

# Yarra 2036 Community Vision

2025 Reflection and Update Addendum



**As part of developing our Council Plan 2025-29, we provided our community with the opportunity to reflect on our 2036 Community Vision to test if it's still relevant to Yarra in 2025 and beyond.**

As required by the Local Government Act 2020, we revisit our Community Vision every four years to continue the conversation and ensure it aligns with our community's evolving aspirations and priorities.

This Addendum summarises the reflection process and updates to the Community Vision.

## Reflection process

### Stage 1: Community engagement

The community engagement consisted of two components: a broad community engagement and a social research project.

The broad community engagement was conducted via Your Say Yarra, our online consultation platform, as well as in person community pop ups. Our broad community engagement received almost 1800 responses.

The social research was conducted by an independent research company on behalf of the Council. The engagement methods were phone interview and online survey drawn from a randomised and representative sample of the Yarra residential community. A total of 684 people were surveyed.

### Stage 2: Deliberative community engagement

We worked with independent consultants to recruit a representative sample of the Yarra community via an Expression of Interest process to form a Community Working Group (CWG).

The 45 member CWG was chosen to reflect the demographic make-up of the Yarra community.

Over four sessions, the deliberative engagement was an opportunity to discuss the Community Vision from different perspectives, share feedback and thoughtful insights as representatives of their community.

### Stage 3: Community exhibition

The 2025 Community Vision Reflection and Update Addendum is being shared as part of a public exhibition during April-May 2025 alongside the draft Council Plan 2025-29.

## Community Vision Update

Overall, the community felt the Vision was still reflective of their aspirations for Yarra's future. However, some updates were provided via the CWG to refine the Vision's existing themes. Additionally new themes were identified to help the Vision be more forward looking and relevant to current priorities.

The following were provided to **refine existing considerations**:

- **Community safety:** Safety is described as everything an individual or community requires to feel safe. It includes safety to be yourself, cultural safety, economic security, democratic safety, secure housing, accessibility and access to services.
- **Affordability:** Affordability is an emerging issue which must include access to affordable housing, services, transport, food, energy and community spaces. Yarra should be a place where everyone can afford to live.
- **Transport is integrated and place based:** This must be a priority through working with local communities and businesses to understand transport needs and planning for all modes of transport and advocating to State Government.
- **Financially sustainable and transparent decision-making and communication:** This is a priority and essential to delivering core services. Consideration of creative use of assets and opportunities for generating new revenue should also be included.
- **Broader approach to sustainability:** This includes integrating environmental, economic and social factors.
- **Maintaining our liveability:** Our growth is well balanced with provision of community infrastructure and assets including transport planning.

The following were provided as **new considerations**:

- **Yarra's vibrant arts scene and cultural heritage** are thriving, and First Nations history is prioritised.
- **We are a diverse, multicultural and inclusive community** with equitable access to services, housing and the local economy.
- **Yarra is an innovative, responsive leader** focused on collaboration and community engagement to guide decisions.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to ensure the Community Vision continues to be reflective and meaningful for our community and its aspirations for the future.**

The Council Plan 2025-29 is informed by our Community Vision and will guide Council's efforts in achieving our Community Vision 2036 and continuing to make Yarra a great place to live, work, play and celebrate.

Our Community Vision will be reviewed again in four years' time when we develop our next Council Plan.

