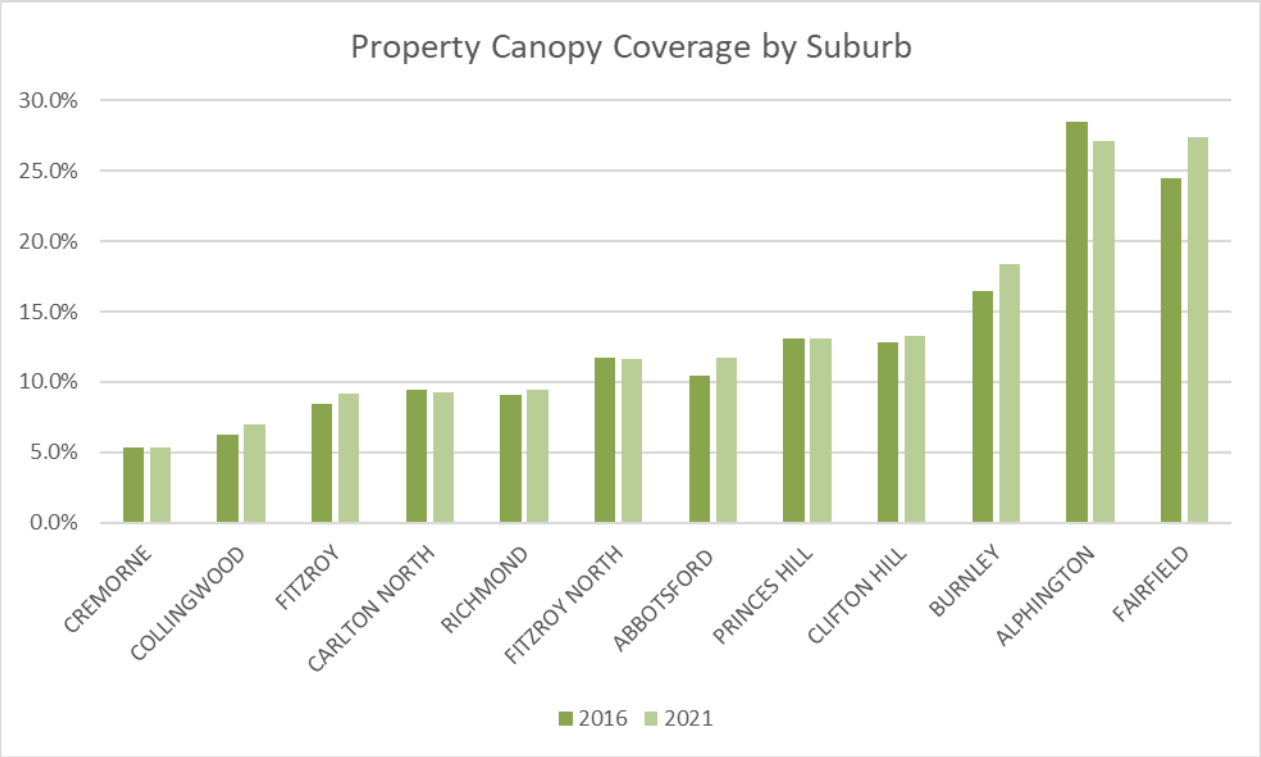


Table 1. Canopy change on private land private between 2016-2021

Suburb	Change in canopy 2016-2021 in %	Total Urban Forest % 2021
ABBOTSFORD	11.74%	16.0%
ALPHINGTON	-4.70%	28.5%
BURNLEY	11.69%	24.0%
CARLTON NORTH	-1.50%	12.9%
CLIFTON HILL	3.61%	19.9%
COLLINGWOOD	10.32%	9.2%
CREMORNE	-0.25%	6.3%
FAIRFIELD	11.99%	33.5%
FITZROY	8.81%	12.8%
FITZROY NORTH	-1.29%	17.4%
PRINCES HILL	0.02%	15.5%
RICHMOND	4.20%	12.4%
YARRA CITY	**2.80%**	**17.7%**

Impact of development on canopy cover

19. Developments of varying sizes have mostly resulted in a loss of tree canopy cover across Yarra. Unless protected by existing laws, trees are typically cleared to facilitate development on the site. While some developments may include tree planting on site, it still results in a short-term loss of canopy cover.

20. Developments on large sites have the potential to impact private canopy cover in a suburb. For instance, redevelopment of the AMCOR site in Alphington has resulted in a reduction of 4.7% in that suburb's private canopy cover despite tree growth on other properties. The site is being revegetated by new tree plantings but the short-term impact on canopy coverage is significant.

21. A large part of the growth in private canopy cover in Collingwood, Fitzroy and Richmond may be attributed to the growth of mature trees on the Homes Victoria tower sites. With the Victorian Government's Housing Statement released last year indicating all these sites will be redeveloped by 2050, there is a possibility that the loss of vegetation on these large sites will reduce the overall private canopy cover for these suburbs.

22. Smaller scale development, such as extensions, are also impacting on private canopy coverage, causing losses. Carlton North and Fitzroy North show examples of this.

23. Establishing exactly how much canopy coverage is lost or how much potential is being reduced is difficult to determine due to the very individual nature of extension applications and the historic subdivision pattern across Yarra being irregular and having created small allotments.

24. Townhouse development is also likely impacting the coverage in suburbs such as Richmond.

25. Officers analysed 197 townhouse developments that were approved during the period 2016-2021. They found that 84 of the 197 developments indicate a loss of canopy cover of approximately 10% during this period.

26. In certain areas of Yarra, development can lead to canopy gains. In suburbs such as Cremorne and Abbotsford, where land use is in transition from warehouse and light industrial to commercial or multi-residential, development can lead to modest gains in canopy.

27. A desire for increased amenity and presentation for commercial development as well as canopy tree requirements for apartment developments under clause 58 of the planning scheme can result in an increase on sites with previously little or no canopy cover.

28. It should be noted that underground car parking facilities and other site planning decisions often limit the size of deep soil zones and the potential of tree growth.

Other reasons for canopy cover loss

29. Private tree removal not related to development or residential extensions also contributes to a loss of canopy cover.

30. There are numerous reasons for private tree removal which may include:

    (a) trees causing property or fence damage;

    (b) tree size reaching an impractical size for available space;

    (c) tree overhanging into neighbours' property;

    (d) pests or disease;

    (e) overshadowing or obstructing views;

    (f) pool construction; and

    (g) off-street parking access.

Impact of tree life cycle on canopy cover

31. The UFS identified climate change as a significant challenge in managing the urban heat island impact, particularly in relation to the life cycle of trees both on public and private land.

32. In Yarra, 24% of trees are likely to reach the end of their useful life between 2027 and 2037, equalling 5,051 trees. They will need removing and replacing throughout the decade.

33. This is more than double the best-practice proportion of the tree population expected to reach their end of life in any one decade. Work has already begun on succession strategies to gradually replace trees to limit this impact.

34. These succession strategies will have significant impacts on canopy cover in the short-term as mature trees are gradually replaced with new juvenile trees. This has been evident in Carlton North where upgrades of mature trees have led to a short-term loss in canopy.

35. Yarra's increasing urban density presents further challenges to finding appropriate locations within our streetscapes to plant new trees.

Determining the potential of private land to contribute to Yarra's canopy cover

36. While 57% of land in Yarra is privately owned, Yarra faces unique challenges due to its historic inner city urban context. Yarra typically has more dense urban development, smaller subdivisions of residential land with the majority in heritage overlays, and a proportion of commercial and industrial land. This may mean that there are limits in private land providing greater tree canopy cover.

37. Officers analysed available GIS information to determine the theoretically 'plantable area' for canopy trees on private land. This was cross-referenced with aerial imagery for the municipality to estimate the potential area (called plottable area in Image 1) that could actually be used to increase the tree canopy cover. See Image 1 for a schematic overview of the method.

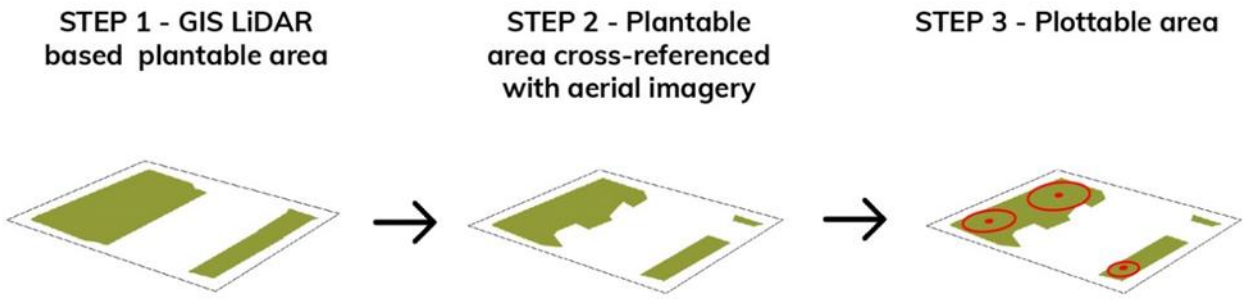


Image 1. Methodology of estimating plottable area

38. The potential area for canopy increase was estimated for sample areas that contained similar lot sizes, land uses and development patterns to enable a more accurate estimation across larger areas with similar characteristics. The findings are estimates only and do not represent the same accuracy as a full, municipal wide audit would achieve.

39. Based on the above method, officers found that within private property:

    (a) only 10% is currently open ground surface (being 5.7% of all land in Yarra – see Step 2 in Image 1); and

    (b) only 20% of this 10% is realistically suitable for additional planting (being around 1% of all land in Yarra – see Step 3 in Image 1).

40. As of 2021, tree coverage across Yarra was at approximately 17.7%. The UFS would lead to a target coverage of 21.25% total canopy cover across the municipality. The findings of this report mean that private land could contribute approximately 1% to the remaining 3.5%.

41. The contribution from private land to canopy coverage appears significant, but also requires the following considerations:

    (a) Land owners cannot be forced to plant trees because there is plantable area on their site;

    (b) If a statutory planning mechanism was introduced, it would only address sites where a planning permit was being sought and the amount or timing could not be controlled;

    (c) Minimum tree requirements may in some instances reduce potential housing capacity, which could be seen as conflicting with the Housing Statement policy; and

    (d) It would require guidance and careful consideration to plant the right type of tree due to site constraints and potential conflicts with drainage and sewage infrastructure or foundations.

42. Relying on private land to provide a certain contribution is uncertain in terms of the actual amount of coverage it could add or retain, as well as when this would occur. For example, the timing of planning permit applications and their location cannot be predicted accurately and not controlled in the same way the planting of trees on Council controlled land can be. This makes estimating the actual contribution canopy coverage on private land difficult to estimate.

43. Further, this analysis did not consider the potential for buildings to be demolished and greater open ground surface to be provided.

Mechanisms to retain or increase the urban forest on private land

44. Yarra has implemented various mechanisms to protect and enhance the urban forest. These mechanisms primarily focus on streetscapes and council-controlled land. They include the Significant Tree Register, general Yarra Planning Scheme policies and education initiatives like Gardens for Wildlife.

45. The largest gains in canopy coverage have been made in Yarra's streetscapes. This aligns with the objectives of the UFS which focuses on increasing canopy in streets where the effects of urban heat island are most acutely felt, and the benefits of trees are greatest.

46. Council-controlled land, including streets, will continue to play a vital role in increasing the overall canopy cover, especially for areas that due to their historic context have a lower canopy coverage.

47. Officers consulted with several councils and internal teams to understand potential mechanisms.

48. Table 2 below lists existing and potential mechanisms (subject to further analysis) to assist the increase of the urban forest on private land.

Mechanism	Purpose	Context and challenges
Yarra Planning Scheme		
Policy Directions **Building Design policy at Clause 15.01-2L** **ESD Policy at Clause 15.01-2L-01**	Clause 15.01-2L Building Setbacks states: "*Development should incorporate setbacks that:* • *Provide space for soft landscaping including the planting of canopy trees, where appropriate*." A max. site coverage of 80% is not exceeded unless the predominant pattern in the area is higher. The strategies for landscaping include: "*Encourage trees and vegetation planting to increase their canopies and coverage to contribute to an urban forest.*	Building Design Due to historically high site coverage, small lots sizes and lack of canopy coverage, current character considerations make it difficult to enforce a change based on the policy alone. However, the strategy to retain existing mature trees or replace them could potentially assist in preventing long-term loss in areas where townhouse developments occur.

Mechanism	Purpose	Context and challenges
	Support landscaping (including planting in deep soil, planter boxes, green walls and green roofs) which: • *Promote the on-going health of trees and vegetation that has been retained on site.* • *Respect the landscape character of the area where there is a prevailing character…* • *Retain existing mature trees where possible or incorporate suitable replacement planting where mature trees are removed*." Clause 15.01-2L-01 is a policy applying to new development that ensures principles of sustainability are integrated in the planning and design of new development.	ESD Subjective interpretation of environmental sustainability objectives, coupled with limited enforcement mechanisms and potential trade-offs with development priorities, undermines the policy's effectiveness regarding increasing canopy cover. A new policy Preparing more targeted policy is theoretically possible but depends on State Government support and would be highly time and resource intensive. See comments on current State Government work below.
Zoning requirements	The Yarra Planning Scheme sets zoning requirements to guide development, including a focus on maintaining neighbourhood character for residential zones. This ensures that new developments respect the established environmental and landscape features of each area.	The zoning schedules refer to particular provisions.
Overlay requirements	Utilise landscape and environmental overlays to retain trees or vegetation within the Planning Scheme. Provisions available are the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO), Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) or the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO).	To address the urban heat island effect, recent Design and Development Overlays aim to introduce green infrastructure requirements to support soft landscaping that reduces the impact (waiting to be exhibited). Requires significant technical background work to be prepared. Likely a lengthy process with a high risk of refusal from State Government at the moment. See commentary on current State Government work below. This would likely require significant time and financial resources and take approximately 2-4 years.
ResCode / Better Apartments Provisions in Clauses 54, 55, 56 and 58	These provisions aim to ensure that new residential developments are appropriately designed and integrated within their context, considering factors like overall site coverage or the retention or protection of trees where they are part of the character.	See commentary on the established character above. Although the objectives of the clauses must be met, the Standards and decision guidelines can be varied and how the objectives are to be achieved is less defined. This situation is common due to Yarra's historic urban context. Statutory Planning currently requests landscape plans and refers them to Urban Design and Open Space Planning units for developments over 9 dwellings. It could be investigated how this could be extended and what resource implications that would bring. This would relate to the creation of

Mechanism	Purpose	Context and challenges
		fact sheets or guidelines, see comment on Actions from the Urban Forest Strategy below.
Area-based planning		
Include or advocate for canopy targets in development plans for larger sites or precincts to encourage tree retention, replacement or increase.	Tree retention and planting could potentially be encouraged via advocating for requirements in area-based plans. This is particularly relevant to the Homes Victoria social housing tower sites in Richmond, Collingwood, and Fitzroy.	Ability to influence State Government. Dependent on the amendment and purpose of the planning provision mechanism that has to be utilised.
Local Laws		
Significant Tree Register	The *Significant Tree Register* is currently a Local Law that focuses specifically on the protection of individual trees.	Existing mechanism Yarra's current register is a Local Law and not incorporated into the Yarra Planning Scheme. There are challenges in increasing listings to the register, in comprehensive monitoring and enforcement, particularly concerning changes on private property.
Implemented a new local law for tree bonds on private land	Introduce a local law mandating developers to provide financial guarantees to protect significant trees during development.	Legal drafting and approval process is potentially time-consuming and resource intensive to set and maintain/enforce.
Education		
Gardens for wildlife	The current Gardens for Wildlife program is a partnership between Council and community members to increase appreciation for biodiversity and create habitat gardens for local wildlife.	Ongoing project Program initiation relies solely on private landowners.
Actions from the Urban Forest Strategy	Engage with the community around the importance of a well-managed, healthy, and resilient urban forest for the future of Yarra. Educate and support the community to integrate urban forest principles on private land. This includes the development of Yarra-specific tree planting and urban forest fact sheets and technical resources for community use in private planting. Themes include, but are not limited to: • how to increase permeable land • appropriate tree species for climatic changes • ways to care for trees in the private realm The annual community planting days aim to increase biodiversity and tree and bushland coverage in targeted areas on public land.	Ongoing The creation of fact sheets would relate to the potential extension to request and assess landscape plans for smaller developments (see comment on ResCode and landscape plans for smaller developments above). Continue to promote the Green Factor tool, which is an online tool is designed to help landscape designers, architects, planners and developers benchmark and improve how effective their greening designs for proposed developments are.
Incentives		
Conservation grants	Offer grants to support the conservation of existing significant trees on private land.	Availability of funds and allocation challenges. Other Councils had limited success with this mechanism.

Mechanism	Purpose	Context and challenges
Tree Planting Grants	Provide grants to promote tree planting initiatives on private property	Availability of funds and allocation challenges. Other Councils had limited success with this mechanism.

Table 2: Existing and potential mechanisms to increase canopy coverage on private land:

State Government and other Local Government initiatives

49. The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) is working on a cooling and greening initiative (Action 91 of Plan Melbourne) aimed at increasing sustainability and resilience through green infrastructure and supporting Councils with their urban forest strategies. The initiative focuses on the protection of existing trees as part of the new ESD road map, Green Infrastructure.

50. In 2019, Monash City Council proposed introducing a Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) for both tree controls for significant trees and built form controls as part of Amendment C153mona.

51. On 23 June 2021, the Minister for Planning formally decided to refuse to authorise Amendment C153mona. The principal reason cited for the refusal was that the DTP was undertaking work on consistent statewide tree removal controls and other cooling and greening provisions.

52. This poses a substantial risk for Council if it decided to introduce any proposed tree management guidance or controls in its local policy, zone schedules or overlays. It is likely that this proposal would not be supported until the State Government completes their own cooling and greening planning provisions.

Options

53. Officers do not recommend pursuing a statutory planning mechanism at this time due to the State Government not allowing council tree control amendments to progress.

54. It is recommended that the following mechanisms be scoped in more detail to better understand their potential for effectiveness and resource requirements:

    (a) Education: Work is already underway. This includes preparing planting guidelines for suitable canopy tree species in backyards and constrained contexts, raising awareness among stakeholders about the importance of protecting and enhancing the urban forest and the role private landowners can play. In addition, Council will continue to promote the Green Factor tool which is an online tool is designed to help landscape designers, architects, planners and developers benchmark and improve how effective their greening designs for proposed developments are;

    (b) Advocate: Advocate to the Minister for Planning to complete the cooling and greening initiative (Action 91 of Plan Melbourne) aimed at increasing sustainability and resilience through green infrastructure. This is important this work is released so councils are aware of the framework within which further work could be done or where to advocate for further reform;

    (c) Landscape plans: Investigate the required resources and potential effectiveness of broadening requests for landscape plans to ensure the retention or provision of suitable canopy trees for all townhouse developments; and

    (d) Area-based planning: Continue to advocate for canopy tree retention and increase for government-owned sites and consider opportunities for planting when planning for precincts that historically lack canopy cover.

Community and stakeholder engagement

55. Internal consultation has been undertaken with the following teams to inform this report:
    (a) Urban Design;
    (b) Digital & Technology - Data Services;
    (c) Biodiversity;
    (d) Open Space Planning;
    (e) Council Arborists; and
    (f) Statutory planning.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

56. The report aligns with Council Plan 2021-25 objectives and initiatives including:
    (a) Protect and enhance the biodiversity values, connectivity, and resilience of Yarra's natural environment (Strategic Objective three: Place and Nature).

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

57. The climate emergency plan includes a target to increase canopy cover in 2040 by 25% as an aspiration for the whole municipality from a 17% baseline in 2014.
58. Increasing canopy coverage would be expected to have significant positive sustainability implications for Yarra by mitigating the effects of urban heat island and building climate resilience.

Community and social implications

59. Increasing canopy coverage in Yarra is likely to have significant positive social implications– via a reduction of the urban heat island effect and other liveability benefits that trees in the urban environment provide.

Economic development implications

60. A flourishing and managed urban forest can contribute many economic benefits within the Municipality, including:
    (a) reduction of energy use in buildings from cooling through canopy shade;
    (b) improved retail activity from shoppers spending longer in retail areas well treed and landscaped; and
    (c) improved character, amenity, and brand of the relevant area.

Human rights and gender equality implications

61. There are no known human rights implications from the report.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

62. There are no costs associated with the consideration of this report. Follow-on costs would depend on what option is selected to be pursued for further investigations.

Legal Implications

63. There are no known legal implications from the report.

Conclusion

64. Despite the comprehensive analysis by officers regarding the theoretical potential to increase the urban forest on private land, the work does not replace the need for more detailed analysis should further work be pursued in the future.

65. Analysis shows an increase in canopy coverage on private land between 2016 to 2021, but challenges such as uneven gains across suburbs, development impacts, and climate-related losses persist.

66. Currently, the canopy coverage across Yarra is at approximately 17.7%. At this point in time, private land could theoretically contribute a 1% increase to reaching a canopy coverage of 21.25% across Yarra by 2040 as outlined in the UFS.

67. A single mechanism is unlikely to be the solution to help achieve the target of the urban forest strategy or to reduce the urban heat island effect in Yarra. In some areas of activity centres or employment precincts, other responses will be needed to reduce the heat island effect, such as green infrastructure to support soft landscaping on buildings in combination with an increase in street trees.

68. There are various programs and mechanisms in place that will assist Yarra in reaching our canopy cover target.

69. Controlling the retention or increase of canopy cover on private land would be difficult due to likely significant resource implications such as officer time assessing planning applications or resources for enforcement or compliance officers, and the lack of support for statutory planning mechanisms from State Government.

70. Based on other Councils' experience, pursuing statutory mechanisms through the planning scheme is unlikely to be successful at present due to work that State Government is undertaking as part of an action from Plan Melbourne.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) continues to support programs which increase the canopy tree cover targeting Council controlled land;

   (b) advocates to State Government to finalise and release its work on developing a whole-of-government approach to cooling and greening (Action 91 of Plan Melbourne), aimed at increasing sustainability and resilience through green infrastructure and supporting councils with their urban forest strategies;

   (c) continues to advocate for canopy tree retention and increase for government-owned sites and consider opportunities for planting when planning for precincts that historically lack canopy cover;

   (d) continues to pursue educational pathways, including the preparation of planting guidelines, raising awareness and understanding among landowners about the importance of protecting the urban forest and their role in its preservation on private land and continuing to promote the Green Factor Tool;

   (e) investigates potential adjustments to relevant internal landscape plan requirements and referral processes to understand implications more accurately; and

   (f) notes that the Municipal Association of Victoria is advocating for the amendment to the electrical line clearance under state regulations clearance and the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 as part of the 2025 review in order to retain trees and tree canopy in metropolitan municipalities such as the City of Yarra.

Attachments

1⇩ Attachment 1 Methodology Statement

Urban Greening – Methodology Statement:

1. Outline:

The Urban Greening project responds to a council motion that officers prepare a report to better understand the contribution of private land to achieving urban forest canopy coverage targets. In preparing this report officers are seeking to generate data to better understand greening in the private realm. This methodology statement outlines the approach to be taken in this data task.

2. Research questions:

A. What is the maximum coverage that can be achieved on private land and is that relatively evenly distributed across the city?
B. What is the current shortfall from the maximum that could be achieved on private land?
C. What is reducing the amount of vegetation on private land? (Increased site coverage?) Can we make estimations of impacts on future tree coverage potential on private land due to development?

3. Methodology for research questions A and B:

In order to answer these questions it is necessary to first determine the maximum area of land in the private realm that could be planted with canopy trees and is not already planted. Then it is necessary to estimate the capacity of this area to support tree plantings. This is the 'shortfall' or unrealised capacity.

a) Step 1: Lidar

In the first stage of the research Lidar (Light detection and ranging) data will be processed by Yarra GIS officers to produce a layer that represents all open ground surfaces within private property. These surfaces were defined using the classification levels of the Intergovernmental Committee on Surveying and Mapping (ICSM) (ADD REF), being:

- Bare ground and;
- Low vegetation 0 – 0.

The results were edited to remove the following:

Removals
Built form
Railway Line
Footpaths
Playgrounds
multi purpose courts or any sport courts
Ovals
Road reserve near roundabout
Driveways
Carparks
Golf course
Development sites
Church
Along the Yarra River
Crown Land
Police station

The remaining area represents a reasonable estimate of the total open ground area in the private realm.

b) Step 2: estimate capacity of a case studies

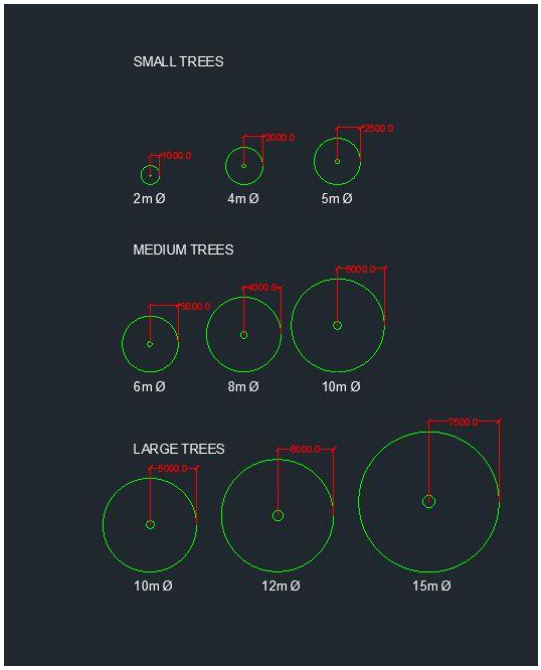
In the next stage the unrealised tree planting capacity is estimated by taking a case study approach then extrapolating this over similar areas of the city. The methodology here is similar to a housing or floor area capacity analysis undertaken in built form studies. (ie SGS work for Yarra). 'Rules of thumb' or ratios are developed from case studies and then extrapolated over a larger area based on a 'gross' area. In this case the gross is from step 1: Lidar.

Previous canopy data work (Urban Forest Strategy) calculated total areas of canopy by State suburb being:

- Abbotsford, Alphington, Burnley, Carlton North, Clifton Hill, Collingwood, Cremorne, Fairfield, Fitzroy, Fitsroy North, Princess Hill, Richmond.

Within suburbs the urban form can be quite diverse, similar areas are better grouped as 'fabrics' that share an underlying urban form with similar lot sizes and site coverage. This grouping will be done in GIS using land use zoning, lot size and site coverage data. A polygon is created in GIS representing the fabric. This is a visual task and somewhat subjective but sufficiently accurate for the purpose. Where fabrics cross suburbs, they should be broken into separate polygons to allow summing by suburb later.

Once fabrics are identified, a case study area (several urban blocks) is selected for detailed analysis in CAD. Using typical tree canopy sizes of:



The following layers are exported from GIS to CAD:

- Cadastral lots
- Building footprints
- Tree canopy 2021 data from Urban Forest Strategy mapping.
- Open ground space layer created through step 3a above.

Trees are plotted within the open ground space allowing for realistic planting opportunities around built form, fencing and necessary hard surfaces .

The ‘parameters’ around plotting the tree locations are:

- Offset from built form at least the radius of the mature canopy.
- Offset centre of tree from another at least diameter of mature canopy.
- Offset from fencing.
- Not significantly disturb existing functional uses.

Their total area is summed and then this is divided into the total lot area to get a theoretical unrealised tree canopy rate (or ratio) in m^2.

Formula:

Total case study unrealised tree canopy rate per m^2 = sum of tree plots m^2/total lot area in cases study m^2

This CAD stage is represented in the sketch below:

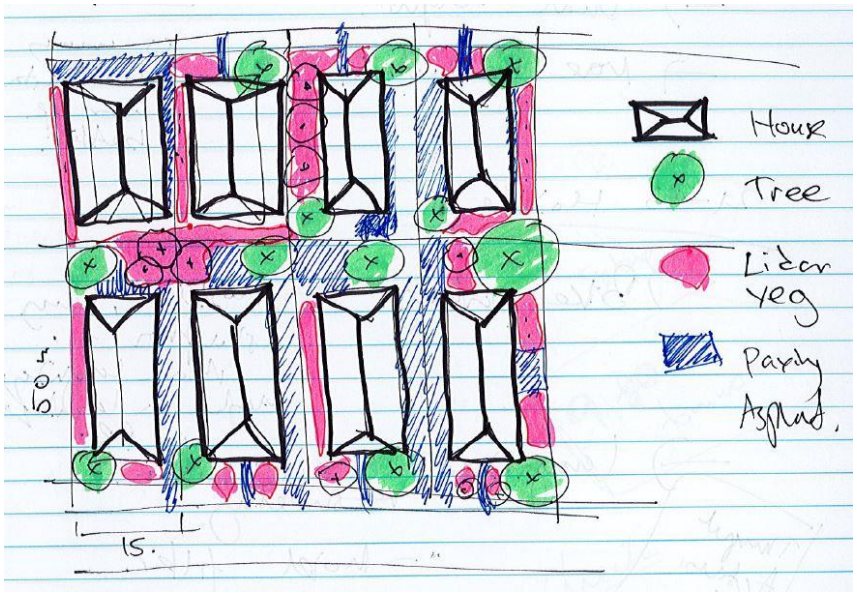


Figure 1: Rough sketch showing a suburban fabric, green are existing trees, pink is open ground and circles within are unrealised tree canopy opportunities.

c) Step 3: extrapolate case studies

In this stage the unrealised tree canopy rate per m2 is multiplied by the total area of private lots within a fabric to arrive at an estimate of the total unrealised tree canopy.

Formula:

*Total fabric unrealised tree canopy capacity = Total unrealised tree canopy capacity rate * total lot area within fabric.*

Finally fabrics are summed together to obtain a total unrealised tree canopy capacity for the State suburb. This can be analysed with Urban Forest Strategy canopy mapping and

data completed previously. Combining these two data sets will reveal the role greening in the private realm can play in achieving overall Urban Forest Strategy targets.

This can then be analysed to examine whether this canopy capacity is evenly distributed across the city (and how it relates to existing canopy coverage).

4. Methodology for research question C:

Research question C is in two parts:

I. *What is reducing the amount of vegetation on private land? (Increased site coverage?)*
II. *Can we make estimations of impacts on future tree coverage potential on private land due to development?*

The first is a question that is 'exploratory' in nature. The previous work for the Urban Forest Strategy mapped canopy change (including the private realm), this shows the following changes in canopy by suburb:

Property Canopy Coverage by Suburb			
Locality/Suburb	**2016**	**2021**	**Canopy area increase**
ABBOTSFORD	10.5%	11.7%	11.7%
ALPHINGTON	28.5%	27.1%	-4.7%
BURNLEY	16.4%	18.3%	11.7%
CARLTON NORTH	9.4%	9.3%	-1.5%
CLIFTON HILL	12.8%	13.3%	3.6%
COLLINGWOOD	6.3%	6.9%	10.3%
CREMORNE	5.3%	5.3%	-0.3%
FAIRFIELD	24.5%	27.4%	12.0%
FITZROY	8.4%	9.2%	8.8%
FITZROY NORTH	11.8%	11.6%	-1.3%
PRINCES HILL	13.1%	13.1%	0.0%
RICHMOND	9.1%	9.5%	4.2%
CITY OF YARRA	12.2%	12.5%	2.8%

Figure 2: Private property canopy data from Urban Forest Strategy mapping.

This data shows overall gains in private realm canopy but within this there are losses in certain suburbs or areas within suburbs. Understanding why these losses have occurred is best pursued in the first instance with a qualitative/observational approach rather than quantitative data.

This will be undertaken through the following exploratory exercises:

- Townhouses, anecdotally this building typology results in a reduction in tree canopy through vegetation removal. Data will be extracted for townhouse developments within the period of the Urban Forest Strategy data (2016-

2021). These will be geolocated in GIS and examined overlaid with the Urban Forest Strategy data to observe where losses have occurred.

- Where losses have occurred, a sample of n=10 applications will be chosen and planning documents accessed to examine plans and arborists reports with the goal of identifying points in the planning process where decisions were made to remove vegetation and why.
- Suburb by suburb analysis. Using the data and maps from the Urban Forest Strategy canopy mapping, each suburb can be examined in depth to observe where gains or losses occurred. This is easily done visually but can also be done quantitatively (with more time investment). An example of how this could be presented visually can be seen below:



Figure 3: Example of visual analysis on a suburb basis.

- Strategic sites - large sites such as Alphington Paper Mill, Gasworks and Victoria Road precinct already show significant vegetation loss. In the future there may be losses on Homes Victoria sites due to redevelopment. By examining tree planting in Masterplans for these sites and comparing to observed losses these impacts can be measured.



Figure 4: Vegetation losses on strategic sites from Urban Forest Strategy mapping, red is lost. Alphington on the left, Gasworks right.

The second part of research question 3, "*Can we make estimations of impacts on future tree coverage potential on private land due to development?"*

This is an extra level of work to undertake, it would require examination of development potential. This has been done in other projects but linking this to this project would take additional time.

7.8 Governance Report - July 2024

Reference	D24/147689
Author	Patrick O'Gorman - Senior Governance Coordinator
Authoriser	General Manager Governance, Communications and Customer Experience
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

Purpose

1. The Governance Report is prepared as a periodic report to Council which provides a single reporting platform for a range of statutory compliance, transparency and governance related matters.

Critical analysis

History and background

2. To ensure compliance with the Local Government Act 2020 and in accordance with best practice and good governance principles, transparency and accountability, this standing report consolidates a range of governance and administrative matters.

3. Matters covered in this report are:

   (a) Update on the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024; and

   (b) The proposal to establish a Families and Children's Advisory Committee, following the 12 March 2024 Council meeting (Notice of Motion No.6) requesting a future report to Council to consider the establishment of a Families and Children Advisory Committee. This report seeks Council endorsement of the draft Terms of Reference, if Council seeks to establish a Families and Children's Advisory Committee (Attachment 2).

Discussion

Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024

4. Operation Sandon was an investigation by the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission (IBAC) into allegations of corrupt conduct involving Councillors and property developers in the City of Casey. It also examined the adequacy of Victoria's current systems and controls for safeguarding the integrity of the state's planning processes. The final report was released in July 2023.

5. A report was provided to Council on 15 August 2023, providing an overview of the IBAC report and the government's preliminary response.

6. On 20 March 2024, the Premier released the government's final response to the report's recommendations. The response largely grouped the government's actions into two legislative reforms – changes to the Local Government Act 2020 and reform of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

7. On 30 April 2024, the first of these processes commenced, when the Minister for Local Government introduced the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024 into Parliament. The Bill includes reforms to strengthen council leadership, capability and Councillor conduct, improve early intervention and effective dispute resolution and strengthen oversight mechanisms.

8. On 19 June 2024, the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024 was passed by Parliament and was given Royal Assent on 25 June 2024. The provisions that relate to the upcoming council elections and Ministerial oversight and appointment powers will come into operation on the day after Royal Assent. These provisions will not operate retrospectively.

9. The provisions that relate to the Model Councillor Code of Conduct, training, internal arbitrations and Councillor Conduct Panels will come into operation when the new council term starts following the elections on 26 October 2024. This will provide time to prepare supporting regulations and guidance and ensure that matters currently underway are not impacted by the changes.

10. The Bill will provide amendments to the Local Government Act 2020 in the following areas:

    (a) To provide for ongoing mandatory training for Councillors and Mayors;

    (b) To introduce a model Councillor Code of Conduct;

    (c) To improve the Councillor conduct framework and clarify the responsibilities of Councillors;

    (d) To provide for the suspension and disqualification of individual Councillors in certain circumstances;

    (e) To provide further powers to the Chief Municipal Inspector; and

    (f) To make other miscellaneous amendments to the Act.

Mandatory training for Councillors and Mayors

11. The Bill sets out a mandatory training program for Councillors by requiring:

    (a) Councillor induction training to be completed within 4 months of taking the oath or affirmation of office (currently Councillors have 6 months to complete this training);

    (b) professional development training to be completed by all Councillors each year of their term, beginning in the full calendar year following their election; and

    (c) Mayoral training to be completed by all Mayors, Deputy Mayors and acting Mayors (if their appointment is for 1 month or more) within 1 month of appointment.

12. The new training requirements provided for in the Bill are modelled on the current councillor induction training provisions in sections 32 and 33 of the LGA 2020.

Model Councillor Code of Conduct

13. The Bill amends section 139 of the LGA 2020 to require Councillors to observe a Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code), as prescribed in the regulations.

14. The Model Code will provide consistent and uniform standards of behaviour across the state. A breach of the Model Code will be considered misconduct and will be grounds for an application to be made for an internal arbitration process.

15. As the Model Code will be prescribed by regulations, Council will no longer be required to adopt a Councillor Code of Conduct. However, Councillors will continue to be required to commit to abide by the Model Code when taking the oath or affirmation of office and councils will be required to publish the Code on their website.

16. The Bill also requires councils to develop, adopt and maintain any prescribed policies that would support a Councillor to perform their role in accordance with section 28 of the LGA 2020. This provision is intended to allow certain council policies to be incorporated into the Model Code, where it is considered appropriate, and in recognition that councils may require some flexibility to account for local circumstances.

17. The Bill also inserts a new provision to enable regulations to prescribe procedures that councils must implement in relation to dealing with alleged breaches of the Model Code. Subject to consultation, this provision may enable processes for resolving complaints in the first instance to be prescribed. The Model Code and these regulations will be designed through consultations.

Strengthen the role of the Mayor to promote improved behaviour

18. The Bill amends section 18 of the LGA 2020 (role of the Mayor) to strengthen the ability of the Mayor to promote behaviour that meets the standards expected of councillors and hold councillors to account for poor behaviour. It does so by clarifying, for the avoidance of doubt, that any reasonable steps taken by the Mayor that are carried out in a reasonable manner to perform their role is not bullying.

Minister may dismiss a Councillor

19. The Bill allows for the Minister to make a recommendation to the Governor in Council and by Order, the Governor in Council may suspend a Councillor for 8 years if the person was a Councillor during the term of office of a Council that was dismissed. Furthermore, the Governor in Council must be provided with a report by either a Municipal Monitor or Commission of Inquiry stating that the Councillor -

    (a) is creating a serious risk to the health and safety of Councillors or members of Council staff, or

    (b) in the Councillor's capacity as a Councillor, is creating a serious risk to the health and safety of other persons; or

    (c) is preventing the Council from performing its functions.

20. An Order must be laid before both Houses of Parliament and may be disallowed by a resolution of either House of Parliament within 7 days after it has been laid before each House.

Minister may suspend a Councillor

21. The Bill allows for the Minister to make a recommendation to the Governor in Council and by Order the Governor in Council may suspend a Councillor not exceeding 12 months if a Municipal Monitor or Commission of Inquiry has provided a report to the Minister stating that the Councillor -

    (a) is creating a serious risk to the health and safety of Councillors or members of Council staff, or

    (b) in the Councillor's capacity as a Councillor, is creating a serious risk to the health and safety of other persons; or

    (c) is preventing the Council from performing its functions.

22. An Order must laid made before both Houses of Parliament and may be disallowed by a resolution of either House of Parliament within 7 days after it has been laid before each House.

23. A Councillor who is suspended under this section is ineligible to hold the offices of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Chair a delegated committee for the remainder of their term. Furthermore, a Councillor is suspended for up to 4 years, if more than one adverse decision is made against a Councillor or a finding of serious misconduct in the preceding 8 years.

Sanctions that may be imposed by an arbiter on finding of misconduct

24. An arbiter after hearing an application against a Councillor for an alleged finding of misconduct may:

    (a) suspend the Councillor from the officer of Councillor for a period specific by the arbiter not exceeding three months (previously one month);

(b) direct that a Councillor is not to attend or participate in a Council meeting specified by the arbiter that occurs after the meeting at which the decision or statement of reasons are tabled; and

(c) direct that the Councillor is ineligible to hold the office of Mayor or Deputy Mayor for a period no exceeding 12 months.

Indemnity provisions for Councillors

25. The previous iteration of the Act required Councils to indemnify Councillors against all actions in respect of their good faith behaviour as a Councillor.

26. The amendments remove this requirement and Council can no longer indemnify Councillors for legal costs incurred as a result of an application made from either an internal arbitration process or a Councillor Conduct Panel. However, provisions allow for a Council to indemnify a Councillor if an arbiter or Councillor Conduct Panel considers legal representation for one of the parties is necessary to ensure that the process is conducted fairly.

27. This amendment to the Act will also come into effect on 26 October 2024.

Close of the roll

28. The Bill amends the close of the roll date for the 2024 local government elections from 57 days to 80 days before 26 October 2024. This change to the close of the roll will bring forward the close of candidate nominations for the 2024 elections. This will also bring forward the election period to commence at midday 17 September 2024 as that period commences at the time that nominations close.

Other miscellaneous amendments

29. Other miscellaneous amendments to the Bill include:

(a) The Minister may appoint any person to be a member of an electoral representation advisory panel;

(b) Provisions regarding the selling or exchange of land;

(c) The power of the Chief Municipal Inspector to serve and infringement notice on any person whom the Inspector reasonably believes has committed an offence against the Act or regulations;

(d) The introduction of a deadline for the publication of a summary of personal interests returns; and

(e) Updated penalty units for candidates for who to submit an election campaign donation return to the Chief Executive Officer by 40 afters after election day.

Consultation opportunities regarding the development of the regulations for the Model Councillor Code of Conduct and for Mayoral and Councillor training

30. Local Government Victoria (LGV) is seeking feedback on the making of Regulations that will give effect to the reforms in the Bill that will:

(a) introduce a Model Councillor Code of Conduct for all 79 councils across the State;

(b) require Councillors to undertake annual professional development training; and

(c) require Mayors and Deputy Mayors to take Mayoral training upon being elected to those positions.

31. Consultations will occur over two stages and are open to anyone. LGV encourages Councillors, officers or others who have dealings with their council to take part.

32. The first stage seeks input from all stakeholders regarding:

(a) the scope of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct; and

(b) the training syllabus to inform the drafting of the Regulations.

33. Consultation closes for the first stage on Monday 15 July.

34. Based on this feedback, a draft Model Councillor Code of Conduct and training outline will be developed and released for a second stage of feedback.

35. Representing the M9 group of Councils, the CEO has been appointed to the Local Government Governance and Integrity Steering Committee established by LGV. The Steering Committee has been established to oversee the development and implementation of governance and integrity regulations related to the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024. This includes the Model Code of Conduct.

36. A consultation paper has been developed which outlines what is currently contained in the Councillor codes of conduct and the types of training Councillors currently undertake. This paper can be found in Attachment 1. Consultation can be provided via the LGV website.

Families and Children's Advisory Committee

37. At the December 2023 Council meeting, Council resolved the following:

That individual reports be presented to the February 2024 Council meeting:

(a) to consider the establishment of a Families and Children Advisory Committee; and

(b) outline options for the installation of the children's playground equipment at the newly expanded park in Cambridge Street, Collingwood.

This item was further considered at the March 2024 Council meeting, where Council resolved the following:

That a terms of reference for a families and children's advisory committee be presented to Council for consideration at the July Council meeting.

This report responds the resolution of Council at the March Council meeting.

38. As per the report, officers have prepared a draft Terms of Reference (Attachment 2) to underpin the establishment of a new Families and Children Advisory Committee to promote the importance of families and children to Council and the broader community. The Terms of Reference include:

(a) Reference to the value Council places on the contributions of families and children to Yarra and a structure for bringing their experiences and insights to Council, and the broader community;

(b) A mechanism for improving how Council achieves its commitment to community engagement and consultation with families and children;

(c) A proposed focus on issues affecting families and children aged from 0-12 years; and

(d) A diverse mix of community members and organisations for the membership, to ensure a diverse range of experiences and views including those from 'at risk', diverse and marginalised backgrounds and First Peoples.

Options

39. There are no options presented in this report.

Community and stakeholder engagement

40. No community or stakeholder engagement has been undertaken in the development of this report, save the engagement with internal stakeholders necessary to compile the report content.

Policy analysis

Alignment to Community Vision and Council Plan

41. In its Yarra 2036 Community Vision, Council articulated an objective for a community that is *"informed and empowered to contribute to the shared governance of Yarra, (where) decision-making is through access, inclusion, consultations and advocacy."*

42. City of Yarra Council Plan 2021-2025 includes Strategic Objective six: 'Democracy and governance', which states that good governance is at the heart of our processes and decision-making. The plan commits Council to *"practice good governance, transparency and accountable planning and decision-making."*

43. The presentation of a Governance Report provides an opportunity to provide updates on key organisational matters both to the Council and the community.

Climate emergency and sustainability implications

44. There are no climate emergency or sustainability implications considered in this report.

Community and social implications

45. There are no community or social implications considered in this report.

Economic development implications

46. There are no economic development implications considered in this report.

Human rights and gender equality implications

47. There are no human rights or gender equality implications considered in this report.

Operational analysis

Financial and resource impacts

48. There are no financial or resource impacts considered in this report.

Legal Implications

49. There are no legal implications considered in this report.

Conclusion

50. This report presents an officer recommendation on:

    (a) Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024; and

    (b) Proposal to establish a Families and Children's Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

    (a) notes that the Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill was given Royal Assent on 25 June 2024;

    (b) notes the consultation to provide feedback on the development of the regulations for the Model Councillor Code of Conduct and for Mayoral and Councillor training by 15 July 2024; and

    (c) endorses the proposal to establish a Families and Childrens Advisory Committee as per the draft Terms of Reference in Attachment 2.

Attachments

1⇩ Attachment 1 - Model Councillor Code of Conduct & Training for Mayors and Councillors - June 2024

2⇩ Attachment 2 - Draft Terms of Reference - Families and Children Advisory Committee June 2024

Government Services

Model Councillor Code of Conduct & Training for Mayors and Councillors

Consultation Paper

June 2024

OFFICIAL

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Introduction

The Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024 (the Bill) was introduced into Parliament on 30 April 2024. The Bill makes various amendments to the *Local Government Act 2020* (LG Act 2020) that aim to enhance standards of governance and behaviour across the local government sector.

Key reforms made by the Bill include the introduction of a Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code), mandatory mayoral training and mandatory professional development training for councillors.

These reforms necessitate the development of regulations to prescribe the Model Code and to prescribe the content that must be covered in the delivery of the new mandatory training.

This background paper has been developed to facilitate an understanding of the current legislative framework and canvasses possible issues and proposals to inform feedback relating to the content of the Model Code and mandatory training.

Consultation Overview

A survey is available on Engage Vic to get the views of councillors, Chief Executive Officers (CEOs), council staff, peak bodies and members of the community on what should and shouldn't be included in the Model Code and the professional development and mayoral training.

The purpose of this survey is to guide the development of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Amendment Regulations 2024, which will give effect to these reforms.

A draft Model Councillor Code of Conduct and training outline will be released in August 2024 for a further round of feedback. Submissions will be accepted during this time.

This consultation process is outlined below.

June	July	August	September	October
Consultation Paper released Survey Open	Survey responses used to develop the Model Code and training outline	Draft Model Code and training outline released Submissions open	Feedback used to finalise the Regulations	Regulations and guidance materials released

This work will be guided by a local government steering committee made up of representatives from the following groups:

- Department of Government Services
- Local Government Inspectorate
- Regional Cities Victoria
- Rural Councils Victoria
- Peri-Urban Councils Victoria
- Melbourne 9

- Municipal Association of Victoria
- Victorian Local Governance Association
- Local Government Professionals
- Australian Local Government Women's Association

Model Councillor Code of Conduct

Overview

Councillors are elected to represent their communities and play an important role in making strategic, complex and long-term decisions in the best interests of their council area. Councillors oversee the activities of the council, including the wide range of critical services and local infrastructure councils deliver. Once elected as a councillor they are seen as a representative of that council and conduct both inside and outside of the council chamber is important as it reflects how the council is viewed.

A good working relationship between councillors, the mayor, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and council staff is fundamental to an effective council. The Councillor Code of Conduct is a key document for councillors as it sets out these relationships and the conduct expected of councillors.

To date, councils have been required to develop and adopt their own councillor codes of conduct. The purpose of these codes is to include the standards of conduct expected to be observed by councillors in the course of performing their duties and functions as councillors, including prohibiting discrimination, harassment (including sexual harassment) and vilification.

Currently, councillor codes of conduct can include any matters a council chooses to include, as long as they include the standards of conduct set out in Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020.

While each code of conduct is different, most include requirements around behaviours, roles and responsibilities, decision making, council policies and resolving disputes.

The Local Government Amendment (Governance and Integrity) Bill 2024 (the Bill) will enable regulations to be made to introduce a uniform Model Councillor Code of Conduct (Model Code) that will be applied all councils.

What should be in a Model Councillor Code of Conduct

A code of conduct should be a description of the personal behaviours that are required of a person holding the relevant office. For a Model Code, this means:

1. A code of conduct is not just a statement of ethics. It must go beyond that and describe specific behaviours that are required or prohibited.
2. The behaviours described in a code must be necessary for the proper and ethical performance of the role of a councillor. It should not just cover operational matters.
3. The Model Code must be able to be readily understood by councillors and council staff.
4. The behaviours described in a Model Code must be capable of being enforced through an internal arbitration process. Councillors should be able to be held accountable.

The survey questions set out below were developed through analysis of the 79 current councillor codes of conduct and with the above framing in mind.

The Standards of Conduct

The LG Act 2020 introduced mandatory standards of conduct that are taken to be incorporated into all councils Codes of Conduct. The standards of conduct are set out in Schedule 1 of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 and define specific acts and omissions of behaviour that apply to all councillors in all councils.

Under the current framework, only a breach of the standards of conduct come under the definition of misconduct and can be brought before an internal arbitrator. A range of sanctions are available to internal arbiters to hold councillors account for a breach of the standards of conduct. There are no sanctions available if councillors breach a requirement set out in the other sections of their councillor code of conduct.

The Bill will broaden the scope of misconduct so that any breach of the Model Code will be considered misconduct (not just the Standards of Conduct). It is important therefore that the contents of the Model Code are clearly set out, easy to understand, and consistent across the State.

Councils may wish to develop their own local processes and values that reflect their community in order to support the Model Code.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. Should the Standards of Conduct be strengthened in the Model Code? [Yes/No]

Holding public office

Councillors hold a public office, and the community rightly expects that councillors will perform their roles professionally and with integrity. It is important that councillors do not engage in conduct that would erode public trust and confidence in the local government sector.

As well as setting out standards of conduct, most councillor codes of conduct include a range of values and behaviours that councillors have committed to abide by.

The behaviours differ across councils but generally include commitments to be fair and inclusive, equitable, respectful, transparent and open, accountable and collaborative. Some codes include commitments to maintain high standards of personal and professional behaviour and to work together to achieve common goals.

The survey questions below include some of the common behaviours that are included in councillor codes of conduct. Respondents are encouraged to provide any other behaviours they think councillors should uphold as public officials.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

2. Should the Model Code set out the conduct expected of councillors as public officials? [Yes/No]

2.1 Select the behaviours you think should be included:

- working together and being accountable to achieving the aspirations and best interests of the community
- being prepared when coming together to discuss council business

- engaging in an open and respectful way towards each other's viewpoints without shutting down or denigrating the contributions of others
- always acting with the highest levels of integrity, care and diligence to promote the best interests of the community as a whole
- exercising reasonable care and diligence in performing the functions of councillors
- complying with all relevant laws, including Federal, State or Local Laws
- not exercising undue influence on other councillors, members of council staff or members of the public to gain or attempt to gain an advantage
- not seeking preferential treatment in their private personal or business dealings with the council
- exercising their duties in a way that is compatible with the human rights set out in the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities
- other: [please specify]

Treatment of others

The Standards of Conduct include behaviours that relate to how councillor should interact with each other, council staff and community members.

Treatment of others

> *Treat other councillors, members of council staff, the municipal community and members of the public with dignity, fairness, objectivity, courtesy and respect, including by ensuring that the councillor:*
>
> - *takes positive action to eliminate discrimination, sexual harassment, and victimisation in accordance with the Equal Opportunity Act 2010*
> - *supports the council in fulfilling its obligation to achieve and promote gender equality*
> - *does not engage in abusive, obscene or threatening behaviour in their dealings with members of the public, council staff and councillors*
> - *in considering the diversity of interests and needs of the municipal community, treats all persons with respect and has due regard for their opinions, beliefs, rights, and responsibilities.*

Many councils expand on these standards of Conduct to outline what is expected of councillors during these interactions.

Recommendation 21 from the IBAC Operation Sandon Special Report encouraged the Minister for Local Government to ensure that Local Government Victoria include in the Model Code of Conduct for Councillors a clear statement of expectations to guide councillors and staff in their interactions with each other.

Southern Grampians Shire Council's Councillor Code of Conduct has an example of this in their councillor code of conduct set out below.

Southern Grampians Shire Council Councillor Code of Conduct

3.3 RELATIONSHIPS WITH STAFF

As Councillors we will work as part of the Council team with the Chief Executive Officer and other members of staff. There must be mutual respect and understanding between Councillors and officers in relation to their respective roles, functions and responsibilities.

Our role is one of advocacy and leadership rather than management and administration. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for all staff and operational matters.

As Councillors, we will be aware of the requirements of Section 124 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Councillor and Staff Interactions Policy and must not seek to direct or improperly influence members of Council staff in the exercise of their duties.

Councils have obligations as an employer under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* to provide a safe workplace, as well as considerations to support health and safety for councillors and the community. Approximately 50 per cent of councillor codes of conduct include a section on Occupational Health and Safety that promotes wellbeing in the workplace.

Melbourne City Council's commitment to occupational health and safety as a shared responsibility is below.

Melbourne City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

2.3.15 Occupational health and safety

Council is committed to providing and maintaining a safe workplace for all and recognises the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004* (OHSA) apply to Council and Councillors.

The Chief Executive Officer has a clear accountability for OHS matters, given their mandate under the Act, and will put policies in place from time to time to ensure a safe workplace for Councillors to carry out their civic duties.

I will adhere to Council's Occupational Health and Safety Policy. As a Councillor, I understand that occupational health and safety is a shared responsibility. Accordingly, I will:

- take reasonable care to protect my own health and safety as well as the health and safety of others in the workplace
- take reasonable care to make sure Council carries out, through the Chief Executive Officer, its general duties to ensure a safe workplace that is without risks to health by ensuring appropriate systems and policies are in place to manage those risks
- consider any health and safety implications of Council decisions.

Many councillor codes of conduct also set out the positive steps councillors are required to take under the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006, Equal Opportunity Act 2010* and *Gender Equality Act 2020*.

Below are some examples of councillor codes of conduct that set out the positive obligations under these Acts.

Towong Shire Council has a section on the obligations of councillors under the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010.*

Towong Shire Council Councillor Code of Conduct

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity

We will take positive action to eliminate discrimination and bullying in accordance with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010* and support Council in fulfilling its obligation to achieve and promote gender equality. We will treat all people with dignity and respect and have due regards for the opinions, beliefs, rights, attributes of others. We will not discriminate against, bully, vilify or victimise any individual.

Latrobe City Council has a separate section on sexual harassment.

Latrobe City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

18. Sexual Harassment

18.1 Sexual harassment is against the law and will not be tolerated under any circumstances. In performing their role Councillors must take positive action to eliminate sexual harassment in accordance with the *Equal Opportunity Act 2010*.

18.2 We will not engage in any unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature towards another individual where a reasonable person, having regard to all the circumstances, would have anticipated the possibility that the individual harassed would be offended, humiliated or intimidated.

18.3 We will take all reasonable steps to eliminate sexual harassment at Council.

Maribyrnong City Council has a section on cultural awareness and showing respect for traditional owners of the land.

Maribyrnong City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

6.13. Cultural awareness

A Councillor, where appropriate, is to take into consideration the cultural sensitives of the traditional owners of the land of the municipality including paying their respects to the elders, both past, present and emerging, of the traditional lands in which meetings held.

A Councillor should, where possible, when discussing and deliberating on matters that may affect the interest of the traditional owners of the land in which that matter relates, consult with and consider how any discussion or deliberation would impact on the traditional owners' rights.

Councillors are reminded that they represent the municipality as a whole and not only their Ward and must consider how any decision they make would impact the municipality as a whole.

All opportunities must be provided to any person, from any cultural, ethnic or religious group impacted by a potential Council decision, to address Council on the matters that directly affect them.

All councils must also comply with the 11 Child Safe Standards set out in the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* and have in place policies and practices to keep children who come into contact with councils or receive council services safe from harm.

31 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct have added section on adherence to the Child Safe Standards and the council's child safe policy. Some codes also include requirements for all councillors to hold a Working with Children Check as an additional safeguard.

Baw Baw Shire Council's section on child safety is set out below.

BAW BAW SHIRE COUNCIL COUNCILLOR CODE OF CONDUCT

Child Safety

Council has adopted its Child Safe Policy and Child Safety has been included in the mandatory Councillor induction program. Council prides itself on being a child safe organisation and has zero tolerance for child abuse. Council adheres to the Victorian and National Child Safe Standards and related legislation.

As Councillors we affirm the Statement of Commitment to Child Safety:

> *'Baw Baw Shire Council is committed to providing and actively promoting a safe environment for children. Council has zero tolerance towards child abuse, and is committed to protecting the physical, emotional, cultural and social wellbeing of all children. Council has policies and systems to protect children, and all allegations and safety concerns will be treated seriously. Baw Baw Shire Council acknowledges that children's safety is a whole of community responsibility and is everyone's business.'*

As Councillors we will respect, listen to and promote the rights of children and ensure behaviour and interactions with children are age appropriate, respectful and adhere to the behavioural expectations outlined in the Child Safe Standards.

The survey questions below includes some aspects of councillor interactions that councils expand on in their councillor codes of conduct. Respondents are encouraged to consider whether these should be included in a Model Code.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

3. Should the Model Code require councillors to treat other councillors, council staff and members of the community with dignity, fairness, objectivity, courtesy and respect? [Yes/No]

3.1 Should the Model Code expand on the conduct expected of councillors when they are interacting with:

- other councillors
- council staff
- members of the community
- other: [please specify]

3.2 Should the Model Code set out the conduct required in relation to any of the following:

- occupational health and safety for councillors, council staff and community members
- bullying
- discrimination and victimisation

- sexual harassment
- gender equality
- respect for traditional owners
- cultural awareness
- LGBTQIA+ inclusiveness
- Child Safe Standards
- other: [please specify]

Performing the role of councillor

The role of a councillor is to participate in the strategic decision making of the council and setting the priorities and future direction of the council as is set out in section 28 of the LG Act 2020. Councillors are not involved in operational or staffing matters which are the role of the council's CEO.

Section 28(2) of the LG Act further provides that in performing the role of a councillor, a councillor must:

(a) consider the diversity of interests and needs of the municipal community; and

(b) support the role of the council; and

(c) acknowledge and support the role of the Mayor; and

(d) act lawfully and in accordance with the oath or affirmation of office; and

(e) act in accordance with the standards of conduct; and

(f) comply with council procedures required for good governance.

The standards of conduct outline what councillors are expected to do to ensure they can properly perform their role.

Performing the role of councillor

Do everything reasonably necessary to ensure that the councillor performs the role of a Councillor effectively and responsibly, including by ensuring that the Councillor:

- *undertakes any training or professional development activities the council decides it is necessary for all councillors to undertake in order to effectively perform the role of a councillor*
- *diligently uses council processes to become informed about matters which are subject to council decisions*
- *is fit to conscientiously perform the role of a councillor when acting in that capacity or purporting to act in that capacity*
- *represents the interests of the municipal community in performing the role of a councillor by considering and being responsive to the diversity of interests and needs of the municipal community.*

Some councils have expanded on the clauses related to performing the role of councillor to include things like sound decision making, use of council resources, conduct at meetings and occupational health and safety.

Some example clauses are outlined below.

Given the importance of decision making in performing the role of councillor, 58 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct include a section on sound decision making. It is important that councillors make each decision on its merits and without bias, caprice, favouritism or self-interest in order for that decision to be legally sound.

Greater Geelong City Council's section on this is set out below.

Greater Geelong City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

1.8 FAIRNESS AND EQUITY

Councillors must consider issues impartially and fairly by taking into consideration all relevant facts known to them. Councillors must have regard to the specific merits of each case and must not take irrelevant matters or circumstances into consideration when making decisions.

Councillors must consider issues consistently, promptly and fairly. You must deal with matters in accordance with established procedures, in a non-discriminatory manner.

Councillors must take all relevant facts known to them, or that they should be reasonably aware of, into consideration and have regard to the particular merits of each case. You must not take irrelevant matters or circumstances into consideration when making decisions.

An act or omission in good faith, whether or not it involves error, will not constitute a breach.

61 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct include a section on the use of council resources with a focus on ensuring that public resources were used economically and efficiently. Colac Otway Shire Council's section committing to use council resources effectively and economically is set out below.

Colac Otway Shire Council Councillor Code of Conduct

8.4. Use of Council resources

We commit to using Council resources effectively and economically and in accordance with all Council policies. In particular, we will:

- use Council resources, which may include equipment, information, staff resources, property of any kind and other assets, which have been provided to us only for the purposes of our duties as a Councillor and not for private purposes unless properly authorised to do so
- maintain adequate security over Council property, facilities and resources in our possession or control
- ensure that any claim for expenses that we may make will be in accordance with all legislative obligations and Council policies
- not use public funds or resources in a manner that is improper or unauthorised.

Almost all councillor codes of conduct include sections of the different roles and responsibilities, but few codes explain what that means for the performance of the role of councillor.

29 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct also have a section on planning processes and regulatory functions councillors perform under other Acts. Councillors are expected to ensure that land use planning, development assessment and other regulatory decisions are properly made and that all parties are dealt with fairly and in line with the relevant legislation.

The survey questions below includes some aspects of the performance of the role of councillor that councils expand on in their councillor codes of conduct. Respondents are encouraged to consider whether these should be included in a Model Code.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

4. Should the Model Code provide that councillors must do everything reasonably necessary to ensure that they perform the role of a councillor effectively and responsibly? [yes/no]

4.1 Should this be clearly set out in the Model Code in relation to any of the following:

- making sound decisions
- attending meetings
- using council resources appropriately
- not performing any responsibilities or functions of the Chief Executive Officer
- acknowledging and supporting the role of the mayor and council
- becoming informed about matters subject to a council decision by reading briefing materials and participation in councillor briefings
- considering the diversity of interests and needs of the municipal community
- planning processes and regulatory functions
- other: [please specify]

Compliance with good governance measures

Good governance underpins a council's ability to provide services to its community and is the foundation for a high performing organisation.

It is vital that councils have good processes in place for holding meetings, make decisions and ensuring that decisions are implemented. Getting this right enables councils to achieve the best possible outcomes for the community. If good processes are not in place, it can impact a council's ability to perform its functions.

The Standards of Conduct set out the processes in place to support good governance that councillors are required to adhered to.

Compliance with good governance measures

Must diligently and properly comply with the following

- *any policy, practice or protocol developed and implemented by the Chief Executive Officer in accordance with section 46 of the Act for managing interactions between members of council staff and councillors*
- *the council expenses policy adopted and maintained by the council under section 41 of the Act*
- *the Governance Rules developed, adopted and kept in force by the council under section 60 of the Act*
- *any directions of the Minister issued under section 175 of the Act.*

Some Councillor Codes of Conduct also reference other council policies and procedures, including council gifts and benefit policies, election period policies, social media policies, complaints policies and fraud and corruption policies.

Below is an example from Mildura Rural City Council.

Mildura Rural City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

5.4 Gifts and benefits

Councillors will avoid situations giving rise to the appearance that a person or body, through the provision of gifts, benefits or hospitality of any kind, is attempting to gain favourable treatment from an individual Councillor or from Council.

Councillors will take all reasonable steps to ensure that their immediate family members do not receive gifts or benefits that give rise to the appearance of an attempt to gain favourable treatment.

Councillors will only accept gifts that exceed the gift disclosure threshold (currently, $500) if:

- the name and address of the person making the gift are known to them; or
- at the time when the gift is made, they reasonably believed that the name and address provided are the true name and address of the person making the gift.

Anonymous gifts that exceed the gift disclosure threshold will be disposed of to Council within thirty (30) days of receiving the gift.

Councillors will comply with the Councillor Gift Policy, once adopted, and any other policies and procedures adopted by Council from time to time relevant to the acceptance of gifts.

The survey questions below includes some aspects of the processes and policies councils have in place to support good governance. Respondents are encouraged to consider whether these should be included in a Model Code.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

5. Should the Model Code provide that councillors must diligently and properly comply with council policies for managing interactions with council staff and councillor expenses and the council's Governance Rules? [yes/no]

5.1 Should the Model Code also require councillors to comply with council policies and processes relating to:

- gifts and benefits (including donations)
- private interests
- conduct during elections
- complaints
- fraud and corruption
- the employment and remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer
- community engagement
- public transparency
- privacy and data protection and confidentiality
- procurement
- other: [please specify]

Councillor must not discredit or mislead council or public

Councillors must make decisions as a whole council and the community expects that councillors will act in the interests of the council and the community they represent.

It is important that councillors not conduct themselves in a way that is likely to bring the council into disrepute, is improper or unethical. Standard 4 of the Standard of Conduct sets out that:

Councillor must not discredit or mislead council or public

> *Must ensure that their behaviour does not bring discredit upon the council.*
>
> *Must not deliberately mislead the council or the public about any matter related to the performance of their public duties.*

57 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct include a section on communications or communicating council decisions. Ararat Rural City Council's section on this is below.

Ararat Rural City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

Communications and Media

We understand that:

- all media requests will be directed through the Chief Executive Officer and Media and Communications Team;
- the Mayor and the Chief Executive Officer are the official spokespeople for the Council, and are the appropriate people to make statements to the media on Council policy, political matters or the decisions of the Council; and
- any personal opinions or views we express publicly are identified as our own and does not represent a position of Council.

28 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct also have a separate section on social media use. Benalla Rural City Council's is set out below.

Benalla Rural City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

Social media

Councillors need to ensure that the use of social media minimises exposure of Council and Councillors to legal and reputational risk.

When using social media councillors need to have at the forefront of their minds their obligations under the Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct applies to online activity in the same way it does to other written or verbal communications. This means three key things:

1. be respectful
2. be fair and open minded
3. be accurate.

Many councillor codes of conduct also include a section on access to council information.

Councillors are given access to council information to support them in the performance of their role. It is important that this information is handled in accordance with the relevant legislation and not used misused.

Some councils have a section on reporting fraud and corruption and public interest disclosures. Merri-bek City Council's section on this is set out below.

Merri-bek City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

5.13 Reporting fraud and corruption

Ethical behaviour is an integral part of responsible, effective and accountable government. Councillors will immediately report to the Public Interest Disclosures Coordinator or appropriate integrity agency any suspected, potential or actual fraudulent, criminal, unethical, corrupt that comes to their knowledge. Councillors will participate as required in any investigation whether undertaken internally or externally.

If Councillors see something, they will say something.

IBAC's Operation Sandon Special Report also recommends (recommendation 31) that the Minister for Local Government ensures that Local Government Victoria includes in the Model Councillor Code of Conduct a clear statement that:

a) council officers and members of the public may make a complaint to the Chief Municipal Inspector

b) a CEO must notify IBAC under section 57 of the Independent Broad-based Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2011 (Vic) if they suspect on reasonable grounds that a breach of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct involves corrupt conduct.

Approximately 70 per cent of councillor codes of conduct reference conduct that constitutes an offence under the LG Act 2020 relating to misuse of position, directing a member of council staff, confidential information, and conflict of interest.

It is important to note that these codes generally just set out the relevant provisions in the LG Act 2020. Some codes do however provide useful protocols to assist councillors to comply with the requirements.

Banyule City Council is one such example.

Banyule City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

4.3 Conflict of Interest

Each Councillor is required to identify, manage and disclose any conflicts of interest they may have. Councillors therefore recognise the importance of fully observing the requirements of the Act in regard to the disclosure of conflicts of interest and will comply with requirements of The Act in regard to conflicts of interest. Upon identifying a conflict of interest, Councillors will follow the procedures as set out in The Act.

In addition to the requirements of The Act, Councillors will:

a) give early consideration and notify the Mayor as well as the Chief Executive Officer on whether a conflict of interest exists on any matter to be considered at a Council meeting/briefing, Delegated Committee or advisory committee of which the Councillor is a member.

b) give consideration on whether a conflict of interest exists

c) recognise that the legal onus to determine whether a conflict of interest exists rests entirely with each individual Councillor and the Council Officers cannot offer any advice in relation to potential conflicts. If a Councillor cannot confidently say that he or she does not have a conflict of interest, the Councillor will declare a conflict of interest and comply with the relevant requirements as if they had a conflict of interest;

d) notify, as soon as possible, the Mayor or the Committee Chair if they consider that they are unable to vote on a matter because of a conflict of interest depending on whether the matter is to be considered by the Council or a delegated committee.

The survey questions below ask what aspects of behaviour should be included in the Model Code to ensure the council is not discredited and the public are not misled. Respondents are also asked whether the Model Code should encourage the reporting on improper conduct and whether conduct that constitutes an offence under the LG Act 2020 should be included.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

6. Should the Model Code detail the behaviour that would bring discredit upon the council or deliberately mislead the council or the public? [yes/no]

6.1 Should this include conduct in relation to:

- communicating council decisions
- social media use
- the use and disclosure of council information
- other: [please specify]

7. Should the Model Code encourage the reporting of improper conduct to the relevant authorities, including corruption conduct, breaches of the *Local Government Act 2020* and public interest disclosures? [yes/no]
8. Should the Model Code include conduct relating to existing offences under the *Local Government Act 2020*, such as directing council staff, use of office for personal advantage and failing to declare conflicts of interest? [yes/no]

Robust political debate

Healthy public debate is the essence of democracy and is a key component of public life. Threats, abuse and intimidation are unacceptable, and it is important to balance the need for robust political debate with the need to work together and respect the views of others.

Councils can sometimes become heightened political environments which creates a number of challenges for councils. The focus of debate should always be on the issues, not the personalities.

The Standard of Conduct sets out that:

Standards do not limit robust political debate

> *Nothing in these standards is intended to limit, restrict or detract from robust public debate in a democracy.*

The survey questions below ask whether the Model Code should specify the circumstances in which a breach would not be taken to have occurred. Respondents are encouraged to consider whether these should be included in a Model Code.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

9. Which of the following should the Model Code not limit or restrict?
    - robust public debate carried out in a respectful manner
    - a reasonable direction given by the chair of a council or delegated committee meeting
    - a reasonable direction in relation to behaviour that poses a risk to health or safety
    - other: [please specify]
10. Should the Model Code make clear that robust political debate does not include:
    - refusals to participate in a decision-making process on the grounds that it is invalid, corrupt or otherwise inappropriate
    - unreasonable criticism of the decision-making process that led to a council decision
    - criticism of a Council decision after it has been made

- suggestion without evidence that an individual participant in the decision-making process has a conflict of interest or reasonable apprehension of bias
- other: [please specify]

Dispute Resolution

The Bill introduces a regulation-making power to prescribe procedures that councils must implement and adopt in relation to dealing with alleged breaches of the Model Councillor Code of Conduct in the first instance.

This provides the opportunity to develop a uniform dispute resolution process for resolving disputes relating to the Model Code in the first instance.

In 2020, the internal arbitration process became a centralised legislated process managed by the Principal Councillor Conduct Registrar (PCCR) through which:

- applications for misconduct are made to the PCCR;
- an independent arbiter is appointed to the council by the PCCR from an established panel list to conduct an internal arbitration process;
- arbiters are empowered to directly impose sanctions upon a finding of misconduct.

This internal arbitration process replaced the requirement for each council to develop and adopt its own processes for addressing low-level misconduct. This followed the identification of several practical issues with this requirement, including:

- difficulty for councils to source and appoint an independent arbiter,
- challenges in managing complaints independently and in dealing with adverse findings in-house.

Although councils are no longer required to have internal resolution procedures, all 79 councillor codes of conduct still include supplementary processes for managing interpersonal disputes and alleged breaches of the code outside the formal councillor conduct framework. These processes vary between councils but typically include a combination of any of the following:

- informal resolution between parties
- facilitated discussions
- external mediation

Most councillor codes of conduct clarify that the dispute resolution processes are not intended to resolve differences in policy or decision making which are matters to be discussed and voted on in a council meeting. Additionally, most codes clarify that an application for an internal arbitration process or a Councillor Conduct Panel can be lodged without first going through the council's dispute resolution process if there are no prospects of resolving a matter informally and the conduct constitutes misconduct or serious misconduct.

Internal resolution processes can provide numerous benefits when used appropriately, including:

- they can expedite the resolution of a complaint;

- they reduce costs and stress involved in more formal processes;
- they allow parties to focus on core issues, foster cooperation and help preserve relationships;

Currently, additional matters included in a council's councillor code of conduct, including any internal resolution processes, are not enforceable like the standards of conduct under the councillor conduct framework. This limits their practical impact due to their lack of enforceability.

The voluntary nature of these processes has also led to confusion among councillors. For example, some councillors mistakenly believe that participating in the council's internal resolution process is mandatory or a prerequisite for submitting applications for internal arbitration or councillor conduct processes; some councillors have made complaints against other councillors for not engaging in these voluntary processes and some councillors have sought to follow the process to then learn that they have missed the statutory deadline for making an internal arbitration process.

The introduction of a uniform model councillor code of conduct provides an opportunity to revisit the practical challenges and the perceived benefits of councils having their own internal resolution processes to deal with conduct issues initially. It also provides an opportunity to clarify the interaction of councils' internal resolution processes with the standards of conduct and to ensure that councillors understand their options and obligations for dealing with conduct issues.

Informal resolution between parties

Most commonly, codes encourage councillors to attempt to resolve disputes themselves in the first instance in a courteous and respectful manner.

Gannawarra Shire Council Councillor Code of Conduct

3. INFORMAL RESOLUTION BETWEEN PARTIES TO A DISPUTE

Before commencing a formal dispute resolution process, the Councillors who are parties to a dispute are encouraged to use their best endeavours to resolve their issue or dispute in a courteous and respectful manner between themselves, stop any behaviour that is causing issues, and to avoid the issue escalating and threatening the effective operation of Council. Where the issue or dispute remains unresolved or where the circumstances make informal resolution inappropriate, the parties may resort to Council's formal dispute resolution processes set out below.

Facilitated discussions

If they are unable to resolve the dispute, 67 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct provide that councillors may request that the mayor (or deputy mayor if the mayor is a party to the dispute) convene a meeting of the parties to try and facilitate an agreed resolution.

Some codes do not specify that the facilitator be the mayor and enable these meetings to be facilitated by a councillor of the applicants choosing.

Bayside City Council Councillor Code of Conduct

8.2 Mayoral Negotiation

If the informal resolution process between the Councillors is unsuccessful, the Mayor should be involved as soon as practically possible to convene a meeting of the parties.

A dispute referred for Mayoral negotiation may relate to:

- an interpersonal conflict between Councillors where the conflict is or is likely to affect the operations of the Council; or
- an alleged contravention of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

The party requesting the Mayoral negotiation meeting is to provide the Mayor with the name of the other Councillor and the details of the dispute in writing. The written request is to indicate that it is for a "Mayoral negotiation" dispute resolution process. Where the request relates to an alleged contravention of the Councillor Code of Conduct, the request must:

- specify the name of the Councillor alleged to have contravened the Code;
- specify the provision(s) of the Code that is alleged to have been contravened;
- include evidence in support of the allegation;
- name the Councillor appointed to be their representative where the request is made by a group of Councillors; and
- be signed and dated by the requestor.

Within 5 working days of receipt of the complaint, the Mayor will:

- provide written acknowledgment of receipt of the complaint to the Complainant;
- provide a copy of the complaint to the Councillor who is the subject of the complaint; and
- attempt to facilitate a resolution and convene a meeting

The Mayor may call upon the Councillor Conduct Officer (CCO) for advice and guidance at this point in the process. The appointed Councillor Conduct Officer is the Director Corporate Services.

The role of the Mayor at the meeting is to provide guidance to Councillors about what is expected of a Councillor including in relation to the role of a Councillor under section 28 of the Act, and the observation of the Councillor Standards of Conduct and the Councillor Code of Conduct.

The Mayor is to document any agreement reached at the meeting. Copies of the agreement are to be provided to both parties. Where one party does not comply with the agreement, the other party has recourse to external mediation.

If the parties cannot resolve the dispute at the meeting, a further meeting may be convened with the consent of both parties. Where the dispute remains unresolved, the parties should progress to external mediation.

Mediation

Some codes also enable councillors to request that the mayor act as a mediator to attempt to resolve the dispute with the agreement of the councillors involved.

64 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct enable councillors to request that the CEO appoint an external mediator to assist the parties to resolve the matter.

East Gippsland Shire Council Councillor Code of Conduct

2. External Mediation

A Councillor or a group of Councillors can make written application to the Chief Executive Officer for a dispute to be referred for external mediation whether or not the dispute has been the subject of an application for direct negotiation. Once it has been ascertained that the parties agree to participate in an external mediation, the Chief Executive Officer will engage the services of an external mediator to conduct the mediation at the earliest practicable opportunity. The parties may have a support person with them at the mediation. However, in the spirit of mediation, legal representation is not appropriate during this process. The mediator will document any agreement reached through the mediation process. Where an agreement cannot be reached, or one party does not adhere to the agreement, the other party can request arbitration.

The survey questions below ask whether there should be a dispute resolution procedure for alleged breaches of the Model Code included in the Regulations. Respondents are encouraged to consider what this procedure might involve.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

11. Should there be a uniform process set out in the Regulations for councils to manage complaints about alleged breaches of the Model councillor Code of Conduct in the first instance? [yes/no]
12. Which of the following steps should be included in an internal dispute resolution process?
    - councillors are encouraged to attempt to resolve disputes themselves in the first instance
    - a councillor may request that the mayor (or the deputy mayor if the mayor is a party to the dispute) convene a meeting between the parties to the dispute to attempt to facilitate a resolution
    - a councillor may request that the mayor (or the deputy mayor if the mayor is a party to the dispute) act as a mediator to attempt to find an agreed way forward between the parties
    - a councillor may request that the CEO appoint an external mediator to attempt to find an agreed way forward between the parties
    - other: [please specify]

Guidance materials

Currently there is no supporting guidance to help councillors understand the councillor code of conduct and how it relates to the role of a councillor under the LG Act 2020. 69 of the 79 councillor codes of conduct include sections on the difference roles and responsibilities of councillors, mayors, deputy mayors and the CEO. Many codes also include sections on the councillor conduct framework and the roles of the Principal Councillor Conduct Registrar and the Councillor Conduct Officer.

Having a consistent Model Code for all councils provides the opportunity to provide additional information through supporting guidance including examples of what may be considered to be a breach of the Model Code.

The Queensland Government has issued Guidance Material to councils that contains case studies and examples to illustrate key elements of their Code of Conduct for Councillors and how they apply.

The survey questions below ask whether guidance should be provided to councillors to help them to understand and comply with the Model Code. Respondents are also asked to consider what information should be set out in guidance.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

13. Should guidance be provided to support councillors to understand and comply with the Model Code? [yes/no]
14. Which of the following should be set out in a guide for councillors?
    - the roles and responsibilities of councillors, mayors and the CEO
    - examples of what may constitute a breach of the Model Code
    - what is considered to be robust public debate
    - councillor conduct framework application processes
    - the role of integrity bodies
    - occupational health and safety for Councillors, council staff and community members
    - other: [please specify]

Training for Mayors and Councillors

Background

Councillors have a responsibility to perform their role in the best interests of the local community. To do this, councillors need to understand the responsibilities of their role and to understand certain technical matters, such as strategic planning and budgeting and good governance.

Under the LG Act 2020, all candidates nominating in a council election must first complete mandatory candidate training to ensure they understand the demands and requirements of the role. Once elected, councillors are also required to do mandatory induction training.

The Bill builds on this by introducing a comprehensive training program for councillors throughout their term in office that builds up their skills and understanding of the role.

The new training program requires:

- Councillor induction training to be completed within four months of taking the oath or affirmation of office (currently 6 months)
- Professional development training to be completed by all councillors each year of their term, beginning in the year following their election (new requirement)
- Mayoral training to be completed by all mayors, deputy mayors and acting mayors (if appointed for one month or more) within one month of appointment (new requirement).

This suite of mandatory training is intended to upskill councillors, mayors and deputy mayors by ensuring they understand what is required of them and have the tools they need to succeed in the role.

Councillor induction training

The LG Act 2020 introduced a requirement following the 2020 council elections for all councillors to do mandatory councillor induction training.

This induction training is intended to enable the mayor and councillors to quickly become familiar with how the council works, the rules under which it operates and the complexities of the roles. It is a vital way to ensure new and returning mayors and councillors get the information they need to be effective leaders from the very beginning of the council's term. It is also an invaluable opportunity to establish a councillor group that functions as a strong, collaborative team with a common focus on making a difference for the community.

Clause 6(2) of the Local Government (Governance and Integrity) Regulations 2020 sets out the mandatory components of councillor induction training, these are:

(a) the role of a councillor, a mayor and a deputy mayor;

(b) the role of a Chief Executive Officer;

(c) any practices, protocols or policies in relation to the interaction between members of council staff and councillors;

(d) the overarching governance principles and the supporting principles;

(e) the standards of conduct;

(f) misconduct, serious misconduct and gross misconduct;

(g) the internal arbitration process and the Councillor Conduct Panel process under Divisions 5 and 7 of Part 6 of the Act;

(h) engagement and reconciliation with the traditional owners of land in the municipal district of the council;

(i) giving effect to gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness;

(j) any other matters relating to governance and integrity which the Chief Executive Officer has determined should be addressed.

The Local Government Culture Project acknowledged some limitations of this training, namely that newly elected councillors may be overwhelmed with information upon commencing, may not retain this information and that a single-instance of providing this information may not support a good understanding of the role of councillor over the long-term.

The survey questions below ask what knowledge and skills a councillor should learn during their councillor induction training.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

1. What knowledge does a councillor need to acquire during induction training:
   - information about the municipality
   - information about the council
   - legislative requirements of the role of a councillor
   - obligations under the *Local Government Act 2020*
   - information about the role of the mayor and deputy mayor
   - how council meetings work
   - how decisions are made
   - understanding key strategic documents
   - differentiating between the role of a councillor and the role of the CEO
   - understanding good governance and council policies
   - transparency and reporting requirements
   - community engagement
   - support available for councillors
   - council statutory responsibilities
   - other: [please specify]
2. What skills should a councillor learn during induction training:
   - teamwork

- communication skills
- analytical skills
- organisational skills
- strategic and financial planning and management
- community engagement
- statutory decision-making
- leadership
- ethical and accountable behaviour
- other: [please specify]

Professional development training

Following the October 2024 council elections, all councillors will be required to complete annual professional development training to ensure that they understand their role and responsibilities. The training will be required irrespective of whether the person has been a councillor before. Councillors will be required to complete the training at least once each year of their term beginning in the first full calendar year after they are elected and within the prescribed period, or by the prescribed day, in each year of their term beginning in the first full calendar year after they are elected.

A failure to complete the training as required will result in allowances being withheld until the training is completed as required. If a councillor is on leave, they will have one month to complete any professional development training they have missed without having their allowance withheld.

Other than specifying the role and responsibilities of a councillor, the LG Act 2020 does not include any further information about the knowledge and skills required to perform the role of councillor.

Many current councillors choose to do training to build up their skills. Some examples of the training currently offered to councillors and Mayors by the peak bodies for local government and other organisations include:

- VLGA Council Professional Development (topics include Governance and Decision Making; Media and Social Media Management; Council Role in Land Use Planning; Influence your Council Plan, Integrated Strategic; Planning Framework & Budget; Developing Leadership; Designing Culture; Diversity and Inclusion; Local Government 101; Council Candidate Workshop for by-elections)
- VLGA Councillor Code of Conduct Training
- VLGA Fast Track – Councillor Leadership Development Program
- VLGA Lunch & Learn: Councillor Professional Development Program (including topics such as Managing Difficult Conversations, Navigating Meeting Procedures in an Election Year; and Election Period Considerations for Councillors)
- VLGA Global Executive Live Panels

- MAV Councillor Development Program (including topics such as Understanding Council Finances (Advanced Sessions) Session 3: Audited Financial Report, Understanding Council Finances (Advanced Sessions) Session 4: Quarterly Budget Report, Sexual Harassment Prevention)
- MAV Council in-house workshops (including topics such as Community Leadership, Conflict Management, Dealing with Difficult People, Effective Communication Skills, Emotional Intelligence, Managing the CEO Employment Cycle, Negotiation & Influencing Capabilities, Resilience & Wellbeing, Speed Reading, Strategic Planning & Decision Making)
- MAV Mayoral Welcome & Induction
- The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) Company Directors Course

The Local Government Culture Project noted that "leaders in local government can come into their roles with very different levels of leadership experience and capability" and that "training offered to councillors before and after election is important in making roles, responsibilities, and expectations clear."[1]

The Local Government Culture Project identified the following opportunities to strengthen the training offered to councillors:

- Conflict management training and support to promote collaborative problem-solving and dispute resolution understanding
- Increased training around the roles and responsibilities of councillors, emphasising the non-political aspect of the role. This could also cover principles of board leadership such as strategic decision making, communication protocols, and performance assessments.
- Increase direction in training materials and accompanying guidelines, including case studies and examples on how councils operate and the similarities and differences between a board member and the role of a councillor.
- Training throughout the councillor term to establish and enhance leadership skills
- Assess candidate skills to inform targeted training if elected
- Incorporate practical examples of councillor duties and responsibilities in training, to facilitate understanding of the role
- Consider leveraging training from other sectors e.g. Respectful Relationships for schools (which also covers embedding gender equality into culture) and Australian Institute of Company Directors programs.
- Implement social media training which incorporates education on other relevant laws and Acts (e.g. Telecommunications Act)
- Incorporate the voice of the community to say what leadership attributes they expect of elected representatives into candidate and induction training (e.g. video format / vox pop)

[1] Local Government Culture Project – Discussion Paper (December 2021).

- Include specific topics in councillor training, including legislative obligations around conflicts of interest, probity, work health and safety, supporting a diverse workforce, community engagement and the impacts of their decisions on sectors in the community
- Increase training on dealing with difficult workplace behaviours and conflict resolution.

It has been reported that performing the role of a councillor can require between 10 and 20 hours of work a week. It involves activities like:

- Attending and participating in council meetings and committees
- Reading meeting papers and attending council briefings
- Reviewing and replying to correspondence
- Meeting with residents and community groups
- Attending council and community events
- Attending networking and professional development events
- Meeting with state and Federal members of Parliament
- Making decisions about major strategic and financial issues and issues that affect the rights of individuals and groups of individuals.

The survey questions below ask what knowledge and skills a councillor should learn during their professional development training.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

3. What knowledge does a councillor need to further develop their understanding of the role of councillor:
    - responsible decision making
    - offenses under the Act (conflicts of interest, confidentiality, misuse of position, directing council staff)
    - how to provide good governance and comply with council policies
    - how to identify and report fraud and corruption
    - understanding council finances and good financial management
    - transparency and reporting requirements
    - how to recruit and manage the CEO's performance
    - statutory responsibilities under other Acts (including the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Charter for Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*)
    - other: [please specify]
4. What skills does a councillor need to further strengthen their ability to perform the role of councillor:
    - teamwork

- effective communication
- how to assess complex issues
- negotiation
- respectful interactions
- how to create a safe workplace
- time management
- strategic planning and management
- community engagement
- statutory decision-making
- leadership
- managing conflicts
- ethical and accountable behaviour
- other: [please specify]

Mayoral training

Following the October 2024 council elections, all mayors, deputy mayors and acting mayors (who will be in the role for at least one month) will be required to complete mayoral training within one month after their election (or appointment for Acting Mayors). The training will be required irrespective of whether the person has been a mayor or deputy mayor before. Acting mayors will not need to complete mayoral training if they have completed the training in the last 12 months.

A failure to complete the training as required will result in allowances being withheld until the training is completed as required.

Section 18 of the LG Act 2020 specifies that the role of the mayor is to:

- chair Council meetings; and
- be the principal spokesperson for the Council; and
- lead engagement with the municipal community on the development of the Council Plan; and
- report to the municipal community, at least once each year, on the implementation of the Council Plan; and
- promote behaviour among Councillors that meets the standards of conduct set out in the Councillor Code of Conduct; and
- assist Councillors to understand their role; and
- take a leadership role in ensuring the regular review of the performance of the Chief Executive Officer; and

- provide advice to the Chief Executive Officer when the Chief Executive Officer is setting the agenda for Council meetings; and
- perform civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the Council.

The mayor also has the power to appoint a councillor to be the chair of a delegated committee; direct a councillor, subject to any procedures or limitations specified in the Governance Rules, to leave a council meeting if the behaviour of the councillor is preventing the council from conducting its business; and to require the CEO to report to the council on the implementation of a council decision.

The role of a deputy mayor under section 21 of the LG Act 2020 is to exercise the powers of mayor if the mayor is unable to attend a council meeting or part of a council meeting, the mayor is incapable of performing to duties of the office or the office of mayor is vacant.

Other than specifying the role and responsibilities of a mayor and deputy mayor, the Act does not include any further information about the knowledge and skills required to perform the roles.

The Local Government Culture Project identified the following opportunities to strengthen training for mayors:

- mandatory training for mayors, focusing on developing effective leadership skills, understanding their roles and responsibilities, meeting procedures, and ways to manage conflicts that address root causes and prevent escalation. It was noted that the training should be simple in language and include practical examples and be on an ongoing basis.
- Use current and former mayors on panels to offer assistance and conciliation to deliver early intervention guidance and resolution support to councils.

The survey questions below ask what knowledge and skills mayors, deputy mayors and acting mayors should learn during their mayoral training.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

5. What additional knowledge is required to effectively perform the role of mayor:
   - the role, functions and powers set out in the *Local Government Act 2020*
   - the meeting procedures set out in the council's Governance Rules
   - the conduct expected of councillors set out in the Model Councillor Code of Conduct
   - protocols for managing conflicts of interest
   - how the councillor conduct framework operates
   - other: [please specify]
6. What additional skills are required to effectively perform the role of mayor:
   - leadership
   - chairing council meetings effectively
   - resolving disputes between councillors
   - managing and reviewing the performance of the CEO

- performing the role of the council's principal spokesperson
- performing the civic and ceremonial duties on behalf of the council
- leading the engagement with the municipal community on the development of the council plan and reporting to the community on its implementation each year
- supporting councillors to understand their role
- supporting councillors to adhere to the model councillor code of conduct
- advocating for the priorities of the municipality with other tiers of government
- other: [please specify]

How training is delivered

Induction training for councillors must be made available by the council's CEO and the CEO must provide reasonable assistance to enable a councillor to access the training but the LG Act 2020 does not specify who must deliver the training.

Any other discretionary professional development training for councillors is either provided by councils or by external organisations, including the peak bodies for local government and the integrity bodies (the Local Government Inspectorate, the Victorian Ombudsman and IBAC).

The Local Government Culture Project identified councils running training together with other councils in the region as an opportunity.

The survey questions below ask what supports councils may need to deliver the mandatory training and what level of flexibility should be built in.

SURVEY QUESTIONS

7. What support would assist councils to deliver the training:
    - course content
    - identified training providers
    - subject matter experts
    - other: [please specify]
8. Should councils be able to choose what is covered in their professional development training each year from a list of topics? [yes/no]
9. Should the training be designed in a way that anyone can deliver it? [yes/no]

Families and Children Advisory Committee

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE

Type	Advisory Committee
Purpose	The Families and Children Advisory Committee collaborates with Council to inform responses to the needs and aspirations of families and children in Yarra.
Objectives	• The Families and Children Advisory Committee achieves its purpose by: • providing advice and feedback on Yarra's strategic planning, policy, service provision and advocacy for families and children. • providing advice to Council to achieve its commitment to community engagement and consultation. • acting as a conduit for the exchange of information and views between community, Council and other representative bodies on issues relevant to children and their families.
Membership	Up to 14 members, comprising: • Up to two Councillors (appointed annually) • Six community members • Six stakeholder member organisations.
Chair	Nominated Councillor or delegate
Selection Criteria	As far as possible, the Committee membership will reflect the diversity of Yarra including but not limited to: • parents and caregivers of children • First Nations Peoples • people of diverse sex, sexuality, and gender • people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds • people with a disability • people from different locations across the municipality.
	Community members are selected on the basis that they: • are Yarra residents and can demonstrate capability in contributing to strategic planning and policy for families and children. • can demonstrate a sound working knowledge and understanding of the issues affecting families and children. • can work with Council and other community stakeholders to understand different points of view and sources of information. • are committed to engaging with and hearing the voices of families and children.

	Stakeholder organisations are selected based on their: • significant and appropriate experience providing services, policy or planning for families and/or children in Yarra. • capacity to communicate with non-experts in strategy, policy and planning. • willingness to share information and contribute to implementation of strategy and policy. • commitment to engaging with and hearing the voices of families and children.
Term of appointment	• The term of appointment for community members and stakeholder organisations will be from December 2024 to November 2025.
Meeting arrangements	Meetings six (6) times per year. The meetings will be held at the Collingwood Town Hall from 5:00pm to 6:30pm on second Wednesday of February, April, June, August, October, and December.

8.1 Notice of Motion No.12 of 2024 - Swimmable Cities Charter

Reference	D24/242940
Author	Sophie Wade – Councillor
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

I, Councillor Sophie Wade, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 9 July 2024:

1. *That Council notes the Swimmable Cities Charter.*
2. *That Council notes the aspiration of the Charter and its alignment with the Climate Emergency Plan 2024 -2030 and Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 (presented earlier in the agenda), most particularly action 5.2.2 in the plan - A healthy, swimmable Birrarung for all and recognition of the river as a living and integrated natural entity'. This action reflects Council's commitment to increased waterway health, increased habitat restoration, support our community's connection to nature, and provide opportunities for our community to cool down in extreme heat. Importantly, this action also reflects Council's commitment to working with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung community to bring the Birrarung back to environmental health.*
3. *That Council notes the aspiration of the Charter and its alignment with the United Nations decade on ecosystem restoration, and commitment to preventing, halting and reversing loss of nature.*
4. *That the Mayor on behalf of Council, signs the Swimmable Cities Charter in support of the Climate Emergency Plan and Council's commitment to addressing both the climate and biodiversity crises.*
5. *That Council note that the Swimmable Cities Charter is embargoed by the Swimmable Cities Steering Group until 14 July 2024 and determine in accordance with Section 125(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to make the Charter provided in Confidential Attachment 1 available on the Yarra website on 14 July 2024 to coincide with the Charter being released internationally.*

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council notes the Swimmable Cities Charter.
2. That Council notes the aspiration of the Charter and its alignment with the Climate Emergency Plan 2024 -2030 and Climate Emergency Action Plan 2024-2027 (presented earlier in the agenda), most particularly action 5.2.2 in the plan - A healthy, swimmable Birrarung for all and recognition of the river as a living and integrated natural entity'. This action reflects Council's commitment to increased waterway health, increased habitat restoration, support our community's connection to nature, and provide opportunities for our community to cool down in extreme heat. Importantly, this action also reflects Council's commitment to working with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung community to bring the Birrarung back to environmental health.
3. That Council notes the aspiration of the Charter and its alignment with the United Nations decade on ecosystem restoration, and commitment to preventing, halting and reversing loss of nature.
4. That the Mayor on behalf of Council, signs the Swimmable Cities Charter in support of the Climate Emergency Plan and Council's commitment to addressing both the climate and biodiversity crises.
5. That Council note that the Swimmable Cities Charter is embargoed by the Swimmable Cities Steering Group until 14 July 2024 and determine in accordance with Section 125(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to make the Charter provided in Confidential Attachment 1 available on the Yarra website on 14 July 2024 to coincide with the Charter being released internationally.

Attachments

1 Attachment 1 Swimmable Cities Charter - *Confidential*

8.2 Notice of Motion No.13 of 2024 - Housing Targets

Reference	D24/242955
Author	Herschel Landes – Councillor
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

I, Councillor Herschel Landes, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 9 July 2024:

That Council:

(a) requests officers prepare a submission for Council's consideration at the August Council meeting in response to the Plan for Victoria engagement, including the Draft Housing Targets released on 16 June 2024;

(b) requests officers seek further detail from the Department of Transport and Planning on the basis, assumptions, methodology and analysis underpinning the draft housing targets, including a breakdown of City of Yarra projections and the role of housing targets in the planning system; and

(c) notes the housing targets are silent on dwelling size, mix and affordable housing requirements and do not consider related planning considerations, including the location of jobs, integrated transport infrastructure, public open space provision, and the climate emergency.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:
   (a) requests officers prepare a submission for Council's consideration at the August Council meeting in response to the Plan for Victoria engagement, including the Draft Housing Targets released on 16 June 2024;
   (b) requests officers seek further detail from the Department of Transport and Planning on the basis, assumptions, methodology and analysis underpinning the draft housing targets, including a breakdown of City of Yarra projections and the role of housing targets in the planning system; and
   (c) notes the housing targets are silent on dwelling size, mix and affordable housing requirements and do not consider related planning considerations, including the location of jobs, integrated transport infrastructure, public open space provision, and the climate emergency.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

8.3 Notice of Motion No.14 of 2024 - Supporting Local Businesses

Reference	D24/242923
Author	Edward Crossland – Councillor
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

I, Councillor Edward Crossland, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 9 July 2024:

That Council:

(a) notes the value of small business to our shopping strips and neighbourhoods, and the diversity and vibrancy that they bring to life in Yarra, including fostering social connection and nurturing Melbourne's arts scene;

(b) notes the work underway in the City of Port Phillip to introduce a Live Music Precinct;

(c) note that government processes (both local and state) can be complicated, expensive, time consuming and uncertain, particularly for smaller enterprise;

(d) notes Yarra will be drafting a new economic development strategy in 2025, for adoption in 2026;

(e) requests a report to a Council Meeting in the next six months that explores opportunities and advocacy avenues to streamline and simplify processes for local business, and support and promote local businesses and live music. Areas for investigation could include:

(i) potential updates to the planning scheme (including advocacy around State provisions);

(ii) potential updates to Local Laws;

(iii) progressing the introduction of Live Music Precincts in Yarra;

(iv) Identifying opportunities to participate in trials;

(v) enhancing tourism and further promoting local businesses and events, including with the Victorian Tourism Industry Council;

(vi) continuing engagement with State government on liquor licensing and live music reforms;

(vii) updating the Council's website to make Council's information and support for business related matters easier to find and engage with; and

(viii) engaging in joint advocacy with stakeholders, including trader groups; and

(f) requests officer engagement with the Business Advisory Group and trader groups in preparing the above report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council:

   (a) notes the value of small business to our shopping strips and neighbourhoods, and the diversity and vibrancy that they bring to life in Yarra, including fostering social connection and nurturing Melbourne's arts scene;

   (b) notes the work underway in the City of Port Phillip to introduce a Live Music Precinct;

   (c) note that government processes (both local and state) can be complicated, expensive, time consuming and uncertain, particularly for smaller enterprise;

   (d) notes Yarra will be drafting a new economic development strategy in 2025, for adoption in 2026;

   (e) requests a report to a Council Meeting in the next six months that explores opportunities and advocacy avenues to streamline and simplify processes for local business, and support and promote local businesses and live music. Areas for investigation could include:

      (i) potential updates to the planning scheme (including advocacy around State provisions);

      (ii) potential updates to Local Laws;

      (iii) progressing the introduction of Live Music Precincts in Yarra;

      (iv) Identifying opportunities to participate in trials;

      (v) enhancing tourism and further promoting local businesses and events, including with the Victorian Tourism Industry Council;

      (vi) continuing engagement with State government on liquor licensing and live music reforms;

      (vii) updating the Council's website to make Council's information and support for business related matters easier to find and engage with; and

      (viii) engaging in joint advocacy with stakeholders, including trader groups; and

   (f) requests officer engagement with the Business Advisory Group and trader groups in preparing the above report.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

8.4 Notice of Motion No.15 of 2024 - Release of Council Documents

Reference	D24/242962
Author	Stephen Jolly – Councillor
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

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 9 July 2024:

That Council determine in accordance with Section 125(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to make publicly available the Atticusnow "Building Financial Sustainability & Capacity Final Report" subject to redaction of any confidential personal information and/or confidential business information.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council determine in accordance with Section 125(2) of the Local Government Act 2020 to make publicly available the Atticusnow "Building Financial Sustainability & Capacity Final Report" subject to redaction of any confidential personal information and/or confidential business information.

Attachments

1 Attachment 1 Building Financial Sustainability and Capacity Final Report - Atticusnow - *Confidential*

8.5 Notice of Motion No.16 of 2024 - Local Liveable Street Evaluation

Reference	D24/245059
Author	Amanda Stone – Councillor
Disclosure	The authoriser, having made enquiries with members of staff involved in the preparation of this report, asserts that they are not aware of any general or material conflicts of interest in relation to the matters presented.

I, Councillor Amanda Stone, hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Ordinary Meeting of Council to be held on 9 July 2024:

That Council note:

(a) the Local Liveable Streets Program was initiated by Councillors, designed by officers and adopted by Council in March 2022, following the cessation of the Local Area Traffic and Placemaking Program in 2021, the adoption of the Yarra Placemaking Framework which focuses on activity centres and precincts and the resulting lack of a mechanism for residents to propose initiatives which contribute to placemaking in local streets;

(b) the allocation of $265k in the 2023-2024 Yarra Budget to fund some initial projects through the Local Liveable Streets Program;

(c) Local Liveable Streets provides a mechanism for residents to apply through a formal process to propose capital works improvements to the place where they live;

(d) Council's other programs for enhancing our streetscapes such as street garden guidelines, urban agriculture, planting laneways and urban forest strategy; and

(e) the increasing importance of local streets as public places for socialising, recreation, transport, nature, and amenity in a rapidly growing and dense city.

That Council receive a report at the September meeting of Council which:

(a) provides an assessment of the 23/24 program relating to process, timing and the assessment of submissions;

(b) provides recommendations for enhancement and improvement of the 23/24 program;

(c) outlines a process for communicating the program and its benefits more widely; and

(d) *provides a timeline for the rollout of the program over 3 years followed by an evaluation*.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council note:
   (a) the Local Liveable Streets Program was initiated by Councillors, designed by officers and adopted by Council in March 2022, following the cessation of the Local Area Traffic and Placemaking Program in 2021, the adoption of the Yarra Placemaking Framework which focuses on activity centres and precincts and the resulting lack of a mechanism for residents to propose initiatives which contribute to placemaking in local streets;
   (b) the allocation of $265k in the 2023-2024 Yarra Budget to fund some initial projects through the Local Liveable Streets Program;
   (c) Local Liveable Streets provides a mechanism for residents to apply through a formal process to propose capital works improvements to the place where they live;
   (d) Council's other programs for enhancing our streetscapes such as street garden guidelines, urban agriculture, planting laneways and urban forest strategy; and
   (e) the increasing importance of local streets as public places for socialising, recreation, transport, nature, and amenity in a rapidly growing and dense city.
2. That Council receive a report at the September meeting of Council which:
   (a) provides an assessment of the 23/24 program relating to process, timing and the assessment of submissions;
   (b) provides recommendations for enhancement and improvement of the 23/24 program;
   (c) outlines a process for communicating the program and its benefits more widely; and
   (d) provides a timeline for the rollout of the program over 3 years followed by an evaluation.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.