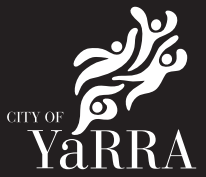


Quarterly Community Report

Quarter 1
2025/26



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.

This publication is available in alternative accessible formats on request.

Electronic copy

PDF versions of this report can be downloaded from yarracity.vic.gov.au

National Relay service

TTY 133 677 then (03) 9205 5555
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Yarra Council language line

العربية 9280 1930
中文 9280 1937
Ελληνικά 9280 1934
Italiano 9280 1931
Español 9280 1935
Tiếng Việt 9280 1939
Other 9280 1940

REF 20504

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CEO Message

I am pleased to present Yarra City Council's Quarterly Community Report for quarter 1 2025/26 (Community Report).

This report contains information on key Council projects, services and financial indicators, along with an overview of how Council is tracking against our commitments to the community in the Council Plan.

This report represents the beginning of implementing a new four-year Council Plan, as well as a bold and ambitious 2025/26 Budget that features a \$38.51m Capital Works Program.

I am extremely proud of the work we continue to do across the four strategic pillars of the Council Plan:

- Living in the City
- Building the City
- Working and Playing in the City
- Running the City.

The need for an ambitious Council Plan has never been greater as we undertake and plan for significant growth. The *Plan for Victoria* announced by the Victorian State Government declared that the City of Yarra is an activity centre, and that the planning scheme needs to demonstrate a potential capacity to accommodate a further 44,000 dwellings.

This Community Report demonstrates how we are building our programs to meet the challenges of this growth – particularly in the context of maintaining the natural, physical and social environments that attract people to live, work and visit Yarra.

Highlights of this report include:

- Our **Climate Safe Rooms** program provided housing residents and low-income residents with subsidies for energy upgrades to improve thermal comfort, climate resilience and access to renewable energy. This is a program that continues to make a very real difference to people's lives.
- The Council has delivered many **drainage improvement** projects across the municipality to improve the condition and capacity of our drainage network. These drainage program works are ongoing with several projects to be delivered in the coming months.
- Council's **support for the arts** and our LGBTIQA+ community can be seen in our new memorial, titled Flower Pavillion by artist Andrew Atchison. This permanent memorial will be located at Collingwood Town Hall Park and will be installed by June 2026.

I encourage you to read this report in full to get an understanding of the significant amount of work your Council is doing to maintain Yarra's status as a great place to live, work and play.

Regards,

Sue Wilkinson

Chief Executive Officer, Yarra City Council





Quarter 1 report



Strategic objective 1: Living in the City

Climate safe rooms program

In 2024-2025, Council's Climate Safe Rooms and Yarra Home Energy Upgrade programs supported Yarra concession card holders, including community housing residents and low-income residents, with subsidies for energy upgrades to improve thermal comfort, climate resilience and access to renewable energy. Leveraging State and Federal rebates, 14 Climate Safe Rooms and 40 Yarra Home Energy Upgrade participants received subsidised, tailored upgrades to improve old, thermally uncomfortable, inefficient homes.

90% of participants rated their overall experience of the programs as very positive or positive, with some sharing the impact of the program with us:

'...Above all, I am no longer afraid of summer. My bedroom will be usable – actually comfortable – all year round, and this is going to make a huge difference to my life.'

'...Your people actually listened to my account of a problem that others had preferred to dismiss. They established the reality of my discomfort – and also the difficulties that would be entailed in dealing with it. And then they went ahead and worked their way tirelessly through the multiple barriers that had seemed so insurmountable, culminating in the cheerful (and respectful) installation of the new equipment.'

The boost to my morale, my mental health, and my faith in a world that too often seems uncaring, has been enormous.'

87% said that they would recommend the programs to others in the community, so if you, or someone you know, might be interested in participating in our 2025/26 program, please visit our website for more information: **Yarra Home Energy Upgrades | Yarra City Council**



LGBTQIA+ update

Council joined community organisations, health professionals and Victoria Police at a forum addressing rising safety concerns linked to location-based dating apps. The event brought together residents, advocates and service providers to explore ways of improving online safety and reporting. Working alongside partners, Council helped develop and promote new resources offering practical tips on privacy, meeting safely, using app features and accessing support services.

In August, Council endorsed the Draft Rainbow Yarra Policy for public exhibition. This long-term framework replaces the LGBTQIA+ Strategy (2021–2024) and responds to community priorities including protection from vilification, intergenerational connection, more alcohol-free spaces, recognition of volunteerism and stronger intersectional approaches. Community feedback occurred between 18 August to 15 September 2025, with the final Policy to be considered at the November 2025 Council Meeting.

On 3 July 2025, Council hosted Somewhere Sober at 75 Reid Street, Fitzroy North. It was an alcohol-free evening of comedy, music and drag performance for LGBTQIA+ people and allies. Coinciding with Dry July, the sold-out event drew 230 people and responded to calls for inclusive social spaces not centred on drinking. Delivered with support from VicHealth and Thorne Harbour Health, it also generated valuable feedback on how Council can promote healthy alcohol cultures and more sober-curious events in future.

Following a review, expressions of interest opened for Yarra's Rainbow Advisory Committee, attracting strong interest from the local LGBTQIA+ community, including trans and gender diverse people, First Peoples, culturally diverse communities, older residents and people with disabilities. Council thanks the outgoing members and welcomes the new committee, which will meet for the first time in October 2025.

Neighbourhood House Framework update

Neighbourhood Houses are central to community life in Yarra, offering spaces that foster connection, learning and belonging. Programs such as community lunches, gardening groups, adult education, volunteering and cultural activities support inclusion, wellbeing and participation.

A new funding agreement came into effect on 1 July 2025, with Council committing at least \$3.4 million over four years. Funding will rise annually by 3.5% or the Consumer Price Index (whichever is higher). Council has also made Neighbourhood Houses eligible to apply for the Yarra Community Grants Program, creating further opportunities to expand their work.

In August 2025, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria released the results of the 2024 statewide Participant Survey, drawing on nearly 30,000 responses, including 656 from Yarra. Local participation was above the statewide average, providing a robust picture of community experience. The survey confirmed that Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses are highly effective in building social connections, improving wellbeing and encouraging participation. Residents reported making friends, strengthening networks and feeling a greater sense of belonging. Many linked their involvement to better mental health and reduced isolation, with outcomes strengthening the longer they stayed engaged.

The Yarra Neighbourhood Houses Climate Resilience and Action Plan also continued, coordinating efforts with Council to address the climate emergency.

This work included practical workshops on draught-proofing, heatwave preparedness and sustainable living.

The most recent valuation work by Neighbourhood Houses Victoria shows that Yarra's Houses deliver close to a threefold return on investment. Benefits generated through food relief, volunteer hours,

community meals, adult education and low-cost services far outweigh the funding provided and are reflected in the experiences of residents who find support, inclusion and opportunity through their local House.

Volunteer Policy update

In July 2025, more than 40 people joined an in-person workshop on Managing Volunteers and the Law, delivered in partnership with Justice Connect. The free training supported not-for-profit, clubs and committees to strengthen their knowledge on key legal issues, risk management requirements and duty of care responsibilities to confidently administer their volunteer programs. This is part of Council's ongoing commitment to equip volunteers and community organisations with the tools to thrive.

The 2025 Yarra Community Awards campaign also ran during the quarter, celebrating the everyday heroes who make our city thrive. This year we received the highest number of nomination submissions across seven categories, including youth, arts and culture, sustainability, diversity and inclusion, sport, and community initiative of the year. Submissions closed on 31 August 2025, with winners to be announced later this year.

Engagement of new volunteers continued in existing Council-led initiatives including the Companion Animal Support Program through Aged Services and the Digital Literacy and the Thread Together programs at the Learning Bank. At Council's Willowview Centre, volunteer capacity increased within the Social Support Group program, which offers recreational activities and social connections for older residents. Working alongside staff, volunteers help extend engagement and connection - bringing fresh perspectives, shared energy, and additional capacity that enrich program delivery and foster stronger bonds across the community. Volunteers gain valuable skills and insights from their involvement, while helping to make the program more effective.

2

Strategic objective 2: Building the City

Project spotlights

Streetscape improvement - Corner Gertrude and Brunswick St, Fitzroy northeast corner new public space – Works to improve the streetscape in this area have begun on site, including stripping back the existing vegetation to build a new meeting place for the community. Key elements of the project include new bespoke seating, using large rock forms, new indigenous planting, new stone paving, a new path and handrail, lighting and a projector. The projector will be able to show artistic images on the new paving. The images will be able to be changed to suit special events over the year. It is anticipated that the project will be completed by mid-November 2025.

Intersection upgrades – The community consultation on eight intersection projects has recently closed. Council received overwhelming amounts of feedback from community, with 600 submitters across these eight intersections. Officers are now reviewing this feedback in order to prepare a Council Report detailing the findings and seeking a resolution on next steps.

Drainage improvement across the municipality – Already this year Council has delivered a large number of projects across the municipality to improve the condition and capacity of our drainage network. Projects to

improve the condition have been completed in Moor Street, St David Street and Charles Street in Fitzroy, and Coppin Street, Richmond. Projects to improve the capacity of drainage have been completed in Little George Street, Fitzroy and Lennox Street, Richmond. Councils' drainage program works are ongoing with a number of projects still to be completed in the months ahead: including Curtain Street and Garton–Pigdon planned to start soon, as well as as designs for future years' works.

Capital Works update

In 2025/26 Council is investing \$38.51m through its Capital Works Program. This includes \$2.75m of projects carried over from the previous financial year (2024/25).

Council continues to deliver capital projects that positively impact our community, assets and infrastructure by:

- improving community safety and asset functionality
- increasing the life and reliability of assets
- increasing usability and efficiency
- addressing our community's current and future needs.

A summary of the capital program delivery to the end of quarter 1 (July to September 2025) is provided below.

Overall performance

The program is progressing as planned with measures in place to manage any risks which may emerge. A total of \$4.87m (13%) of the adopted capital works budget has been spent to the end of quarter 1.

Project status	Year-to-date totals (Q1)
Completed	14
Underway	166
Cancelled/ deferred	3

Infrastructure (including open spaces, transport and stormwater)

To the end of quarter 1, five additional projects have been added to the Infrastructure category (these are discussed further in the major budget adjustments section).

At the end of quarter 1, expenditure on the infrastructure category was \$3.79m, representing 16% of the adopted budget for this category.

The 13 infrastructure projects completed this quarter are listed below

Roads projects completed

1. Footpath and kerb and channel renewal works - Napier St, Fitzroy (Greeves St to Chapel St)
2. Footpath and kerb and channel renewal works - Napier St, Fitzroy (Moor St to St David St)
3. Footpath and Kerb and Channel renewal works - Yarra Street, Alphington (Park St to Nicholson St)
4. Laneway renewal works - Lane Seal 72.3 (Little Walker St) from Walker St, Clifton Hill to Lane 72.4 & 72.5
5. Laneway renewal works - Lane Seal 72.5 (Little Walker Lane) from Lane 72.4 to Walker St, Clifton Hill
6. Road, kerb and channel, footpath renewal works - Jackson St, Richmond (Tudor St to End of St)
7. Road, Kerb and Channel, Footpath Renewal Works - Queen St, Fitzroy Nth (Miller St to boundary with City of Merri Bek)

Stormwater projects completed

8. Brick drain renewal - Coppin Street, Richmond
9. Drainage renewal project - Charles Street, Fitzroy (Napier Street and Fitzroy Street)
10. Drainage renewal project - Lennox Street, Richmond (Victoria Street and Elizabeth Street)
11. Drainage renewal project - Moor Street, Fitzroy (John Street and Brunswick Street)
12. Drainage renewal project - St David St, Fitzroy (Napier and George Street)

Open space projects completed

13. Bridge Road temporary pop-up park installation, Richmond

Plant and Equipment

This category involves plant, machinery, and equipment renewals, along with the purchase of library books, computers, and telecommunications. The ten projects in this category are in progress with a year-to-date expenditure of \$0.28m (18.46% of the Plant and Equipment adopted budget).

Property (including land and buildings)

This category, covering planned renewals, upgrades, and refurbishments across council-owned buildings and facilities, includes 37 projects allocated funding in 2025/26. Year-to-date expenditure is \$0.81m, representing 5.95% of the adopted budget for this category.

The one project in this category that was completed this quarter is shown below.

Building projects completed in quarter 1

1. Fitzroy Swimming Pool Improvements, Fitzroy

Major quarter 1 adjustments

Budget adjustments are required throughout the financial year to adapt to external factors or as a result of incorporating additional priority works into the program. The total budget impact at Q1 was \$546k net increase to the 2025/26 capital works program. The following were the major budget adjustments:

New projects:

- Bridge Road Temporary Pop-Up Park – \$40k budget allocated to deliver the installation.
- Smith Reserve Electrical/Lighting Works – \$60k budget allocated to deliver the lighting installation.
- Ottery ramp (Main Yarra Trail) – A new project allocated \$61k to design and reconstruct a section of the elevated path.

- Richmond Town Hall – Security Upgrade – A new project with a budget of \$80k to upgrade the security at Richmond Town Hall.
- Dover St Cremorne (Kelso Street to Balmain Street) - \$190k budget allocated to deliver footpath, kerb, and channel renewal works. This budget includes scoping, design, and construction.

Other changes:

- Public toilet renewal (Collingwood) – An additional \$270k was allocated to this project to replace the vandalised automated public toilet at Kerr Street and Smith Street, Collingwood.
- Neighbourhood House sunshades (North Carlton) – An additional \$15k to supply and install sunshades at Railway Avenue Neighbourhood House.
- Amess Street, North Carlton footpath, kerb and channel renewal – An additional \$120k was allocated to cover the revised project cost following the completion of the final design, ensuring full funding and delivery this financial year. This budget is funded by delivery savings from the program.
- Dover Street, Cremorne (Stephenson Street to Kelso Street) – The original project scope has been cancelled from the 2025/26 program as the works were completed late in FY 2024/25, providing a saving of \$190k which has been reallocated to a new project on Dover Street.
- Wiltshire Street, Richmond footpath renewal – This project was deferred to a future financial year due to external redevelopment works in this area.
- Fenwick Street, Carlton North – \$141k increased budget to increase scope to deliver reconstruction of a laneway and footpath. Funded from the deferral for the Wiltshire Street, Richmond Footpath.
- Richmond Town Hall roof renewal works – An additional \$50k was allocated to cover the expanded scope, including a new plant platform, service rerouting, and the installation of a new HVAC unit.



- Bendigo Kangan Institute temporary pop-up park – Completed using savings in 2024/25, resulting in a \$100k budget saving in 2025/26. This funding has been redirected to support two new initiatives Bridge Road Temporary Pop-Up Park and Smith Reserve Electrical/Lighting Works
- Footpath and Kerb and Channel renewal works - Yarra Street, Alphington (Park Street to Nicholson Street) - \$120k in savings has been reallocated to fully fund the Amess Street project while still delivering the original scope, with works continuing as planned in the first half of 2025/26.
- Maternal Childcare Centre building renewals and furniture - An additional \$70k was allocated to cover the increased scope of work for refurbishing the building at 213-215 Church Street, Richmond.

Heritage Strategy update

The City of Yarra Heritage Strategy identifies priority for documenting, protecting, supporting and promoting our heritage. Council has implemented many initiatives in the last year that support the above priority areas and implement parts of six specific priority actions of the strategy.

Council has adopted a LGBTIQ+ Heritage Study that documents places in Yarra significant to the LGBTIQ+ community. Statements of Significance and citations were prepared for three places in Bridge Road. A Statement of Significance has also been prepared for a portable building in Easy Street in Collingwood; which is one

among the places identified by the Portable Buildings World Heritage Nomination Taskforce. The above works implement part of priority action one of the Yarra Heritage Strategy.

Council's active participation in the Heritage Victoria's process for the review of the World Heritage Environs Area (WHEA) Strategy Plan, associated development controls (Action 20), and regular advocacy for its approval by the Minister for Planning has resulted in recent approval and introduction of new development controls in parts of South Fitzroy (that is a part of the WHEA).

Eight applications were approved for City of Yarra's grant under Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund (Action 25). A guide for energy efficiency in heritage buildings has been prepared and placed on the Council website (Action 19) to guide the community.

Council is also committed to continually improve its own practices. A heritage training was organised for Council staff (Action 12), and a Conservation Management Plan has been prepared for Fitzroy Town Hall (part of Action 15) that would guide the future management of this council asset which is a state listed heritage place.

Initiatives such as articles in the Yarra Life, participation in Open House Melbourne Precinct Programme and installation of Blue Plaques on Council assets of state significance promoted heritage in general and are consistent with priority action 25 of the Strategy.

Transport Strategy Action Plan update

The Transport Action Plan (TAP) is a key input to Council decision making across many areas. The TAP informs external stakeholders of the projects Council will be working on, and supports in principle, over the coming years.

Officers are currently working on a revised TAP to be presented to Council. It is anticipated that the revised TAP will then be put to community consultation in the new year. Once community feedback has been responded to, officers will seek Council approval for the updated TAP as part of the formal adoption process.

Car Share update

Yarra currently has a total of 200 car share bays across the city. In 2024, demand for carshare bays reduced due to the entry of Uber Carshare. Although this provider ceased operation in late 2024, interest in car share bays has not significantly increased to previous levels.

Council accepted new applications for additional car share bays earlier this year, and a total of 35 new car share applications were received from across the various suburbs. Of the 35 applications, 25 applications were deemed to be suitable locations and have been assessed. 22 car share bays have been approved and implemented, three are still in process.



The table below shows the distribution of the 25 new car share bays that became operational in quarter one across the municipality.

Neighbourhood	Number received by neighbourhood	Percentage received by neighbourhood
Abbotsford	4	16%
North Richmond	8	32%
Collingwood	6	24%
Central Richmond	2	8%
Carlton North/Princes Hill	1	4%
Clifton Hill	1	4%
Fitzroy	2	8%
Fitzroy North	1	4%
Total	25	

Implementation of Statutory and Strategic Planning Services Review

General

Community Forums were held in May and June 2025 to provide guidance and advice on strategic and statutory planning topics.

Statutory Planning

Development of the Business Permits stream is progressing, with Council currently working with existing applicants to shape and refine the program.

Strategic Planning

A review of the Strategic Planning website was undertaken to update information and provide background reports. More background studies and reports will be updated over quarter 2 so they are easily available to the community.

Messaging is continuously being refined for each project engagement or amendment related exhibitions.

Planning Scheme Amendments lodged

Submissions received during the exhibition of Amendment C271 Fitzroy and Collingwood built form provisions will be considered by Council in quarter 2. It is anticipated that following the October 2025 Council meeting Amendment C271 will be sent to the Minister for Planning with a request to refer it and all submissions to a Standing Advisory Committee for a public hearing.

Amendment C317 Cremorne interim DDO provisions has been approved by the Minister for Planning on the 4 September 2025. Once published in the Victorian Government Gazette, it will become part of the planning scheme.

Conditional consent to exhibit Amendment C318 Cremorne permanent built form provisions has been received by the Minister for Planning on 4 September 2025. Officers will address the conditions to enable public exhibition later in quarter 2.

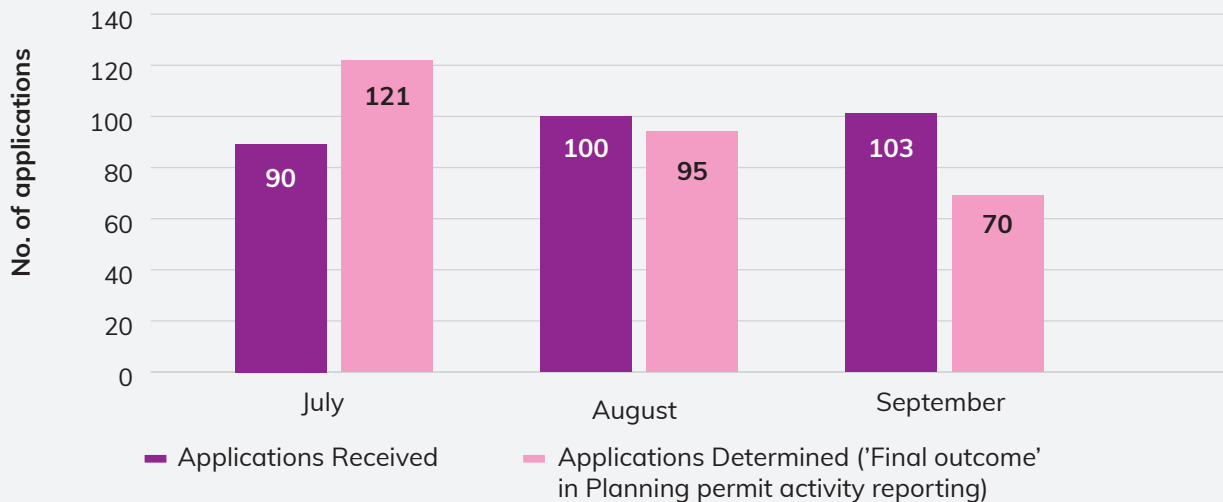
Amendment C291 Bridge Road and Victoria Street built form provisions is with the Minister for Planning for consideration of final approval since August 2022. Officers continue to enquire about progress.

Statutory Planning activity

During quarter 1, Council received 293 new applications and determined 297 (some of these have been lodged in previous periods).

Quarter 1 Number of applications received and determined per month

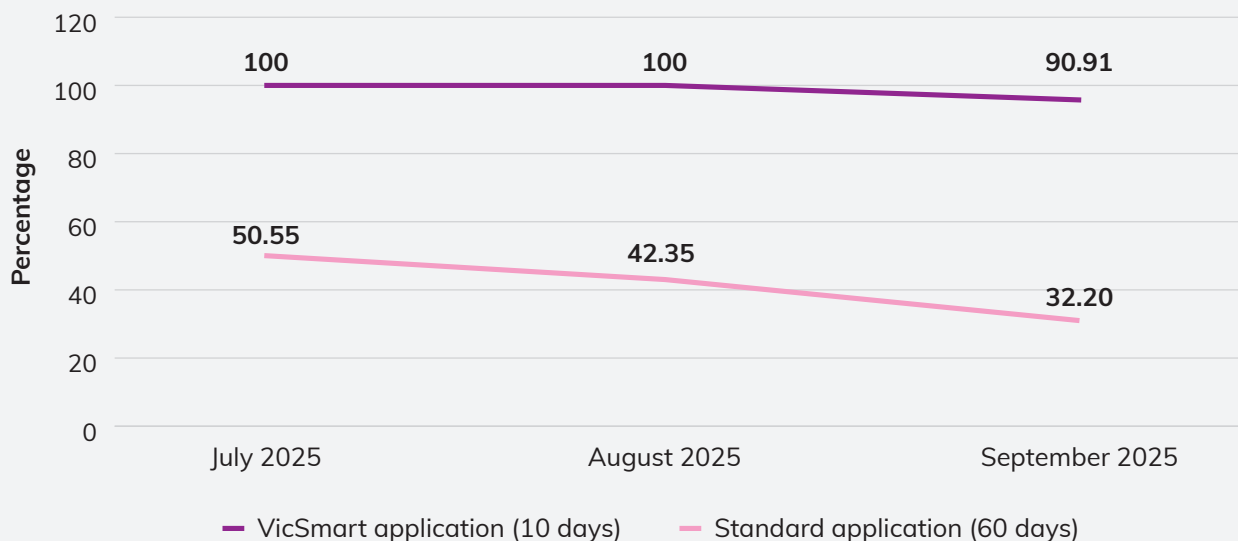
Applications Received and Determined 2025



Timeframes Council has two types of applications:

- Standard applications – 60 day statutory timeframe (inclusive of weekends and public holidays)
- VicSmart applications – 10 business day timeframe

During quarter 1, Council determined 42% of its Standard applications within the 60-day timeframe and 97% of its VicSmart applications within the 10 business day timeframe.



Statutory Planning – expired permits

Council has commenced reporting on the number of extensions granted to existing planning permits, as well as the number of new dwellings that were approved under those planning permits.

The purpose of sharing this information is to draw attention to the many live planning permits that have not been acted upon to date, which could contribute to housing supply in the City of Yarra.

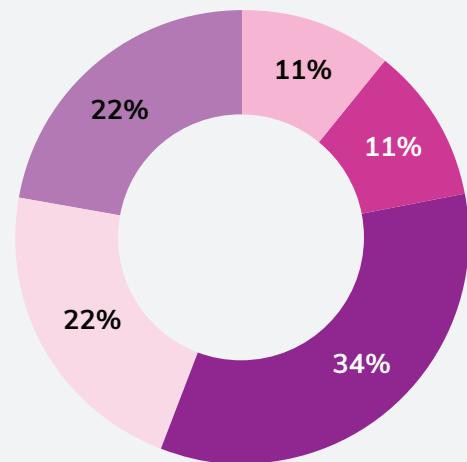
In quarter 1, Council granted 71 extensions to planning permits (534 new dwellings were approved under the permits extended).

Statutory Planning – VCAT activity

Appeals in 2025-2026 quarter 1

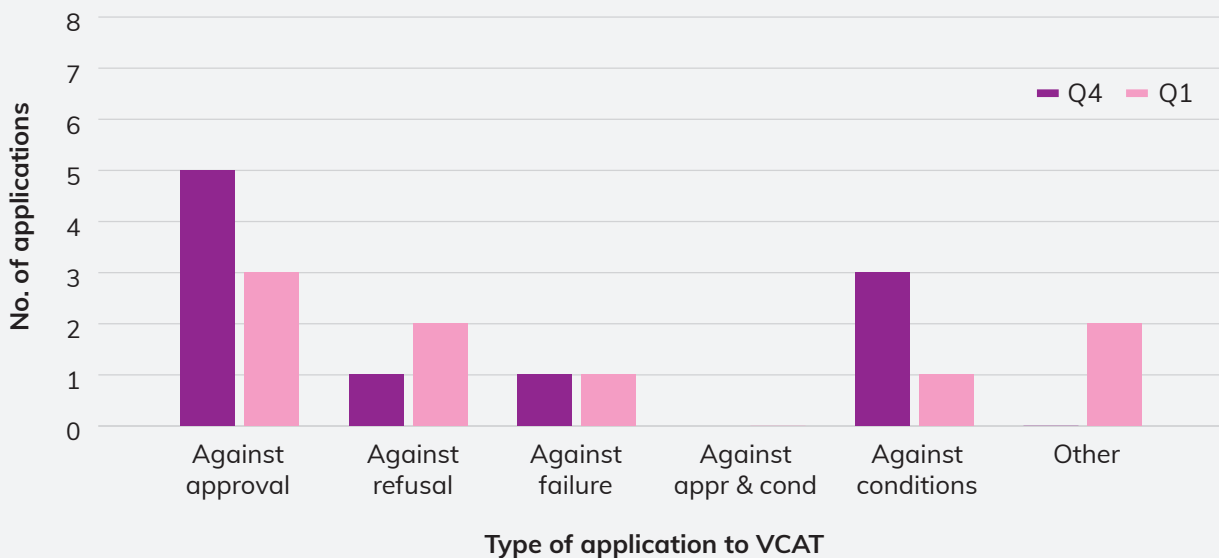
There were nine applications that were reviewed to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in the first quarter of 2025/26, two less than the fourth quarter of 2024/25.

- Against conditions
- Against failure
- Against approval
- Against refusal
- Other



Total number of applications reviewed to VCAT: 9

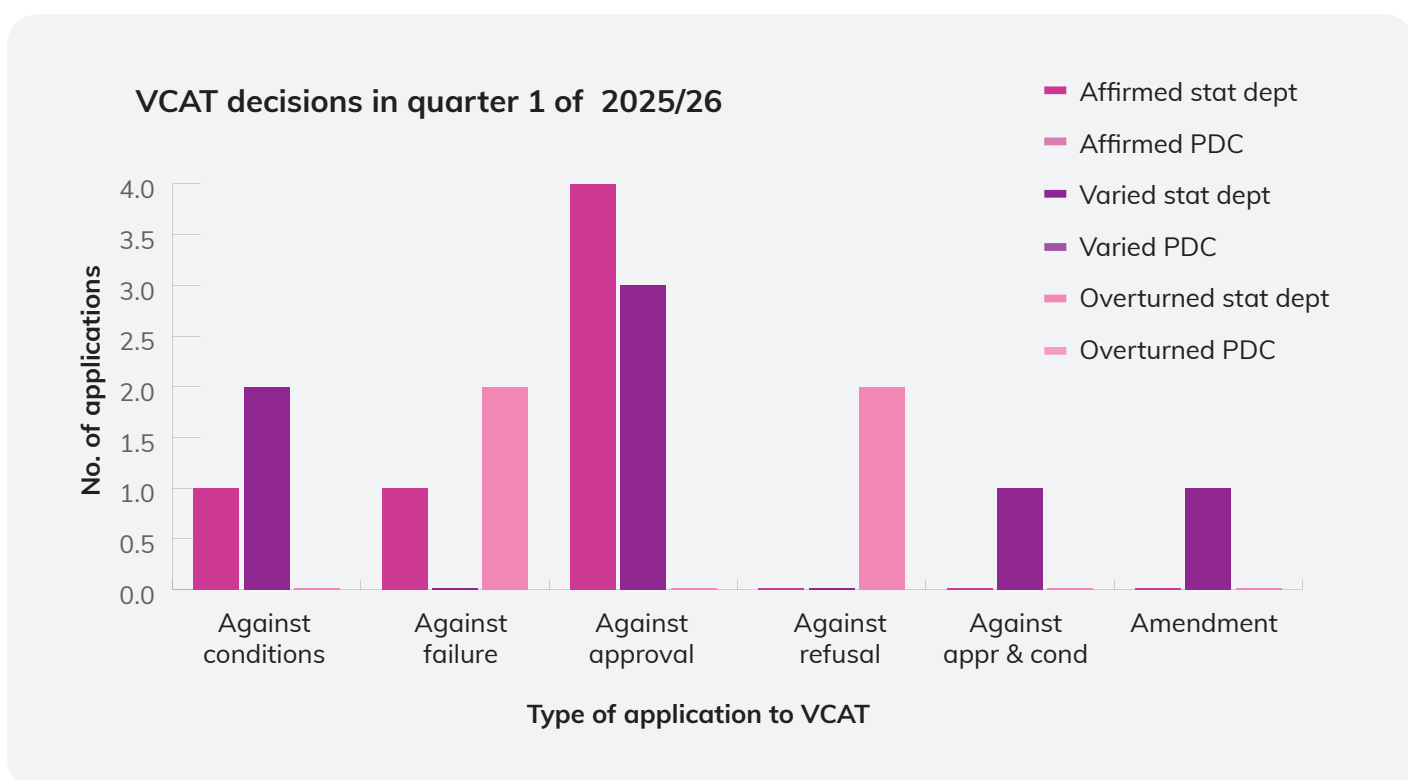
Comparison of applications lodged with VCAT in quarter 4 of 2024-2025 and quarter 1 of 2025-2026



When comparing the type of applications reviewed with VCAT in the first quarter of 2025-2026 with the previous quarter, in the first quarter of 2025-2026 there were:

- two less applications 'against approval'
- one more application 'against refusal'
- the same number of applications 'against failure'
- one less application 'against approval' and 'against conditions'
- the same number of applications 'against conditions'
- two more applications against 'Other'.

The graph below shows the type of applications determined by VCAT in the first quarter of 2025/26 and whether Council's decision was affirmed, varied or overturned. A total of 17 decisions were made by the Tribunal, including three applications that were withdrawn.



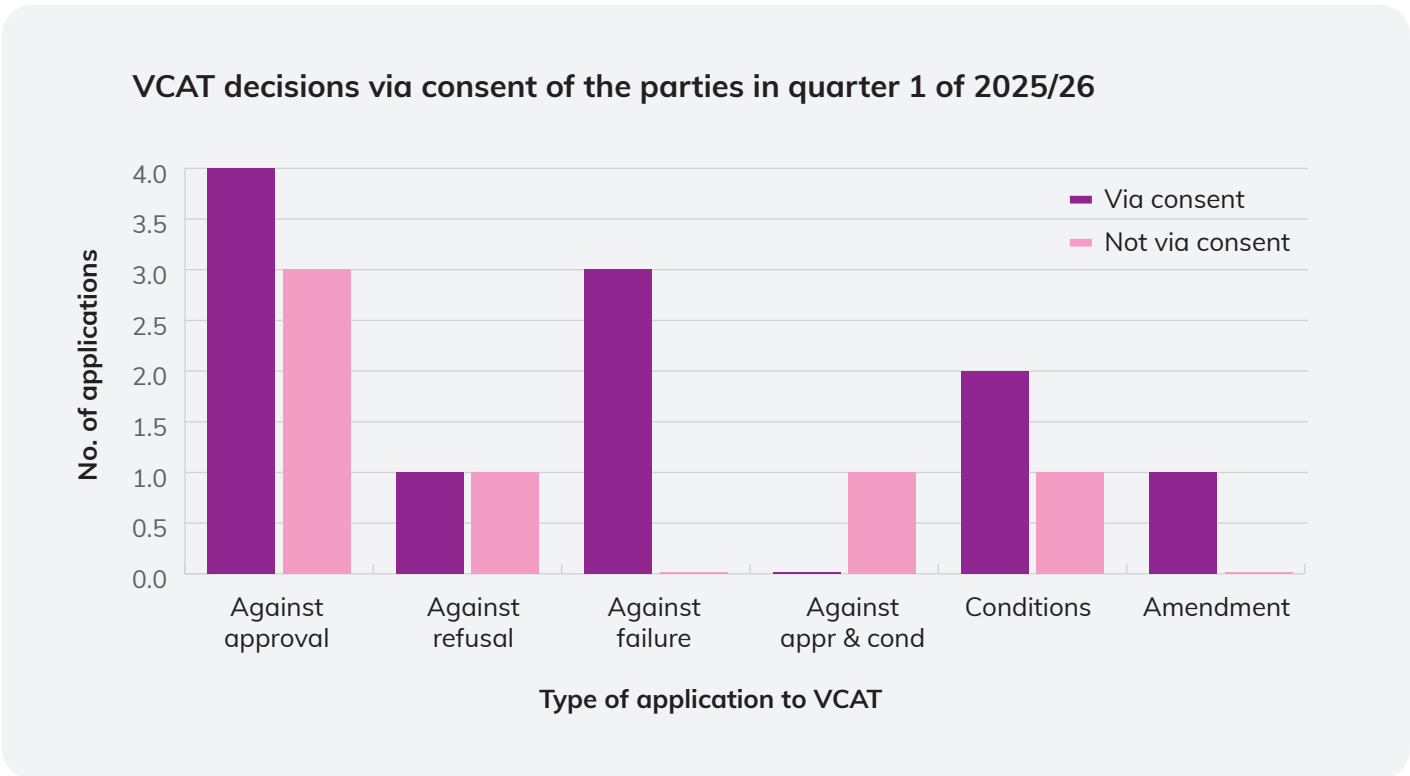
Total number of VCAT decisions: 17

Of the 17 VCAT Decisions in quarter 1 of 2025-2026, there were:

- two Statutory Department decisions affirmed
- eight Statutory Department decisions varied
- four Statutory Department decisions overturned
- three Statutory Department decisions withdrawn.



The graph below shows whether the VCAT decisions were via the consent of the parties.



Of the 17 VCAT Decisions in quarter 1 of 2025-2026, 11 decisions (65%) were via the consent of the parties.



Strategic objective 3: Working and Playing in the City

3

Activity Centre utilisation

As per *Plan for Victoria* and announced by the Victorian State Government, the City of Yarra has been declared an activity centre. Yarra's Housing Target means the planning scheme needs to demonstrate a potential capacity to accommodate a further 44,000 dwellings. The planning scheme was amended on 2 September 2025 to incorporate this into the Yarra Planning Scheme.

The Victorian State Government announced that in the case of Yarra, strategic sites should be identified to help achieve this, next to Yarra's existing work program on activity centres. Council is continuing to liaise with the Department of Transport and Planning to scope this task.

Building a Smarter, More Connected Yarra

Like many councils across Australia, Yarra City Council is working with a patchwork of legacy IT systems. These outdated platforms make it harder for both our community and staff to get things done efficiently.

That's why Council is taking an important step forward with a major investment to bring our core systems together under one platform. This initiative - the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Project - will

consolidate multiple legacy systems into a unified, cloud-based platform. The ERP solution will centralise and automate core business functions, including finance, human resources (people and culture), procurement, and records management. By integrating these systems, it will enable greater data accuracy, operational efficiency, and cross-departmental collaboration.

The goal is simple: to eliminate duplication, streamline processes, and make it faster and easier for both staff and the community to engage with Council. We know our community expects us to work smarter and deliver services efficiently and ERP is one of the ways we're making that happen.

Beyond efficiency, this modern platform will deliver long-term savings that can be reinvested into community services, helping us serve Yarra better.

The first stage of this multi-year transformation began in early 2025/26. This "discovery phase" is all about understanding how we currently work, what's effective, what isn't, and what we can do better.

While the current focus is internal, the end result will be a win for everyone, creating a more connected, responsive Council and a smoother, more intuitive experience for residents, businesses and community groups across Yarra.

Arts highlights

Flower Pavillion by Andrew Atchison

On 8 July 2025, Council endorsed the proposal for a new LGBTIQ+ memorial, titled Flower Pavillion by artist Andrew Atchison. The permanent memorial will be located at Collingwood Town Hall Park and will be installed by June 2026.

Atchison's vision is to create a sculptural shelter, shaped like a bouquet and designed to provide both beauty and refuge. The memorial will comprise a seating beneath a canopy of vibrant, transparent acrylic flowers, whose stems will be bound together at the centre by a strong bronze ring.

The memorial will be an important place in Yarra to recognise and remember LGBTIQ+ community members who have died of suicide. The project is in the fabrication stage, and construction works will commence in early 2026.

Recognising 50 years of Vietnamese settlement in Richmond

The Vietnamese 50th Anniversary commission is a collaboration with the Vietnamese community to create an enduring commemorative marker that recognises the 50-year anniversary of the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in Australia, and particularly in Richmond and Abbotsford.

Council has appointed ten Vietnamese community members with personal or family experience of migration, to guide the project through the concept development and artist selection stages. The group is currently in the process of selecting a design to recommend for commission.

Council is expected to endorse the design for the marker this calendar year, with the marker to be launched mid 2026.





4

Strategic objective 4: Running the City

Acquittal of Council Resolutions

Council Meetings are the decision-making forum constituted under the *Local Government Act 2020* where Councillors come together as a Council and are responsible for making decisions on behalf of the community.

Meetings are conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* & *City of Yarra Governance Rules*. Council decisions are made at meetings of the

Council. These decisions are made by a resolution of the Council and actions are assigned accordingly.

This table shows a record of the Council resolutions for quarter 1 of 2025/2026 financial year. Open resolutions are those where there are still actions that are currently in progress to be implemented.

The total number of resolutions refers to the tally of resolutions from Council meetings during the quarter.

Council Resolutions between 1 July – 30 September 2025

Total number of resolutions allocated	Open resolutions – June	Open resolutions - May	Open resolutions - April	Total number of Open resolutions	% of open resolutions
42	1	3	9	13	31%
(July Meeting, 11) (Aug Meeting, 16) (Sept Meeting, 15)					



One-hour free parking

Trialing Free One-Hour Parking to Boost Local Business and Community Access

Council has successfully rolled out a one hour of free trial parking along Victoria Street, Swan Street and Bridge Road in Richmond – a major initiative that has brought together teams from right across Council to deliver on Councillor’s vision for a more accessible and vibrant local shopping precinct.

Endorsed by Councillors earlier this year, staff worked quickly to implement the new policy and ensure the community were well informed about the trial. Right across Council, a number of departments worked together to ensure that the program was ready to launch

quickly and that local traders and community members were fully informed through signage, trader briefings and digital updates.

The trial aims to make it easier for residents and visitors to stop, shop and support local businesses, while encouraging turnover of spaces to keep parking fair and accessible for everyone.

The free one-hour parking trial is part of Council's focus to revitalize Richmond’s retail and cultural precincts, including new streetscape improvements, pedestrian upgrades and urban greening projects. Council will monitor the trial over 2025/26 to understand the benefits of the trial.

Financial report

Council's quarter one financial performance reflects our ongoing commitment to prudent financial management and the responsible delivery on the Council Plan Action Plan 2025/26 and the Annual Budget, in alignment with the Financial Sustainability Strategy.

Financial performance early in the 2025/26 financial year provides for increases in revenue through improved management of resources and unexpected construction development activities. Whilst some revenues have increased there are decreases in Open Space Reserve income to date.

There is uncertainty regarding the consistency of increases for the remainder of the financial year.

Expenditure monitoring and control remains a key priority as per the financial sustainability strategy, and year to date performance is impacted by timing.

It is expected that the financial performance will vary throughout the year, given uncertainty regarding cash rates, persist high prices and a fluctuating inflation levels.

Rates collection has continued to improve over the last 3 years, strengthening our cash position. As of 30 September, Council holds \$130.88 (\$122.24 30 June 2025) million in cash, including \$24.80 million in borrowings. With investment returns currently exceeding loan interest costs, Council has opted to retain borrowings to maximise value.

Council remains focused on long-term sustainability while delivering essential services and infrastructure for our growing community.

There is no change to the overall financial sustainability risk rating as budgeted.

Quarter One – Comprehensive Income Statement

Income Statement	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance	Annual Budget	Annual Forecast	Annual Variance
	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M	\$M
Revenue from ordinary Activities						
Rates and charges	144.5	144.3	(0.3)	146.0	146.0	0.0
Statutory fees and fines	10.0	11.8	1.8	40.1	41.6	1.5
User Fees	8.6	10.0	1.4	34.1	34.4	0.3
Grants - Operating	5.9	4.8	(1.1)	17.4	17.0	(0.4)
Grants - Capital	0.1	0.3	0.1	9.1	9.7	0.6
Contributions - Other monetary	1.8	0.7	(1.1)	6.7	6.7	-
Reimbursements	0.1	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.5
Other Income	0.9	1.6	0.7	3.7	4.3	0.6
Net gain/(loss) on disposal	0.0	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	-
Total Revenue	171.9	174.5	2.6	257.4	260.6	3.1
Expenses from ordinary activities						
Employee Costs	27.9	27.3	0.6	106.7	106.7	(0.1)
Materials and services	19.6	18.3	1.3	96.8	96.7	0.1
Depreciation & Amortisation	7.4	7.3	0.1	31.2	31.2	-
Amortisation - right of use assets	0.3	0.3	0.0	1.3	1.3	-
Bad and doubtful debts	1.0	1.3	(0.3)	4.3	4.6	(0.3)
Borrowing costs	0.2	0.2	(0.0)	0.7	0.7	-
Interest Exp - Leases	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	-
Other expenses	0.1	0.2	(0.1)	0.8	0.8	-
Total expenses	56.6	54.9	1.7	241.9	242.1	(0.2)
Net Result	115.3	119.6	4.3	15.5	18.4	2.9

Legend:	
Favourable variance >10%	
Variance within -10% to +10% range	
Unfavourable variance >10%	

Overview

Council has delivered a positive actual to forecast net result of \$2.9 million.

This stronger-than-expected outcome is due to a mix of income and timing of expenditure spend across several areas. These include:

Revenue

- **\$1.5 million** in statutory fees and fines due to ongoing improved management of infringement notices and parking meter fees
- **\$0.30 million** in a rebound from construction fees unpredicted for the last quarter
- **\$0.6 million** of capital grants for 2025-26 that were received in advance and will be applied to capital works programs during 2025-26
- **\$0.6 million** higher interest income from term deposits due to sustained high interest rates and improved collection rates.

- Reimbursements increased by advanced income received last year and classified as current year income to match respective expenditure

YTD there has been a decrease in open space contributions, however; the forecast will be reassessed in quarter two given the uncertainty of future trends.

Expenses

There were no major adjustment to forecasts for expenditure.

YTD favourable position for employee costs is attributed to current vacancies (\$0.60 million), which are expected to be recruited to during 2025-26.

The YTD favourable position for materials and services relate to timing of actual spend to budget (\$1.3 million).

The increase in forecast for the provision for doubtful debts compared, aligns to the increases in forecasted infringement income.

Analysis

Detailed variance analysis below is prepared based on a comparison of YTD actuals and YTD budget. YTD actual results to YTD budget is favourable by \$4.3m.

This result is driven by the following:

Revenue

a) Rates and Charges

YTD performance is unfavourable to budget by \$0.263m, primarily driven by lower income from supplementary valuations.

b) Statutory Fees

YTD actual is favourable to budget due to stronger enforcement, favourable weather conditions and the variability of major events. Favourable variances are from increased parking infringement income (\$1.393m), parking permit income (\$0.107m), and parking meter income (\$0.297m).

September forecast has been increased (\$1.50m) to account for the increase in revenue.

c) User Fees

Favourable variance is due to higher-than-expected fees collected from Construction fees (\$1.107m) and Statutory Planning (\$0.234m). September forecast

in Construction has been increased (\$0.275m) to account for increases, particularly from Commercial Occupation Area Permits.

d) Grants - Operating

The YTD unfavourable variance in operating income is primarily due to the timing of the Victorian Local Government Grants Commission, which was partially received early in the previous financial year (\$1.462m unfavourable). This impact is partially offset by higher State recurrent grants in Family, Youth and Children's Services reflecting a higher CPI adjustment than budgeted (\$0.109m favourable), and unbudgeted non-recurrent State grants (\$0.693m favourable) for Combustible Cladding Services and the 30km/h Trial.

The full-year forecast has been reduced to account for the VLGC grant prepayment, which is not reported to reoccur in June 2026. This reduction is partly offset by additional income from both State recurrent and non-recurrent grants.

e) Contributions - Other Monetary

YTD unfavourable variance is driven by decreased income from Open Space Contributions (-\$1.112m).

f) Reimbursements

The YTD favourable variance in Traffic and Engineering is due to advance income received from last financial year for Mollison Street (\$0.090m) and Engineering resource funding (\$0.135m).

The September forecast has been increased to recognise this income in the current financial year.

g) Other Income

The YTD favourable variance to budget is primarily driven by higher interest income from term deposits (\$0.544m), reflecting improved financial management of cash and sustained higher interest rates than budgeted. In addition, funds were received from the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) for fines and infringements collected in relation to the Council elections.

The full-year forecast has been adjusted to reflect the additional VEC funding (\$0.148m) and increased income from term deposits and savings (\$0.499m).

h) Net gain on disposal of assets

The net gain on disposal of assets is favourable to budget due to proceeds from the land sales (\$0.430) and fleet (\$0.100m).

September forecast has been adjusted to recognise the YTD numbers.

Expenses

i) Employee Costs

YTD we are showing a favourable to budget position (\$0.553m), attributed to savings from vacant positions, offset by Workcover premium invoice coming in higher than budgeted.

j) Materials & Services

YTD favourable variances are mainly due to timing of expenditure in Infrastructure maintenance (\$0.206m), Recreation and Leisure utilities (\$0.228m), waste and cleansing (\$0.341m), Open Space (\$0.117m) and Engineering (\$0.158m).

k) Bad and doubtful debts

The YTD unfavourable variance is due to a higher bad debt expense than budgeted, aligning to an increase in infringement notices issued. The September forecast has been adjusted to align the bad debt expense proportionately with the higher volume of infringement notices.

Quarter One – Capital Works

At 30 September 2025, actual expenditure was \$4.87 million, compared to year-to-date budget of \$8.45 million.

Financial Results Summary	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	Annual Variance To Budget	Annual Budget	Current Final Projection	Annual Variance To Projection
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
New asset expenditure	1,345	478	867	9,069	9,209	(141)
Asset renewal expenditure	3,669	3,797	(127)	14,877	15,186	(309)
Asset upgrade expenditure	3,431	600	2,831	14,567	14,487	80
Total capital works expenditure	8,445	4,874	3,571	38,513	38,883	(370)

Actuals spend is below budget year to date primarily driven by changes in July 2025, to project delivery schedules and forecast expenditure with the following projects:

- o Collingwood Leisure Centre plant (\$0.56m) and
- o Brunswick St Oval Project (\$0.25m)
- o Yambla Pavilion (\$1.72m).

Quarter One – Cash Position

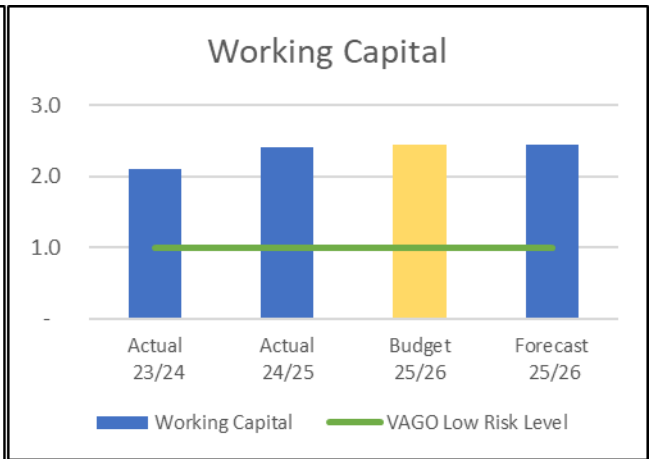
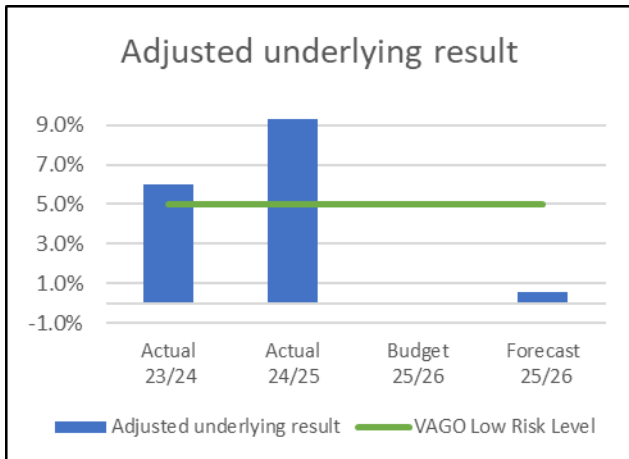
Council has prudently managed debt arrangements to ensure value for the community. Council could choose to settle on borrowings. However, the interest rate for borrowings is fixed at 2.6%, while investments are currently earning greater than 4.0% return. A position to hold on to the current strategy means additional income earned on term deposits will offset any decreases in revenue, which would not be possible if the Council repaid borrowings.

At 30 September 2025, Council has total cash of \$130.88 million, of which \$24.80 million is funded by borrowings.

Graph 1. 30 September 2025 Unrestricted Cash



Quarter One – Financial Sustainability Ratios

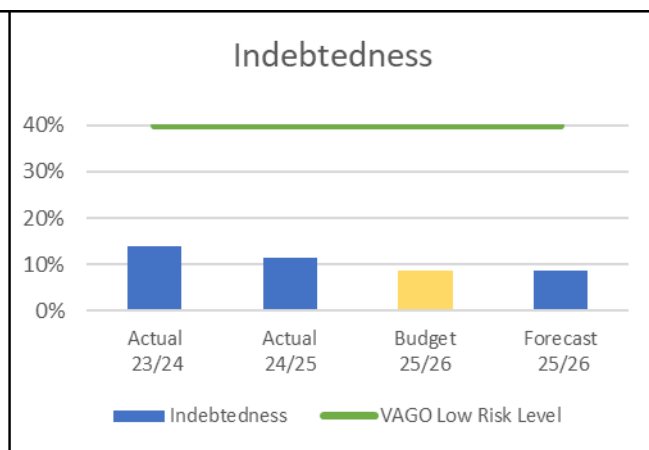
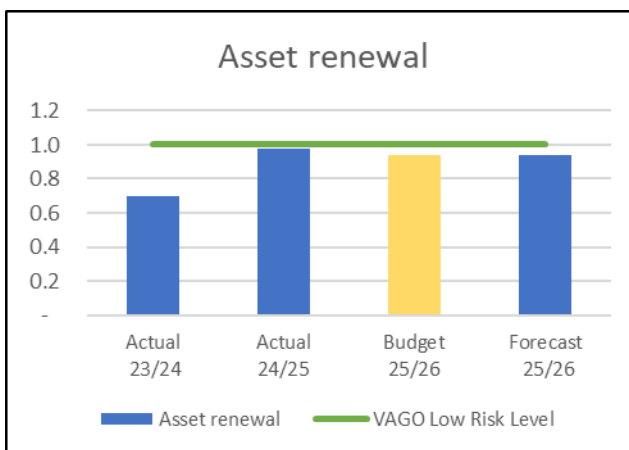


Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ adjusted underlying revenue

The ratio measures an entity’s ability to generate its own cash. A positive result indicates a surplus, and the larger the percentage, the stronger the result. The result highlights Councils challenge in generating enough cash to fund future capital works without borrowing.

Current assets /current liabilities

Compares current assets to current liabilities, which provides a measure of the ability to pay existing liabilities in the next 12 months. This year’s result expected to be in the low-risk range.



Treasury Corporation of Victoria (TCV) Loan financial covenants

TCV loan requirements		Target	Current Month
Interest Cover	EBITDA/Interest Expense	> 2.0	713 ▲
Interest Bearing Loans	Interest Bearing Liabilities/Own Source Revenue	< 60%	14.70% ▲

TCV financing is conditional upon Council maintaining a sustainable financial position when measured by the interest cover and interest-bearing loans ratios. YTD results indicate that Council is meeting the minimum requirements. TCV loan requirements are well within target given limited borrowing compared to own source revenue and liability obligations.

Quarter One – Income Statement

Comprehensive Income Statement	YTD	YTD	YTD	Annual Budget	Annual Forecast	Annual Variance
	Budget	Actuals	Variance			
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Income						
Rates and charges	144,533	144,270	(264)	145,986	145,986	-
Statutory fees and fines	10,012	11,809	1,797	40,058	41,558	1,500
User Fees	8,572	9,975	1,402	34,074	34,411	337
Grants - Operating	5,878	4,828	(1,051)	17,445	17,024	(421)
Grants - Capital	143	282	140	9,142	9,712	570
Contributions - OSR	1,250	138	(1,112)	5,000	5,000	-
Contributions - Other monetary	539	552	13	1,675	1,675	-
Reimbursements	63	513	449	268	764	496
Other Income	909	1,621	711	3,667	4,314	647
Net gain/(loss) on disposal	33	558	525	124	124	0
Total income	171,932	174,544	2,612	257,439	260,569	3,130
Expenses						
Employee Costs	27,889	27,336	553	106,651	106,702	(52)
Materials and services	19,599	18,308	1,291	96,792	96,676	116
Depreciation & Amortisation	7,401	7,278	122	31,229	31,229	-
Amortisation - right of use assets	314	297	17	1,258	1,258	-
Bad and doubtful debts	1,030	1,303	(273)	4,299	4,605	(306)
Borrowing costs	173	176	(3)	651	651	-
Interest Exp - Leases	61	58	4	216	216	-
Other expenses	148	162	(13)	793	794	(1)
Total expenses	56,616	54,919	1,697	241,889	242,132	(242)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	115,316	119,626	4,309	15,550	18,437	2,887

Quarter One – Statement of Financial Position

Statement of Financial Position	YTD Actuals \$'000	30/06/25 Actuals \$'000	Movement Inc/(Dec) \$'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	51,882	53,243	(1,361)
Trade and other receivables	170,789	37,166	133,623
Other financial assets	79,000	69,000	10,000
Inventories	77	77	-
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	-	-	-
Other assets	3,821	1,955	1,866
Total current assets	305,569	161,441	144,128
Non-current assets			
Investments in joint arrangements	5	5	-
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,026,049	2,028,454	(2,405)
Right-of-use assets	3,558	3,864	(306)
Total non-current assets	2,029,612	2,032,323	(2,711)
Total assets	2,335,182	2,193,764	141,418
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	6,636	15,289	(8,653)
Trust funds and deposits	50,665	17,598	33,066
Unearned income/revenue	10,294	10,981	(687)
Provisions	16,714	17,148	(434)
Interest-bearing liabilities	3,500	4,669	(1,169)
Lease liabilities	890	1,182	(292)
Total current liabilities	88,699	66,867	21,832
Non-current liabilities			
Other Liabilities	413	411	2
Provisions	1,294	1,330	(37)
Interest-bearing liabilities	21,299	21,299	-
Lease liabilities	2,824	2,829	(5)
Total non-current liabilities	25,830	25,870	(40)
Total liabilities	114,529	92,737	21,792
Net assets	2,220,653	2,101,027	119,626
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	715,131	681,219	33,912
Asset revaluation reserves	1,342,841	1,342,841	-
Other reserves	43,055	43,472	(418)
Surplus for the year	119,626	33,494	86,131
Total equity	2,220,653	2,101,027	119,626

Quarter One – Statement of Cash Flows

Statement of Cash Flows	YTD	Annual Budget	Annual	Annual
	Actuals		Forecast	Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows	Inflows
	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)	(Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities				
Rates and charges	43,957	142,614	142,404	(211)
Statutory fees and fines	11,246	35,759	36,326	567
User fees	10,113	34,074	34,411	337
Grants - operating	4,141	17,445	16,055	(1,390)
Grants - capital	282	9,142	1,645	(7,497)
Contributions - monetary	690	6,675	6,675	-
Interest received	1,219	2,976	3,475	499
Trust funds and deposits taken/(repaid)	(222)	-	-	-
Other receipts	348	959	1,603	644
Net GST refund/(payment)	1,048	-	(794)	(794)
Payments to Employees	(27,811)	(105,753)	(106,702)	(949)
Payments to Suppliers	(30,364)	(97,473)	(95,319)	2,155
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	14,647	46,418	39,780	(6,638)
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(4,873)	(38,513)	(33,340)	5,173
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	558	133	133	-
Payments for investments	(10,000)	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	(14,316)	(38,380)	(33,207)	5,173
Cash flows from financing activities				
Finance costs	(176)	(509)	(514)	(5)
Proceeds from Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Repayment of borrowings	(1,169)	(4,811)	(4,669)	142
Interest paid - lease liability	(58)	(216)	(216)	-
Repayment of lease liabilities	(289)	(1,231)	(1,258)	(27)
Net cash used in financing activities	(1,692)	(6,768)	(6,658)	110
Net decrease in cash held	(1,361)	1,270	(85)	(1,355)
Cash at beginning of period	53,243	105,023	96,885	(8,138)
Cash at end of period	51,882	106,293	96,800	(9,493)

Quarter One – Statement of Capital Works

Statement of Capital Works	YTD Budget	YTD Actuals	YTD Variance	Adopted Budget	Current Final Projection	Annual Variance
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Property						
Buildings	4,025	806	3,220	13,489	13,704	(215)
Total property	4,025	806	3,220	13,489	13,704	(215)
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment	50	-	50	50	50	-
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	435	177	258	850	850	-
Library books	151	104	47	622	622	-
Total plant and equipment	636	281	355	1,522	1,522	-
Infrastructure						
Roads	600	1,025	(425)	7,154	7,437	(284)
Footpaths and cycleways	899	968	(68)	3,701	3,342	359
Drainage	970	1,173	(203)	4,265	4,275	(10)
Waste management	-	-	-	50	50	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,188	580	608	7,428	7,489	(61)
Other infrastructure	126	41	85	905	1,065	(160)
Total infrastructure	3,784	3,787	(3)	23,503	23,658	(155)
Total capital works expenditure	8,445	4,874	3,571	38,513	38,883	(370)
Represented by:						
New asset expenditure	1,345	478	867	9,069	9,209	(141)
Asset renewal expenditure	3,669	3,797	(127)	14,877	15,186	(309)
Asset expansion expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure	3,431	600	2,831	14,567	14,487	80
Total capital works expenditure	8,445	4,874	3,571	38,513	38,883	(370)



Parking revenue

Below you can find parking revenue data for quarter 1 of the financial year 2025/26. It is intended to provide the community with an overview of parking revenue and identify any trends or patterns.

Parking revenue is broken down into two categories:

- paid parking
- parking infringements.

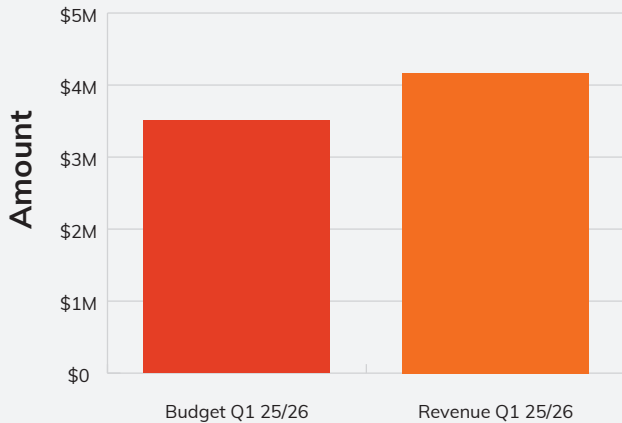
Paid parking revenue includes income generated from both pay-by-phone (PayStay) and meter payments made by drivers.

Quarter 1 Overall paid parking revenue

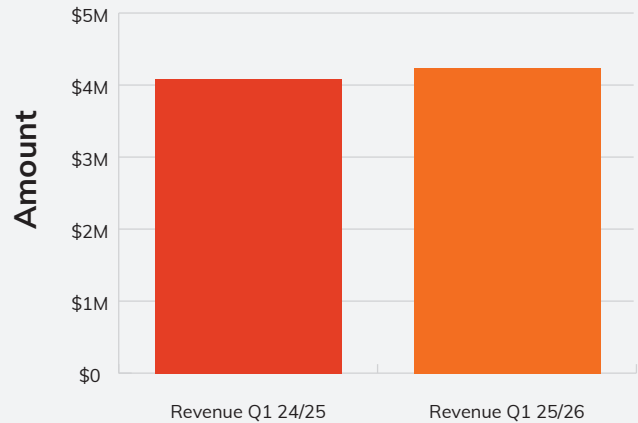
Total revenue for quarter 1 increased by 1.84% compared to quarter 1 2024/25. The graph below shows that the forecast for quarter 1 was exceeded by 18.69%. Comparison of quarter 1 figures for 24/25 and 25/26 are shown below detailing total paid parking revenue for this quarter increased by \$75,207.49 compared to the same quarter in 2024/25:

- quarter 1 2024/2025: \$4,092,125.95
- **quarter 1 2025/2026: \$4,167,333.44**

Paid Parking Budget v Revenue



Overall Paid Parking Revenue

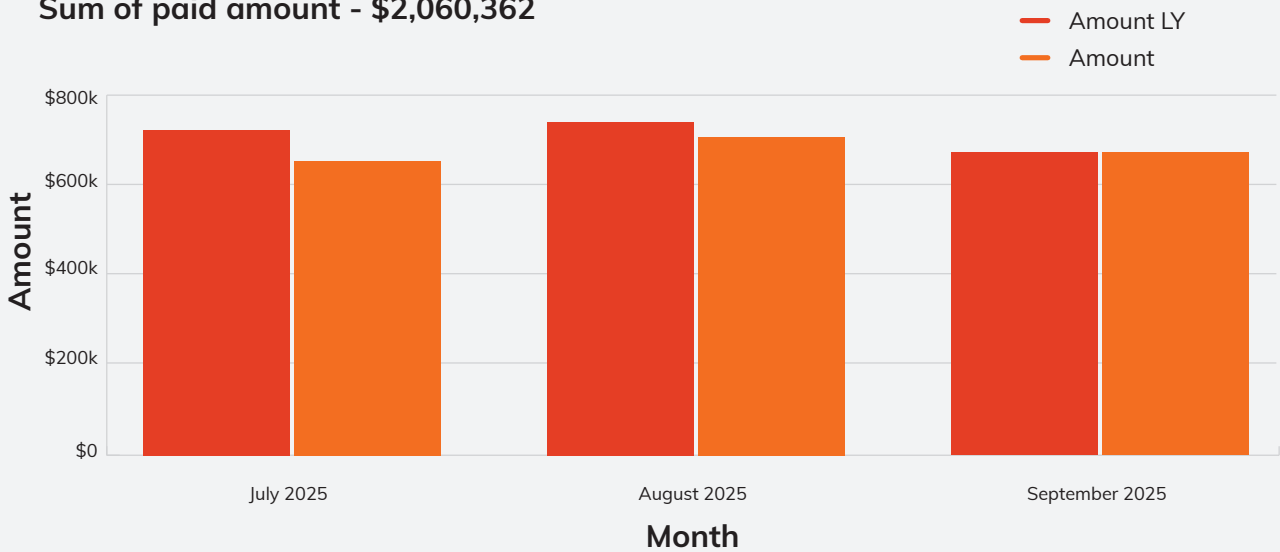


Quarter 1 Paid parking meters

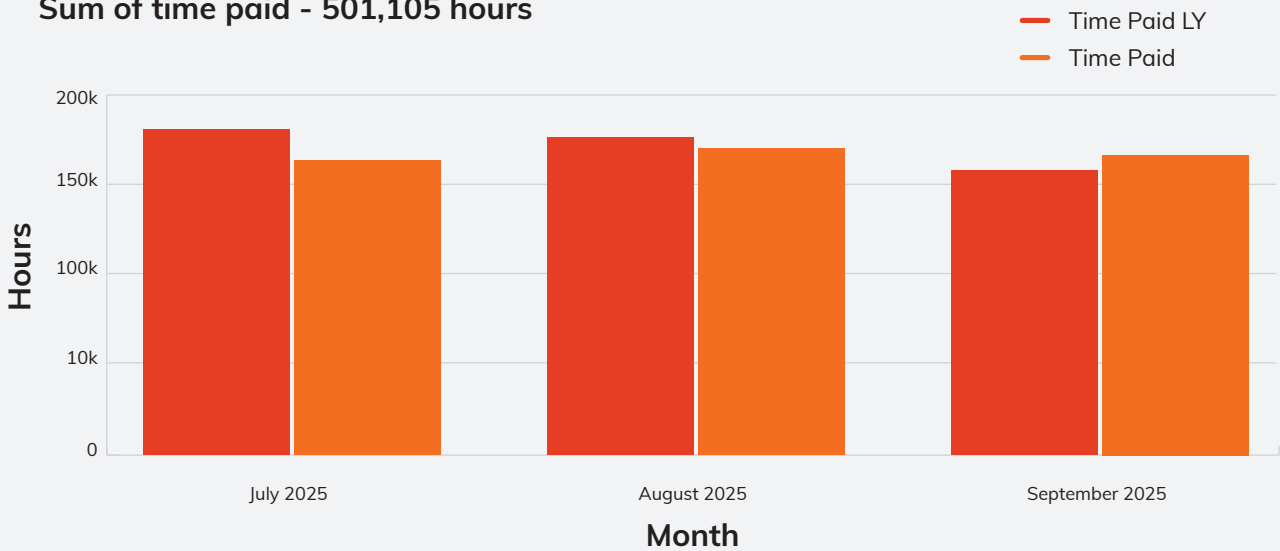
The table below shows the parking meter data including revenue and time paid (or length of stay). A total of 305,466 transactions occurred during quarter 1:

- quarter 1 24/25 Meter Revenue: \$2,150,826.00
- **quarter 1 25/26 Meter Revenue: \$2,061,570.00**
- quarter 1 24/25 Meter transactions: 346,010
- **quarter 1 25/26 Meter transactions: 305,466**

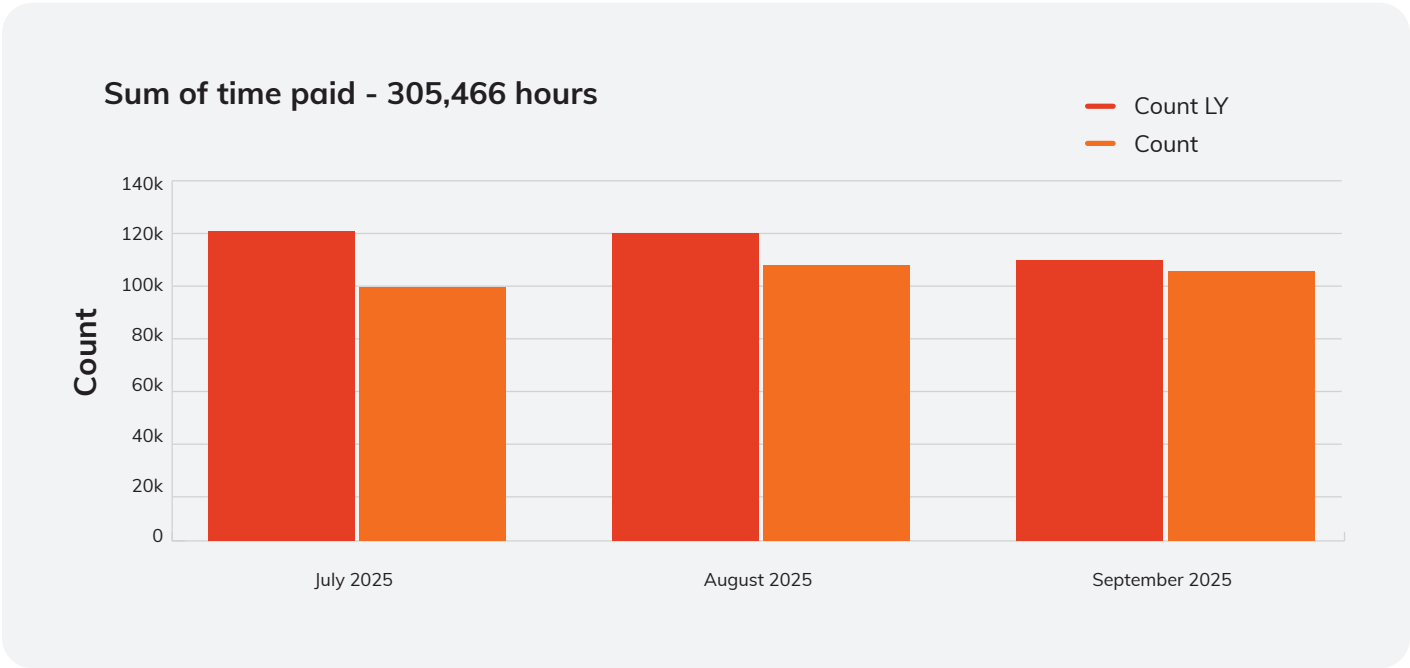
Sum of paid amount - \$2,060,362



Sum of time paid - 501,105 hours



Quarter 1 Paid parking meters cont.



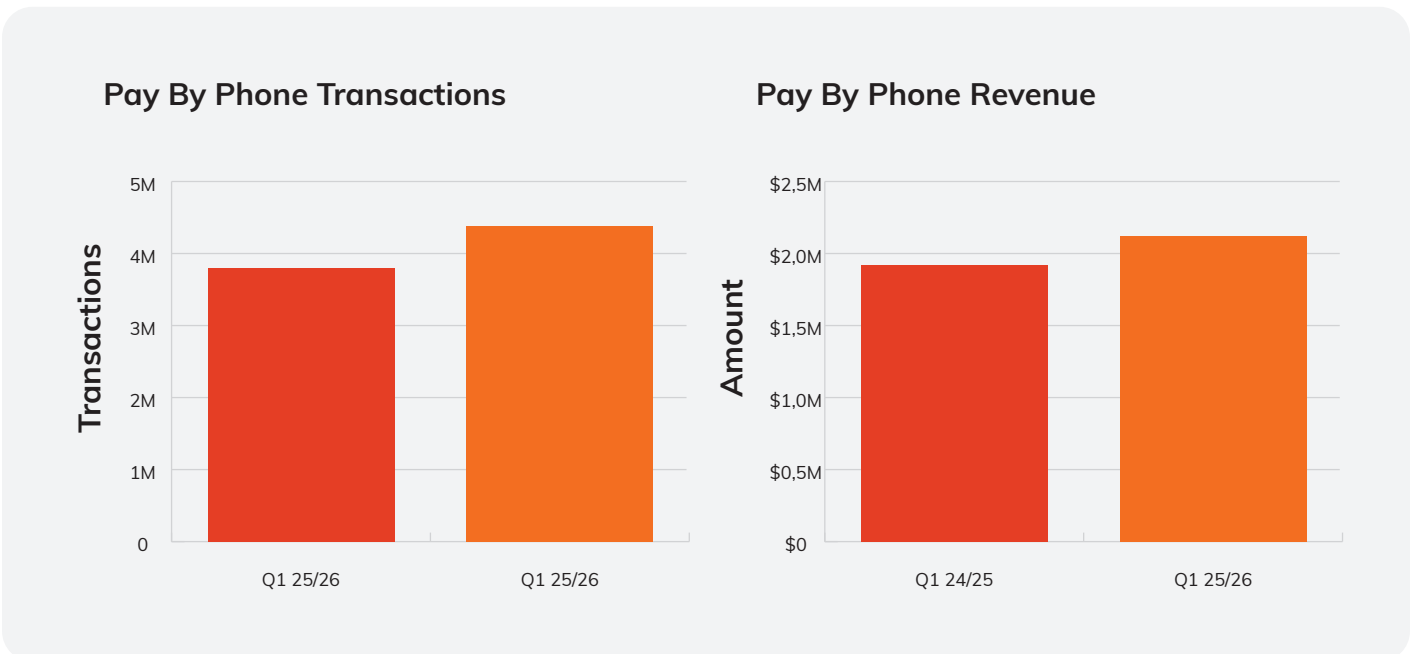
Quarter 1 Paid parking pay by phone

Pay by phone remains an active option for customers, and the data continues to show an increase in the number of transactions when comparing year on year quarter 1 data for 2024/25 and 2025/26:

- quarter 1 2024/25 Pay by Phone Transactions: 382,552
- **quarter 1 2025/26 Pay by Phone Transactions: 439,260**

Revenue generated by pay by phone also shows an increase when comparing year on year quarter 1 data (2024/25 to 2025/26):

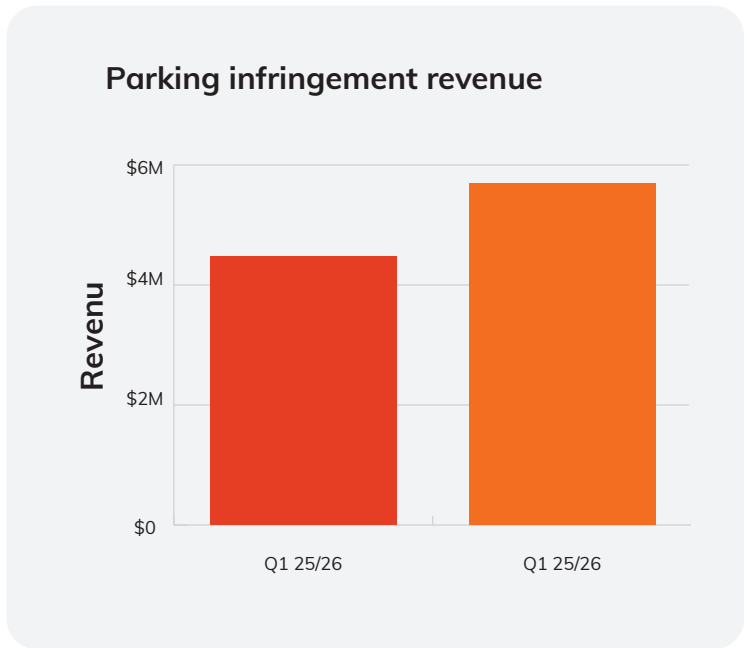
- quarter 1 2024/25 Pay by Phone Revenue: \$1,941,776.95
- **quarter 1 2025/26 Pay by Phone Revenue: \$2,105,763.44**



Quarter 1 Parking infringement revenue

Revenue from infringements issued during quarter 1 shows an increase when comparing year on year data over 2024/25 and 2025/26:

- quarter 1 Infringement Revenue 2024/2025: \$4,550,566.00
- quarter 1 Infringement Revenue 2025/2026: \$5,673,574.00



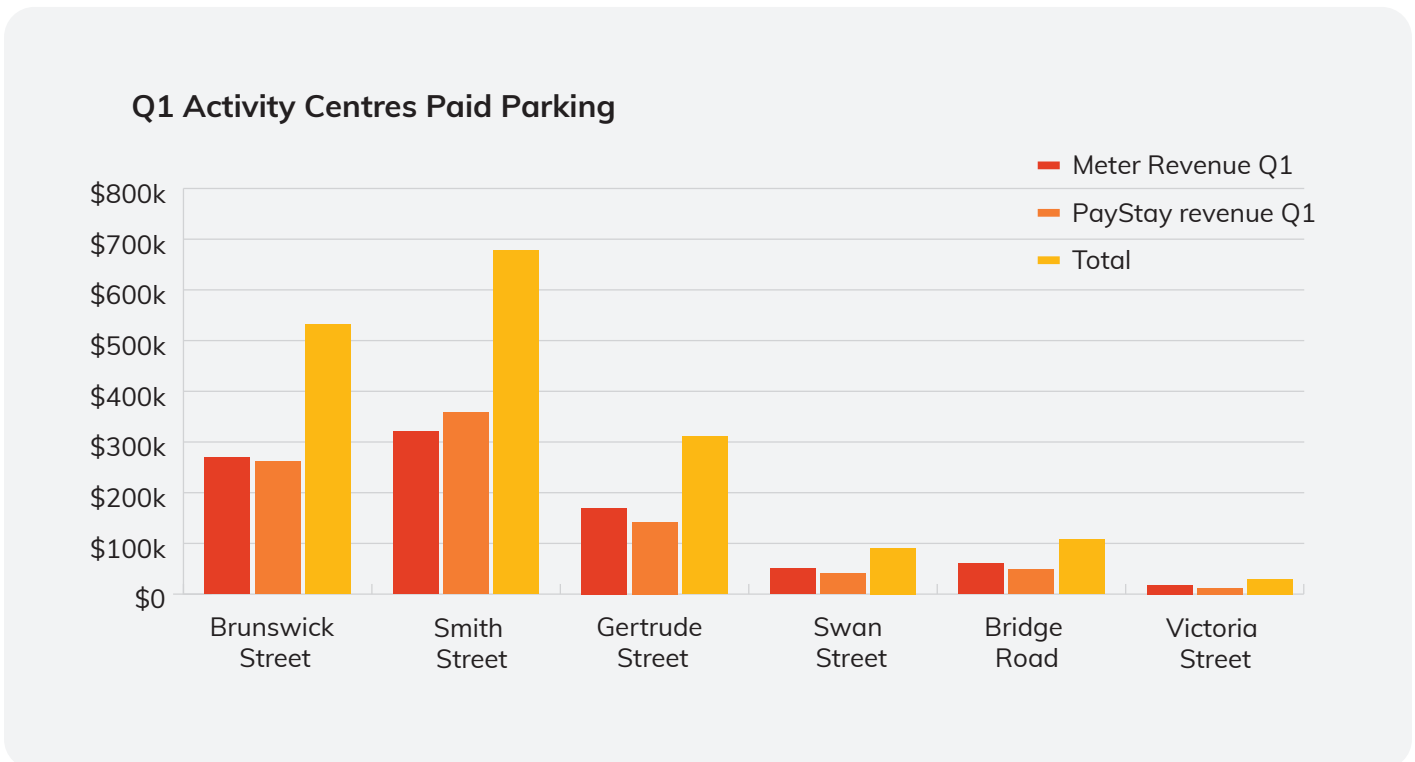
Activity Centre paid parking

Each shopping strip in Yarra is unique, influenced by a variety of factors such as the types of attractions and businesses located on the street. As a result, it is not possible to directly compare paid parking revenue across the business centres.

Several important variables to consider when looking at the various centres include different tariffs (hourly fee) applied across the centres,

amount paid for on-street parking, and breadth of hours that paid parking is in effect.

A twelve-month trial of free one-hour parking in Richmond commenced on 1 July 2025. This trial is occurring on Bridge Road, Swan Street, and Victoria Street. A detailed analysis of the impact of this trial will be reported to Council in the new year.



Action Plan performance

Council adopted its 2025-29 Council Plan on 17 June 2025. The Council Plan articulates the medium-term strategic direction of Council and outlines the key outcomes that Councillors aim to achieve during their four-year term.

This financial year 2025/26, is the first year of the Council Plan 2025-29.

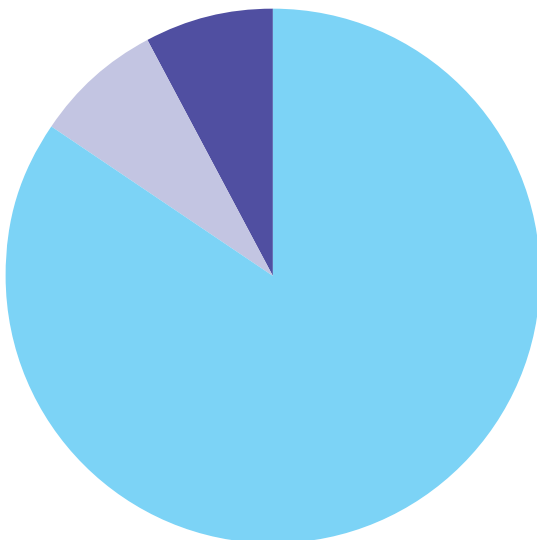
The Council Plan 2025–2029 has four Strategic Objectives that align with the Community Vision and define the strategic direction of Council. At the June 2025 Council Meeting, Council also adopted the 2025/26 Council Plan Action Plan and 2025/26 Budget. Together, the Action Plan and Budget operationalise the Council Plan by turning medium term goals into achievable shorter term work of the Council.

The 2025/26 Action Plan identifies initiatives under each Strategic Objective which are significant projects that Council will undertake towards achieving the Strategic Objectives in the Council Plan. This financial year, the Action Plan includes 26 actions and related milestones that demonstrate Council's commitment to delivering meaningful outcomes for the community.

At the end of September 2025, overall performance reached 92%, exceeding the performance target of 75%. To meet the performance target, actions must achieve 75% or higher of their target.

Action summary by performance:

- 22 Actions (84.6%) On track - At least 90% of action target achieved
- 2 Actions (7.7%) Monitor - Between 75% and 90% of action target achieved
- 2 Actions (7.7%) Off track - Less than 75% of action target achieved.





- 22 On track
- 2 Off track
- 2 Monitor


SOMEWHERE SOBER



Annual Plan 2025/26 Progress Q1

 **Green** At least 90% of action target achieved

 **Amber** Between 75% and 90% of action target achieved

 **Red** Less than 75% of action target achieved

– No target set

1 Living in the city

Action Title: 1.1.2.1 Year 2 Climate Emergency Plan Implementation


Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Unit Manager Sustainability	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: Yarra Home Energy Upgrade Program: We have completed the recruitment of the Delivery Partner for the Yarra Home Energy Upgrades project in 2025/26. We have also opened the recruitment of participants in the program for residents who are concession card holders.

Neighbourhood House Network Engagement: The Neighbourhood House Network has been engaged to support delivery of actions in their Climate Action and Resilience Plans. A series of targeted workshops will be delivered with the participants across 2025/26.

Solar Savers Program: Yarra has supported an expansion of product offerings and providers available through the Solar Savers program. Any Yarra resident or business can now visit the Solar Savers website to receive up to three no-obligation quotes from trusted, accredited suppliers of split systems, heat pump hot water systems and a number of other efficient, electric products and more.

Action Title: 1.1.3.1 Conduct a localised Community Safety Audit

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager Equity and Community Development	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: Following a rigorous process in which crime statistics, information from the community's safety enquiries, and existing safety audit information were reviewed, and stakeholders including Victoria Police were engaged, an intervention site was selected. External resources have been secured, which specialise in Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) safety audit principles, with the audit scheduled to take place in October 2025.

Action Title: 1.2.1.1 Minor Richmond Library renewal works with business case for major redevelopment of the Library

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Coordinator Building Maintenance	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: Planning for the future of the Richmond Library is progressing well, with early investigations laying the groundwork for a potential major redevelopment. These efforts aim to ensure the library continues to meet the needs of our growing and diverse community.

So far, the following steps have been completed or are underway:

- Tree mapping around the site is complete, helping preserve local greenery.
- Planning and strategic advice has been received to guide future development.
- Traffic and library usage studies are being reviewed to ensure accessibility and relevance.
- Building condition and leasing assessments are underway to understand current limitations and opportunities.
- Engineering reports (electrical, structural, and geotechnical) are being finalised to inform safe and sustainable design.
- Feature survey of the site has been completed.

Officers are anticipating that by the end of quarter 2, redevelopment options will be understood and ready to be considered.

Action Title: 1.2.3.1 Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan for Yarra

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager Family, Youth and Children's Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	23%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: Officers are finalising the assessment of recently released data about kindergarten enrolments and the Australian Early Development Census, which will be included in the local context to ensure it contains up to date information. This will provide important insights to finalise the draft Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan. In addition, the predicted future kindergarten needs across the municipality have been captured in the final draft of Council's Community Infrastructure Plan.

Action Title: 1.2.4.1 Design and delivery of programs arising from the New Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager Equity and Community Development	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	27%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: Community feedback on the Draft Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan was invited from 11 July until 11 August, following presentation at the 8 July Council Meeting. An online survey hosted on the Your Say Yarra platform reached a broad audience, with the page attracting 417 views, 241 unique visitors and 23 responses. In addition, two in-person sessions generated 16 further pieces of feedback. In total, 40 pieces of feedback were received, which have all been reviewed and considered. A report detailing the consultation activities, summarising the feedback and noting how it has been addressed will be presented at the October Council Meeting, along with a final draft of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan for Council to consider. When the Plan has been endorsed, delivery of programs can commence.

2 Building the City

Action Title: 2.1.1.1 Progress New Deal for Cycling corridor projects

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Unit Manager Strategic Transport	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	15%	25.00%	 Red

Action Progress Comments:

Elizabeth Street Corridor Update:

Officers are in the process of developing concept plans for the Elizabeth Street cycling corridor in accordance with the resolution of Council. Once these are finalised they will be submitted to the State Government for approval. Construction is proposed for later this financial year.

Wellington Street Engagement:

Stage 2 Community engagement for the Wellington Street corridor began in September and will run through mid-October. This stage of consultation seeks feedback on options developed for the precinct. This second round of consultation builds on the feedback received from residents, businesses, and stakeholders who shared their views during the earlier stage 1 consultation.

Coppin Street Engagement:

Planning for community engagement on the Coppin Street corridor has commenced. Officers are working with our engagement team preparing to hear from the community soon in the new year and look forward to collaborating on improvements that support safer, more sustainable transport options.

Action Title: 2.1.2.1 Progress the preparation of a Kerbside and Parking Strategy

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Unit Manager Strategic Transport	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	15%	25.00%	 Red

Action Progress Comments: Work is progressing on the development of Yarra's Kerbside and Parking Strategy. The project scope has been defined, and a timeline for delivery has been established. To ensure the strategy aligns with broader Council priorities, a detailed log of related initiatives has also been prepared. A draft strategy is proposed to include community engagement with adoption by mid 2026.

Action Title: 2.1.3.1 Update the Transport Action Plan and implement

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Unit Manager Strategic Transport	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	20%	25.00%	 Amber

Action Progress Comments: Work is underway to refresh Yarra's Transport Action Plan. Initial internal engagement has been completed, and a revised draft is currently being prepared. Interviews with key stakeholders have helped shape the initial action list, and further refinements are now being made to ensure the plan reflects community needs and priorities. The revised draft TAP will be subject to community consultation. Following an assessment of community feedback and further liaison with Councillors on any proposed changes, a revised draft TAP for adoption will be presented at a future Council meeting.

Action Title: 2.2.1.1 Strategic Planning Agility: Implementing the State Government's housing target and activity centre program

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	23%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: We're currently working with the Victorian State Planning Department to identify suitable locations for future housing development in Yarra. While we're still waiting for the State Government's housing model - expected by the end of 2025 - Council has been actively collaborating to co-develop the scope of the project. This work will help ensure Yarra is well-prepared to meet future housing needs in a way that supports our community and aligns with broader planning goals.

Action Title: 2.2.4.1 Reactivate the Collingwood Town Hall precinct housing proposal

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager Property Services	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: Planning for new housing at the Collingwood Town Hall precinct is progressing well. All early-stage activities have been completed. Discussions with potential funding partners are underway, and due diligence is being carried out to ensure the project is viable and beneficial for the community.

A detailed project plan will be presented to Council in November 2025, after which the next steps and key milestones will be confirmed. This proposal represents an opportunity to revitalise the precinct and deliver housing that supports the needs of our local community.

Action Title: 2.3.3.1 Finalise the Community Infrastructure Plan

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: Following Council’s decision to proceed with consultation, community feedback on the draft Community Infrastructure Plan was gathered between 11 July and 11 August 2025. The final version of the Plan has now been prepared and is on track to be presented at the October Council meeting. This Plan reflects the input received and aims to support the future community infrastructure needs of our community.

Action Title: 2.3.4.1 Strategic rollout of electric vehicle charging stations across Yarra

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Unit Manager Sustainability	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	30%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: Development of Strategic Electric Vehicle (EV) charging report: Council has engaged a consultant to develop an Implementation Plan for EV Charging in Yarra. Internal consultation has been completed and an interim draft Report received.

Local Laws Update: The review of the Local Laws included consideration of supporting home-to-kerb EV charging, with the draft update providing flexibility for Council to potentially support this initiative in the future.

Development of initial list: Council has developed an initial list of potential sites in Yarra for pole mounted EV charging trial. There are still many factors to be able to further refine and confirm final sites, and this will not occur until after the Delivery Partner has been selected and engaged.

Action Title: 2.4.1.1 Continuation of the Brunswick Street Oval Project

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Coordinator Building Maintenance	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: Exciting progress is being made on the Brunswick Street Oval redevelopment, bringing us closer to the construction phase of this important community project. The upgrade will enhance sporting facilities, preserve heritage features, and improve public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

Progress includes:

- Heritage Victoria Permit: The public advertising phase is complete, and all required information has been submitted. Approval is expected by mid November.
- Department of Transport and Planning Permit Amendment: Additional internal consultation is underway, with final approval by DTP anticipated by late October.
- Substation Upgrade: On-site works are scheduled to be complete in December 2025, supporting future energy needs.
- Tree Removal: A contractor has been selected to carry out the works, which will begin once heritage consent is received.
- Sports Pavilion: Detailed design documentation is complete and under review, ensuring the new facilities meet community needs.
- Heritage Grandstand & Infrastructure: Plans for refurbishing the grandstand and upgrading sitewide infrastructure and landscaping are ready.
- Tennis Precinct: Designs for modernising and expanding the tennis courts and pavilion are complete, with tender and legal documents now being prepared.

This project represents a major investment in local recreation, heritage preservation, and community wellbeing. Council will be asked to award a contract in December 2025 with works to start on ground early in 2026.

Action Title: 2.4.1.1 New Open Space

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager City Works	Not Started	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	–	 Green


Action Progress Comments: While this action wasn't scheduled for formal reporting in the first quarter, work has already begun to explore opportunities for new open spaces in our neighbourhoods.

Through the Roads to Parks program, Council has completed community consultation for potential green spaces in Kent Street (Richmond), Budd Street (Collingwood), and Mater Street (Collingwood).

Feedback from residents will help guide Council's decision on how these areas can be transformed into welcoming, accessible public spaces. In addition, Council has acquired a property on Mater Street that will be converted into open space for the local community. This new green area may complement the broader Roads to Parks initiative in the same location, depending on Council's final decision. Further work has been completed on new open space in View St Alphington and new urban realm open space in Bridge Rd Richmond. Advocacy efforts with the State Government continues as Council attempts to acquire other State-owned land across the city.

These efforts reflect our commitment to creating more open space for people to enjoy and connect.

Action Title: 2.4.1.2 Deliver Capital Works Projects

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Coordinator Building Maintenance	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	–	 Green

Action Progress Comments: While this action wasn't scheduled for formal reporting in the first quarter, the annual capital works program is off to a strong start. Many projects are already underway, with some nearing completion. Significant progress has been made on drainage and stormwater projects, pedestrian crossings and footpath projects, roadworks, playgrounds and other open space projects. Larger initiatives are currently being scoped and will begin in earnest during the second quarter. These works aim to improve public infrastructure and community facilities across the municipality.

3 Working and Playing in the City

Action Title: 3.1.2.1 Activate our local economy by working with local trader group and associations

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	30%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: We've reviewed data across Yarra's retail precincts and have begun working directly with local businesses and trader groups. This engagement is focused on promoting, marketing, and activating these precincts to support a vibrant local economy.

The one-hour free parking pilot program is being actively promoted to businesses, residents, and the wider community. We're also collecting data on parking usage and local spending in the pilot areas, and comparing it with other precincts in Yarra to better understand the program's impact and inform future improvements.

Action Title: 3.2.2.1 Implement planning service review outcomes

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: In response to community feedback and the Review, our Strategic Planning website pages have been updated to make them more user-friendly. This work has included improvements to how we manage documents at various stages of the planning scheme amendment exhibition process. We have also made more background documents available on our website.

A review of the processes for streamlining Business Permits has commenced. Discussion with Business permit applicants is assisting in developing ways to improve Council processes. A presentation on forthcoming improvements is proposed with the Business Advisory Committee scheduled for October.

Action Title: 3.2.3.1 New Economic Development Strategy

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	23%	25.00%	● Green

Action Progress Comments: The Background Report has been completed, and the first phase of community consultation is now finished. We've also begun engaging with key stakeholders to gather further insights. Together, these contributions will help shape the draft Economic Development Strategy to reflect the needs and aspirations of our community.

Action Title: 3.2.3.2 Urban Renewal Strategy for Victoria Street

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: A range of public realm works are being planned for delivery across the year. In this quarter, weekly graffiti removal from shop windows and Council assets commenced; and the garden beds of William, Lithgow, Albert Streets and Butler Park were renewed.

External expertise has been engaged to undertake expert analysis to inform a draft Revitalisation Plan. The process to recruit a Community Reference Group for the Revitalisation Plan commenced at the end of September 2025, and this group will be critical for providing feedback and input into the Revitalisation Plan.

A new webpage for the Victoria Street Revitalisation project has been created for updates to be provided on projects and will promote local events run by the Victoria Street Business Association, such as the Moon Lantern and Lunar Festivals. All relevant communications are being translated into Vietnamese to ensure maximum reach, with Council officers actively engaging with the local community and traders.

4 Running the City

Action Title: 4.1.1.1 Implement recommendations from the Financial Sustainability Strategy

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Chief Financial Officer	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	29%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: The Financial Sustainability Strategy (FSS) has been implemented and continues to guide Council's decision making and enable Council to transparently, proactively and prudently plan to be financially sustainable. A borrowings policy is a key action of this plan, providing clear guiderails for borrowing within a sound financial management framework. The Borrowings Policy has been drafted and is scheduled for adoption at the October 2025 Council Meeting. A fulsome review the FSS is also being undertaken to take into account actions already delivered, actions that may no longer be relevant, and any emerging risks or challenges that require new actions.

Action Title: 4.1.2.1 Local Law Review

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager Compliance and Parking	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	44%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: Stage 1 of the Local Law Review is now complete. We've gathered valuable feedback from the community and prepared a detailed engagement report. This input is helping shape the draft Local Law and associated policies, which will be shared during Stage 2 engagement. We look forward to continuing this collaborative process with our community.

Action Title: 4.1.3.1 Develop the Benefits Management Framework

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Business Transformation Lead	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	40%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: Extensive key stakeholder engagement has taken place to identify users and other stakeholders of the Benefits Management Framework, benchmarking with other levels of Government to determine best practice and commencing activities to further co-develop the Framework for adoption and implementation.

Action Title: 4.2.1.1 Development of a Waste and Recycling Strategy

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager City Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	27%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: There has been much progress developing the new Waste and Recycling Strategy. The final draft of the engagement plan and questions have been prepared and are ready to go. Community engagement will commence in October 2025 through to early December 2025 where the community will have its chance to have a say on the future of waste and recycling services in the city.

Action Title: 4.3.1.1 Implement the Yana Ngargna Policy and increase and strengthen partnerships with Aboriginal Controlled organisations

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager Equity and Community Development	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	20%	25.00%	 Amber

Action Progress Comments: The foundational work to activate the Aboriginal Service Providers (Marnelong) Network has been done – the Terms of Reference have been drafted and stakeholders identified and approached to gauge interest in participation. Once the new Yana Ngargna Community Advisory Committee has been convened (first meeting scheduled for late October 2025), input will be sought on the Marnelong reporting framework, following which the first Marnelong Network meeting will be convened. This will occur in the second quarter.


Together, the Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee and the Marnelong Network will provide further guidance to progress work towards the Closing the Gap targets. The endorsement of the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan in October will also support this work through the First Peoples’ Health and Wellbeing Priority. Council continues to work closely with Ngaweeyan Maar-oo, the Victorian partnership forum, to identify service gaps and strengthen contact points.

Action Title: 4.5.1.1 Commence implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning technology system

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Chief Information Officer	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	33%	25.00%	 Green

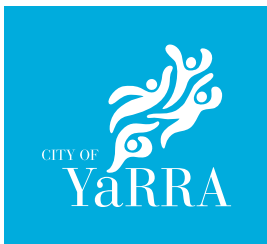
Action Progress Comments: Council has invested in a major upgrade to our Information Technology systems through the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project. An ERP solution will help Council deliver faster, more responsive services, making it easier for customers and the community to engage and access what they need. The tendering phase for the ERP technology solution and implementation partner has been completed. The ERP program is currently in a 13-week discovery phase, scoping the new system and processes for a three-year program focussed on streamlining the customer experience.

Action Title: 4.5.1.1 Improve Customer Experience

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	% Complete	Target	On Target %
Manager Customer Experience	In Progress	01-Jul-2025	30-Jun-2026	25%	25.00%	 Green

Action Progress Comments: A new 2025 Voice of Customer (VoC) Pulse survey was conducted to establish a baseline for customer experience (CX) performance across Yarra City Council services. The survey provided insights into customer interactions across the full-service journey - from initial contact with front-line staff through to resolution within relevant departments.

As a result of the survey, over 25 VoC-driven initiatives are underway, addressing key customer pain points through a whole-of-organisation, co-designed approach. These initiatives span digital experience, culture, and capability, and are tracked with clear success measures. Focus areas over the coming 12 months include AI-powered CX transformation, real-time feedback monitoring, and service design improvements that will meaningfully improve customer outcomes and operational efficiency.



Yarra City Council

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Customer service centres

Richmond Town Hall
333 Bridge Road, Richmond

Collingwood Town Hall
140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford