Quarterly Community Report

Quarter 1
2026/27

CITY OF YARRA



1

Wominjeka

We acknowledge Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung People and their ongoing connection to the land, water, and sky Country. We pay our respects to Elders past and present for their continued care of Culture and Country.

Source: Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Whole of Country Plan 2025–2035 (2025), opening acknowledgement.

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CEO Message

This first quarterly report for 2026/27 shows strong early progress against the 2025–29 *Council Plan*. To the end of September, 92 per cent of the 2026/27 Council Plan Action Plan initiatives were on track, exceeding the 75 per cent target. This reflects the efforts of our staff to focus strongly on the strategic priorities of our community.

The quarter one financial result also demonstrates continued prudent management and delivery of the 2026/27 Annual Budget in line with the *Financial Sustainability Strategy*.

Council's financial result at 30 September 2026 was $10.9 million better than budget. This reflects an unbudgeted $3.1 million contribution for open space, the timing of grants for services and infrastructure, and lower depreciation costs.

Our 2025/26 asset revaluation found that some Council assets are expected to last longer than previously estimated. Spreading their cost over a longer period reduced depreciation by $2.1 million. This improves our reported financial result but does not create additional cash to spend.

Behind this result are practical improvements to our streets and footpaths, upgrading local sporting facilities, supporting volunteers, creating opportunities for local artists and helping businesses operate and grow.

Our volunteers strengthen the community. Over the past year, around fifty volunteers supported older people, people with disability, young people and residents building digital skills, while others contributed through libraries, community gardens and tree planting. Council also offered free workshops to help community organisations build skills and connections. These contributions benefit the whole community.

We are investing in safer, more accessible community spaces. Upgrades at Brunswick Street Oval Precinct include tennis courts, club facilities and a new sports pavilion, while the completed Brockenshire Street reconstruction improved footpaths, roads and pedestrian facilities.

Yarra's cultural life brings people together and supports local artists. This winter's Leaps and Bounds Music Festival attracted more than 6,500 people across 29 venues and directly employed more than 100 artists, with free, all-ages and diverse programming. Library exhibitions also gave local artists opportunities to share their work.

We continue to improve how we deliver services and care for public spaces. We are reporting openly on our performance and finances because residents should be able to see what Council is doing, how we are progressing and where further work is needed.

I thank our staff for their work throughout the quarter, and extend my appreciation to the volunteers, community organisations, local businesses, artists and residents who contribute so much to Yarra. Your time, ideas, and involvement make a difference.

Regards,

Sue Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer,
Yarra City Council



Sue Wilkinson, Chief Executive Officer, Yarra City Council

Delivering the 2025–29 Council Plan

Council adopted the 2025–29 *Council Plan* (Council Plan) on 17 June 2025. The Council Plan has four Strategic Objectives that align with the 2036 Community Vision and define the strategic direction of Council.

2026/27 Action Plan

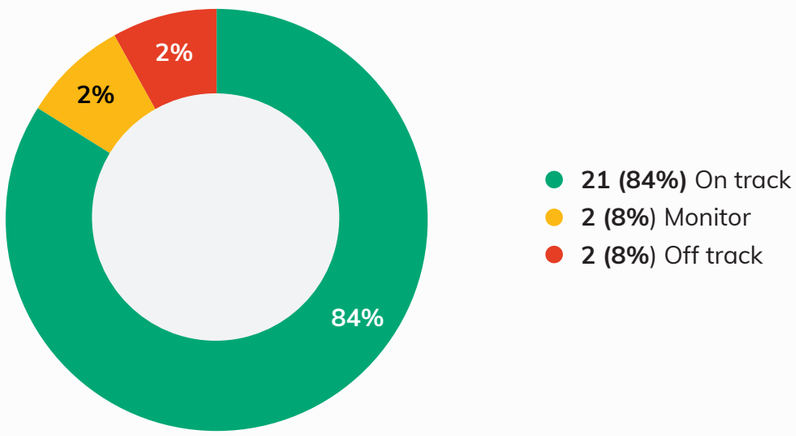
Council adopted the *2026/27 Council Plan Action Plan* and *2026/27 Budget* on 16 June 2026. Together, the *Action Plan* and *Budget* put the *Council Plan* into action by translating its medium-term goals into funded, achievable work for the year.

The *2026/27 Council Plan Action Plan* identifies significant projects and initiatives (actions) under each Strategic Objective. There are 25 actions and related milestones to measure progress, demonstrating Council's commitment to delivering meaningful outcomes for the community.

At the end of September 2026, overall performance was 92%, exceeding the target of 75%. An action is considered on target when it has achieved at least 75% of its planned progress for the reporting period. All 25 actions commenced in the first quarter of the financial year.

Action Plan summary by performance - Quarter 1 2026/27

- **21 Actions (84%) On track** - At least 90% of target achieved
- **2 Actions (8%) Monitor** - Between 75% and 90% of target achieved
- **2 Action (8%) Off track** - Less than 75% of target achieved.



Quarter 1 Report

1

Strategic objective 1: Living in the City

Annual Volunteering Update

Council's Volunteer Policy, endorsed in 2024, articulates the value of volunteering to our community and explains how Council supports its volunteers and the local organisations that rely on volunteers to deliver essential services and programs. Over the past 12 months, significant progress has been made to implement the policy to encourage and promote community participation. Council has created numerous opportunities for community members to volunteer, recognising their unique skills, strengths, experiences, and passion for Yarra.

Over the past year, approximately 50 volunteers have registered to collaborate with paid staff, adding value to the delivery of various programs and services. These include social support through the Thread Together Store; digital literacy through Learning Bank's Digital Help service; aged and disability support through the Companion Animal Support program; intergenerational programs through Seniors and Sprouts; and Future Pathways programs.

Yarra Libraries developed additional volunteering opportunities through the Street Library program and Carlton Library Community Garden. Community members continued to support the Council-led National Tree Planting Day activity in July 2026.

Residents have utilised Council's varied promotional resources, such as a dedicated "Volunteering in Yarra" webpage, e-newsletters, an online noticeboard, social media posts, printed materials, and community engagement activities to connect with and participate in community life through volunteering.

The Yarra Volunteer Leaders Network has provided ongoing support to foster partnerships across organisations.

Council hosted 12 free capacity-building workshops, attended by 200 participants, on topics including finances, governance, inclusion, grant writing, project management, and more. We also created links between residents wanting to volunteer and agencies needing volunteers, such as Yarra's Neighbourhood Houses. We encouraged pathways to employment through volunteering with community information sessions facilitated by Volunteering Victoria.

During National Volunteer Week in May 2026, Council hosted a morning tea where volunteers received certificates of appreciation.

In November 2025, volunteer program managers were acknowledged at a special networking event for International Volunteer Manager's Day. Council profiled various volunteers and programs throughout the year through marketing campaigns.

As part of this annual update on volunteering, the Yarra Community Awards in November 2025 celebrated outstanding volunteers, with 84 nominations received. Throughout the year, Council continued to advocate for the value of volunteering through State and National engagement opportunities.

Council Plan Action Plan 2026/27 Progress Quarter 1

- **On track** At least 90% of action target achieved
- **Monitor** Between 75% and 90% of action target achieved
- **Off track** Less than 75% of action target achieved
- – No target set

1 Living in the city

Action Title: 1.2.4.2 Implement the 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-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
The Community Food Guide webpage went live on 24 September 2026, with a tested, embedded interactive map helping residents find local affordable food, food relief, community meals and community growing opportunities. This builds on the mapping of local food options undertaken in 2025/26.

Communications and distribution planning also progressed, with Quarter 2 activities scheduled to promote practical use through stakeholder emails, Council communications and printed guides distributed to neighbourhood houses, libraries, leisure centres and community health services. Feedback from staff, service providers and advisory groups will inform evaluation and further refinement.

Action Title: 1.1.2.1 Implementation of the Climate Emergency Plan - Year 3

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Sustainability Unit Manager	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
In 2026/27, the Yarra Home Energy Upgrade (YHEU) program will focus on residents living in community housing. Small-scale energy upgrades will be co-funded by Council and community housing organisations on a 50:50 basis. Housing providers will manage the installations onsite and once selected will begin to identify and select eligible tenants to receive upgrades. The procurement process is underway and expected to be completed in October 2026.

Council has provided significant promotions and engagement to support the awareness and usage of the pole-mounted EV chargers across various platforms. Since installation the usage of these sites has been consistently high and growing each week, as shown through data of both sessions and energy consumption. Additionally, community feedback received has been very positive.

Development of the Nature in the Neighbourhood program is underway, bringing together and promoting Council's nature-focused initiatives under a shared framework that supports community-led urban greening, biodiversity enhancement and connection with nature. This includes the development of a dedicated program identity, webpage, shared messaging, outcomes and evaluation measures to create a clear pathway for community participation and environmental stewardship.

Action Title: 1.1.3.2 Community Safety Audits

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Equity and Community Development	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
During Quarter 1, learnings from the 2025/26 Fitzroy Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audit informed the design of a repeatable, predominantly Council officer-led methodology, to be tested through the Collingwood community safety audit. The methodology establishes stages for site selection, baseline analysis, community engagement, assessment, prioritised action planning, implementation and evaluation. It combines physical design considerations with social connection, inclusion and community use of public spaces.

Council-wide training for relevant subject matter experts was delivered to build internal assessment capability. Planning and design for the Collingwood pilot were completed, and community consultation commenced on 14 September 2026. Quarter 2 will focus on testing the methodology through further engagement, October safety walks and completion of the assessment and action plan. Findings from the pilot will inform refinement of the methodology for future audits.

Action Title: 1.1.1.1 Implement the Graffiti Management Framework Action Plan

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager City Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

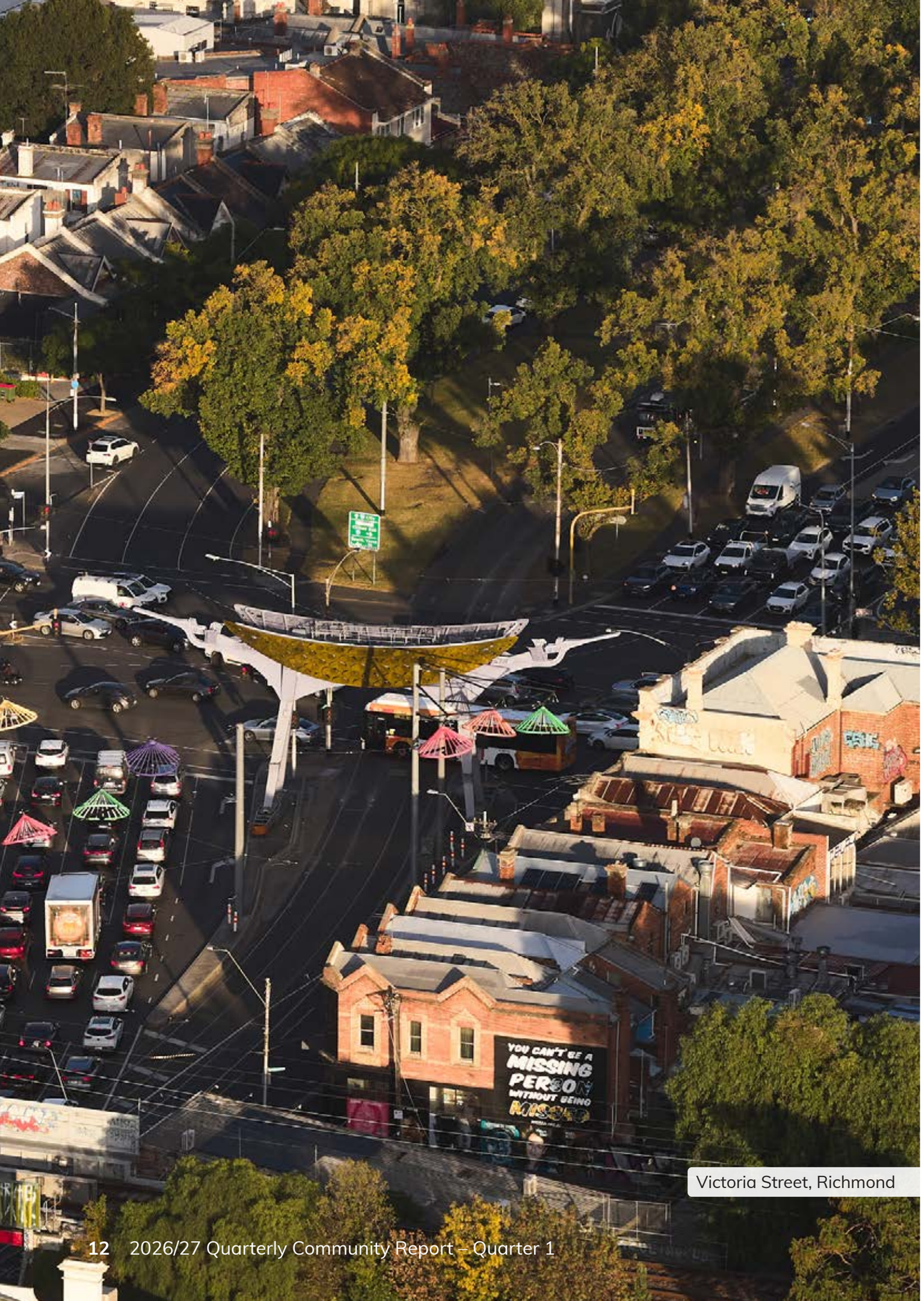
Action Progress Comments:
Council continued to work with stakeholders to identify and respond to graffiti in hotspots and high-prominence locations across the municipality. During Quarter 1, Council and its contractors completed 1,275 proactive graffiti and bill poster removal jobs in retail precincts and gateway locations, removing 6,669 square metres of graffiti. A further 4,101 square metres was removed at the request of property owners in areas outside main streets and shopping villages. All requests were completed within the service level agreement.

To support community-led graffiti management, Council issued 51 graffiti removal kits and 16 paint vouchers to residents to assist with the removal of graffiti from private property. Council will continue the regular maintenance of high-profile locations and provide assistance to residents where graffiti is adjacent to footpaths.

Council also continues to share graffiti activity reports with Victoria Police to support targeted enforcement and resource allocation. In addition, Council actively participate in the M9 Graffiti Management Forum, working collaboratively with neighbouring councils to coordinate graffiti prevention and removal initiatives across municipal boundaries.



Fairfield Park Drive



Victoria Street, Richmond

Strategic objective 2: Building the City

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Car Share

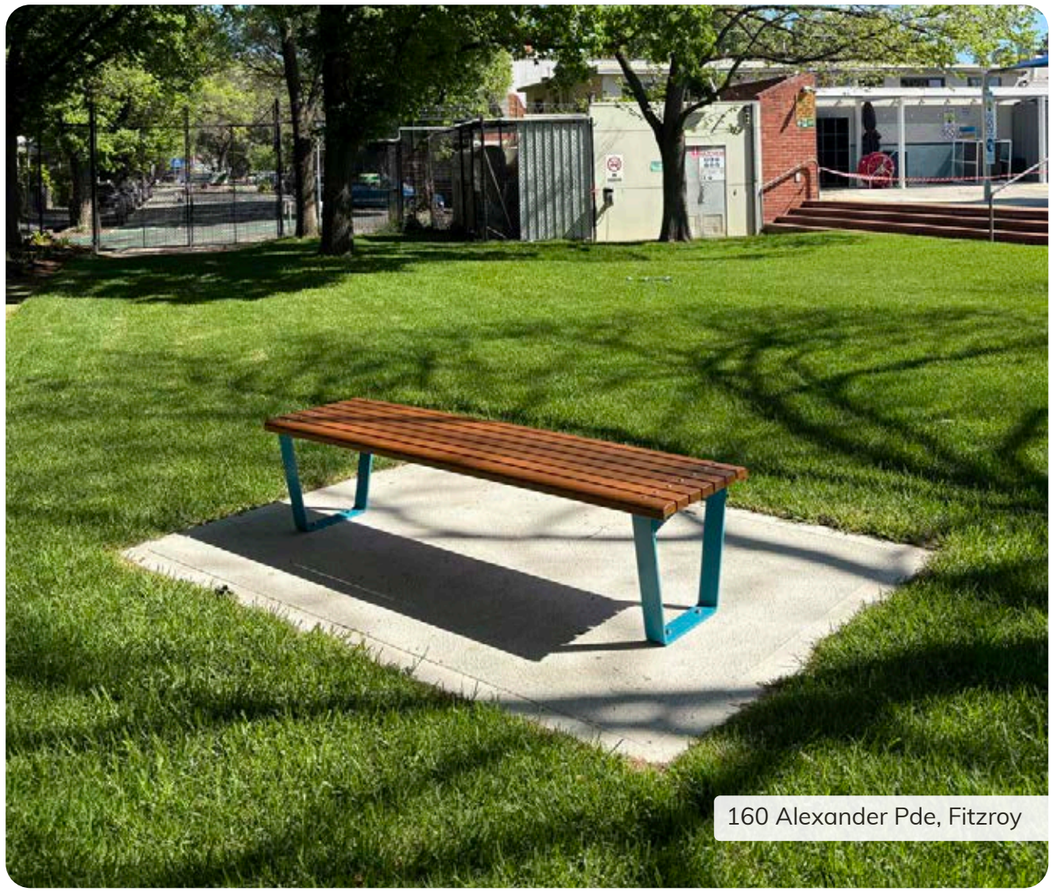
Yarra currently has 182 active car share bays across the municipality, down from 183 in Quarter 4 of 2025/26.

Top five locations
Richmond
Princes Hill
Clifton Hill
Collingwood
Abbotsford

The car share network remains concentrated in the above five suburbs reflecting areas with strong demand for shared mobility and lower levels of private vehicle ownership.

Council continues to manage renewals, relocations and operator transfers as required. Several bays have changed operators over the reporting period, reflecting ongoing consolidation and changes within the car share market. Operators are able to submit renewal applications prior to permit expiry.

Popcar has advised Council that it will cease trading on 30 September 2026 and will fully withdraw from Yarra. The 17 bays occupied by Popcar have been offered to existing car share providers for operation. This provides an opportunity to maintain car share availability within these locations while supporting continued competition and service provision across the municipality.



160 Alexander Pde, Fitzroy

Capital Works

In 2026/27 Council is investing $43.66m through its Capital Works Program. This includes $3.27m of projects carried over from the previous financial year (2025/26).

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; and
- addressing our community's current and future needs.

Overall performance

The program is progressing as planned with measures in place to manage any risks which may emerge. A total of $4.54m (10%) of the adopted capital works budget was spent in Quarter 1.

Project Status	Year-To-Date totals (Q1)
Completed	8
Underway	164

More details about each category of capital works are provided below.

Infrastructure (including Open Spaces, Transport, and Stormwater)

This category includes:

- 24 open space infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing open spaces and streetscapes, including playgrounds, landscaping, park asset renewals, and streetscape upgrades;
- 50 roads and cycling projects aimed at upgrading and resurfacing Council's road infrastructure and enhancing cycling and pedestrian safety, along with safety improvements to maintain a safe and reliable network;
- 24 projects focused on mitigating flooding risks, enhancing stormwater management, and upgrading aging drainage infrastructure; and
- Eight minor upgrade projects.

At the end of Quarter 1, expenditure on the infrastructure category was $2.79m, representing 12% of the adopted budget for this category.

A list of seven infrastructure projects that have been completed this quarter are provided here:

Completed Open Space Projects
Park upgrade works - Barkly Gardens
Fairfield Park playground upgrade - construction
Golden Square Reserve Burnley playground and garden bed and tree plantings - construction

Completed Roads Projects
Road, footpath and kerb and channel renewal works - Brockenshire Street, Clifton Hill
Footpath and kerb and channel works - Forest Street, Collingwood
Footpath works - Ballarat Street, Collingwood

Completed Stormwater Projects
Drainage renewal project - Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Plant and Equipment

This category involves plant, machinery, and equipment renewals, along with the purchase of library books, computers, and telecommunications. The 11 projects in this category are in progress with a year-to-date expenditure of $0.62m (38% of the adopted budget in this category).

Property (including Land and Buildings)

This category, covering planned renewals, upgrades, and refurbishments across Council-owned buildings and facilities, includes 32 projects allocated funding in 2026/27. Year-to-date expenditure is $1.14m, representing 6% of the adopted budget for renewing and upgrading these assets. The one project in this category that was completed this quarter is shown below.

Completed Building projects
Air conditioning for Richmond Recreation Centre

Quarter 1 Budget 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 Quarter 1 was $502,000 net increase to the 2026/27 capital works program.

The following were the major budget adjustments in Quarter 1:

- Fairfield Park Playspace upgrade – $91,500 was allocated for the final invoice to install playground equipment (which was largely completed in 25/26 but delayed due to overseas supplied items).
- John Street Kindergarten Improvements – $500,000 (fully grant funded) was allocated for accessibility upgrades, including wider doors, flatter paths, a pram crossover, a new pergola, an improved accessible entry and an enclosed playroom.
- Richmond Multicultural Children's Centre Improvements – $500,000 (fully grant funded) was allocated to address accessibility issues throughout the building that impact the successful operation of the service. These works include modification of doorways, bathrooms, lighting, heating and cooling, wall and floor treatments and the main entrance.
- Yarraberg Children's Centre roof and bathroom upgrades – $42,000 (grant funding) was allocated for the replacement of pergola roof and blinds, and children's toilet cubicle doors.
- Golden Square Reserve Burnley playground and garden bed and tree plantings - Construction – An additional $65,000 was allocated for the final invoice to install playground equipment (overseas supplied equipment was delayed).
- Road, footpath and kerb and channel renewal works - Brockenshire Street, Clifton Hill – A reduction of budget by $180,000 given the project was part delivered (and paid for) in 2025/26
- Victoria Street Revitalisation - Butler Park – $100,000 was allocated for CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) assessments and improvements on Butler Park.
- Footpath works – Smith Street, Collingwood – Change in scope to include road pavement and kerb and channel works (no change to budget).
- Office space improvements – $60,000 budget allocated to design works for office improvements at Richmond Town Hall and Clifton Hill depot.
- Road Safety – Blackspot – Wellington and Langridge Street stage two – $357,000 allocated this financial year to complete stage two construction.
- Air conditioning at Richmond Recreation Centre – $50,000 for the final invoices to complete installation of the HVAC unit at Richmond Recreation Centre (overseas procured items were delayed).

Feature Projects

Pavilions - Brunswick St Oval Project

The Brunswick Street Oval Precinct (BSOP) upgrade continues to progress, with key construction and enabling works advancing across the eight work packages.

The tennis court modernisation works commenced on site in June 2026, with construction of the five synthetic courts expected to be completed during November 2026, and the en tout cas (clay based) courts completed during December 2026. The final handover of the courts to Council is anticipated during January 2027, with the project delivering two brand-new courts, improved accessibility, and a full renovation of the six existing courts to bring them up to modern standards.

The tennis pavilion and clubhouse relocation works are progressing, with early works now underway. Early works include demolition of the existing amenities building and preparation works for the relocation of the existing clubhouse which will form part of the new pavilion. The main tennis pavilion works are scheduled to commence following completion of the tennis court works in December 2026/January 2027. The work will support improved amenities for participants and better integration with the broader precinct upgrades.

The new two-storey sports pavilion project is progressing through the tender process, with contract award anticipated in the next quarter (November 2026), subject to Council approval. Following award, design development will commence, with early works packages to be progressed in parallel to facilitate an efficient commencement on site. Overall project completion is anticipated in early 2028.

The redevelopment of BSOP is a major construction project for the Fitzroy North community. The staged approach allows community facilities to remain operational where possible while enabling efficient delivery of upgraded sporting and recreation infrastructure across the precinct and adjoining public realm area.

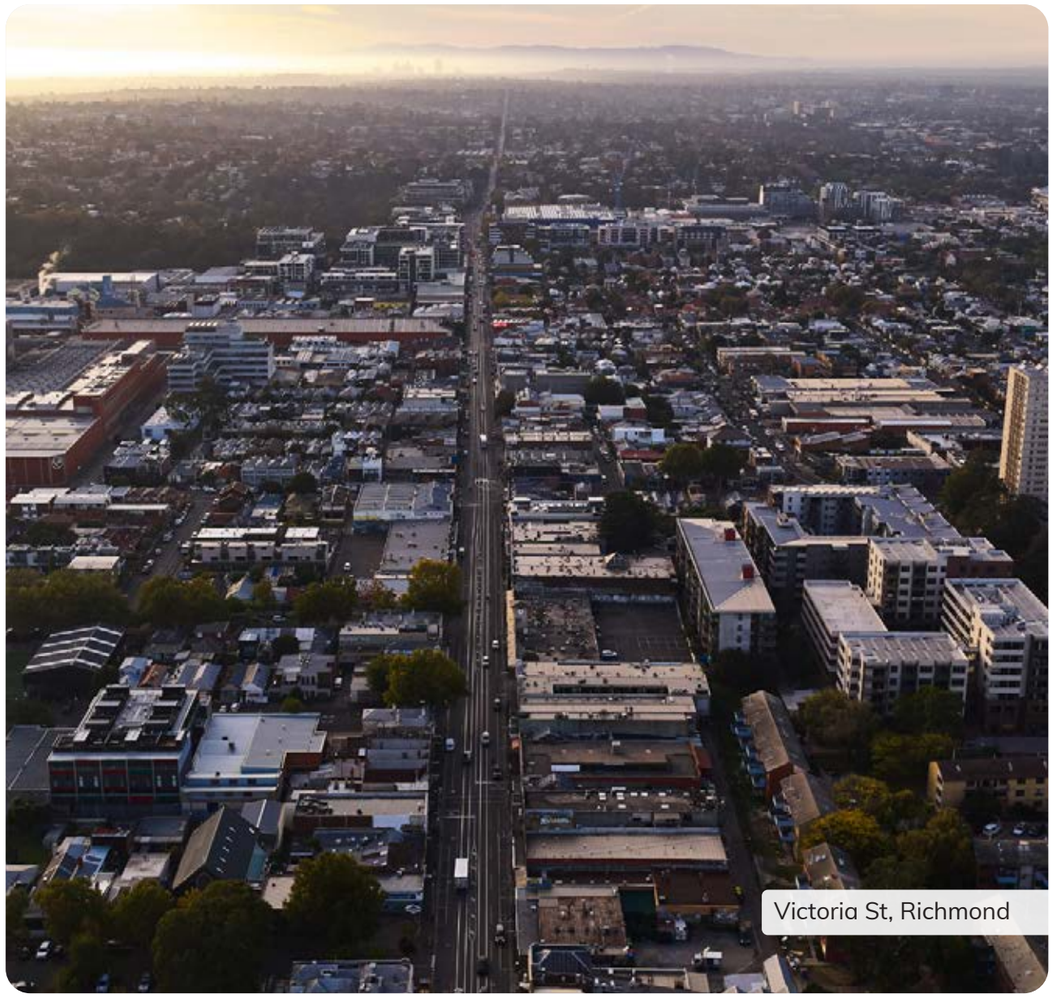


Brunswick Street Oval Redevelopment

Road, footpath and kerb and channel renewal works - Brockenshire Street, Clifton Hill

Brockenshire Street reconstruction project from Ramsden Street to its cul-de-sac end, Clifton Hill is in Council's 2026/27 Capital Works Program for road assets renewal works. A detailed design was undertaken to improve the footpath cross fall, standardize bluestone kerb and channel and to formalise vehicle crossing to heritage standard.

Project scope involved asphalt footpath strip and re-sheet works, bluestone kerb and channel reconstruction works, pedestrian crossing improvement works, tree squares improvement works, road pavement resurfacing works, line markings and pits/valves reinstatement works. The project finished in August 2026.



Victoria St, Richmond

Planning Scheme Amendments

City wide

Amendment C331 seeks to introduce live music precincts in Yarra is waiting on authorisation from the Minister for Planning; Yarra will then publicly exhibit. Officers have conveyed the importance of this amendment, with a view to enable exhibition as soon as possible.

C334 seeks to reduce local planning permit triggers to support local businesses and introduce solar panel exemptions subject to conditions has received authorisation from the Minister for Planning and is scheduled to commence community consultation and exhibition in October 2027.

C335 seeks to address a number of administrative errors and undertake fix ups in the planning scheme and is awaiting approval from the Minister for Planning.

Officers have continued discussions with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) and have provided planning permit evidence and an independent review of the State's Housing Capacity Assessment Platform to demonstrate that Yarra's planning scheme can meet the State's Housing Target. Officers will continue advocating for changes to the modelling proposed by the State.

The Minister for Planning requires councils to submit a planning scheme review report by the end of October 2026. Officers have undertaken this review and the report will be presented to Council at the October 2026 Planning Decisions Committee.

Local areas

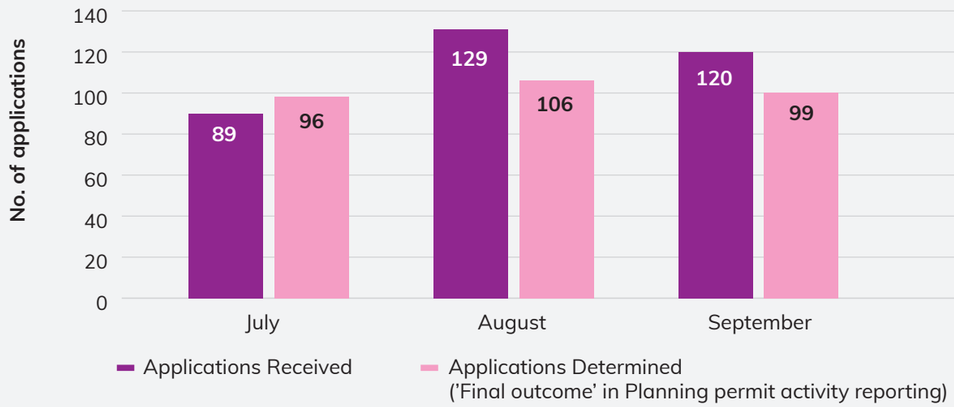
On 30 July 2026, the amendments to introduce local built form provisions for the activity centres of Fitzroy, Collingwood, Bridge Road, Victoria Street and Heidelberg Road were approved and gazetted by the Minister for Planning.

C318 Cremorne built form controls was considered by Council on 14 July 2026 and submitted to the Minister for Planning with a request to refer it to the Standing Advisory Committee for a public hearing. A referral has not been confirmed by the Minister yet. The partner piece to this amendment is the Urban Design Framework, and this was considered by the Planning Decisions Committee on 22 September 2026. This has also been referred to the Minister for Planning to inform the C318 hearing process.

Statutory Planning Activity

During Quarter 1, Council received 320 applications and determined 314 (some of these were lodged in previous periods).

Planning Applications Received and Determined Quarter 1



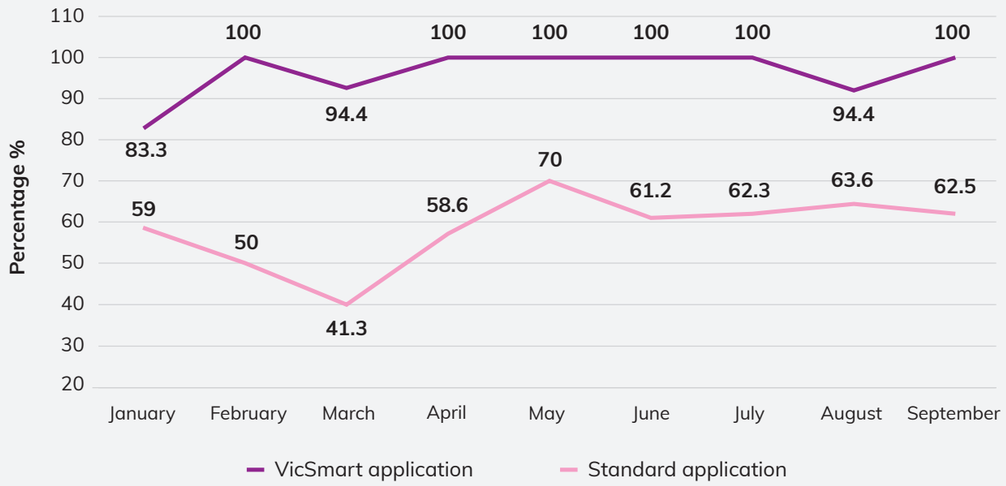
Timeframes

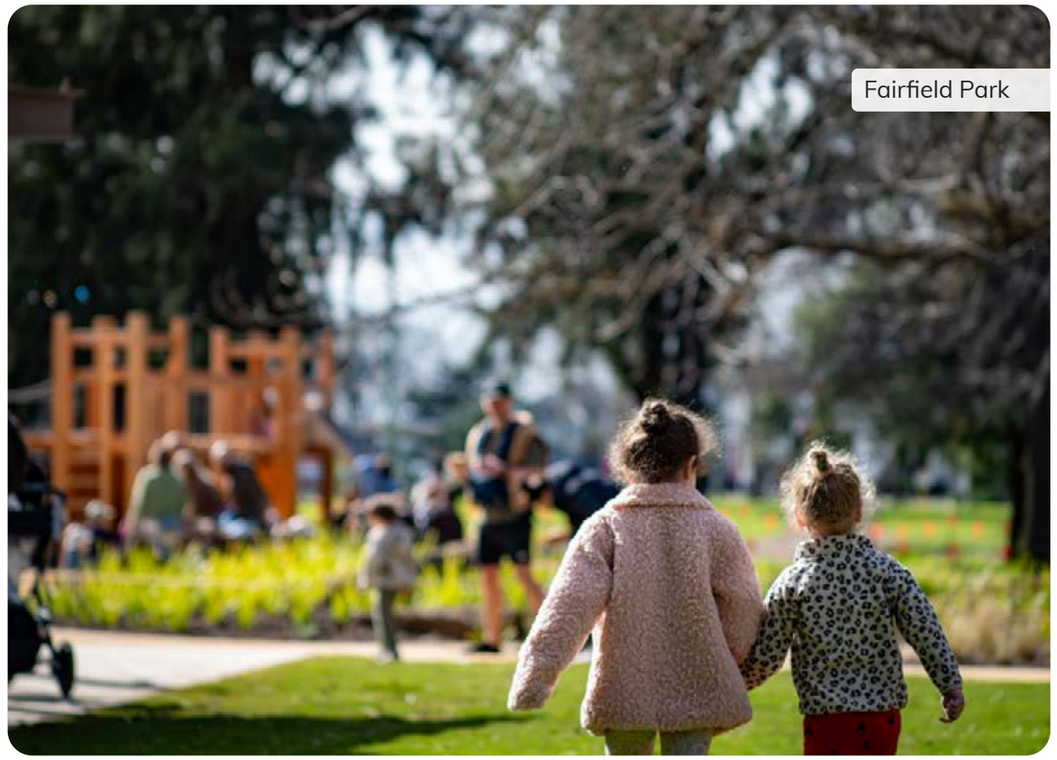
Council has two types of applications:

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

During Quarter 1, Council determined 63% of its Standard applications within the 60-day timeframe and 97.5% of its VicSmart applications within the 10 business day timeframe. The table below shows monthly decision timeframes for 2026 to date:

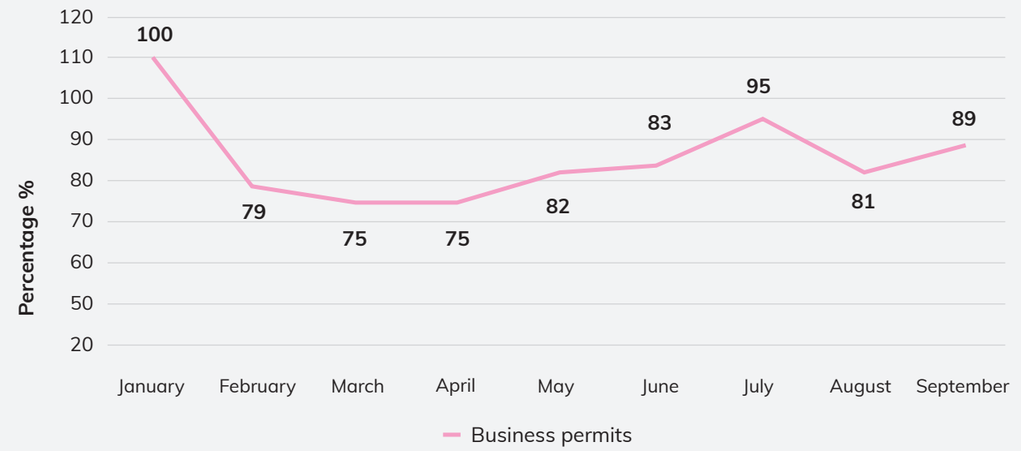
Percentage of decisions made in Statutory timeframe 2026




Fairfield Park

Council has a dedicated service for business-related permits that works with businesses to improve timeframes for the issuing of planning permits for businesses. The table below shows the results for 2026 to date. On average, 84% of business-related permits were decided within the 60-day statutory timeframe.

Percentage of Business-related permits within timeframe 2026





Yarra Leisure Sauna

Statutory Planning – expired permits

Council continues to report on the number of extensions granted to existing planning permits, as well as on 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 52 extensions to planning permits (672 new dwellings were approved under the permits extended).

Statutory Planning - Social & Affordable Housing Approved

In Quarter 1, 323 new dwellings were approved by Council. None of these were social or affordable housing.

In Quarter 1, the Department of Transport and Planning approved a total of 1,481 new dwellings within the City of Yarra.

The permits issued require a contribution of 10% affordable dwellings (unless an alternative contribution is proposed and accepted by the Minister for Planning). The table below outlines what affordable housing contribution was outlined in the application documentation.

Planning application and address	Total number of dwellings approved	Total number of social and affordable housing proposed
PPE26/0327 - 79-81 Victoria Parade, Collingwood	478	3% monetary contribution
PPE26/0203 - 39-47 Lithgow Street, Collingwood	151	10% of dwellings (15)
PPE26/0465 - 81-95 Burnley Street and 26-34 Doonside Street, Richmond	687	Not specified
PPE26/0216 - 188-202 Swan Street, Cremorne	165	3% monetary contribution

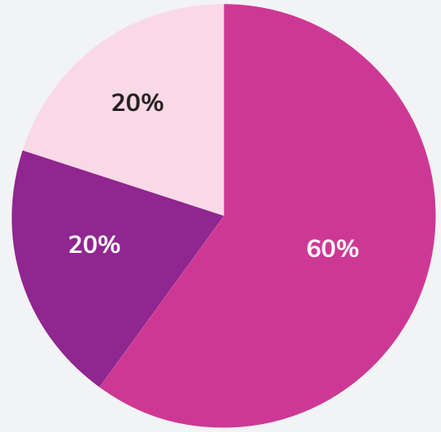
Statutory Planning – VCAT activity

Type of application to VCAT in Quarter 1 of 2026/27

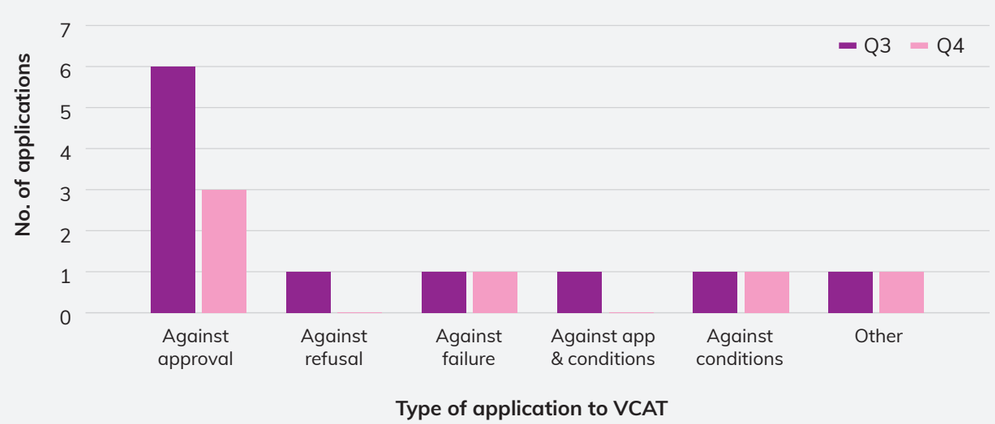
There were five applications that were referred to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) in the first quarter of 2026/27, six less applications than the fourth quarter of 2025/26.

- Against approval
- Against other
- Against failure

Total number of applications reviewed to VCAT: 5



Comparison of applications lodged with VCAT in Quarter 1 of 2026/27 and Quarter 4 of 2025/26

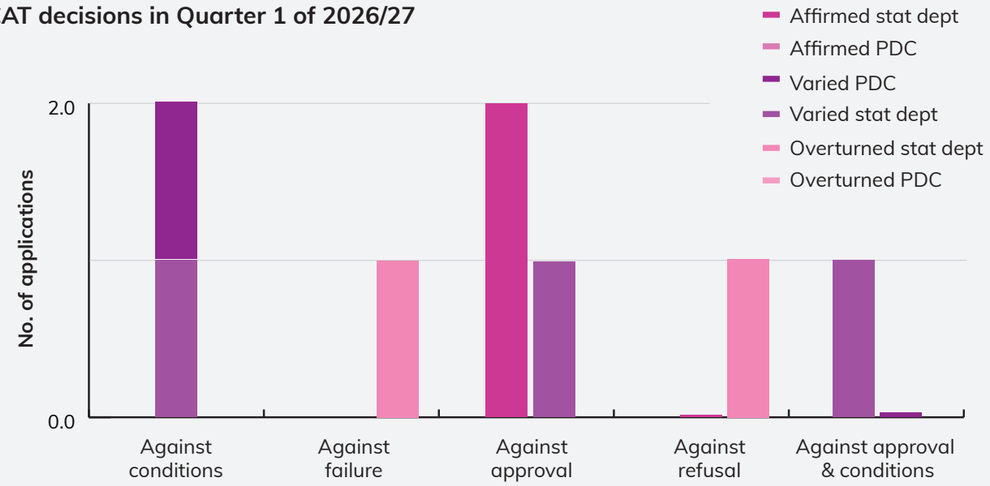


When comparing the type of applications reviewed with VCAT in Quarter 1 2026/27 with the previous quarter, there were:

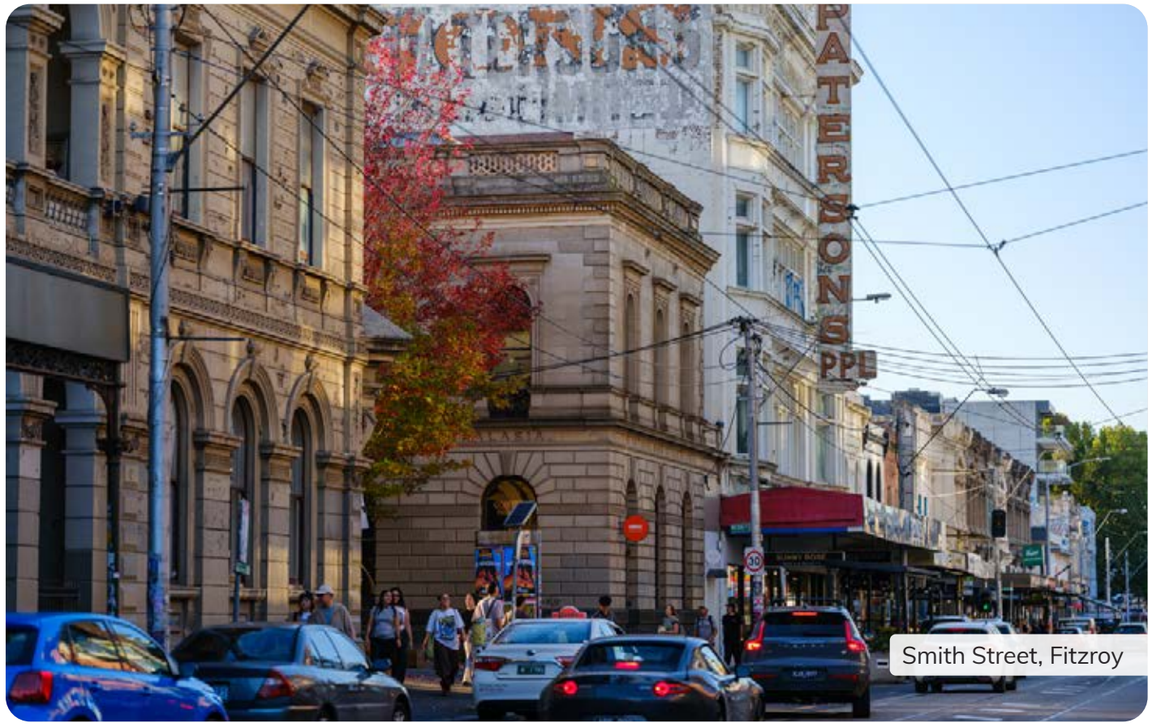
- 3 less applications ‘against approval’
- 1 less application ‘against refusal’
- the same number of applications ‘against failure’
- 1 less application ‘against approval and conditions’;
- 1 less application ‘against conditions’
- the same number of applications ‘Other’.

The graph below shows the type of applications determined by VCAT in the first quarter of 2026/27 and whether Council's decision was affirmed, varied or overturned. A total of eight decisions were made by the Tribunal, plus two applications were withdrawn.

VCAT decisions in Quarter 1 of 2026/27



Type of application to VCAT - Total number of VCAT decisions: eight



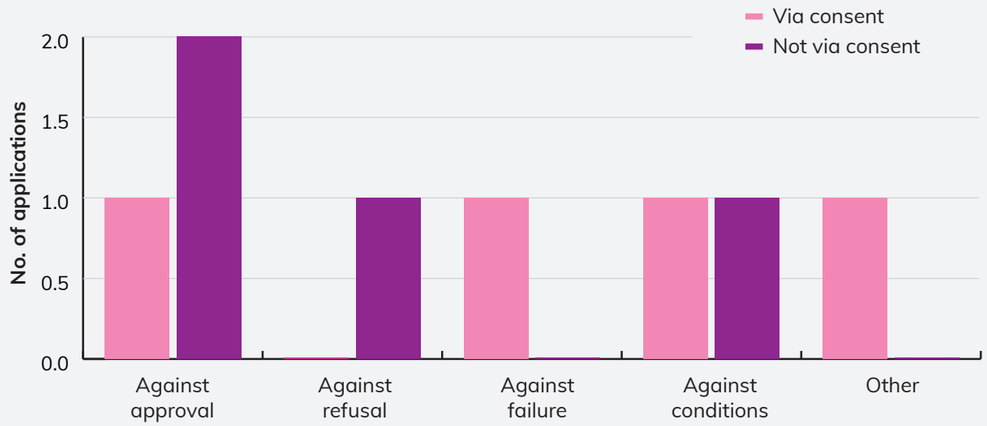
Smith Street, Fitzroy

Of the eight VCAT Decisions in Quarter 1 of 2026/27:

- Two Statutory Department decisions affirmed;
- One PDC decisions varied;
- Three Statutory Department decisions varied; and
- Two Statutory Department decisions overturned.

The graph below shows whether the VCAT decisions in Quarter 1 of 2026/27 were via the consent of the parties.

VCAT decisions via consent of the parties in Quarter 1 of 2026/27

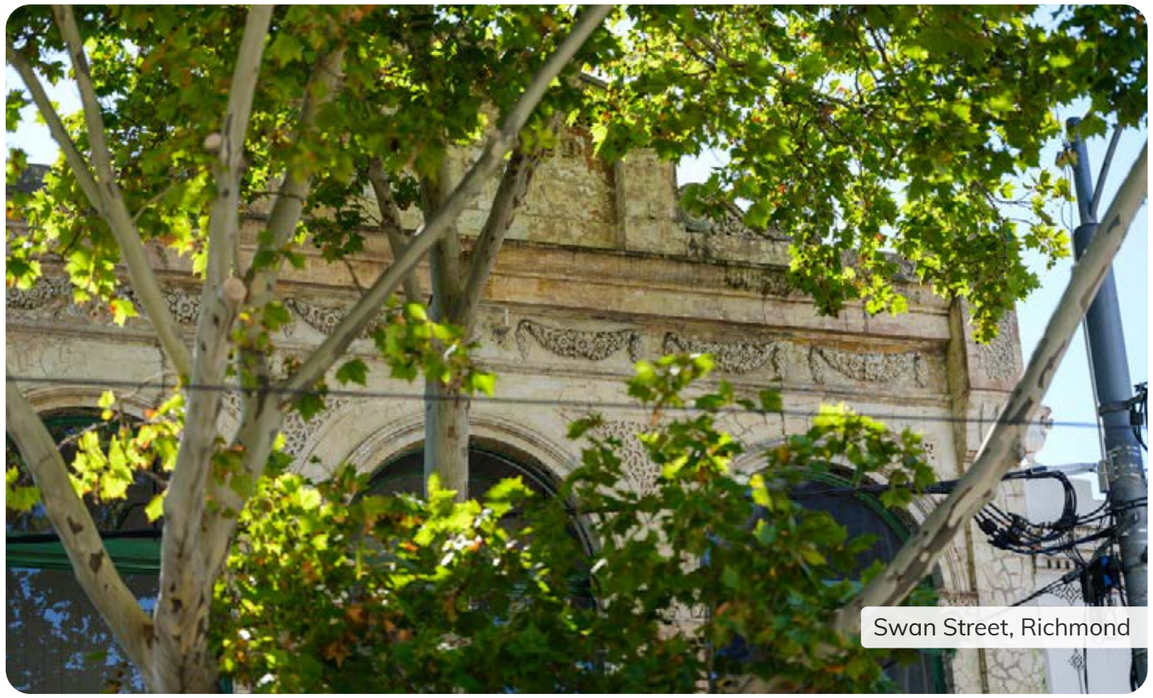


Type of application to VCAT

Of the eight VCAT Decisions in Quarter 1 of 2026/27, four decisions (50%) were via the consent of the parties.

The number of applications for review against Council's failure to determine the application within the prescribed time in Quarter 1 of 2026/27 equates to 20% of all applications lodged (one application), which is the same number of 'failure to determine' applications compared to the previous quarter.

The number of applications that were settled via the consent of the parties equates to 50% of applications determined by VCAT, compared to 75% for the previous quarter.



Swan Street, Richmond

Road Fatality and Injury Data

Council sources road fatality and injury data from the Road Crash Information System (RCIS), maintained by the Department of Transport and Planning. The Victorian Government applies a seven-month reporting lag to its public road crash and injury datasets, meaning RCIS is not updated in real time and may not capture all crashes that occurred during the reporting period. The data reported reflects the period 1 March 2026 to 30 September 2026 and information available in RCIS at the time of reporting. This means it is subject to the Victorian Government's seven-month reporting lag. The reported incident happened in Quarter 3 during 2025/26.

Location	Date	Day/ Night	Arterial	Was a vulnerable road user injured?	Age & gender	Speed	Weather
Rathdowne Street (24m north of Herbert St), Carlton North	2 March 2026	Day	No	Yes (fatality)	84M	40	Raining

Description

A cyclist riding south on Rathdowne Street in the bicycle lane collided with a pedestrian crossing Rathdowne Street from west to east. The pedestrian was taken to hospital where they contracted pneumonia and died on 6 March 2026.

Detail on house, Bridge Road, Richmond

Council Plan Action Plan 2026/27 Progress Quarter 1

- **On track** At least 90% of action target achieved
- **Monitor** Between 75% and 90% of action target achieved
- **Off track** Less than 75% of action target achieved
- – No target set

2 Building the City

Action Title: 2.1.1.1 Active Travel Corridor Projects

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Unit Manager Strategic Transport	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
The following projects progressed during Quarter 1:

Building a Better Wellington Street: Council is progressing design investigations for a range of street improvements in line with the Council resolution of 12 May 2026. An update on the findings and recommended next steps is scheduled to be presented to Council in Quarter 3 2026/27.

Building a Better Gipps/Langridge Street: Preliminary work has been completed to establish a baseline data set across both corridors, including transport, safety, trees and asset renewal information. Progress on next steps including engagement is being scoped.

Action Title: 2.1.2.1 Kerbside and Parking Strategy

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Unit Manager Strategic Transport	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Development of the Kerbside and Parking Strategy continued during Quarter 1. Work will continue with a report to Council anticipated early next year.

Action Title: 2.1.3.1 Road Safety Studies

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Infrastructure, Traffic and Civil Engineering	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Progress on the 2026/27 Road Safety Study (RSS) program is continuing. Stage 1 and 2 community consultations have been completed and feedback has been incorporated into the development of treatment options. Recommended treatments for Rowena Parade and Little Turner Street are scheduled to be presented to Council in November 2026, with recommendations for Rose Street to be considered in December 2026. Progress is also on track for upcoming RSS projects. The scope for the Oxford Street and Brunswick Street North Road Safety Studies has been defined, and stage 1 community consultation for Oxford Street, Brunswick Street North and Rathdowne Street is scheduled for October 2026.

Action Title: 2.4.1.1 Deliver Capital Works Projects

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Buildings and Capital Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Council progressing with the planning, design, and delivery of a range of key building, open space and roads/transport improvement projects. Key projects underway include the delivery of new and upgraded tennis courts at Brunswick Street Oval, the electrification of Collingwood Leisure Centre, Citizens Park turf improvement works as well a range of footpath, road and stormwater improvement projects to improve access, safety and renewal of Council assets.

Action Title: 2.1.3.1 Improve accessibility across the City

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Buildings and Capital Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
As part of the 2026/27 Capital Works Program, Council has delivered several footpath improvements to improve accessibility, pedestrian safety and renew assets. Projects delivered during Quarter 1 include footpath works in Clifton Hill (Brockenshire Street), Collingwood (Ballarat Street, Forrest Street, Mater Street and at 470 Smith Street) and Richmond (Edinburgh Street, Gipps Street and Vesper Street). Preparation for Quarter 2 delivery is progressing well, with several footpath improvement projects scheduled to be completed across the municipality before the end of the calendar year.

Action Title: 2.3.3.1 Richmond Library Major Upgrade

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Buildings and Capital Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	12	25	Off track

Action Progress Comments:
Council has commenced work to explore amenity improvements including identifying possible fixtures, furniture and equipment upgrades that can be delivered this financial year. Council is currently in the process of identifying operational and functional design improvements for the upper level of the library, with the design process to be informed by stakeholder input.

Action Title: 2.4.1.1 New and Improved Open Space

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager City Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Progress has been made on the Mater and Budd Streets Roads to Parks projects, which has now reached the tender stage, with construction scheduled to commence in early 2027. The acquisition of View Street is in its final stages and preliminary work has commenced on a future open space in Wangaratta Street, Richmond. Work has also commenced on other land acquisition opportunities across the municipality.

Action Title: 2.4.1.2 Greening the City

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager City Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Council's urban greening programs are progressing well, with 455 trees planted to date as part of this year's tree planting program. Planning for the next round of planting locations is underway, with priority streets identified and community engagement materials being prepared. Council remains on track to achieve its canopy goals.

The Rewilding Program continues to deliver positive environmental outcomes across the municipality. As of mid-September 2026, 18,500 local native tubestock had been planted. A further 26,500 tubestock are scheduled for planting in October 2026, contributing towards the annual target of 71,000 plants across more than 70 local native species.

Progress has also been made on the Street Garden Beds Program, with opportunities identified to plant more than 12,000 additional plants within existing garden beds across Yarra. Approximately 3,000 plants are scheduled to be planted by the end of October 2026, alongside proposed increases in maintenance servicing to support healthier and more resilient streetscapes.

Action Title: 2.2.4.1 Implementing the State Governments Housing Target and Activity Centre Program

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Officers have reviewed the State Government's housing capacity model and continue to engage with the State to refine and confirm Yarra's dwelling capacity. A Planning Scheme Review report has been prepared and will be presented for Council's consideration at the Planning Delegations Committee meeting in October 2026.

Strategic objective 3: Working and Playing in the City

3

Arts Update

As part of our 2026 exhibition program, two new exciting exhibitions have been launched and will continue until 25 October 2026. Yarra artists Imi Oliver and Martin George have created two offerings for community to enjoy for free whilst visiting libraries.

Imi Oliver's Even the Rabbits Were There exhibition brings curiosity and a sense of wonder to the Fitzroy Library exhibition space. Imi's three-dimensional handmade creatures bring the space to life, sparking viewer's imaginations. As if stepping out from a storybook or escaping their glass library display, each carries an untold narrative, inviting audiences to place themselves into that role of the storyteller. Imi shared her creativity and skills with community, running a booked-out workshop where attendees made their own creatures to take home.

Over at Bargoonga Nganjin Library exhibition space, Martin George's exhibition Crescent Stack, Colour Block, Mosaic Sketch, has enlivened the space with a layered approach. An improvised wall painting created during installation is combined with canvas strips which repeat across the wall, featuring animal-like creatures. The work embodies a fast and un-edited approach to making that embraces accidents, where discovery becomes an important part of the work.

The Expression of Interest call out for next year's exhibition program was launched during this time, offering local artists paid opportunities to share their work with community in 2027.

Events Update

Leaps and Bounds Music Festival
Yarra's annual winter music festival, Leaps and Bounds, took place between 16-26 July 2026, delivering more than 40 events across 29 venues and directly employing over 100 artists. Across ten days of programming more than 6500 people attended Leaps and Bounds events in Yarra. The festival continues to support and celebrate Yarra's live music sector during a traditionally quieter period for venues and performers.

Key festival features were all-ages performances, venue takeovers, disability pride celebrations and culturally diverse programming. Popular events took place across a range of Yarra venues including The Gem, The Standard, The Bendigo Hotel, Nighthawks and Lulie Tavern, bringing audiences together to discover new artists and reconnect with established favourites.



Leaps and Bounds Music Festival, closing event

More than half of scheduled events (56%) were free to attend, while ticketed events achieved strong audience attendance, with sell-out events at Bar Open, Smith St Hotel, High Ground: In Motion (across The Evelyn, The Night Cat and Punters Club) and Yalinguth Archives at the Builders Arms Hotel.

Leaps and Bounds 2026 delivered its strongest media campaign to date, generating 91 pieces of coverage and reaching a combined audience of 44.1 million people. Festival content achieved an estimated 7.19 million views and more than 5,160 engagements, helping to showcase Yarra's live music sector to local and national audiences while reinforcing the municipality's reputation as a leading destination for live music.

The festival concluded with a new artist celebration event at Bakehouse Studios, bringing together more than 50 artists and music industry professionals to celebrate and recognise their contribution to the festival and to present a peer-voted 'Best of the Fest' award.

Planning for Leaps and Bounds 2027 is underway, with officers exploring opportunities to further support emerging artists and expand all-ages programming.

Council Plan Action Plan 2026/27 Progress Quarter 1

On track At least 90% of action target achieved
Monitor Between 75% and 90% of action target achieved
Off track Less than 75% of action target achieved
– No target set

3 Working and Playing in the City

Action Title: 3.2.3.1 Victoria Street Revitalisation Plan

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Victoria Street Revitalisation	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
On 12 August, Council endorsed the Victoria Street Revitalisation Plan, which was informed by the views of more than 600 community members who participated throughout the engagement process. On 14 September, Council officially launched the Plan and continued its advocacy efforts for the precinct. The launch was attended by residents, business operators, key stakeholders, landowners and developers who contributed to the development of the Plan.

During the quarter, community surveys were undertaken to establish baseline data for the Evaluation Framework, including measures relating to perceptions of safety and cleanliness. Survey questions were also incorporated to inform the development of the Victoria Street Identity Study. Precinct-wide audits of vacant shopfronts and street conditions were completed. The final planter boxes were also delivered to businesses contributing to improved streetscape presentation.

Stakeholder engagement continued with businesses, property owners and delivery partners to plan and progress first-year actions identified within the Revitalisation Plan. This included progressing the Game Changer initiative aimed at addressing public safety concerns at Lennox Square. As part of this work, a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) assessment of the Lennox Street precinct was undertaken by Victoria Police during the quarter. On 20 September, young people took over Lennox Square as part of a youth-led activation event developed in direct response to feedback gathered during engagement. The event provided an opportunity for the community to experience this public space in a different way.

Action Title: 3.2.2.2 Streamline Permit Processes

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

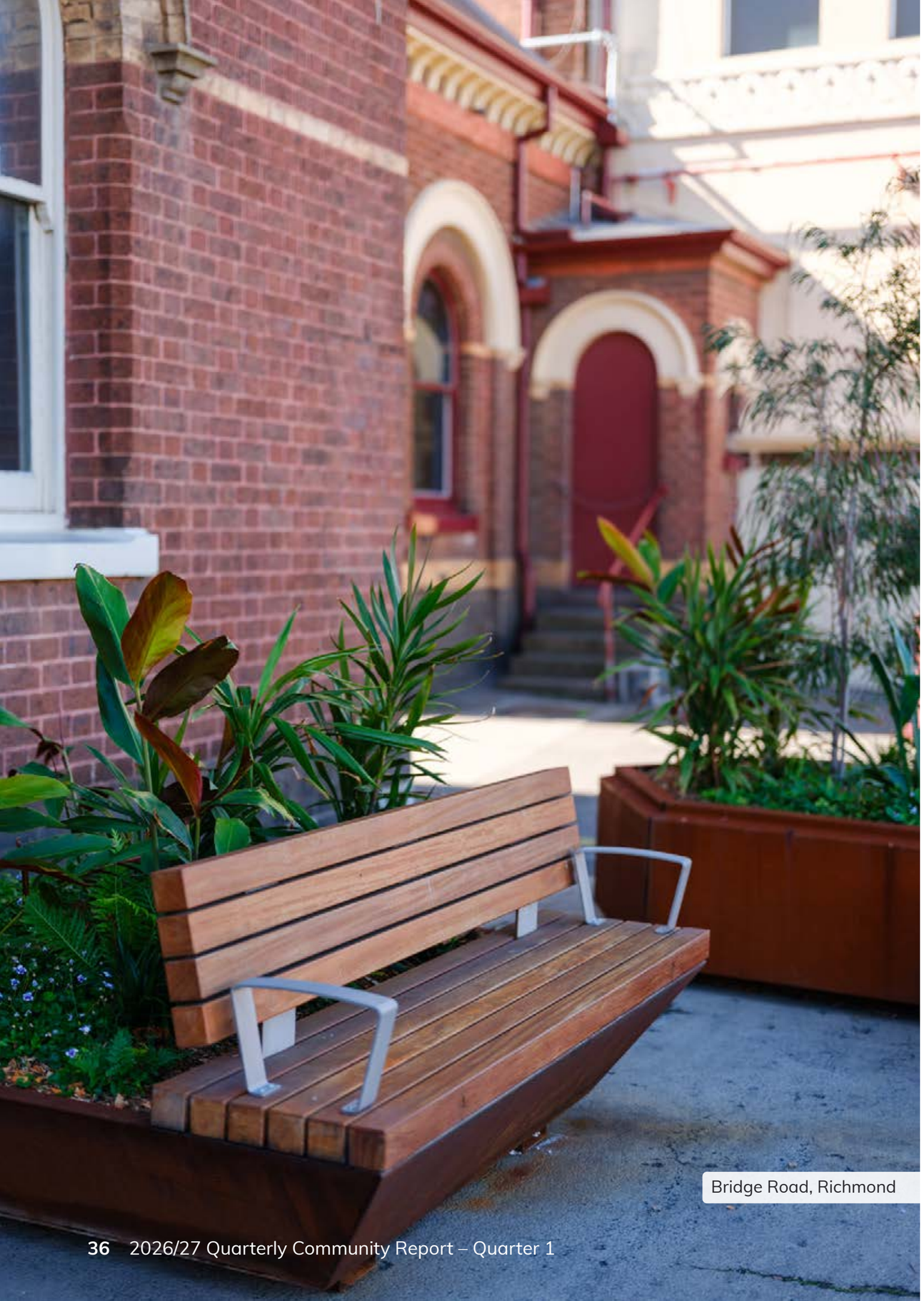
Action Progress Comments:
The Minister for Planning provided conditional consent for Planning Scheme Amendment C334 in July 2026. The amendment seeks to reduce planning permit triggers including for businesses and for the installation of solar panels. Officers will exhibit the amendment in Quarter 2.

The Economic Development team has been awarded a grant from the State Government for the Business Approvals Incentive Scheme Pilot. The Pilot will review Yarra's Business Concierge program and strengthen support for businesses navigating regulatory requirements. Reporting measures for business pre-application meetings and permit timeframes have been established. In addition, in Quarter 4 of 2025/26, the Statutory Planning team commenced reporting of the business permits outcomes in the Quarterly Community report.

Action Title: 3.2.3.2 North Richmond Community Hub business case

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Development of the project plan is progressing and will incorporate early feedback from Councillors. Initial scoping and identification of community needs, informed by analysis undertaken through the Community Infrastructure Plan, have been completed. The business case will assess a range of development scenarios, with the findings from the scoping and needs analysis used to inform and test each option.



Bridge Road, Richmond

Strategic objective 4: Running the City

4

Acquittal of Council Resolutions

Council Meetings are the formal decision-making forums established under the *Local Government Act 2020*, where Councillors, acting collectively as Council, consider matters of public interest and make decisions on behalf of the community. These decisions are made by a resolution of the Council, and actions are assigned accordingly.

Meetings are conducted in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* and the Yarra City Council Governance Rules.

This table shows a record of the Council resolutions for Quarter 1 of 2026/27. Open resolutions are those that are currently in progress to be implemented.

The total number of resolutions refers to the tally of resolutions from Council meetings during Quarter 1.

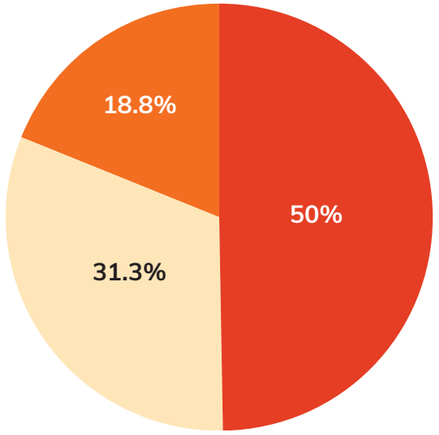
Council Resolutions between 1 July 2026 – 30 September 2026					
Total number of resolutions allocated	Open Resolutions - July	Open resolutions - August	Open resolutions -September	Total number of open resolutions	% of open resolutions
51	1	4	12	17	33%

Implementation of the Domestic Animal Management Plan

Implementation of the *City of Yarra's 2025-2029 Domestic Animal Management Plan* (DAMP) is underway.

Of the 48 actions to be completed over the three-year life of the DAMP:

- 24 (50%) Actions are complete;
- 15 (31.3%) are in progress; and
- 9 (18.8%) are not started.



Actions completed in Quarter 1 include:

- Review of Animal management standard operating procedures, including processes relating to family violence and homelessness where pets are involved.
- Training register completed.
- Initiatives to improve responsible pet ownership and reduce nuisance complaints:
  - o Animal management rotating signage program;
  - o Audit of all dog related signage and infrastructure in parks and reserves; and
  - o Review of Council's website for consistency with on-site signage and infrastructure.

Actions commenced in Quarter 1 include:

- Commenced discussions with animal shelters and pounds about partnership opportunities.
- Reviewing cat population information and cat trapping program.
- Targeted education and engagement initiatives.

Priority work over the next quarter will be to progress the above actions and commence registration compliance initiatives.



Clifton Hill dog park visitor

Financial Sustainability Strategy Update

Council's *Financial Sustainability Strategy* was adopted on 12 December 2023. The strategy was created to guide future decision-making so Council can transparently, proactively and prudently plan to be financially sustainable. With this strategy, Council aims to ensure financial sustainability remains consistent whilst delivering efficient and effective services and infrastructure.

The Financial Sustainability Strategy goals set for the first two years have been achieved, namely:

(a) maintain a net positive position by delivering a surplus;

(b) ensure our operating activities no longer relies on borrowings; and

(c) hold costs and start to build cash reserves for specified purposes.

Achievement of these goals are evidenced in Council's Financial Statements.

The *Financial Sustainability* goals set for years three to five include:

(a) achieve a financial position where we have sufficient cash reserves to repay borrowings;

(b) generate new revenue;

(c) cover all known operating expenses without borrowing;

(d) deliver a long-term financial plan that more reliably reflects future financial requirements ('unknown risks'); and

(e) have approximately $20m available in reserves for risk and strategic growth.

Council is on track to achieve all goals for years three to five listed above.

Financial Report

Council's Quarter 1 financial performance reflects our ongoing commitment to prudent financial management and the responsible delivery on the Council *Plan Action Plan 2026/27* and the Annual Budget, in alignment with the *Financial Sustainability Strategy*.

Financial performance early in the 2026/27 financial year provides for increases in revenue through improved management of resources and unexpected construction development activities. Whilst revenue has increased, there is significant uncertainty regarding the consistency of increases for the remainder of the financial year, given uncertainty regarding cash rates, persistent high prices and fluctuating inflation levels.

Like all Victorian councils, expenditure monitoring and control remains a key priority in line with the *Financial Sustainability Strategy*, and year-to-date performance is impacted by timing. Yarra will continue to monitor the impacts of sustained cost pressures in areas such as infrastructure delivery, waste management, information technology, energy and employee costs and increased demand for services and infrastructure associated with population growth.

These pressures are driven by factors largely outside local government control, including supply chain constraints, labour market pressures, competition from major infrastructure projects, and the increasing cost of service delivery. Recent global economic uncertainty, including volatility in energy and fuel markets, will further contribute to financial risk and cost pressures across the sector.

Despite these challenges, Council remains focused on long-term sustainability while delivering essential services and infrastructure for our growing community. Through the implementation of the *Financial Sustainability Strategy*, Council will continue to focus on improving its financial resilience and capacity to respond to future challenges.

Over the next two years, in alignment with the *Financial Sustainability Strategy*, Council is on target to hold $20 million in cash reserves.

This will ensure all known future commitments and emerging financial risks are planned for, including expenditure for the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), which remains on track and within Council's approved budget envelope.

In Quarter 1, the overall financial sustainability risk rating remained unchanged and in line with budget expectations. Financial sustainability risk levels are stable and tracking as planned under the *Financial Sustainability Strategy*.

Quarter 1 - Comprehensive Income Statement

	YTD Budget $M	YTD Actuals $M	YTD Variance $M	Annual Budget $M	Annual Forecast $M	Annual Variance $M
Revenue from Ordinary Activities						
Rates and charges	149.9	150.3	0.5	151.5	151.9	0.4
Statutory fees and fines	11.2	11.5	0.3	41.9	41.9	-
User Fees	9.8	10.4	0.6	33.9	33.5	(0.3)
Grants - Operating	4.7	6.4	1.7	17.3	18.3	1.0
Grants - Capital	1.2	1.9	0.7	10.8	11.0	0.2
Contributions - Other monetary	0.9	5.2	4.4	3.1	5.7	2.6
Reimbursements	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	(0.1)
Other Income	1.5	1.7	0.2	6.9	7.3	0.4
Net gain/(loss) on disposal	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.0
Total Revenue	**179.3**	**187.9**	**8.6**	266.0	**270.1**	**4.2**
Expenses from ordinary activities						
Employee Costs	29.2	28.4	0.8	109.4	107.6	1.8
Materials and services	24.1	24.7	(0.6)	103.1	105.5	(2.4)
Depreciation & Amortisation	8.3	6.2	2.1	32.5	24.8	7.7
Amortisation - right of use assets	0.2	0.3	(0.1)	1.3	1.3	(0.0)
Bad and doubtful debts	1.2	1.2	0.0	4.7	4.7	-
Borrowing costs	0.1	0.1	(0.0)	0.5	0.5	-
Interest Exp - Leases	0.0	0.0	(0.0)	0.1	0.1	0.0
Other expenses	0.2	0.2	(0.0)	0.8	0.8	0.0
Total expenses	**63.5**	**61.2**	**2.3**	252.4	**245.2**	**7.2**
Net Result	**115.8**	**126.8**	**10.9**	13.6	**24.9**	**11.3**

Legend:

Favourable variance >10%

Variance within -10% to +10% range

Unfavourable variance >10%

Quarter 1 Summary of Actuals to Budget

The Quarter 1 result reflects rates revenue and a significant proportion of operating grants being recognised early in the financial year, contributing to the stronger financial position.

The result is also influenced by the timing of other grant funding and the delivery of materials and services, with many programs, projects and expenditure activities occurring progressively throughout the year. Further, the result is supported by lower depreciation expense following 2025/26 asset revaluations, which identified several assets as being in better condition than previously assessed, resulting in extended useful lives and reduced deprecation charges.

The ERP is a key strategic priority and is progressing on schedule and within the approved program budget envelope. As reported during 2025/26, some ERP expenditure occurred later than anticipated and has now been recognised in the first quarter of 2026/27, through materials and services.

In accordance with the Council's *Financial Sustainability Strategy*, unspent 2025/26 ERP budget was transferred to the Risk Mitigation Reserve, and will be drawn down.

Quarter 1 Summary of Forecast to Budget

Council forecasts a year-end surplus of $24.9 million, $11.3 million better than budget. Most of this improvement comes from a $7.7 million reduction in depreciation and amortisation. The 2025/26 asset revaluation found that some Council assets are expected to last longer than previously estimated, allowing their cost to be spread over more years. This improves the reported result but does not provide additional cash to spend.

The forecast also includes $4.2 million in additional revenue and $1.8 million in lower employee costs, partly offset by a $2.4 million increase in materials and services costs to deliver work covered by additional grant funding that Council secured.

Revenue

- $2.573 million in additional developer contributions;
- $0.985 million in operating grants mostly carried forward from 2025/26.

Expenses

- $7.743 million reduction in depreciation and amortization following asset valuation and useful life adjustments.
- $1.875 million reduction in employee costs reflecting and vacancy savings; and

Offset by:

- $2.392 million increase in materials and services mainly due to:
    - new grant funded expenditure;
    - card payment processing fees that Council will absorb in response to regulatory changes (from October 1).

Revenue Analysis

a) Rates and Charges

Rates and Charges are $0.458m favourable to budget YTD, mainly due to higher supplementary rates of $0.490m than budgeted.

b) Statutory Fees

Statutory Fees are $0.300 favourable to budget YTD. Mainly due to higher collection of paid parking $0.433m, parking permits $0.121m and higher Fines Victoria lodgment fees $0.133m. This was offset by lower parking infringements (-$0.386m).

c) User Fees

User Fees are $0.590m favourable to budget YTD, primarily driven by construction fees $0.245m mainly in road occupation permits, as well as favourable results in recreation and leisure programs, including School Swimming $0.051m and Move for Life $0.046m.

The full year forecast for user fees has been reduced by $0.327m, primarily reflecting the loss of tenancy income and lower than anticipated growth in recreational facility hire particularly for sports ovals and netball courts, where usage is expected to remain broadly consistent with FY2025-26 levels.

d) Grants – Operating

Operating Grants are $1.739m favourable to budget YTD. In part due to funding carried over from 2025/26 of $0.882m and recognised in 2026/27 (outlined below) as well as additional funding received for School Crossing Supervisors $0.441m, Victoria Street Renewal $0.335m.

The key grants that are carried over from 2025/26 and are recognised in 2026/27 include:

- Business Approvals Incentive Scheme $0.226m;
- School Readiness Funding $0.191m;
- The Learning Bank $0.164m;
- 30km/h Trial Grant $0.136m; and
- Victoria Street Department of Families Fairness and Housing H Funding $0.114m.

e) Grants - Capital

Capital Grants are $0.708m favourable to budget YTD due to the timing of the Brunswick Street Oval grant $0.517m as well as new unbudgeted funding for Bushland maintenance $0.475m and TAC $0.475m.

f) Contributions - Other Monetary

Contributions from developers are $4.369m favourable to budget YTD. This is predominantly driven by an Open Space Contributions of $3.168m ($2.793m above budget) and higher than planned Development Contributions Plan fees of $1.400m.

The full year forecast has been increased by $2.573m to reflect the contributions received for the year to date. The forecast will be reviewed again in quarter two with potential for further increases if contribution activity is sustained.

g) Reimbursements

Reimbursements are in line with budget YTD.

h) Other Income

Other income was $0.197m favourable to budget YTD. This was primarily attributable to higher interest income from term deposits $0.212m, reflecting a stronger than planned cash balance available for investment.

i) Net gain on disposal of assets

The net gain on disposal of assets was $0.273m favourable to budget YTD mostly relating to right of way sales.



Residents on sidewalk

Expense Analysis

j) Employee Costs

Employee Costs are $0.827m favourable to budget YTD, mainly due to budget phasing, with a higher proportion of the budget allocated in July $0.801m, savings in salaried staff though vacancies $0.447m and timing of both Superannuation payments $0.299m and AL Loading $0.203m. This was partially offset by unfavourable movements in AL Provisions -(0.315m), LSL Provisions assumption -(0.285m), timing of Education Retention Payments -($0.230m) and the WorkCover premium being higher than planned -($0.052m).

The full year forecast is $1.823m favourable to budget and includes reallocation of ERP employee cost to Materials and Services $1.002m as well as anticipated continued gains through strong cost control of salaried staff.

k) Materials and Services

Materials and Services are $0.584m unfavourable to budget YTD, mainly from the timing of building and maintenance costs -($0.403m) with programmed maintenance, essential services and cleaning costs incurred earlier in the year than anticipated. ERP costs also contributed -($0.344m) to the unfavourable materials and services variance due to the engagement of external resources and is offset by corresponding savings in employee costs, resulting in the ERP project being $0.121m favourable to budget across both expenditure categories.

The full year forecast is $2.392m unfavourable to budget primarily driven by additional grant funded expenditure, mainly Victoria Street -($0.711m), Merchant fees now expected to be absorbed by Council -($0.269) and ERP costs of -($0.913m) reallocated from employee costs. The ERP program is forecast to remain within its approved budget.

l) Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation is $2.123m favourable to budget YTD, primarily due to valuation adjustments in particular reassessment of Infrastructure asset values and useful lives from revaluation date onward.

The full year forecast is $7.743m favourable as a result of these valuation adjustments

m) Bad and Doubtful Debts

Bad and doubtful debts were in line with the budget YTD.

Quarter 1 Capital Works performance

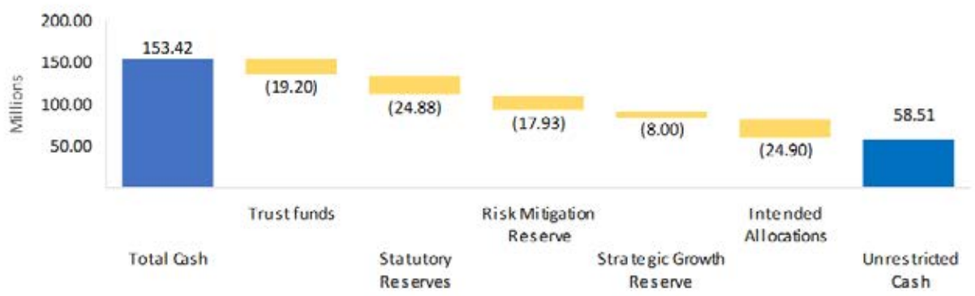
As at 30 September 2026, actual capital works expenditure was $4.54 million compared to the year-to-date budget of $7.08 million. Actual spend is below budget primarily driven by changes to project delivery schedules and forecast expenditure with the following projects:

- Collingwood Leisure Centre - Electrification
- Sports fields - George Knott sports lighting
- Intersection treatments - Coppin St/Bridge Rd, Richmond
- Road, footpath, kerb and channel renewal works - Newry Street, Richmond
- Park Renewal - Linear Park
- Pavilions - Brunswick St Oval Project.

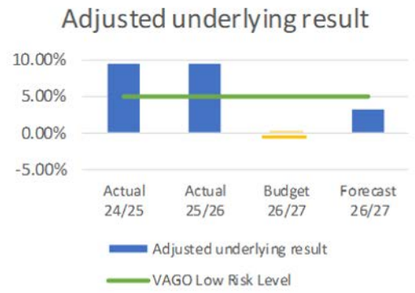
	YTD Budget $'000	YTD Actuals $'000	YTD Variance $'000	Annual Budget $'000	Annual Forecast $'000	Annual Variance $'000
New asset expenditure	1,192	944	248	10,885	10,903	(18)
Asset renewal expenditure	3,079	2,548	531	16,151	16,439	(288)
Asset expansion expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,809	1,046	1,762	16,623	17,874	(1,251)
Total Capital Works Expenditure	**7,080**	**4,539**	**2,541**	**43,659**	**45,216**	(1,557)

Quarter 1 Cash Position

At 30 September 2026, Council has total cash of $153.42m, of which $20.11m is borrowings. The unrestricted and unallocated cash position is $58.51m, moving from $44.58m at 30 June 2026.

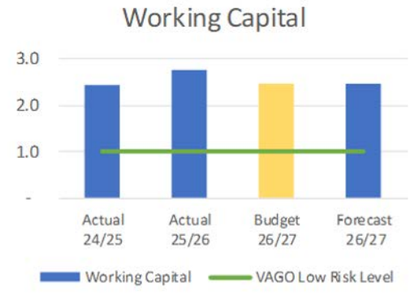


Quarter 1 Financial Sustainability Ratios



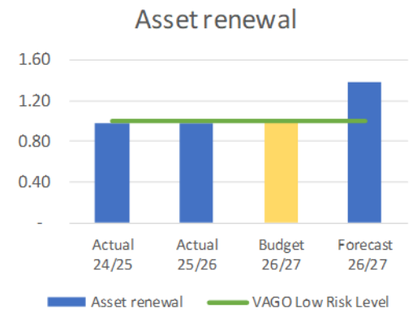
Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit) / adjusted underlying revenue

This 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 challenges in generating enough cash to fund future capital works without borrowing.



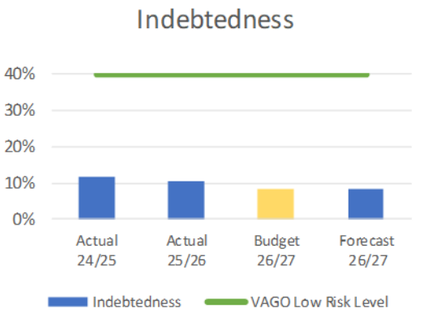
Current assets / current liabilities

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.



Renewal & upgrade spend/ depreciation

Ratios higher than 1.0 indicate that spending on existing assets is faster than the depreciation rate. This year's result is expected to stay in the low-risk range.



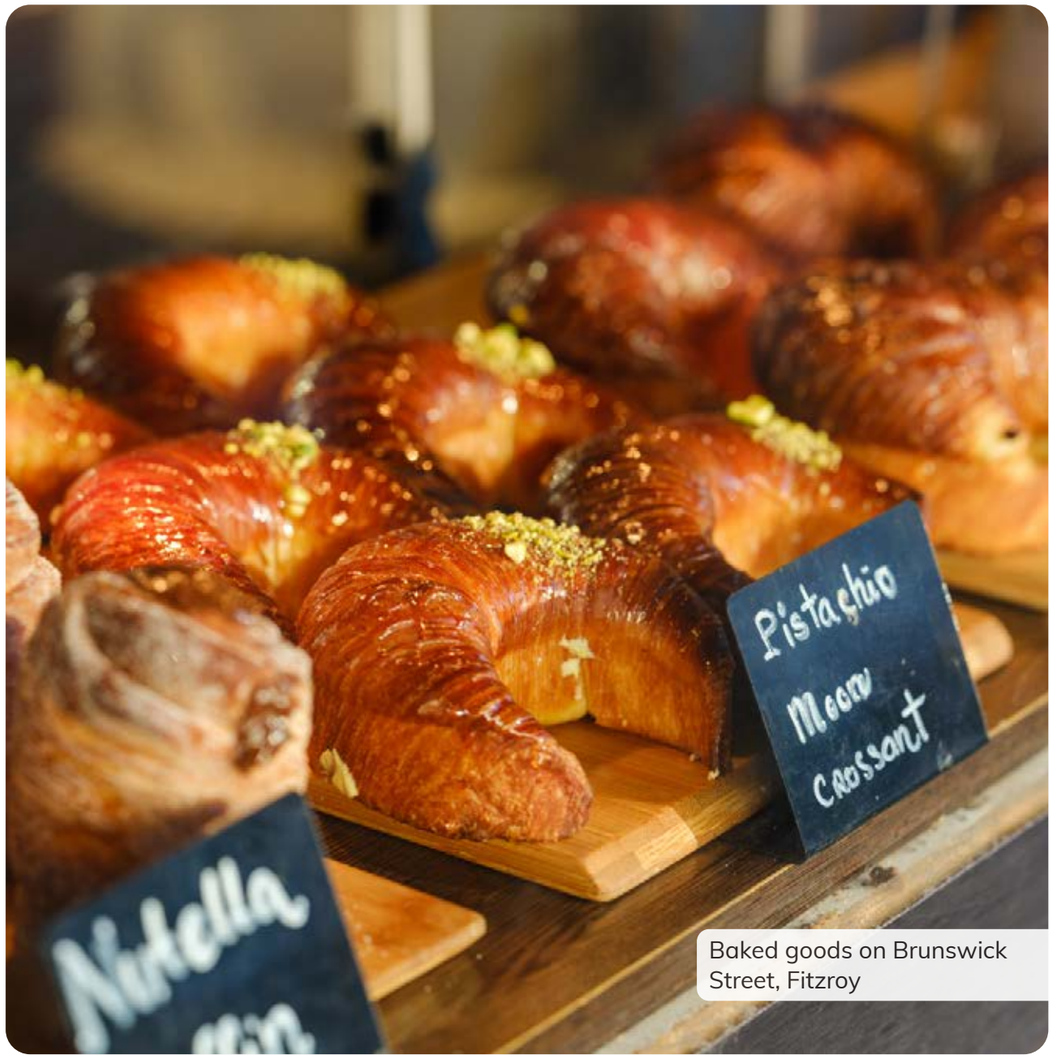
Non-current liabilities / own-source revenue

Measures Council's ability to pay the principal and interest on its borrowings when they are due from the funds it generates. This year's result is expected to stay in the low-risk range.

Treasury Corporation of Victoria loan financial covenants

Treasury Corporation of Victoria (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 the Council meets the minimum requirements. TCV loan requirements are well within target given limited borrowing compared to own source revenue and liability obligations.

		Target	Current Month
Interest Cover	EBITDA/Interest Expense	> 2.0	937 ▲
Interest Bearing Loans	Interest Bearing Liabilities/Own Source Revenue	< 60%	11.53% ▲



Baked goods on Brunswick Street, Fitzroy

Quarter 1 Statement of Financial Position

	YTD Actuals $'000	30/06/26 Actuals $'000	Movement Inc/(Dec) $'000
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	74,423	48,823	25,601
Trade and other receivables	182,545	39,917	142,628
Other financial assets	79,000	89,000	(10,000)
Inventories	140	140	-
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	-	-	-
Other assets	6,213	7,664	(1,451)
Total current assets	**342,322**	**185,543**	**156,778**
Non-current assets			
Investments in joint arrangements	5	5	-
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,116,653	2,118,268	(1,616)
Right-of-use assets	2,464	2,782	(317)
Total non-current assets	**2,119,122**	**2,121,055**	**(1,933)**
Total assets	**2,461,444**	**2,306,599**	**154,845**
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	15,502	14,708	794
Trust funds and deposits	53,707	23,890	29,818
Unearned income/revenue	9,136	10,904	(1,768)
Provisions	17,540	16,665	875
Interest-bearing liabilities	3,622	-	3,622
Lease liabilities	1,018	1,346	(329)
Total current liabilities	**100,525**	**67,514**	**33,011**
Non-current liabilities			
Other Liabilities	419	419	-
Provisions	1,296	1,423	(127)
Interest-bearing liabilities	16,489	21,299	(4,811)
Lease liabilities	1,614	1,614	-
Total non-current liabilities	**19,817**	**24,755**	**(4,938)**
Total liabilities	**120,342**	**92,269**	**28,073**
Net assets	**2,341,102**	**2,214,330**	**126,772**
Equity			
Accumulated surplus	738,431	741,377	(2,946)
Asset revaluation reserves	1,425,088	1,425,088	-
Other reserves	50,811	47,864	2,946
Surplus for the year	126,772	25,929	100,843
Total equity	**2,341,102**	**2,240,258**	**100,843**

Quarter 1 Statement of Cash Flow

	YTD Actuals $'000 Inflows (Outflows)	Annual Budget $'000 Inflows (Outflows)	Annual Forecast $'000 Inflows (Outflows)	Annual Variance $'000 Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities				
Rates and charges	40,209	147,371	146,854	(517)
Statutory fees and fines	11,555	37,263	37,263	0
User fees	6,385	33,868	33,540	(328)
Grants - operating	4,654	17,350	18,334	984
Grants - capital	1,889	10,815	5,319	(5,496)
Contributions - monetary	5,249	3,116	5,689	2,573
Interest received	1,580	6,279	6,611	332
Trust funds and deposits taken/(repaid)	181	-	-	-
Other receipts	258	757	728	(29)
Net GST refund/(payment)	1,157	-	-	-
Payments to Employees	(27,624)	(109,242)	(107,494)	1,748
Payments to Suppliers	(23,985)	(101,629)	(108,357)	(6,728)
Other payments	-	-	(771)	(771)
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities	**21,509**	**45,948**	**37,716**	**(8,232)**
Cash flows from investing activities				
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(4,562)	(43,659)	(49,060)	(5,401)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and	355	360	437	77
Payments for investments	10,000	-	-	-
Net cash used in investing activities	**5,793**	**(43,299)**	**(48,623)**	**(5,324)**
Cash flows from financing activities				
Finance costs	(141)	(509)	(509)	0
Repayment of borrowings	(1,189)	(4,811)	0	4,811
Interest paid - lease liability	(43)	(141)	(141)	0
Repayment of lease liabilities	(329)	(1,311)	(1,306)	5
Net cash used in financing activities	**(1,702)**	**(6,772)**	**(1,955)**	**4,817**
Net increase in cash held	25,601	(4,123)	(12,862)	(8,739)
Cash at beginning of period	48,823	127,088	137,823	10,735
Cash at end of period	**74,423**	**122,965**	**124,960**	**1,995**

Quarter 1 Statement of Capital Works

	YTD Budget $'000	YTD Actuals $'000	YTD Variance $'000	Adopted Budget $'000	Annual Forecast $'000	Annual Variance $'000
Property						
Land	-	-	-	-	-	-
Land Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total land	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Buildings	2,186	1,137	1,049	18,158	19,209	(1,051)
Heritage buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Building Improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leasehold improvements	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total buildings	**2,186**	**1,137**	**1,049**	**18,158**	**19,209**	**(1,051)**
Total property	**2,186**	**1,137**	**1,049**	**18,158**	**19,209**	**(1,051)**
Plant and equipment						
Plant, machinery and equipment	-	-	-	20	20	-
Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computers and telecommunications	518	505	13	980	980	-
Library books	161	112	49	640	640	-
Total plant and equipment	**679**	**617**	**62**	**1,640**	**1,640**	**-**
Infrastructure						
Roads	1,175	403	772	5,615	5,752	(137)
Footpaths and cycleways	465	783	(318)	3,596	3,606	(10)
Drainage	1,155	875	280	4,240	4,240	-
Waste management	-	-	-	300	300	-
Kerb and Channel	11	-	11	45	45	-
Parks, open space and streetscapes	1,354	687	667	9,605	9,964	(359)
Aerodromes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Off street car parks	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infrastructure	54	37	17	460	460	-
Total infrastructure	**4,214**	**2,785**	**1,429**	**23,861**	**24,367**	(506)
Total Capital Works Expenditure	**7,080**	**4,539**	**2,541**	**43,659**	**45,216**	(1,557)

Represented by:

	YTD Budget $'000	YTD Actuals $'000	YTD Variance $'000	Annual Budget $'000	Annual Forecast $'000	Annual Variance $'000
New asset expenditure	1,192	944	248	10,885	10,903	(18)
Asset renewal expenditure	3,079	2,548	531	16,151	16,439	(288)
Asset expansion expenditure	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asset upgrade expenditure	2,809	1,046	1,762	16,623	17,874	(1,251)
Total Capital Works Expenditure	**7,080**	**4,539**	**2,541**	**43,659**	**45,216**	(1,557)



Parking revenue

Parking revenue data for Quarter 1 is provided below. It is intended to provide the community with an overview of parking revenue and identify trends or patterns.

Parking revenue is broken down into two categories:

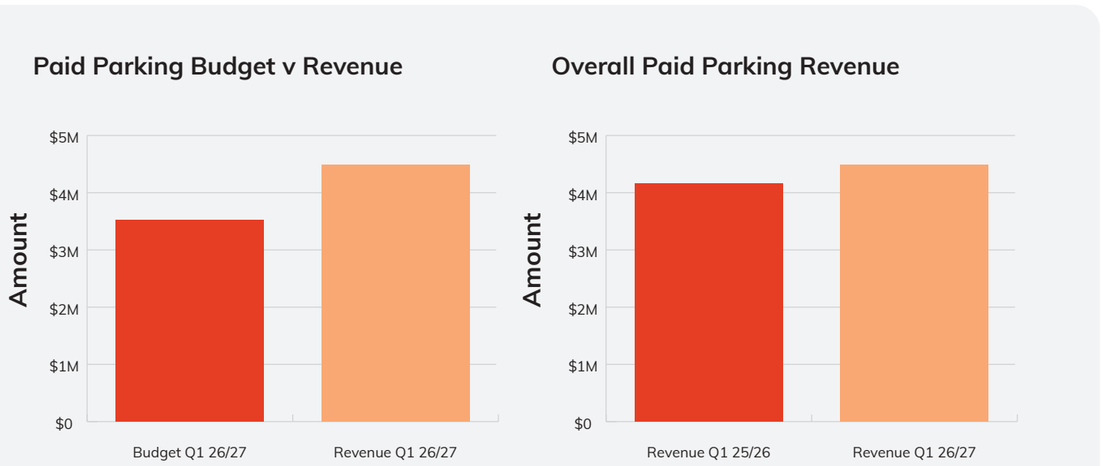
- paid parking; and
- parking infringements.

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 7.56% compared to Quarter 1 2025/26. **The graph below shows that the forecast revenue for Quarter 1 was exceeded by 28.93%.** Comparison of Quarter 1 figures for 2025/26 and 2026/27 are shown below detailing total paid parking revenue for this quarter increased by $315,032.17:

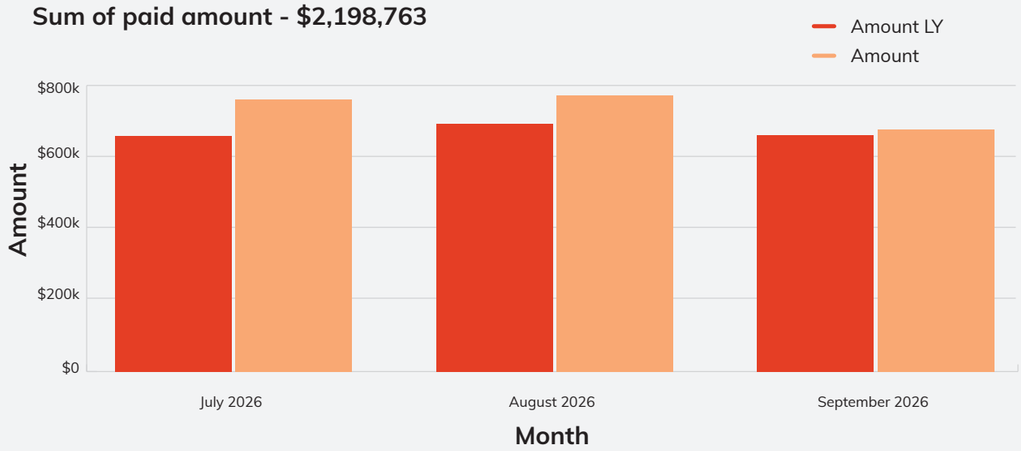
- Quarter 1 2025/2026: $4,165,862.78
- **Quarter 1 2026/2027: $4,480,894.95.**

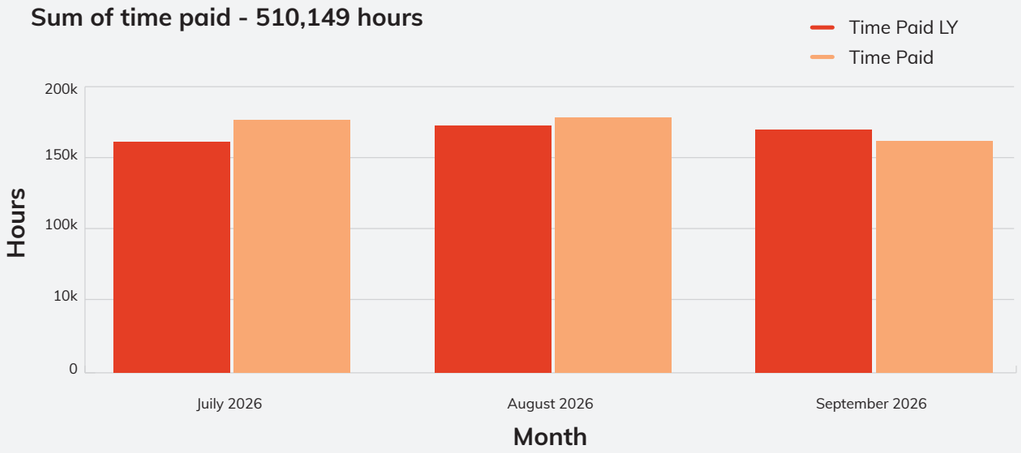


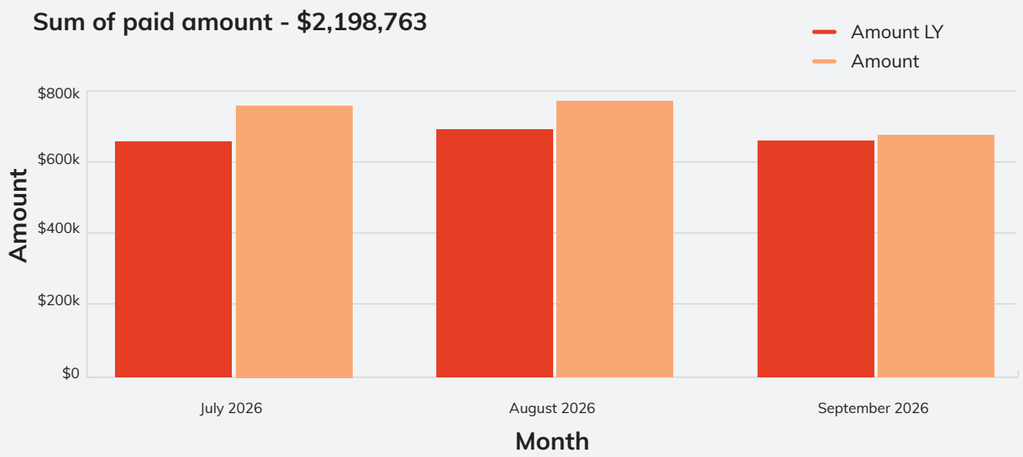
Quarter 1 Paid Parking Meters

The table below shows the parking meter data including revenue, transactions and time paid. A total of 308,336 transactions occurred during Quarter 1:

- Quarter 1 2025/26 Meter Revenue: $2,060,362.00
- **Quarter 1 2026/27 Meter Revenue: $2,298,763.00**
- Quarter 1 2025/26 Meter Transactions: 305,466
- **Quarter 1 2026/27 Meter Transactions: 308,336.**







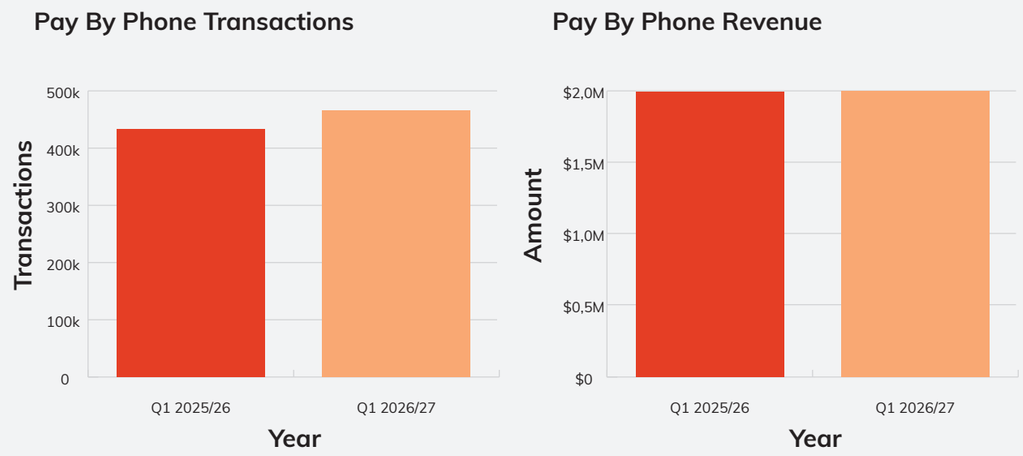
Quarter 1 Paid Parking Pay by Phone

Pay by phone (PayStay) 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 (2025/26 to 2026/27):

- Quarter 1 2025/26 Pay by Phone transactions: 439,260
- **Quarter 1 2026/27 Pay by Phone transactions: 471,438.**

Revenue generated by pay by phone also shows a modest increase when comparing year on year Quarter 1 data (2025/26 to 2026/27):

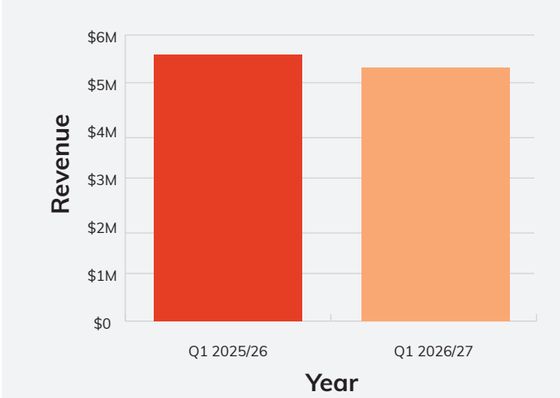
- Quarter 1 2025/26 Pay by Phone Revenue: $2,105,500.78
- **Quarter 1 2026/27 Pay by Phone Revenue: $2,282,131.95.**



Quarter 1 Parking Infringement Revenue

Revenue from parking infringements issued during Quarter 1 shows a decrease when comparing year on year data over 2025/26 and 2026/27:

- Quarter 1 infringement revenue 2025/26: $5,673,676.00
- **Quarter 1 infringement revenue 2026/27: $5,305,921.00.**

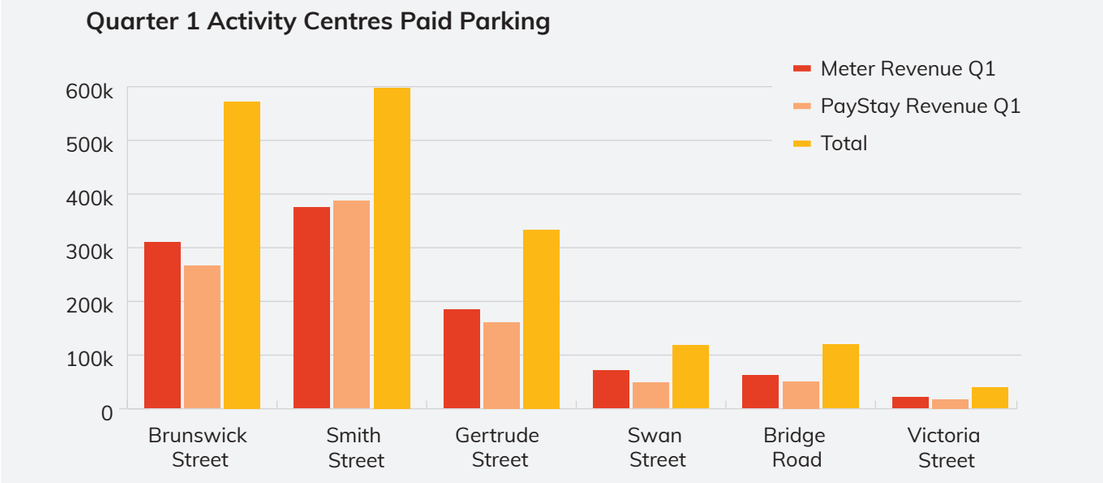


Activity Centre Paid Parking

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 report regarding conclusions from this trial was presented to Council in September 2026 and Council determined to continue the trial in Bridge Road and Victoria Street, cease the trial on Swan Street (this will take effect on 29 October 2026) and start a 30-minute free parking trial on Brunswick Street (this will also take effect on 29 October 2026).



Council Plan Action Plan 2026/27 Progress Quarter 1

- **On track** At least 90% of action target achieved
- **Monitor** Between 75% and 90% of action target achieved
- **Off track** Less than 75% of action target achieved
- – No target set

4 Running the City

Action Title: 4.2.3.1 Review of the Yarra Development Contributions Plan - Year 2

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager City Strategy	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
In May 2026, independent assessment of the Yarra Development Contributions Plan (DCP) commenced. The final report will be provided in October 2026. Preliminary findings indicate that Yarra's current DCP is no longer fit for purpose: Yarra's 2017 project list no longer aligns with current strategic priorities, and outdated cost estimates mean Council contributes a far greater proportion of funding to deliver the same projects than originally projected.

The independent assessment report is expected to outline the options available to Council to move towards a viable and fit for purpose infrastructure contributions mechanism.

At the same time, the State Government is proposing to introduce their new Infrastructure Contributions Plan (ICP) to areas in Yarra where the Built Form Overlay (BFO) has recently been applied. The DCP review project has been expanded to consider the implications of the ICP reform in Yarra, and to advocate for a streamlined and fit-for-purpose approach to infrastructure contributions in the municipality.

Officers have prepared a submission to the State, recommending application of the ICP to all of Yarra, or at least all Major and Neighbourhood Activity Centres, while also removing the DCP. Officers have written to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) on several occasions to reiterate this recommendation.

Action Title: 4.2.1.1 Waste and Recycling Strategy - Year 2

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager City Works	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
The second round of community consultation for the Waste and Recycling Strategy has been completed. Delivery of several key actions have commenced, including the installation of Container Deposit Scheme baskets, investigation of compactor street bins, and research into potential recycling hub opportunities. Further waste and recycling service opportunities will be considered once State Government waste and recycling policy settings are confirmed, changed or known (after the State election).

Action Title: 4.3.2.1 Advancing Yana Ngargna implementation

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Equity and Community Development	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	22	25	Monitor

Action Progress Comments:
The Draft Yana Ngargna Policy neared completion in Quarter 1 following extensive consultation, with officers refining and strengthening the draft in response to committee and community feedback. The methodology and timelines for the final phase of the Impact Consultation were discussed with the Yana Ngargna Advisory Committee on 17 August 2026, with members invited to identify gaps or areas requiring clarification. The Impact Consultation ran from mid-August to mid-September, with a particular focus on feedback from Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. Presentation to Council for adoption is targeted for November/December 2026.

Action Title: 4.1.1.1 Financial Sustainability Strategy implementation

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Chief Finance Officer	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	6	25	Off track

Action Progress Comments:
Council has commenced work on reviewing the Development and Infrastructure Contribution Plans (DCP/ICP). Once developed, these plans will inform the assessment and review of actions within the *Financial Sustainability Strategy*, supporting Council's long-term financial sustainability.

Action Title: 4.5.1.1 Implement Stage One of the ERP upgrade

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Chief Information Officer	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
The first release of the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system is progressing well. This stage includes key business functions such as Human Resources, Payroll, Finance, Budgeting, Asset Management, Supply Chain Management and Enterprise Content Management. Following the completion of an independent assurance review, the program has moved into the testing phase. Data is currently being transferred and checked to ensure accuracy, and preparations are underway to train staff and support the successful implementation of the new system with go live scheduled for 28 February 2027.

Action Title: 4.1.2.1 Implement the Advocacy Roadmap

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Government Relations Senior Advisor	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Implementation of Council's Advocacy Roadmap continued during Quarter 1, with a strong focus on community engagement and stakeholder advocacy. Council hosted the first Community Forum in Richmond on 2 September 2026, attracting more than 130 attendees and over 200 livestream viewers. Local high school students also participated in a Youth Voices workshop on 10 September 2026.

Promotional materials continue to be distributed and made available to the community, while advocacy efforts with Government, Opposition and local candidates have continued to progress.

Action Title: 4.5.2.1 Community Forums

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Strategic Communications and Engagement	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	50	50	On track

Action Progress Comments:
Council hosted one of two community forums for candidates contesting the Victorian State Election for the seats of Richmond. Brunswick and Northcote on 2 September 2026 at Richmond Town Hall. The next forum is planned for 24 October 2026 at Fitzroy Town Hall. Residents and Stakeholders can attend in person or follow the livestream. The election candidate forums are underpinned by the Yarra Decides Campaign.

Action Title: 4.5.1.1 Customer Experience (CX)

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Customer, Governance and Risk	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	20	25	Monitor

Action Progress Comments:
A new customer communication workflow has been developed for Council's compliance services in response to customer feedback seeking improved communication and follow up. The approach is being piloted within Parking Enforcement, providing proactive updates, clear timeframes, and notification upon completion of requests. This will improve customer awareness and reduce the need for follow-up enquiries, with the approach to be progressively extended across all compliance service areas.

Action Title: 4.2.3.1 General Local Law - Year 2

Responsible Person	Status	Start Date	End Date	Complete %	Target %	On Target %
Manager Parking and Compliance	In Progress	01-Jul-2026	30-Jun-2027	25	25	On track

Action Progress Comments:
The Local Law was adopted by Council and subsequently gazetted. Implementation activities were completed in preparation for the 1 September 2026 commencement date, including updates to systems, processes, and supporting materials to facilitate the transition to the new Local Law.



Yarra City Council

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yarracity.vic.gov.au

Customer service centres

Richmond Town Hall
333 Bridge Road, Richmond

Collingwood Town Hall
140 Hoddle Street, Abbotsford