

Climate Resilience

Why is it important?

The earth is rapidly warming as a result of increasing concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This climate crisis will impact community health through factors like worsening of air quality, changes in the spread of infectious diseases, and risks to drinking water quality and the increasing prevalence of extreme temperatures.

What is the story in Yarra?

There are some suburbs in Yarra that are at an increased of heat vulnerability, partially because of a lack of tree coverage. Yarra's yearly average air quality meets the National Standard for air quality, and is on par with Victoria.

18% is Yarra's canopy tree coverage which has remained steady since 2016 (17%)



Tree coverage is lower in:

- Collingwood (10%)
- Cremorne (10%)

Fitzroy, Collingwood and **Richmond** had hotter temperatures, which corresponds with lower tree coverage.



18% of the time, Yarra's air quality was defined as 'poor'



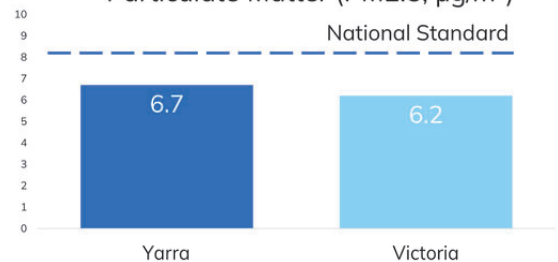
9.3% of Yarra residents have **asthma**, higher than Metropolitan Melbourne (7.9%)



41% of Yarra residents experience **respiratory issues or allergies** due to air pollution, pollen or allergens

Yearly Average Air Quality

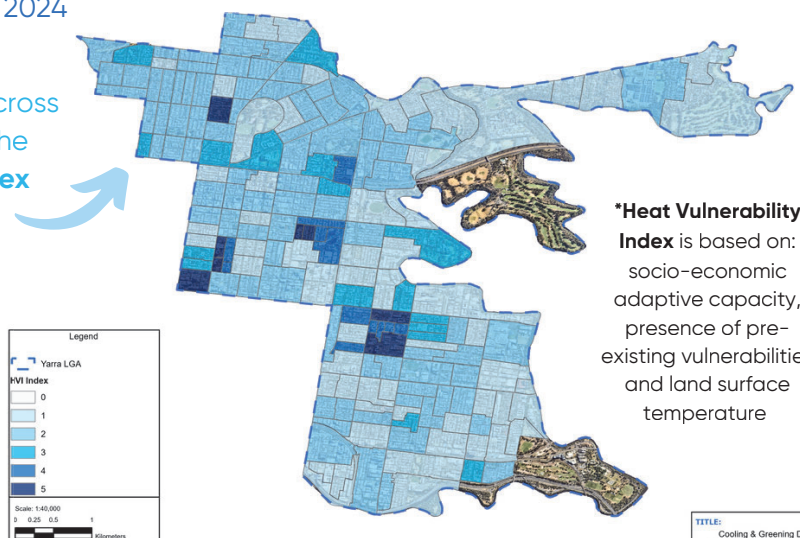
Particulate Matter (PM2.5; $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)



Yarra's **highest summer temperature** in 2023 was 41.3°C, and 39.7°C in 2024

Pockets of **high heat vulnerability** are visible across the municipality using the **Health Vulnerability Index**

Map: Heat vulnerability index*



***Heat Vulnerability Index** is based on: socio-economic adaptive capacity, presence of pre-existing vulnerabilities and land surface temperature

TITLE:
Cooling & Greening Data
Heat Vulnerability Index (2018)

Addressing heat vulnerability is particularly important for:

- Older people
- People with chronic health conditions
- Lower income households
- People living in poorer-quality housing
- People experiencing homelessness