

Council Meeting

Agenda

Tuesday, 10 October 2023

Council Chamber - Civic Centre
and via Videoconference

Information for Councillors and the community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands. We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region. We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.



COUNCIL VISION

Whether you live here or visit, you will see how much we care for country, how inclusive and connected our communities are, and how sustainable balanced growth makes this the best place in the world.

VALUE OF HISTORY

We acknowledge that history shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations.

COUNCILLOR COMMITMENT

We'll be truthful, represent the community's needs, be positive and responsive and always strive to do better.

OUR COUNCILLORS

Billanook Ward: Tim Heenan
Chandler Ward: David Eastham
Chirnside Ward: Richard Higgins
Lyster Ward: Johanna Skelton
Melba Ward: Sophie Todorov

O'Shannassy Ward: Jim Child
Ryrie Ward: Fiona McAllister
Streeton Ward: Andrew Fullagar
Walling Ward: Len Cox

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & DIRECTORS

Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose
Director Built Environment & Infrastructure, Hjalmar Philipp
Director Communities, Jane Price

Director Corporate Services, Andrew Hilson
Director Planning and Sustainable Futures, Kath McClusky

GOVERNANCE RULES

All Council and Delegated Committee meetings are to be conducted in accordance with Council's Governance Rules, which can be viewed at: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Corporate-documents/Policies-strategies/Governance-rules>

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS

Members of the community can participate in Council meetings in any of the following ways:

- making a verbal submission for up to 5 minutes on matters not listed on the agenda.
- submitting a question.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a specific item on the agenda. For planning applications and policy issues, the Chair will invite one person to speak on behalf of any objectors and one person to speak on behalf of the applicant. For other matters on the agenda, only one person will be invited to address Council, unless there are opposing views. At the discretion of the Chair, additional speakers may be invited for items of large interest.
- speaking for up to 5 minutes to a petition to be presented at a meeting.

For further information about how to participate in a Council meeting, please visit: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Council-meetings/Submissions-questions-petitions-to-Council>

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In the case of an emergency during a meeting held at the Civic Centre, 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale, you should follow the directions given by staff and evacuate the building using the nearest available exit. You should congregate at the assembly point at Hardy Street car park.

CONTACT US

Post	PO Box 105, Anderson Street
Telephone	1300 368 333
Facsimile	(03) 9735 4249
Email	mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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In accordance with section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020.

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YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

**AGENDA FOR THE 591ST COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY
10 OCTOBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 7.00PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC
CENTRE, ANDERSON STREET, LILYDALE AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

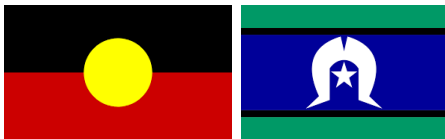
1. MEETING OPENED

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands.

We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region.

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3. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

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4. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

There were no apologies received prior to the commencement of this meeting.

5. MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

6. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 26 September 2023, as circulated, be confirmed.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Chapter 7, Rule 4, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The Local Government Act 2020 defines two categories of conflict of interest:

- *a general conflict of interest, which is defined as "...a relevant person has a general conflict of interest in a matter if an impartial, fair-minded person would consider that the person's private interests could result in that person acting in a manner that is contrary to their public duty", and*
- *a material conflict of interest, which is defined as "...a relevant person has a material conflict of interest in respect of a matter if an affected person would gain a benefit or suffer a loss depending on the outcome of the matter. The benefit may arise or the loss incurred (a) directly or indirectly; or (b) in a pecuniary or non-pecuniary form."*

In accordance with section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020, a conflict of interest must be disclosed in the manner required by the Governance Rules and the relevant person must exclude themselves from the decision-making process.

No Conflicts of Interest have been received prior to the Agenda being printed.

8. QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rules 57 and 59, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

A person may make a submission to Council on matters that are not listed on the Agenda. A submission may be on any matter except if it:

- (a) is considered malicious, defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial, or objectionable in language or substance;*
- (b) is substantially the same as a submission made to a Council meeting in the preceding 12 months;*
- (c) relates to confidential information as defined under the Act;*
- (d) relates to the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer; or*
- (e) relates to any other matter which the Council considers would prejudice the Council or any person.*

There were no Submissions from the Public received prior to the Agenda being printed.

9. PETITIONS

In accordance with Chapter 3, Rules 60, of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

A person may submit a petition to Council on matters that are not listed on the Agenda. Every petition or joint letter submitted to Council must:

- a) identify a 'Lead Petitioner' who Council can correspond with;*
- b) be legible and in permanent writing;*
- c) be clear and state on each page the matter and action sought from Council. Every page of a petition or joint letter must be a single page of paper and not be posted, stapled, pinned or otherwise affixed or attached to any piece of paper other than another page of the petition or joint letter;*
- d) not be derogatory, defamatory or objectionable in language or nature;*
- e) not relate to matters outside the powers of Council; and*
- f) clearly state the names and addresses of at least seven (7) people who live, work, study or do business in the Municipal district.*

There were no Petitions received prior to the Agenda being printed.

YR-2022/834 - 1 BAYNES PARK ROAD, MONBULK – PLANNING REPORT**APPLICATION DETAILS**

Site Address	1 Baynes Park Road, Monbulk (Lot 1 on Plan of Subdivision 119336)
Application No.	YR-2022/834
Proposal	Use of land for a childcare centre, building and works to construct a childcare centre, building and works to construct of a front fence, removal and lopping of vegetation and removal of access to a Transport Zone 2
Existing Use	Residential dwelling
Applicant	Apex Town Planning
Zone	Clause 32.03 - Low Density Residential Zone
Overlays	Clause 42.03 - Significant Landscape Overlay (Schedule 22) Clause 44.06 - Bushfire Management Overlay (Schedule 1)
Permit triggers	Clause 32.03 - Low Density Residential Zone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use and Development of the land for a childcare centre Clause 42.03- Significance Landscape Overlay - Schedule 22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removal and lop vegetation • To construct a building or construct or carry out works (front fence, site coverage, permeability, and building height over 7.5 metres) Clause 44.06- Bushfire Management Overlay-Schedule 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To construct a building or construct or carry out works – childcare centre
Submissions	22 objections, and One (1) letter of support
Encumbrances on Title (Covenants/Section 173 Agreements/easements)	The subject site includes a three metre wide drainage and sewerage easement that extends a length of three metres along the south-western boundary.

	There are no other encumbrances on the Certificate of Title.
Reason for Council Decision	More than 10 Objections
Ward	Chandler

SUMMARY

The proposed childcare centre is located within Monbulk township's residential area adjacent to Monbulk commercial precinct. The childcare centre provides for an essential community infrastructure for Monbulk and surrounding communities in a location that is both compatible and commonplace within a residential area.

The application was reviewed by the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and internally by Council's Engineering Traffic and Drainage departments, Strategic Planning and Urban Design Department, and Arborist. All referral assessments determined no overarching concerns with the proposal, subject to conditions.

The design response draws special attention to minimising negative impacts to adjoining neighbours by its an effective layout, generous setbacks and installation of acoustic measures and overlooking treatments. The design response integrates and responds to the constraints and characteristics of the site and surrounds with its residential scaled building form and residential design details.

At the time of writing this report the proposal received 22 objections and one letter of support. The primary concerns raised were land use appropriateness, accumulative amenity impacts including noise concerns, visual bulk of the development, accumulative traffic impacts including increase in traffic, increase in car noise and fumes, decreased traffic/pedestrian safety and potential for poor driving behaviour, lack of car parking on site and within Baynes Road, and vegetation removal. The submission in support identifies the site as a good location promoting walkability between site, town centre and schools, intersection was not too dangerous and identified a general need for this community infrastructure.

Overall, the proposed development has an appropriate design response and is satisfactory when assessed against the relevant policies including Municipal Planning Strategy and the Planning Policy Framework, provisions, and prescribed design standards of the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme. Therefore, it is recommended that the application be approved subject to conditions.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council resolve to approve Planning Application YR-2022/834 for Use of land for a childcare centre, building and works to construct a childcare centre, building and works to construct a front fence, removal and lopping of vegetation and removal of access to a Transport Zone 2 at 1 Baynes Park Road, Monbulk and issue a Notice of Decision to Grant a Permit subject to the conditions in Attachment 1 to the report.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The application has been checked against the requirements of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and *Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007 (Vic)* as to the need for a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. It has been assessed that a Cultural Heritage Management Plan is not required.

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY

The subject site is not located within 500 metres of land on which a work authority has been applied for or granted under the *Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act 1990*

HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATION

The application has been assessed in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* (including the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme), reviewed by the State Government and which complies with the *Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

SITE LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

The subject site:

- Is a corner allotment on the south-western corner of Baynes Park Road and Emerald-Monbulk Road in Monbulk (Figure 1).
- Has a land area of approximately 1,559 square metres and a 35.50 metre frontage along Emerald-Monbulk Road and a frontage of approximately 50 metres along Baynes Park Road (Figure 2 and Figure 3).

- Has a downward slope of approximately 6.3 metres from the north-west to south-east direction.
- Is currently occupied by a single storey brick and weatherboard dwelling, galvanised iron garage and a pool. All existing buildings and structures are to be removed.
- Has two vehicle access crossovers. One is located at the north-west corner to Baynes Park Road, and the second vehicular access is to the east side of Emerald–Monbulk Road (Figure 4).
- Has a moderate level of vegetation and exotic canopy trees scattered throughout the site. Exotic canopy trees identified as being of low to high retention value, with six trees identified as significant as defined by the Scheme.



Figure 1 - Subject site



Figure 2 - Facing east from Baynes Park Road



Figure 3 - Facing south on the corner of Baynes Park Road and Emerald-Monbulk Road



Figure 4 - Facing west from Emerald-Monbulk Road

SURROUNDING AREA

The immediate surrounding area consists of an established low-density residential area comprising both single and double storey dwellings, adjacent to Monbulk Town Centre commercial precinct, comprising varied commercial uses; sporting venues and other community infrastructure (Figure 5 and Figure 6).



Figure 5 - Subject site and surrounds

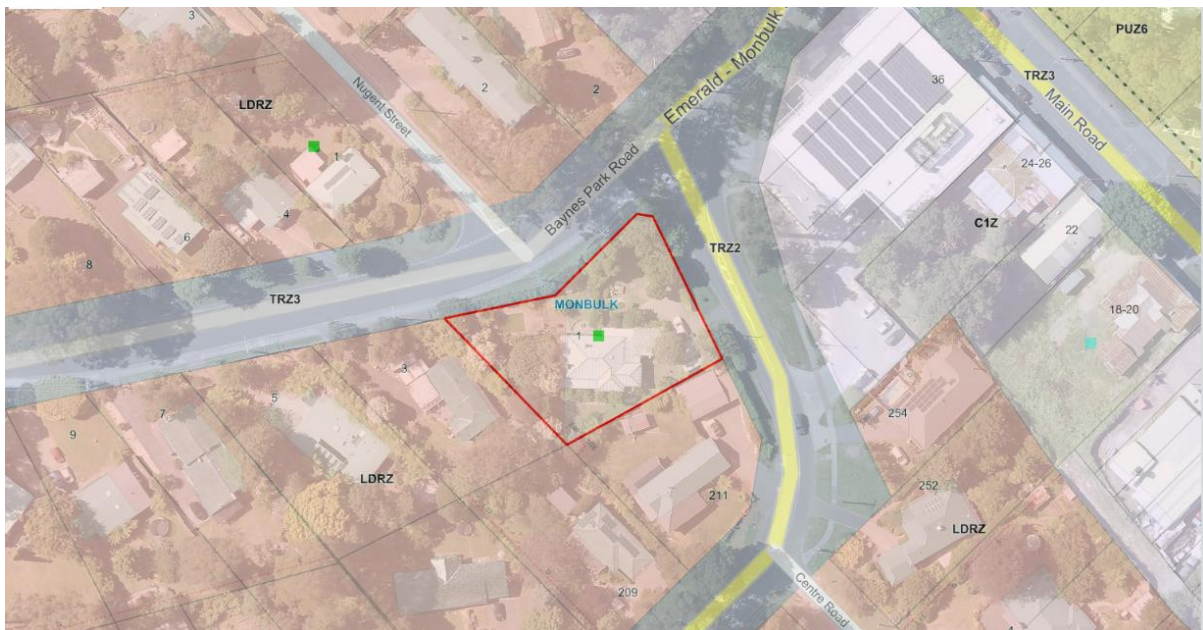


Figure 6– Zoning and nearby properties and road network

The surrounding properties uses include:

West –

- 3 Baynes Park Road - The property is occupied by an established single-story dwelling with abundant vegetation.

South and south-east -

- 209 Emerald-Monbulk Road and 211 Emerald-Monbulk Road - Each property has a single dwelling with access off their respective roads. Secluded private open space is at the rear of each dwelling.

- To the south-east is Centre Road – the land is within a Low Density Residential Zone and primarily used for dwellings.

East -

- Beyond Emerald-Monbulk Road is land within the Commercial 1 Zone.
- On the opposing corner of Baynes Park Rd and Emerald-Monbulk Road is an Aldi supermarket with its rear section (facing the site) including a car parking area and loading area.

North and North-west–

- 2 Nugent Street – on the north-eastern side of the intersection of Nugent Street and Baynes Park Rd – Two storey building used for a veterinary clinic.
- 1 Nugent Street – on the north-western side of Nugent Street - Has an established dwelling
- 4 Baynes Park Road – is occupied by a single dwelling.
- Approximately 90 metres north, beyond those properties facing Baynes Park Road is the Monbulk Town Centre with a variety of commercial uses and facilities servicing the township and wider surrounding communities.

PROPOSAL

The proposal, as shown in Figures 7-12, comprises a change of use to a childcare centre, and associated building and works on the land as summarised in the table below:

Use - Childcare centre	
Number of Children	88 children
Number of Staff	16 staff
Operating hours	Monday and Friday (inclusive) 6.30am - 6.30pm
Development - Childcare centre (Figure 7 and 8)	
Indoor space	Child room 1: Capacity 22 (floor area 73 square metres)
	Child room 2: Capacity 22 (floor area 73 square metres)
	Child room 3: Capacity 12 (floor area 40 square metres)
	Child room 4: Capacity 12 (floor area 40 square metres)
	Child room 5: Capacity 20 (floor area 66 square metres)
Outdoor space	Outdoor play areas wrap around the building
	Proposed area - 628 square metres
	Required area - 616 square metres
General Characteristics (Figures 9 and 10)	
Number of storeys	Two storey built form
Maximum building height	9.13 metres

Materials/colours	<p>Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exterior walls - Weatherboard Roofing – Galvanised Iron (Colourbond) <p>Colours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bushland and Woodland Grey
Site coverage	34.25 percent
Impervious area	51.81 percent
Boundary Fencing	<p>North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Part) 1.5 metre high transparent vertical timber slat fence atop a one metre high retaining wall. <p>East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 metre high transparent vertical pool fence atop a 0.8-metre-high retaining wall (setback one metre from the boundary). <p>West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed solid 2.10 metre high paling fence. <p>South</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing 1.8 metre high solid paling fence.
Vehicle Access	via Baynes Park Road
Bicycle storage	Four bicycle storage spaces

Carparking space reduction - Nil			
Carparking Rates - Childcare - 0.22 spaces per child (88 child care places)			
Proposed	19 spaces		
Required	19 spaces		
Front Fence			
Mix of 1.5 metres high transparent vertical timber slats and retaining wall			
Removal of six (6) trees (Figure 11):			
Tree number	Species	Origin	Arboricultural value
Tree 2	Japanese Maple	Exotic	Medium
Tree 6	Silver Banksia	Vic Native	Low
Tree 7	English Oak	Exotic	Medium
Tree 10	Rhododendron	Exotic	Medium
Tree 11	Camellia	Exotic	Medium to High
Tree 12b	Photinia	Exotic	Low

Lopping of Vegetation			
Tree number	Species	Origin	Arboricultural value
Tree 9	James Stirling (hedge within Baynes Park road reserve)	Exotic	Medium
Removal of Crossover (Figure 12):			
Remove existing crossover along Emerald-Monbulk Road within a Transport Zone 2			

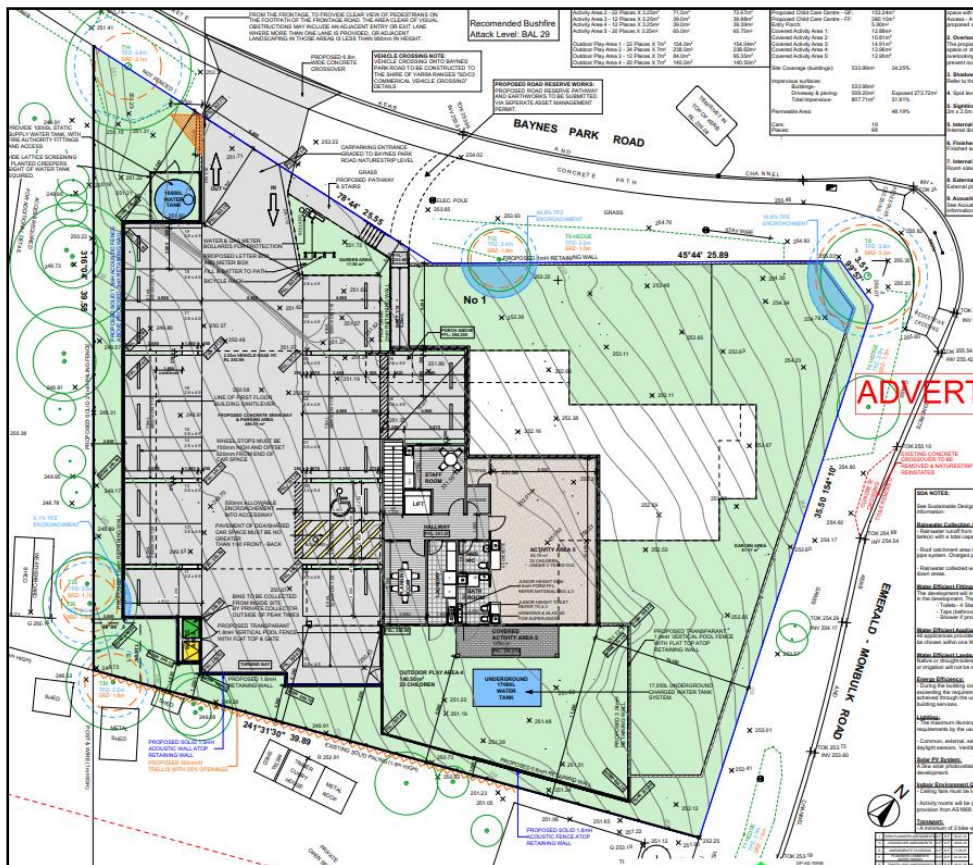


Figure 7 – Proposed Ground Floor Plan

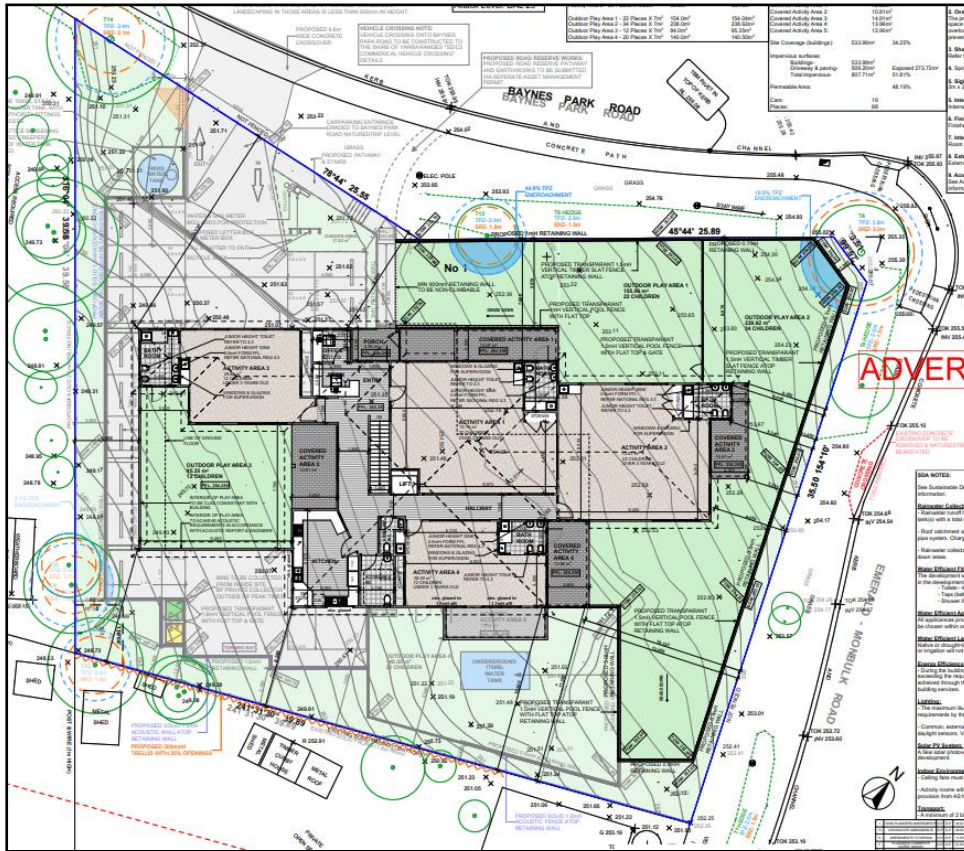


Figure 8 - Proposed First Floor Plan

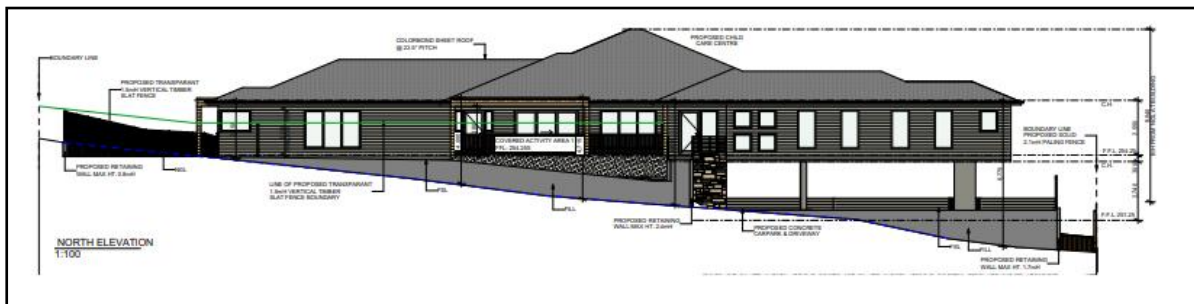


Figure 9 – North Elevation – Baynes Park Road

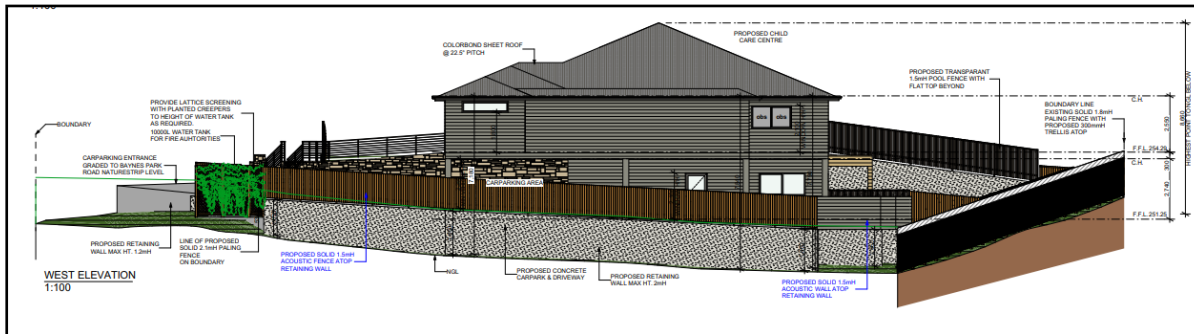


Figure 10 – West Elevation – Emerald-Monbulk Road

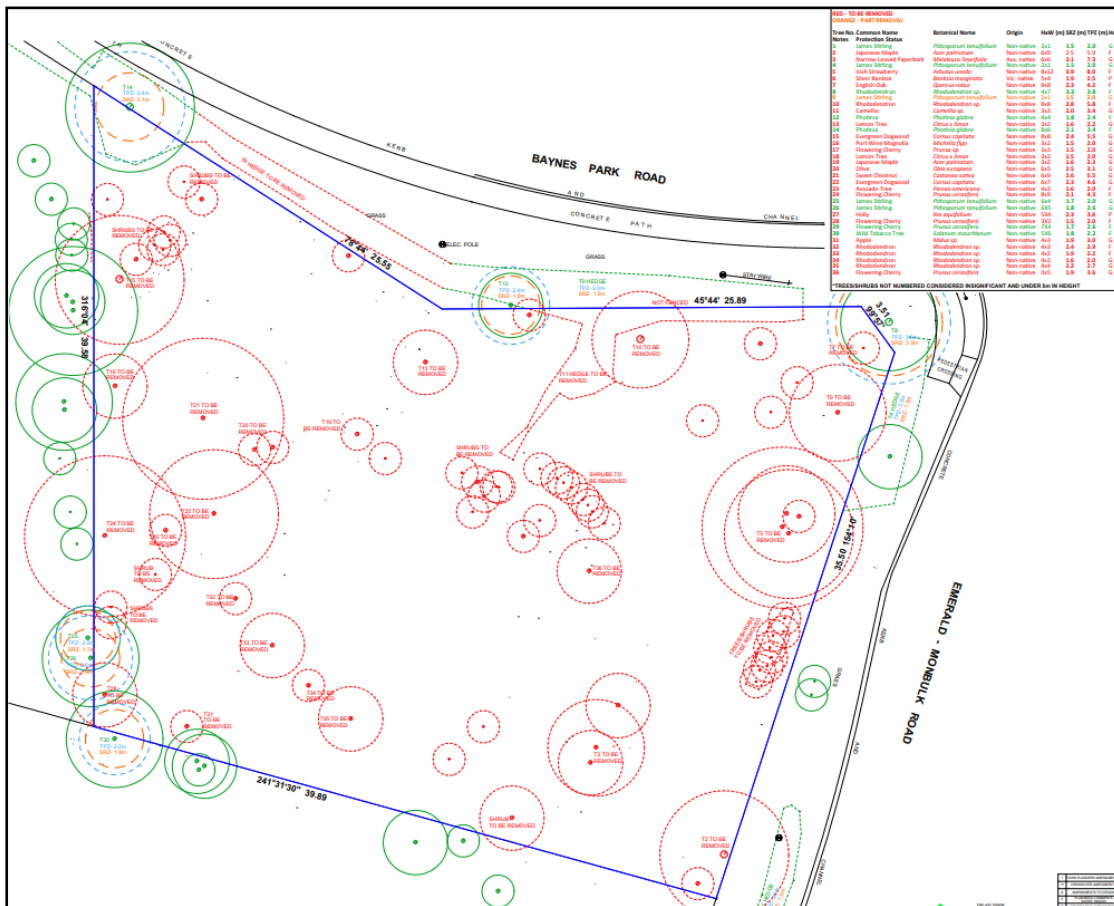


Figure 11 - Proposed Tree Removal

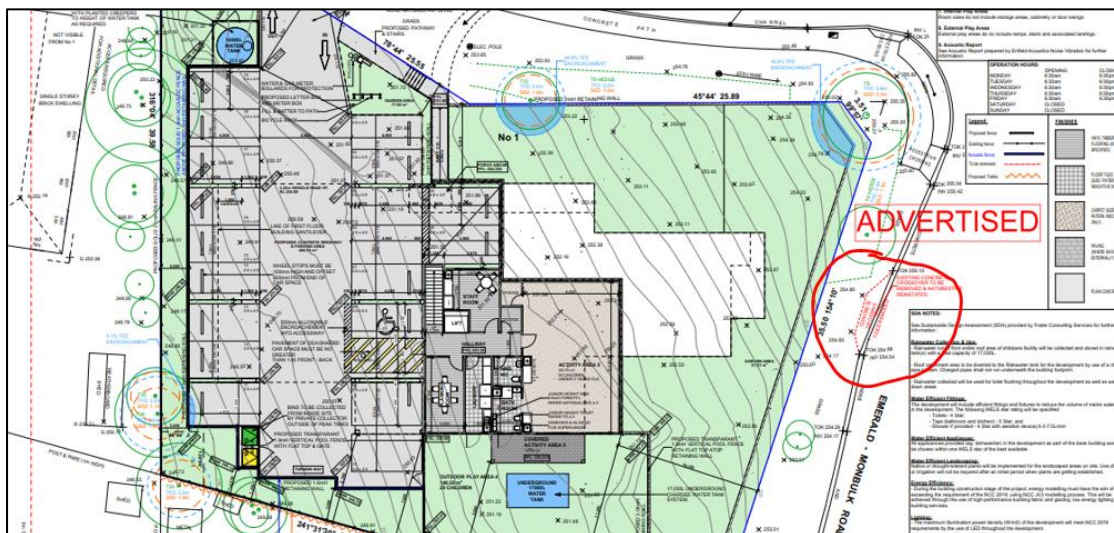


Figure 12 - Proposed crossover removal

See Attachments 3 to 7 for full proposal details and accompanying reports.

HISTORY

A search of Council records revealed no planning history associated with the site.

PLANNING CONTROLS

Zoning:	Clause 32.03 - Low Density Residential Zone
Overlay:	Clause 42.03 - Significance Landscape Overlay Clause 44.06 - Bushfire Management Overlay (Schedule 1)
Planning Policy:	<p>Clause 02 Municipal Planning Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yarra Ranges will lead the way in sustainably meeting the evolving needs of a growing community without compromising its natural assets. ▪ Support well-designed and integrated activity centres that service the needs of local residents and visitors and contribute to a sense of local identity. ▪ Provide opportunities in residential zones for non-residential land uses that respond to local community needs and retain the residential character of the area. <p>Clause 11 Settlement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning is to anticipate and respond to the needs of existing and future communities through provision of zoned and serviced land for housing, employment, recreation and open space, commercial and community facilities and infrastructure. <p>Clause 12 Environmental and Landscape Values:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Protect and enhance significant landscapes and open spaces that contribute to character, identity and sustainable environment. <p>Clause 13.02 Environmental Risks and Amenity – Bushfire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life. <p>Clause 13.05 Environmental Risks and Amenity - Noise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that development is not prejudiced, and community amenity and human health is not adversely impacted by noise emissions. ▪ To ensure development generated noise emissions does not adversely impact community amenity and human health using a range of building design, urban design and land use separation techniques as appropriate to the land use functions and character of the area. <p>Clause 13.07-1S Land use compatibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To protect community amenity, human health and safety while facilitating appropriate commercial, industrial, infrastructure or other uses with potential adverse off-site impacts.

Clause 15 Built Environment and Heritage:

- Require development to respond and protect to its context in terms of neighbourhood character, cultural identity, natural features, surrounding landscape and climate.
- Ensure development contributes to community and cultural life by improving the quality of living and working environments, facilitating accessibility and providing for inclusiveness.
- Ensure that development provides landscaping that supports the amenity, attractiveness and safety of the public realm.
- Ensure that development, including signs, minimises detrimental impacts on amenity, on the natural and built environment
- Adopt housing and settlement strategy detailing need and identify locations for rural residential development.
- Encourage environmentally sustainable development that: Is consistent with the type and scale of the development.

Clause 17.01 Employment:

- Protect and strengthen existing and planned employment areas and plan for new employment areas. Improve access to jobs closer to where people live.
- Support rural economies to grow and diversify.
- To encourage development that meets the community's needs for retail, entertainment, office and other commercial services.

Clause 18.01-1S Land use and transport integration:

- To facilitate access to social, cultural and economic opportunities by effectively integrating land use and transport.
- Plan movement networks and adjoining land uses to minimise disruption to residential communities and their amenity.

Clause 19.02-2S Education Facilities:

- Integrate of education and early childhood facilities with local and regional communities.
- Locate childcare, kindergarten and primary school facilities to maximise access by public transport and safe walking and cycling routes.
- Ensure childcare, kindergarten and primary school and secondary school facilities provide safe vehicular drop-off zones.

Clause 51.03:	N/A
Schedule to Clause 51.03:	N/A
Particular Provisions	Clause 52.06 Carparking
Other Requirements:	Clause 53.02 - Bushfire Planning Clause 65 - Decision Guidelines Clause 71.02-3 - Integrated Decision Making

For further information on the planning controls refer to Attachment 3.

CONSULTATION

Internal Referrals

This application was referred to various business units or individuals within Council for advice on particular matters. The following is a summary of the relevant advice:

Department	Summary of Response	Planning Officer comment
Traffic Engineer	No objection subject to conditions to comply with Clause 52.06, design standards for vehicle access and safety, ensuring works to the road reserve are completed to Council satisfaction, and seek Traffic and Car parking Operation Plan for managing staff and patron parking on site and surrounds.	Recommended conditions be included in any permit issued, with an amendment to the condition requiring a carparking management plan. Parts of the requested condition requires the applicant to consider, plan and implement for offsite carparking impacts on Baynes Road, which is not enforceable, as a planning permit condition. See further in the report for discussion. See Conditions 20 – 25 (inclusive)
Drainage Engineer	No objection, subject to standard conditions related to a submission of a drainage strategy plan and civil works to be completed to the satisfaction of responsible authority and inspected by an experienced civil engineer.	Recommend conditions to be included with any permit granted. See Conditions 26 – 29 (inclusive)

Department	Summary of Response	Planning Officer comment
Community Wellbeing	<p>Supportive of the proposal, as Monbulk is currently assessed as having no childcare places, and is a 'childcare desert.'</p> <p>Access to childcare supports both early childhood development, and labour force participation – particularly by women.</p> <p>Thus, a new childcare centre would have a positive health and wellbeing impact in Monbulk.</p>	<p>Proposal is recommended to be supported.</p>
ESD Sustainability	<p>No concerns with Sustainable Design Assessment Report</p>	<p>Recommend condition to enforce Environment Substantiality Report to be included in any permit granted.</p> <p>See Condition 5</p>
Urban Design and Landscape Architecture	<p>Urban Design and Landscape Architecture Department reviewed the first set of the development plans.</p> <p>No objection subject to design suggestions that relate to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requirement for a Landscape Plan that includes mature tree planting throughout the site reflective of the local context and native species. 2. Requirement to replace the upper level outdoor play area three false wall to be visible treatment from the street (Baynes Park Road). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Condition included in permit for a revised landscape plan to include species reflective of the local context and native species. <p>Suggestion for replacement canopy trees is not supported as there is insufficient space for canopies to be separated enough to comply with the bushfire management measures, as well as the need to provide unobstructed open play areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Suggested request to expose the upper level Outdoor Play Area 3 to Baynes Park Road by replacing the false wall with a transparent fencing not supported. Section 57A Development Plans changed the layout and pushed the Outdoor area three from the front to the rear. There are now first floor windows facing Baynes Park Road. Enclosing the upper level assists with integrating the commercial use into its sensitive residential surrounds.

Department	Summary of Response	Planning Officer comment
		<p>The ground floor Outdoor Play Areas can be observed from Baynes Park and Emerald – Monbulk Road, with semi-transparent fencing enabling views in and out of the site, and connection to the public realm.</p>
Strategic Planning Response	<p>The proposal is considered suitable as a compatible development in relation to both proximity to Main Road activity and encouraging community-based facilities within the urban growth boundary and a large neighbourhood activity centre.</p>	<p>Nil</p>
Arborist	<p>Overall, no objection subject to conditions related to installing tree protection zones, fencing during construction and set timeframes for new planting.</p>	<p>Recommend conditions to be included in any permit granted to cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree protection fencing • Tree sensitive works • Installation of services • Tree removal • Replacement planting <p>See Conditions 15 – 19 (inclusive)</p> <p>No objection to the removal of Tree 7 to service a new land use and retaining wall.</p> <p>Tree 8 is an exotic <i>Redons Rhododendron</i> showing signs of decline with ivy growing on it. To assist with retention, it is recommended a condition placed on any permit granted to seek measures to be put in place for non-destructive root investigation to the protect tree.</p> <p>There is a boundary fence which Street Tree12a directly abuts. The street tree is in a poor location, preventing the private property owner from constructing a boundary fence/barrier to secure the property. Should the proposed boundary fence/retaining wall impact the ongoing health this would be separate matter</p>

Department	Summary of Response	Planning Officer comment
		<p>addressed between the property owner and Council's arborist. This matter is outside the scope of this planning application and considerations.</p> <p>See image below of tree location figure 14</p>

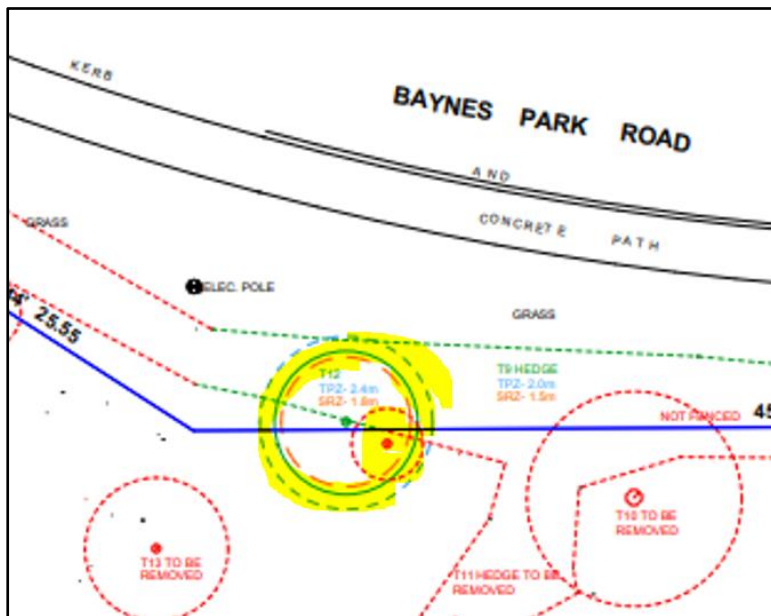


Figure 14 – Street Tree 12a) large yellow circle on boundary

External Referrals

This application was referred to the following statutory referral authorities for advice on particular matters. The following is a summary of the relevant advice:

Referral Authority	Consent/Objection Summary of Response
Country Fire Authority	<p>Consent subject to conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endorsement of Bushfire Management Plan; and • Preparation and endorsement of a Bushfire Emergency Plan <p>See Conditions 29 and 30</p>
Department of Transport and Planning (Head, Transport for Victoria)	<p>Consent subject to a condition to remove redundant crossover and reinstatement the nature strip.</p> <p>See Condition 31</p>

Public Notification and Consultation

Notification of the application was undertaken by:

- Placing two (2) signs on the land
- Mailing notices to owners and occupiers of adjoining and/or nearby properties

At the time of preparing this report twenty-two(22) objections and one (1) letter of support were received:

Notification of the application was undertaken twice. Following objector concerns raised in the first notification period, the applicant amended the application, to include changes to the built form and layout to reduce setbacks and visual bulk to assist with resolving objector concerns.

Objector concerns are summarised as:

- Location appropriateness.
- Out of character for a residential area / inappropriate built form
- Loss of vegetation / lack of land
- Insufficient Car Parking
- Pedestrian safety / traffic
- Lack of policy support
- Various traffic impacts and traffic safety matters
- Amenity (noise/health/overlooking/glare)
- Excessive vegetation removal

Submissions in support state:

- Ideal location being collocated with the township and schools to increase walkability.
- No foreseen traffic impacts. Intersection is not dangerous.
- Need for more Childcare centres in Monbulk Township.

ASSESSMENT/ KEY ISSUES

The proposal has been assessed to be consistent with the applicable Zone and Overlay provisions, the Planning Policy Framework, Particular Provisions and Decision Guidelines of the planning scheme.

Use location

Clause 02 and Clause 19.02 seeks to ensure that a proposed use is suitably located in proximity to an activity centre and other education facilities, providing a local community infrastructure to support on-going community needs. Childcare centres are commonplace in a residential environment and are an important local community facility that is considered suitable in a residential zone.

The proposed childcare centre, within this location, provides an addition to local community infrastructure to meet the long-term needs of the community. Expansion of the existing education facilities, found within the local area, in turn contributes to strengthening the overall education infrastructure available to respond to the community demand. They can contribute to developing a sense of belonging to a local area because of its readily accessibility. There is an identified demand for childcare places, and a forecast increase in demand in the future. Private childcare facilities are required to respond to this need.

The proposed use is consistent with the provisions of the planning scheme. Clause 17.01 and Clause 19.2 aim is enhancing accessibility and diversifying options for early childhood facilities, ultimately creating more opportunities within the education sector, especially in terms of local accessibility. The proposed use is in proximity to an existing residential community and other educational facilities, with planned road networks and pedestrian pathways, and are located on the periphery of a commercial activity area.

Built form, Siting, Building heights and Appearance

Clause 15.01, urban design, aims to ensure that the proposal adequately responds to its context in terms of character, natural features, and the surrounding landscape. Clause 15.01-1S Urban design and Clause 15.01-2S Building design, both seek to ensure that the proposal adequately responds to minimise detrimental impacts on the amenity of neighbourhood properties, the natural and built environment, and the safety and efficiency of roads.

Built form, siting and building heights

The proposed building siting and overall layout are primarily influenced by and make use of the natural land grades. The carparking and entrance to Baynes Park Road creates an opportunity for undercroft car parking. Majority of the building is oriented to the north and set back from residential land to the west and south.

The built form is a mixture of single storey and two storey form resulting in varied building heights. The single storey component is at the higher points of the land, at the front of the site on the corner of Baynes Park and Emerald–Monbulk Road. As the site slopes down, the two-storey form is introduced, to take advantage of this fall. This is an example of responding appropriately to the land slope to avoid excessive heights within the streetscape.

The development integrates with the local streetscape and the prevailing architectural character of the area, maintaining a consistent rhythm with the wider built form landscape, where a combination of single and double-storey dwellings situated on different ground elevations is common. The existing built form ranges from five to seven metres, and seven to nine metres, respectively.

The proposed building heights preserve uninterrupted views and vistas extending beyond the site. The building heights are complemented by a well-articulated architectural design, strategically placed windows, varied facade setbacks, and an array of materials commonly used within the area. The height results from using a hipped pitched roof form which is the prevailing surrounding neighbourhood character. A flat/skillion roof form would result in smaller building height measurement, however, would unsatisfactorily respond to respecting and integrating this development into the residential area.

On balance, the proposed building heights sufficiently meet the objectives of Significance Landscape Overlay.

Appearance

The overall design of the building and its orientation is based on the goal of reflecting the appearance of a residential building. The building fronts two streets and incorporates a blend of bungalow and post-war dwelling architectural features with a modern style. It includes a mix of gable and hipped roofs, integrated wide entrance, weatherboard exterior and appropriately sized portrait window openings.

Boundary landscape treatments surround the development, featuring staggered setbacks to timber paling fences. The building has weatherboard exterior and sheeted metal roofing in a muted colour palette of green-greys, natural timbers, and stone. The building's style, design details, and landscaping are contemporary and in harmony with the character of the local area. Each elevation has visual interest and is well articulated, with the use of varied boundary and floor level setbacks, textured exterior materials and strategic placed large window punctuations for a balance and symmetry.

Views into and out of the subject site, facilitated by appropriate permeable fencing, enhance the public realm pedestrian experience. Additionally, there would be a visible and dedicated pedestrian access provided from Baynes Park Road and Emerald-Monbulk Road.

The overall scale of the building, generous setbacks from side and rear boundaries, and the effective use of landscaping and screening buffers are all measures put in place to ensure the protection of residential amenity.

Building and works – Significance Landscape Overlay

Clause 12.05-2S and Clause 42.03 play a pivotal role in ensuring that the proposal aligns with the landscape characteristics and contributes positively to the character, identity, and sustainability of the existing area. The Significant Landscape Overlay designates the Monbulk area as nestled within forested hills, featuring spacious blocks adorned with garden settings. This distinct character encompasses a harmonious blend of low-level gardens and mature trees, both native and non-native, which dominate the skyline.

General

Analysing the proposal specific metrics, the building footprint and impervious area calculations slightly exceed the stipulated thresholds of 30 percent and 50 percent, respectively, necessitating a planning assessment under the Overlay. However, these

figures remain acceptable due to the overall proposal's effective alignment with the Overlay's objectives and strategies. The development achieves this by preserving a sense of spaciousness through generous setbacks, promoting strategic landscaping, and adopting a building profile that seamlessly emulates a residential style synonymous with the surrounding environment.

The proposal building heights of maximum 9.13 metres, exceed 7.5 metres threshold necessitate a planning assessment under the Overlay. Building heights assessment is discussed in detail, under the assessment heading '*built form, siting, building heights, and appearance*' of this report.

Front fencing

The proposed front fencing spans the property's two frontages, namely Baynes Park Road (north) and Emerald – Monbulk Road (east), enclosing outdoor play areas. These front fences take the form of a combination of retaining walls, featuring either solid timber paling acoustic treatments or semi-transparent steel slats fences on top, with a maximum height of 2.5 metres. The retaining wall heights remain below natural ground level, ensuring a balanced visual impact from the public realm perspective, where fence heights are in line with the residential area, at a maximum height of 1.5 metres.

Specifically, the east side front fence employs an opaque design, recessed 1.0 metre from the title boundary, and is complemented by a landscaping hedge buffer. This approach fosters the site's seamless integration into the neighbourhood's verdant garden characteristic. The north side front fence adopts a semi-transparent structure, facilitating visual engagement both within and outside the site. Additionally, a portion of the title boundary retains the existing 2.0 metre high hedge, further enhancing the broader green garden characteristic.

The proposed design details translate into the desired design outcomes sought by objectives and strategies of the Overlay. The proposal successfully prioritises sensitivity to interfaces and landscaping provisions, contributing to Monbulk's distinctive significance profile statement. Consequently, the proposal could seamlessly integrates into both the built environment and natural landscape.

Amenity impacts

Clause 13.05-1S Noise and Clause 13.07-1S Land use compatibility require Council to ensure that development and uses are compatible with surrounding uses and minimise adverse off-site impacts through suitable building siting and design (including orientation), urban design, and land use separation techniques. Clause 02 Municipality Planning Strategy seeks to ensure that the proposal responds acceptably to minimise adverse effects on the amenity of residential neighbourhoods through car parking and traffic.

Operating hours

The proposed use and development will operate Monday to Friday from 6.30am to 6.30pm. These hours are commonly applied to a use like this and are generally compatible with residential living, as they do not extend into the higher amenity-sensitive times of evenings and weekends. The 6.30am start time allows for the

opportunity to support a wider resident demand, promoting work-life balance and spreading the movement of vehicles and people over a longer period in the morning and evening.

Overlooking

The proposal has taken the same approach as residential development to resolve overlooking, with window treatments and fencing treatments imposed.

Overlooking measures proposed:

- All western and southern upper first floor windows facing residential properties to be obscured up to 1.7 metres height above window sill.
- Installation of 1.8 metres acoustic fencing around Activity Areas are recessed inward to provide a double layer of ground level treatment.
- Installation of 1.5 metre high acoustic fencing to the rear carpark.
- Retention of existing residential shared title boundary fences with varied heights of 1.8 metre to 2.1 metres.
- The southern Outdoor Activity Area 4 ground level to be lower than the rear adjoining southern property's ground level.

All these measures appropriately minimise overlooking.

Overshadowing

The proposed layout and generous side setbacks prevent any unreasonable overshadowing to the adjoining western and southern properties. The site takes benefit of its northern orientation, siting the building central on site, with a minimum 4.0 metre setback from the west and 6.3 metres from the south.

Overshadowing diagrams (Attachment 2) confirm the development complies with the same overshadowing requirements for ordinary residential developments under Clause 54/55 of the Scheme.

The proposal does not result in any unreasonable overshadowing.

Noise

Enfield Acoustics, in Attachment 4, has prepared the Acoustic Report, which includes a detailed assessment of potential noise impacts, encompassing general land use, traffic noise, and sleep disturbance. It uses the commonly applied Association of Australasian Acoustical Consultants (AAAC) guidelines for Childcare Centres and the *Environment Protection Act 2017 (Vic)*.

The recommendations and conclusions outlined in point five of the Acoustic Report, states: "*the proposal is considered to be equivalent to many other approved childcare centres with respect to acoustic outcomes.*" All acoustic fencing shall be constructed to appropriate heights, using materials which will reduce the noise emissions beyond

the site to an acceptable level. Acoustic fences/walls shall have no gaps or holes in it and be designed and built in an acceptable manner so that noise will not pass underneath it. Gaps between joins will be managed to prevent noise passing between the materials.

Exhibited noise mitigation measures proposed:

- Acoustic walls/fencing recessed from the south and west title boundaries fences and to be buffered by evergreen landscaping where the setback accommodates via a recommending permit condition. The wall height is not dissimilar to what is ordinarily found in residential areas, for boundary fence or alike (see Figure 15):

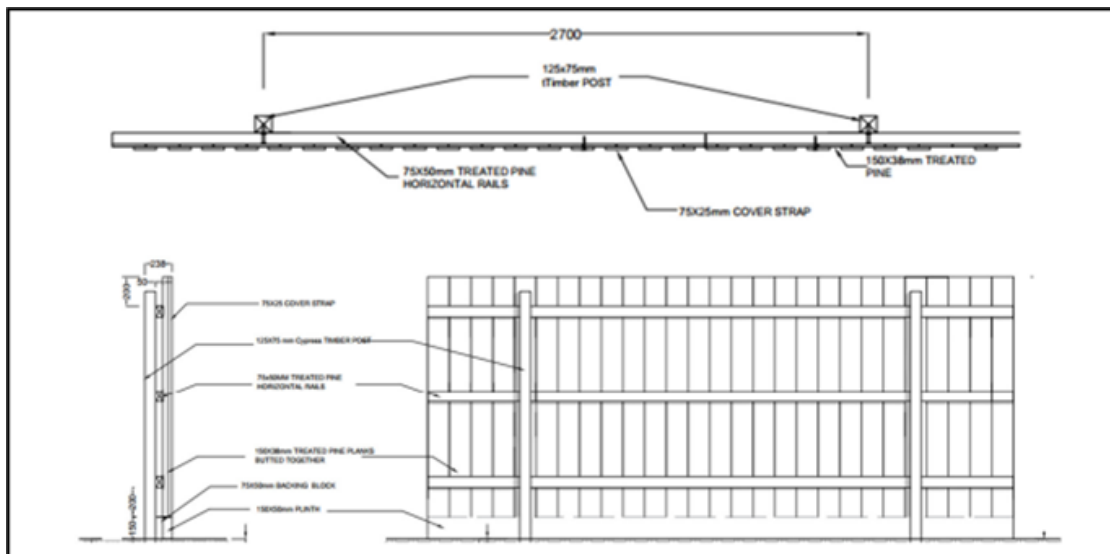


Figure 15 - Acoustic barriers around the ground floor play areas (Source – Development Plans)

- The first storey (upper level) Outdoor Play Area 3 to have an internal acoustic material behind the wood clad façade which provides both the appropriate acoustic measures as well as keeps the materials consistent with the chosen design characteristic (see Figure 16).

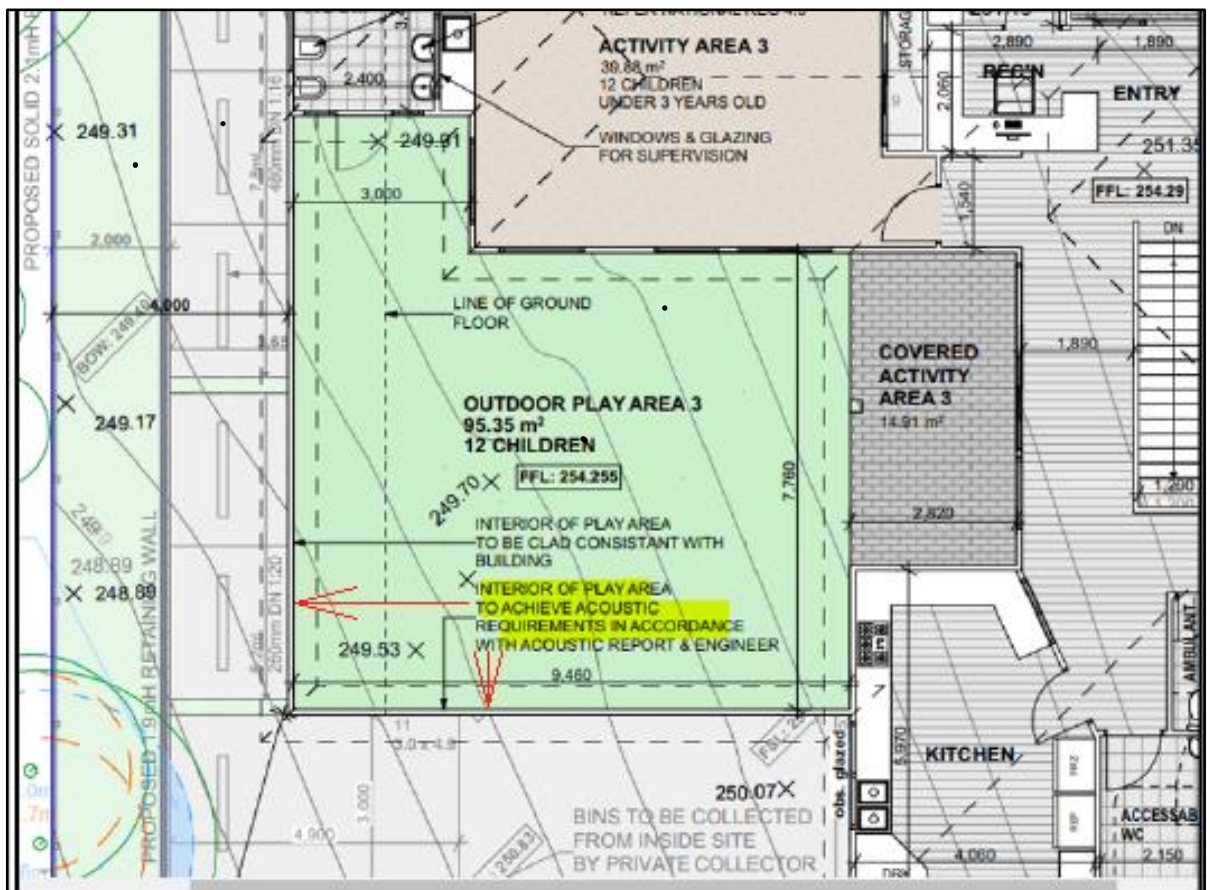


Figure 16 – Interior Acoustic measures for Outdoor Play Area 3 – (Source – Development Plans)

Layout

The proposed design layout has sought to minimise off-site amenity impacts that include:

- Outdoor play areas that interface adjoining residential properties are setback behind by two-layers of fencing (title boundary fence and receded acoustic fencing), with opportunities for landscaping between facing.
- Outdoor play areas are sectioned into various areas around the site, with larger outdoor play areas interfacing Baynes Park Road and Emerald Monbulk Road; non-sensitive interfaces. Children are concreated into small groups around the site.
- The on-site carparking area is strategically located off the southern boundary using the slope of the land to create under croft parking. Locating carparking off the southern boundary orientates the bulk of built form the furthest distance possible from the immediate residential adjoining properties; their dwelling and their outdoor recreational spaces.
- Generous western and southern setbacks at all levels from residential properties. No impact to third party trees or vegetation.

All these design measures suitably minimise noise impacts.

Standard amenity permit conditions, including conditions to secure recommendations made by Acoustic Engineer, are recommended to be included on the permit.

Sustainable Development

The proposal is accompanied by a Sustainability Management Report (Environment Sustainability plan) (Attachment 8) detailing various design initiatives and measures responding to Clause 15.01-2 Environmentally Sustainable Development. The report targets key area of Energy performance, Integrated water management, Indoor environment quality (breeze ways), Transport, and Urban ecology.

Council's Environmental Sustainability Officer has confirmed the proposal satisfies the objectives and strategies of Clause 15.01-2.

A permit condition will require the development comply with and maintains all design initiatives and measures outlined in the report.

Vegetation (tree) removal - Significance Landscape Overlay

The application is accompanied by Tree Removal Plan (Attachment 5) and an Arborist Report (attachment 10) assessing the removal of six trees and the lopping of one tree. All trees have low-medium retention value. The six trees are central on site or along title boundary. The proposed use necessitates specific design and function requirements that mandate the removal of the trees. Therefore, we need to consider which is more important the childcare centre or the protection of trees.

Due to the design of the proposed building and compliance measure for bushfire protection management, tree removal cannot be avoided. To offset this loss, the proposal includes landscaping provisions around the site perimeter. In the medium to long-term, the replacement vegetation planting will achieve a similar level and quality of landscaping as currently exists.

Subject to conditions, the Landscape Plan (Attachment 4 and Figure 17) provides an adequate landscaping response that balances commercial needs with no maintenance planting and soften and integration the built form into its greenery environment.

The Landscape Plan details seven (7) new replacement canopy trees to be planted around the north, south and east boundaries. The number of new trees planted exceeds the number of trees being removed:

- *Acacia implexa* - Lightwood - Quantity three (3)
- *Allocasurina littoralis* - Black She Oak - Quantity three (3)
- *Acacia melanoxylon* - Blackwood - Quantity one (1)

There is opportunity to provide additional screen planting along southern boundary given the sensitive interface to the residence to the south, and an objection received raising amenity concerns.

A permit condition for additional screen planting is recommended. Screen planting provision would need to comply with Bushfire Management Overlay. In addition, a condition to require the relocation of any fauna on the land immediately prior to the commencement of vegetation removal is required.

The proposed landscape buffer between eastern retaining wall along Emerald-Monbulk Road and title boundary is a positive attribute as this sightline is a prominent vegetation interface to the public realm. Retention of the road reserve Tree 4 (hedging) and Tree 8 at the corner north-east point of site, at the intersection of Baynes Park and Emerald-Monbulk Road are other pleasing attributes for the same reason.



Figure 17 - Proposed Landscape Plan

Bushfire Management / Bushfire Protection

The proposal suitably responds to the bushfire management objectives and strategies to mitigate bushfire risk and prioritise the protection of human life which Clauses 13.05, 44.06, 53.02 and 71.02-3 seek to achieve.

The application is accompanied by a bushfire management statement and bushfire management plan prepared by TM Terramatrix (attachment 11) to respond to bushfire risks. The proposal has demonstrated how they will mitigate bushfire risk to an acceptable level having regard to the following:

- The landscape is not one of extreme bushfire risk. Bushfire behaviour is likely to be within Bushfire Management Overlay expectations and design parameters.
- The siting of the childcare centre maximises the setback from modified vegetation as far as practical and achieves compliance with the Bushfire Management Overlay setback requirements for defensible space.
- The development can meet the defensible space and construction objective by use of alternative measure item 3.6.
- The development is to be constructed to BAL-29 construction standard.
- Accessing the site is via wider sealed road network.
- Static water storage is located to the front and visually screened; and
- Bushfire will be incorporated into emergency management plans for the facility.

CFA has reviewed the application and indicated support subject to the submitted Bushfire Management Plan endorsement and a Bushfire Emergency Management Plan to be prepared.

Relevant conditions are included in recommended permit.

Traffic Management

Council's Engineering Traffic Department reviewed the application, including the submitted Traffic Impact Assessment Report (Attachment 7), access ingress/egress, carparking layout and traffic generated impact. Overall, the assessment determined the proposed use would not impose unreasonable impacts on the nearby roads and the location of accessway and carparking layout to be appropriate subject to conditions.

More details of traffic management assessment as follows:

Access

Subject to conditions, the proposal ensures safe access and egress for pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles, aligning with the objectives of Clauses 15.01-2S, 18.01-1S, 18.02-1S, 18.02-2S, and 52.06-10.

The proposal provides a sufficient number of on-site parking spaces to meet demand, offers alternative transport options, and establishes suitable internal access to minimise any potential amenity impacts.

Clauses 18.01-1S, 18.02-1S, and Clause 65 all aim to ensure that any proposal aligns with objectives that facilitate the use of cycling and walking within existing, well-used network connections, promoting sustainable land use and transport integration.

As previously mentioned, the location of the subject site supports the use of a childcare centre due to its proximity to a residential community and other educational facilities. Furthermore, the site is accessible by an existing road network infrastructure, linking the site to wider residential areas, and nearby commercial core and township employment areas. Siting of this land use enhances accessibility for the community,

and in turn reduces environmental and economic impacts by promoting multi-daily use circular vehicle trips.

Emerald-Monbulk Road is a Transport Zone 2 that serves as one of the primary thoroughfares into the Monbulk commercial precinct, while Baynes Park Road is already a highly utilised local traffic route. Both roads are classified as Collector Roads. Baynes Park Road is designed for vehicle capacity for up to 7000 vehicles per day.

Traffic Impact Assessment Report prepared by qualified Traffic Engineers, Traffix Group (Attachment 6) indicates the childcare centre is estimated to generate 352 vehicle movements (both ingress and egress) per day with a total of 70 vehicle trip ends are expected in each of the commuter peak hours. Peak operation hours for drop off/pick up are before and after traditional working business hours. The applicant's qualified traffic engineer determined the road network has the capacity to accommodate the proposal's generated traffic.

Council Traffic Engineering Department reviewed the application and Traffic Impact Assessment Report, and determined traffic generation vehicle movements is consistent with other similar Childcare proposals within the Shire. Further, the proposed traffic generation on to Baynes Park Road would not exceed the designed road capacity and would not exacerbate any pre-existing traffic issues in the area. The proposal includes a large double crossover for flexible vehicles movements in and out of the site.

An increase of vehicle traffic around the site generated by this proposal would not impose unreasonable amenity or impose unreasonable traffic impacts to the road network

There is a recommendation from Council Traffic Engineers to require a Car Parking Operation Plan as a condition of approval, to assist minimising unnecessary vehicle movements, detailing measures for managing of staff and patron parking both on site and on surrounding street network.

Given there is no on-street parking along either Baynes Park Road or Emerald-Monbulk Road within vicinity of the site, the Car Parking Operation Plan will be in place to demonstrate how the use will operate to ensure both staff parking and drop-off and pick up short stay parking is to be managed as a commitment, from childcare operator, to manage carparking availability.

The plan would not include off-site parking management, as this is beyond the scope of the permit, and cannot be enforced. However, the proposal provides the necessary car parking required by the planning scheme, and the plan will designate areas for staff carparking, patron use, and short term drop off and pick up on site.

Clause 52.06 - Car Parking

The proposal meets the relevant car parking requirement of Clause 52.06, subject to conditions to be included in any permit granted:

Carparking rate assessment			
Land use	Required	Proposed	Shortfall
Childcare centre rate - 0.22 per 1 child (88 children)	19	19	0

There are two design standards under Clause 52.06-9 Carparking standards identified as non-compliant that can be satisfactorily resolved via permit conditions. These are Design standard 1 Accessways (turning circle and aisle width) and Design standard 3 -Gradients (levels to prevent vehicle scraping at entry/exit).

There is a recommendation from Councils Traffic Engineers to include vehicle safety barriers along the western carparking spaces, to complement the proposed wheel stops to secure a satisfactory safety level, given carparking height above natural ground level. Conditions are recommended to form part of a permit.

The proposed carparking and access layout comply with the statutory requirements subject to conditions to rectify minor non-compliances.

Removal of Crossover to Transport Zone 2

Head of Development of Transport (VicRoads) reviewed the application and supports the application subject to reinstatement of the nature strip.

Recommended conditions to be included to any permit granted.

Integrated Decision Making

The proposal complies with the provisions of Clause 71.02-3 (Integrated Decision Making). As discussed throughout this report, the proposal assesses aspects of economic, environmental, and social well-being by balancing conflicting objectives in favour of net community benefit and sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

CONSULTATION ASSESSMENT

Response to Submitters (Objector) concerns (Part 1)

Concern	Officer response
Use	
Location appropriateness	<p>Childcare centres are commonly found within residential zones, collocated with other education centres and community infrastructure, and accessed by an established a high order road network to service the wide community. The location of this childcare centre is consistent with these common siting attributes.</p> <p><i>See Use location assessment for a response to this concern.</i></p>

Use out of character for a residential area	<p>A childcare centre land use is commonly found in residential areas, and subject to appropriate amenity conditions and acoustic treatments, is considered to be an appropriate complementary land use.</p> <p><i>See Built form, siting and appearance assessment for a response to this concern.</i></p>
Need for use	<p>Assessing the economic ‘need’ for a land use is not a planning matter.</p> <p>However, Yarra Ranges’ Community Wellbeing Department commented childcare centre availability is low in Monbulk Township.</p>
Traffic Impacts	
Baynes Park Road and Emerald-Monbulk Road is already a busy intersection.	<p>Traffic impacts were the primary concern raised by many objectors.</p> <p>The submitted Traffic Report and Council’s Engineering traffic team have not raised concerns with general traffic management.</p> <p>It is considered that the road network is suitable and can manage the additional traffic generated by the use.</p>
Increase traffic movements	
Decrease traffic safety/dangerous intersection	
Insufficient on-site parking and danger of parking on-street.	<p>The proposal supplies sufficient carparking spaces on site for staff and patrons.</p> <p>The proposed design layout and access points encourage use of on-site carparking, rather than on-street parking. Based on the figures supplied and Councils engineering assessment there is sufficient parking on site.</p>
Pedestrian access and safety	<p>The site is proposed to be accessed by a pedestrian footpath connected to Baynes Park Road, which is considered sufficient for the proposed use and development. It is expected pedestrian access to the site will be much lower than vehicle access, as parents will mostly likely drop their children off at the centre when travelling to and from work.</p>
Amenity	
Measures insufficient to prevent overlooking	<p>The proposal is accompanied by several treatments to minimise potential for overlooking into adjoining properties.</p> <p>Overlooking requirements have been addressed in a similar manner to the requirements of Clause 54/55 of the Planning Scheme.</p>
Visual bulk	<p>The built form adopts residential characteristics to integrate into the surrounds. The built from is well</p>

	articulated with varied setbacks, varied angle hipped roof forms, large window punctuations across all facades and adopts an effective use of domestic materials and colours schedule. See main assessment for a response to this concern.
Increase noise experienced	The proposal is accompanied by acoustic treatment to minimise potential adverse noise impacts on the surrounding area. The proposed use will have hours of operation between 6.30am and 6.30pm Monday to Friday. The hours are generally compatible with residential living, as they do not extend into the higher amenity sensitive times of evenings and weekends. The 6.30am start time allows for opportunity to support a wider resident demand, for a work life balance, and spreads the movement of vehicles and people over a longer period of time in the morning and night.
Other	
Impact of vegetation removal on native flora and fauna.	The subject site has not been identified as a place with high natural environmental significance. The arborist report has demonstrated that the vegetation on site can be removed for the development to proceed. Replacement landscaping is required to appropriately revegetate the site with suitable species whilst managing the bushfire risk.
Overall design and acoustic fencing is not in keeping with residential zoning of the area	As stated in the assessment part of the report the proposal responds appropriately to the subject site terrain and urban landscape characteristics in presenting a high standard well-designed built form that fits comfortably on the land. Acoustic fencing has been designed to take the form of a standard boundary fence. Further to this the acoustic fencing is setback from boundaries to allow for significant landscaping that will soften the fences appearance.

Negotiated amendment in response to objector concerns (Part 2)

The applicant and southern adjoining property owner and objector initiated their own independent discussions, they have negotiated three voluntary design changes to resolve the objector concerns (shown in Figure 18).

The objector has withdrawn their objection subject to the agreed changes. See main assessment for a more detailed response to concerns.

The design changes only impact the southern elevation and have no bearing to the west adjoining property and objectors further afield.

Item	Design change	Officer comment
1.	Installation of 300mm trellis on top of the acoustic fence along the southern end of the carparking area	<p>Acceptable and supported.</p> <p>Recommend a condition placed on any permit granted to secure this agreed change.</p> <p>See Condition 1 (h)</p>
2.	First Floor <i>Activity Area 4</i> southern windows to be obscured	<p>Acceptable and supported.</p> <p>Recommend a condition placed on any permit granted to secure this agreed change.</p> <p>See Condition 1 (i)</p>
3.	Installation of a skylight for <i>Activity Area 4</i> in lieu of item 2.	<p>Acceptable and supported.</p> <p>Recommend a condition placed on any permit granted to secure this agreed change.</p> <p>See Condition 1(j)</p>



Figure 18 – Negotiated changes between the applicant and adjoining owner (southern elevation)

CONCLUSION

The proposal provides a community infrastructure for Monbulk and surrounding communities in a location that is both compatible and commonplace within a surrounding residential area. Exhibiting positive social and economic advantages to current and future residents of the township, the proposal would provide an appropriate facility that contributes to the township's community sustainability and is designed respectfully for its semi-rural low density landscape character.

The design response satisfactory minimises negative impacts to adjoining neighbours. The design has an effective layout and siting, residential scaled building form and residential design detailing, responding adequately to constraints and characteristics of the site and surrounds.

The use and development application has been assessed in accordance with Section 60(1) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and all relevant instruments and policies.

The proposal is consistent with the objectives of planning policies, and the relevant zone and overlay provisions of the Planning Scheme.

As such, approval is recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Planning Permit Conditions
2. Planning Scheme Policies
3. Development Plans
4. Landscape Plan
5. Tree Removal Site Plan
6. Traffic Impact Assessment
7. Acoustic Report
8. Environmental Sustainability Plan
9. Town Planning Report
10. Arborist Report
11. Bushfire Management Statement and Plan

AMENDMENT C207 LILYDALE HERITAGE - CONSIDERATION OF PANEL REPORT AND ADOPTION OF AMENDMENT

Report Author: Senior Strategic Planner
 Responsible Officer: Director Planning & Sustainable Futures
 Ward(s) affected: Melba, Billanook

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

Amendment C207 proposes to amend the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme to apply the Heritage Overlay to thirteen places in Lilydale, amend the existing Heritage Overlay for five places in Lilydale, and add both the new and updated Statements of Significance for 20 heritage places as Incorporated Documents in the Planning Scheme.

The amendment was placed on public exhibition from 10 November 2022 to 12 December 2022 and five submissions were received. Of those, two submissions opposed the application of the Heritage Overlay, one submission supported the amendment and requested a number of modifications to address accuracy of historical information and the proper acknowledgement of sources in the Statements of Significance for several properties, and two submissions stated that they had no objection to the amendment.

At the Council Meeting of 11 April 2023, Council considered submissions and resolved to request the appointment of an independent planning panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

The Panel hearing was held on 1 August 2023. The Panel has now provided its report and recommendations to Council.

The Panel has recommended that Amendment C207 be adopted with some modifications, including reduction in the size of the curtilage (mapped HO area) for the olive tree at 2-4 Albert Hill Road and refinement of the planning scheme provisions applying to the heritage trees at 57 Warburton Highway. A copy of the panel report is at Attachment 1.

It is recommended that Council adopt Amendment C207 consistent with the Panel's findings.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. ***Having considered the recommendations of the Panel Report, adopt Amendment C207 to the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme with changes in accordance with the Panel's recommendations and generally in accordance with Attachments to this report.***
2. ***Submit Amendment C207 to the Minister for Planning for approval.***
3. ***Write to submitters advising of the outcome of Council's decision.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At the Council Meeting of 26 July 2022, Council resolved to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C207.

At the Council Meeting of 11 April 2023, Council considered submissions and resolved to request the appointment of an independent planning panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to discuss the recommendations of the Planning Panel and to recommend adoption of Amendment C207 with changes.

Background

On 13 December 2022, Council adopted the new Lilydale Structure Plan.

Early work on the Structure Plan identified that there are a number of properties in Lilydale with potential heritage significance that are not protected by a Heritage Overlay. Council officers commissioned expert heritage advice to complete a review of potential heritage properties in Lilydale with a focus on the Main Street of Lilydale and surrounding residential areas, and to finalise Statements of Significance for properties that meet the threshold for local heritage protection. This work also includes updating several outdated Statements of Significance for properties that already have heritage protection in the planning scheme.

Amendment C207 proposes to amend the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme to apply the Heritage Overlay to the following places:

Table 1

Description of Place	Address
Olinda Hotel	161 Main Street, Lilydale
Former Hutchinson's Store	251 Main Street, Lilydale
Crown Hotel	267 Main Street, Lilydale
Beresford Buildings	279-281 Main Street, Lilydale
Artis Building	284 Main Street, Lilydale
Single storey shop	295 Main Street, Lilydale
Former Deschamps Wine Store Olive Tree	2-4 Albert Hill Road, Lilydale, and small section of Cave Hill Road adjoining
Lilydale First World War Memorial	Main Street, Lilydale
Willowbank	16 Crestway, Lilydale
Towri	1/33-61 Edinburgh Road, Lilydale
Heatherlie	57 Warburton Highway, Lilydale
Lilydale Primary School No.876	63-65 Castella Street, Lilydale
Lilydale Heritage Railway Station Goods Shed	Maroondah Highway, Lilydale

Amendment C207 also proposes to amend the existing Heritage Overlay for the below places:

Table 2

Description of Place	Address	Proposed Amendment to the HO
Queen Victoria Jubilee Street Trees (HO77)	Main Street, Lilydale	Reduction in mapped curtilage area within Main Street (to be replaced by HO401 – Lilydale Historic Street Trees)
Former W Johnson Bootmakers Shop/Residence (HO203)	335 Main Street, Lilydale	Removal of allowance for prohibited uses in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Former Poon Kee's Store (HO213)	172 Main Street, Lilydale	Removal of allowance for prohibited uses in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay
Lilydale-Warburton Railway (HO214)	Lilydale-Warburton Railway (former)	Reduction in mapped curtilage area near the Historic Lilydale Railway Station (to exclude the rail stabling yard)
Lilydale Historic Street Trees (HO401)	Anderson Street, Castella Street, Clarke Street, Cave Hill Road (south), The Eyrie (part) and historic street trees along the western boundary of the Lilydale Recreation Reserve, Lilydale	Increase in mapped curtilage area within Main Street (to replace HO77 Queen Victoria Jubilee Street Trees)

Amendment C207 will also add both the new and updated Statements of Significance for 20 heritage places as Incorporated Documents in the Planning Scheme. This includes updated Statements for the below existing heritage protected places:

Table 3

Description of Place	Address
The White Dog Hotel (HO 64)	292 Main Street, Lilydale
Former Oliver's Grocery Store/Lilydale Rural Supplies Shop (HO205)	148 Main Street, Lilydale

Interim Heritage Controls

To enable protection of the heritage places whilst Amendment C207 was exhibited, Council also resolved at the Ordinary Meeting of 26 July 2022, to seek the application of an interim Heritage Overlay (Amendment C206).

To date the request is still under consideration by the Minister for Planning, and therefore no interim controls apply to the heritage places.

Key Issues

Submissions

A total of five submissions were received in response to the amendment exhibition.

Planning Panel Request

Section 23 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987 states that after considering a submission which request a change to the amendment, the planning authority must:

- Change the amendment in the manner requested; or
- Refer the submission to a panel appointed under Part 8; or
- Abandon the amendment or part of the amendment.

Given that two submissions raised matters that could not be resolved, Council resolved on 11 April 2023 to refer the Amendment and submissions to an independent Planning Panel appointed by the Minister for Planning.

A Planning Panel provides Council and all submitters with an opportunity to have the amendment proposal and matters raised within submissions further considered. Following the completion of the Panel, which generally includes a hearing, the Panel will provide a report to Council with its recommendations for consideration.

Planning Panel Hearing

The Minister for Planning formally appointed a one-person Panel on 18 April 2023.

A Directions Hearing was held by video conference on 13 June 2023.

The formal Panel Hearing was held on 1 August 2023. Council called an expert from Extent Heritage as an expert witness.

The significant issues addressed by the Panel during the hearing were:

- The health and physical condition of the olive tree at 2-4 Albert Hill Road.
- The appropriate dimensions of the curtilage (mapped area) of the proposed overlay (HO437) covering the tree at 2-4 Albert Hill Road.
- The evidence to support the heritage listing of the identified features at 57 Warburton Highway ('Heatherlie').

Panel Report

The Panel submitted its report to Council on 11 August 2023 (Attachment 1).

The Panel supports the amendment and concluded that:

- The Olive Tree at 2-4 Albert Hill Road, Lilydale is of historical significance and should be included in the Heritage Overlay (HO437).
- The proposed curtilage of HO437 is excessive and not justified and should be reduced to 5.9 metres measured from the centre of the tree trunk.
- The Statement of Significance and citation for HO437 be amended to reflect the recommended reduced curtilage.
- 'Heatherlie' at 57 Warburton Highway, Lilydale is of historical, aesthetic and associative significance and should be included in the Heritage Overlay (HO441).
- The Heritage Overlay Schedule should be amended to apply trees controls specifically to the pine trees along the driveway rather than extending tree controls across the entire place.
- The proposed post-exhibition changes to amend the Heritage Overlay Schedule to identify the bakery and worker's cottage and front boundary wall and gate as 'Outbuildings or front fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4 are not justified and not supported.
- The place citation for 'Heatherlie' should be amended to correct references to the bakery roof materials, reflect the recommended tree controls and generally include the changes identified in the heritage evidence of Extent Heritage.
- The Panel supports the response of Extent Heritage to the suggestions proposed to several citations by the Lilydale & District Historical Society. These changes are minor in nature and do not impact on the level of significance attributed to the places.

The Panel recommends that Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Amendment C207 be adopted as exhibited, subject to the following changes:

- Amend the Heritage Overlay curtilage of HO437 to a radius of 5.9 metres from the tree trunk centre.
- Amend the Heritage Overlay schedule to refer to 'The pine (Pinus) trees lining the driveway' in the 'Tree controls apply' column for 'Heatherlie' at 57 Warburton Highway.
- Amend Schedule 1 to Clause 72.08 (Background documents) to consolidate all proposed place citations into a single background document.
- Amend the Former Deschamps Olive Tree, 2-4 Albert Hill Road, Lilydale Statement of Significance, June 2022 to delete the words "and its 15m tree protection zone (TPZ)" under the heading 'What is significant?'
- Amend the Heatherlie, 57 Warburton Highway, Lilydale Statement of Significance, June 2022 to add the word 'as' after the words "associative significance" under the heading 'How is it significant?'
- Amend the Former Deschamps Olive Tree, 2-4 Albert Hill Road, Lilydale Citation (Extent heritage Pty Ltd, December 2021) consistent with the recommended changes to the Statement of Significance and to include a revised curtilage map.
- Amend the Heatherlie, 57 Warburton Highway, Citation, June 2022 to include changes: a) to identify the correct bakery building roof materials, and b) amend the 'Recommended Heritage Controls' Table to identify that tree controls only apply to the pine trees along the driveway.
- Amend the citations consistent with the changes identified in Attachment 7 of this Report.

Panel Findings

In making its recommendations the Panel considered the following main issues.

Olive Tree, 2-4 Albert Hill Road

The main issues considered by the panel was whether the Olive tree is of heritage significance and what the curtilage of the tree should be.

All parties to the hearing agreed that the tree is of heritage significance and the Panel accepted that as one of the earliest plantings within Lilydale and its historical relationship to the former wine growing activity that was a formative part of Lilydale's settlement it meets the threshold criterion for historical significance (Criterion A).

The key issue considered by the Panel was whether Council's proposed fifteen metre curtilage is appropriate and raised concerns with using the TPZ (generally used for arboriculture assessment purposes) to apply the curtilage.

The Panel considered the relevant factors in determining what the heritage curtilage should be are:

- The setting and context of the tree.
- What requires management from a heritage perspective.

The Panel agreed that the location of buildings too close to the tree canopy may impact future growth or the appreciation of the tree and that some space around it is required. However, it considered that Council's proposed fifteen metre curtilage is unjustified, excessive, and overly conservative.

The Panel found that the 5.9 metre TPZ radius proposed by the landowner's expert in evidence is a more logical basis for the curtilage as it provides space around the tree and its canopy and extends only within the necessary part of the road reserve (confined to gas tank and guard rails and the driveway). The revised curtilage will require changes to the citation and Statement of Significance.

It is considered that the Panel's recommendation should be accepted, and that the amended curtilage will provide adequate protection to the tree.

57 Warburton Highway ('Heatherlie')

The Panel considered whether the buildings and trees on the site are of heritage significance.

Heritage Significance

The Panel was satisfied that 'Heatherlie' meets the HERCON criterion threshold for historical (A), aesthetic (E) and associative (H) significance and agreed that the methodology of preparing the citation and relying on materials and documentation gathered from research if a site inspection cannot be conducted, is appropriate, particularly if it is appropriately robust. It found that the heritage assessment is robust, applies appropriate sources and has not sought to attribute significance to elements of the site in a manner that is overstated.

The Panel agreed with Council that the condition of the buildings on the site or the need to undertake maintenance is not determinative of their heritage significance and is a matter for consideration at the planning permit stage.

Bakery and outbuildings

Based on the photographs provided by the landowner, the citation and Statement of Significance should be amended to reflect the bakery building roof materials. The Panel does not see any benefit in identifying the bakery and workers cottage as outbuildings that would not be exempt from notice and review provisions of the Heritage Overlay, as proposed by Council's expert witness, and was not satisfied that Council has properly established the need for this provision to be switched on.

Front boundary wall and gates

The Panel agreed with Council that future emergency access requirements are not determinative of the aesthetic significance of the walls and gate and whether they should be included in the Heritage Overlay. Alterations to these including repairs and maintenance can be considered at the planning permit stage.

The Panel, whilst acknowledging that the stone walls from the interwar period in the residence gardens have been altered, repaired crudely in places, or require rebuilding, does not diminish their contribution to the interwar design and aesthetics of the residence and the Sorenson landscape design.

Pine Trees

The Panel agreed that the row of pine trees along the driveway are a distinctive and important element of the historical and aesthetic significance of the place, and that whilst safety issues are an important consideration in relation to the future management of the trees, they are not determinative in relation to whether the trees are of heritage significance. They are issues that can be considered at the planning permit stage. The Panel also noted that permit exemptions exist for vegetation that presents an immediate risk of personal injury or damage to property.

The Panel also recommended that the forested areas of the site beyond the house, outbuildings and garden setting that are not significant, albeit important to the setting and early history of the property, should not have individual tree controls as this would be an unnecessary burden on the landowner and the responsible authority.

As such the Panel recommended that the schedule to the Heritage Overlay be amended to identify only the trees that are affected by the tree control provisions.

Updated Citations

The Panel supported the proposed additions, corrections and further researched information proposed for inclusion in the citations for HO203, HO433, HO439 and HO440 (as discussed in Attachment 7) by the Lilydale and District Historical Society. The Panel was satisfied that these changes do not change the exhibited versions of the findings or attributed significance.

Council's heritage adviser has advised that some of the requested wording changes have not been included in the revised citations as they don't offer any additional information establishing the heritage value or the information repeats what is already contained in the citation. A table detailing the requested changes and the reasons where content has not been included is attached (Attachment 7).

It is considered that the matters of critical importance raised by the Society have been included in the revised citations consistent with the Panel's recommendations (Attachment 9).

Other matters

The Panel recommended that Schedule 1 to Clause 72.08 (Background documents) be amended to consolidate all proposed citations into a single background document, rather than having separate documents.

Council has sought advice from the Department of Planning (DTP) on the Panel's recommendation. DTP has advised that they have discussed with Heritage Victoria and are comfortable with this approach. This revised document is attached (Attachment 9).

Options consideredOption 1

Adopt the amendment with changes as detailed above and in Attachments 2 to 10 to this report. The Panel findings are reasonable and would enable progression of Heritage protections for the associated properties which is a priority for Council. Hence this option is recommended.

Option 2

Adopt the amendment without making the changes recommended by the Panel. Any adoption of an amendment that is contrary to any of the Panel's recommendations, must advise the Minister for Planning of the reasons why the recommendations have not been accepted. Officers accept the Panel's recommendations as reasonable and having merit, hence this option is not recommended.

Option 3

Abandon the Amendment. If heritage protection of the properties was not pursued, Council would be failing in its obligations under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme. This option is not recommended.

Recommended option and justification

It is recommended Option 1 be pursued and that the amendment be adopted in accordance with the recommendations of the Panel. The Panel has reached its findings after careful consideration of all the evidence presented to it.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The costs associated with Amendment C207 are covered by the recurring Planning Scheme Amendments operational budget for Strategic Planning.

The cost of having a heritage expert prepare the background reports to support the amendment, prepare citations for each site and appear before a panel as an expert witness has totalled \$55,000.

Council must also pay the cost of the panel hearing which was \$5,137.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The proposal to apply permanent heritage protection or modify existing heritage protection to twenty properties in Lilydale is consistent with the following Council strategies and plans:

- Council Plan (2021-25) opening statement: “We acknowledge that history shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations.”
- Council Plan (2021-25): Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places.
- Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme:
 - Clause 02.03-5 Built Environment and Heritage: Yarra Ranges’ diversity of heritage buildings and places reflect its origins and contributes to its identity. There is a need to protect the important elements of heritage to nurture greater community awareness and appreciation of Yarra Ranges’ past.
 - Clause 15.03-1S Heritage Conservation: ensure the conservation of places of heritage significance.
 - Clause 21.06-1- Heritage Conservation Objectives and Strategies.

RELEVANT LAW

The planning scheme amendment has been prepared in accordance with the legislative requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The amendment is not expected to have any adverse or significant economic effects. Inclusion of a site within the HO does not prohibit changes to that site or building, but rather requires an application process whereby heritage considerations can be properly addressed, along with other factors before any decision on an application is made. It is considered economic impacts on future development are offset by the contribution that the heritage places offer to the broader community.

Social Implications

The amendment will have positive social and cultural effects. Protection of heritage places benefits the community by adding to the understanding of Yarra Ranges’ rich cultural history, providing a link to the past and giving a sense of place.

Environmental Implications

The amendment will not have any adverse effects on the environment. Retaining heritage buildings for adaptive reuse can also lead to environmental and economic benefits through the substantial reduction in building, demolition and new construction waste, and the conservation of embodied energy in the existing building.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Amendment C207 was publicly exhibited from 10 November to 12 December 2022 in accordance with the statutory requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*.

Notification comprised:

- Notices published in the 8 November 2022 edition of the Lilydale Star Mail paper.
- Letters sent by mail to the affected landowners and adjoining landowners and occupiers and other key stakeholders including the local heritage society.
- Letters sent by email to prescribed and relevant government agencies and departments.
- Notice published in the Government Gazette on 10 November 2022.

In addition, information was made available from Council's and the Department of Transport and Planning's websites.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The amendment will contribute to protection of Yarra Ranges heritage. As part of the amendment process Council sought the views of all the relevant state government departments who have raised no objections.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Until the relevant properties are protected permanently by a Heritage Overlay, there is a risk of demolition or works that may compromise the integrity of the heritage places.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Amendment C207 Panel report
2. Amendment C207 Explanatory Report
3. Planning Scheme Amendment Maps
4. Schedule to Clause 43.01 Heritage Overlay
5. Schedule to Clause 72.04 Incorporated Documents
6. Schedule to Clause 72.08 Background Documents
7. Response to the Lilydale and District Historical Society submission
8. Amended Statements of Significance
9. Amended Citation
10. Lilydale Street Trees Incorporated Document

COUNCILLOR EXPENDITURE POLICY - REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES FOR CR EASTHAM

Report Author: Governance Officer
Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
Ward(s) affected: Chandler;

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) governs the reimbursement of expenses for Councillors and members of a delegated committee. This requires Council to reimburse reasonable, bona fide out-of-pocket expenses incurred while performing their respective roles.

The Councillor Expenditure Policy (the Policy) requires all claims for the reimbursement of expenses to be made within three months of the date an expense has been incurred.

Claims submitted that fall outside this three-month period must be considered by Council.

In accordance with the Policy, approval is sought to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses relating to travel, to the value of \$1,188.18 incurred by Cr Eastham during the period 4 April 2023 to 31 May 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses of \$1,188.18 incurred by Cr Eastham during the period 4 April 2023 to 31 May 2023.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Yarra Ranges Councillor Expenditure Policy was adopted by Council on 11 August 2020.

BACKGROUND

Section 40 of the Act covers the reimbursement of expenses of Councillors and members of a delegated committee. Council must reimburse a Councillor or a member of a delegated committee for out-of-pocket expenses that the Council is satisfied:

- (a) are bona fide expenses;
- (b) have been reasonably incurred in the performance of the role of Councillor or member of a delegated committee; and
- (c) are reasonably necessary for the Councillor or member of a delegated committee to perform that role.

The following information is required to support any request for reimbursement:

- a tax invoice or a receipt clearly identifying the nature of the expense, the date it was incurred and ABN where applicable. If receipts cannot be produced, Councillors may be required to provide a statutory declaration.
- the appropriate claim form, fully completed.
- documentation outlining the nature of the event and breakdown of costs if the claim relates to travel or a conference, seminar or training session.

Claims for reimbursement will not be considered until all of the necessary documentation is provided. Once submitted, claims are then forwarded to the Director Corporate Services for authorisation.

In cases where expenses have been incurred more than three months prior to the claim being submitted, the Policy requires that these be referred to Council for consideration.

The claim made by Cr Eastham is for the reimbursement of expenses incurred more than three months prior to his claim being submitted and has therefore been referred to Council for consideration.

With the exception of the three month submission requirement, Officers have determined that the travel claim for reimbursement relates to Cr Eastham performing the role of a Councillor and is in accordance with the provisions of both the Act and the Policy.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The reimbursement of the expenses claimed by Cr Eastham can be met from within the 2023-2024 approved budget.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The Councillor Expenditure Policy sets out the circumstances under which Councillors may incur and seek reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Local Government Act 2020* (the Act) requires Council to reimburse reasonable, bona fide out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Councillors while performing their duties as a Councillor.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no foreseeable or known economic, social or environmental impacts arising from this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As the report is operational and administrative in nature, community engagement was not undertaken on this matter.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no known or foreseeable risks. Provision is made within the Policy for Council to consider the reimbursement of expenses incurred more than three months prior to the claim being submitted.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

Nil

HEALTH & WELLBEING PLAN UPDATE

Report Author: Executive Officer Health and Wellbeing

Responsible Officer: Director Communities

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* requires Councils to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years. Council formally endorsed and commenced delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 (the Plan) in 2021.

The Health and Wellbeing Progress Report (Attachment One) highlights some of the key achievements and completed projects for each of the seven priority areas of the Plan. This provides insight into the first two years of implementing the Plan and a line of sight between Council strategy and tangible health and wellbeing outcomes within community.

A wide range of innovative projects have occurred under each of the seven priorities of the Plan, despite not all being showcased in the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report. COVID-19 and major weather events have impacted the delivery of the Plan. To mitigate any risk of achieving optimal health and wellbeing outcomes for the community, a thorough review and refocus of the Plan has been completed. The remaining two years of the Plan will have an evaluation framework implemented to focus on achieving the greatest outcomes for the community.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Note the progress of the endorsed Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, as outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report.***
- 2. Endorse the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council endorsed Draft Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 in 27 July 2020 (Item 7.2).

Council endorsed Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 in 12 October 2021 (Item 7.5).

Council endorsed Appointment of Health & Wellbeing Committee 2022-2026 in 31 January 2023 (Item 10.2).

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Council is required to report to State Government on the progress of Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan annually.

The Health and Wellbeing Progress Report highlights some of the key achievements and completed projects over the first two years of implementing the Plan. The Health and Wellbeing Progress Report provides visibility between Council's strategy and tangible health and wellbeing outcomes within community. It acknowledges the strong external partnerships and collaboration needed to achieve the outcomes of the Plan.

The Plan contains 91 implementation actions to be delivered over four years, of which 23 actions have already achieved, with the remaining 68 actions in progress. While there have been significant achievements, there are several factors that have impacted the delivery of the Plan over the first two years, including:

- Covid restrictions and impacts
- Significant weather events
- Funding cuts to prevention activities impacting external partners capacity
- Loss of essential services for the municipality, such as the Lilydale Youth Hub

Due to these challenges, not all priority areas have been progressed equally with limited action undertaken in areas such as:

- Gambling
- Reducing harmful use of alcohol and other drugs
- Increasing healthy eating and food resilience

To support the progress of the current Plan and the establishment of the next iteration of the Health and Wellbeing Plan a new evaluation framework has been developed utilising a Results Based Accountability Methodology (RBAM). The RBAM will measure outcomes for community, better enabling Council to determine future investment, resourcing and scope in relation to community health and wellbeing. In

the context of the Plan, it is intended that once implemented, the evaluation framework will:

- Measure impact and co-benefits of activity or programs.
- Provide an annual quality improvement cycle to inform program delivery ensuring that community experiences and voice are captured and reflected.
- Enable Council and key partners to have a set of shared outcomes for community and over time to track progress.
- Capture emerging health and wellbeing concerns to inform action and advocacy priorities.
- Capture qualitative data and storytelling along with significant change data.

Council will continue to work in partnership with external services, community houses and various community groups across the Yarra Ranges to ensure these actions are not only achieved, but where possible sustainable for years beyond the life of the Plan. In the remaining two years of implementing the Plan, Council will listen and respond to our advisory committee's advice and input, as part of implementing the evaluation framework.

Major action will occur across the following priority areas:

- Increasing healthy eating and food resilience.
- Enabling community mental wellbeing and social connection.
- Preventing violence against women and children.
- Reducing harm from alcohol and other drugs.
- Deliver community grants and partnerships to build health and wellbeing.
- Homelessness, Social and Affordable Housing.

Options considered

Only one option was considered:

Providing a public update on the progress of the endorsed Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, including insights into the achievements, challenges and forward focus for the remaining two years of the Plan and to share the progress of the Plan publicly via a Council meeting.

Recommended option and justification

1. Councillors note the progress of the endorsed Health & Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025, as outlined in the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report.
2. Councillors endorse the Health and Wellbeing Progress Report.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Funding to deliver actions against the seven priorities of the Plan align with Councils 2023-2024 operating budget.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

1. **Connected and Healthy Communities:** Communities are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially well connected. Quality services are accessible to everyone.
2. **High Performing Organisation:** An innovative, responsive organisation that listens and delivers quality, value for money services to our community.

This report contributes to the following strategic objectives(s) in the Victorian Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019-2023:

1. To achieve our vision of all Victorians enjoying the highest attainable standards of health, wellbeing and participation at every age.
2. Contributing to six of the State Health and Wellbeing priorities. They are:
 - Tackling climate change and its impact on health
 - Preventing all forms of violence
 - Increasing healthy eating
 - Increasing active living
 - Improving mental wellbeing
 - Reducing harmful alcohol and drug use.

RELEVANT LAW

The *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* states:

“A Council must review its municipal public health and wellbeing plan annually and, if appropriate, amend the municipal public health and wellbeing plan”.

The annual review provides an opportunity to ensure:

- Actions identified in the Plan (MPHWP or Council Plan) are being implemented satisfactorily.

- Are having the desired impact.
- To assess whether they remain the best way for Council to improve public health and wellbeing over the life of the Plan.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

There are no economic implications.

Social Implications

There are no social implications.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee and Disability Advisory Committee were informed of the current progress of the Plan and consulted regarding the review and future focus of the Plan over the remaining two years of implementation.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

External collaboration with the Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee comprised of external organisations, whose role is to help deliver the implementation actions of the Plan.

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Three risks have been identified and will continue to be monitored to ensure delivery of the Plan over the remaining two years, which are outlined in the following table:

Risk	Mitigation Action
Health and Wellbeing priorities of the community have shifted.	Refreshed Health & Wellbeing Advisory Committee to inform, input and advise Council. Implementation of the RBAM evaluation framework to understand community experiences and ensure that community voice and emerging health and wellbeing concerns

Risk	Mitigation Action
	are captured and embedded in programs, activities and advocacy priorities
Further unplanned public or climate health emergencies and the need for urgent response.	<p>Provide both preventive and responsive programs in emergencies and support for coordination of emergency relief networks.</p> <p>Continue to build community resilience by facilitating community planning, community groups, networks, local service networks and by supporting and building community leadership capacity.</p> <p>Ensure the community is at the heart of what we do through delivery of grants, skill building, mental health first aid training and community changemakers programs.</p>
Uncertainty of prevention funding cuts and the already exhausted capacity of relief and service providers across the municipality.	<p>Establishment of Health & Wellbeing Steering Committee with key stakeholders to align planning, efforts, and resourcing across the municipality.</p> <p>Development of evaluation framework to help determine where greatest return on investment can occur.</p> <p>Council grants program continuing to support community health and wellbeing priorities.</p> <p>Supporting coordination of the Yarra Ranges Emergency Relief Network (YRERN) to deliver a range of supports to community during emergencies.</p>

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Health & Wellbeing Progress Report.

Health and Wellbeing Plan

2021 – 2025



Progress Report Year 2

Report prepared by Rachael Giddens,
Executive Officer Health & Wellbeing
September 2023



Acknowledgement of country

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands.

We pay or respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region.

We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.



Executive Summary

The Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 requires Councils to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years, and report against the progress of the Plan.

In 2021, Council finalised and commenced delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025. This summary report is intended to share examples of completed projects and initiatives that contribute to health and wellbeing outcomes. This summary report marks the mid-way point for delivery of the Plan.

The Plan is implemented through an Action Plan, with 91 actions for implementation across seven priority areas. Council maintains several collaborative partnerships with external services, community houses and various community groups across the Yarra Ranges that ensure these actions are not only achieved, but where possible sustainable for years beyond the life of the Plan.

The first two years of the Plan focused on the delivery of large projects that were both preventative and responsive to the pandemic, building community resilience and supporting mental wellbeing and social connection within community. So far, of the 91 implementation actions, 23 actions have been completed with the remaining 68 actions in progress to be delivered over the remaining two years of the Plan.

A wide range of innovative projects have occurred under each of the seven priorities areas of the Plan, however not all projects will be highlighted within this summary report.

To learn more about the Plan and to follow our progress visit:

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/Health-and-Wellbeing/Health-Wellbeing-Advisory-Committee>



Project Highlights



Respond to public health emergencies



Goal:

Communities recover from Covid 19 and other emergencies.

Project Spotlight:

Regional Community Recovery Committees (RCRCs)

Regional Community Recovery Committees (RCRC) have been established to contribute to progressing the recovery priorities of their community. RCRCs have a crucial say into the long-term recovery from Covid-19, and the June storms that impacted the Yarra Ranges and members are dedicated to advancing community-led social, economic, and environmental recovery.

Since the establishment of RCRCs in 2021, there have been a number of benefits delivered, particularly in terms of the collaboration and strengthening of relationships between community recovery and services.





Several health and wellbeing themes have emerged from the work conducted across the four regions of the Yarra Ranges which are informing our work including:

- Mental health – This priority includes gaining access to mental health services and providing support to young people as well as the broader community
- Community connection – Building a strong community connection is seen as a priority and will be achieved through a variety of approaches including community events and other activities
- Community groups – Supporting community groups, be they formal or informal, sporting clubs, youth groups, specialist hobby clubs, or other networks is seen as being very important to recovery across all four regions.

This project has been embedded in Councils Municipal Recovery Plan. View this plan here: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/recovery/Useful-information/Councils-Municipal-Recovery-Plan>





Tackle climate change and its impact on health



Goal:

People and businesses are resilient, prepared, and able to mitigate the potential health impacts of climate change.

Project Spotlight:

Climate Change Roadshow and Ribbons of Green Program

This year Council hosted a series of climate change related events to inform and inspire the community to take climate action on 'Farming Solutions for a Changing Climate'.

There is a growing realisation that farmers are on the front line of climate change with warmer conditions, less rainfall and increased volatility in our weather. Not only will farmers need to adapt to these newer conditions but our farmers and landholders can play an integral role in mitigating climate change.



Council is supporting the farming sector in a number of ways including our 'Ribbons of Green' program where nearly 800,000 plants have been planted over the last 10 years and are also providing attractive environmental finance options for business via the Sustainable Australia Fund.

We offer free native plants for private properties (over 1 hectare), schools and community groups through the Ribbons of Green program. This program aims to encourage the use of indigenous plants to restore habitats across the Yarra Ranges.

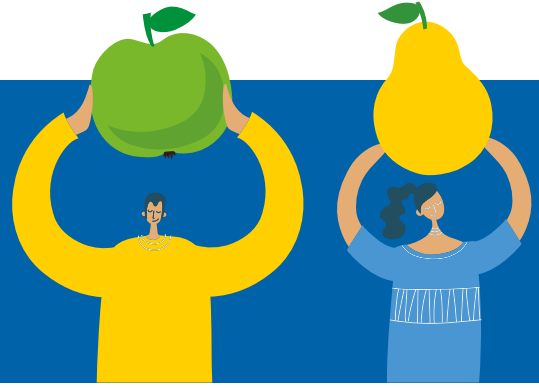
We aim to plant 60,000 native plants each year to provide habitat for native birds and animals.

To learn more about what Council are doing to take action on Climate Change, visit: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Environment/Climate-change>

To learn more about the Ribbons of Green Program, visit: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Environment/Trees-and-vegetation/Request-native-plants-Ribbons-of-Green-program>



Increase healthy eating



Goal:

People have the capacity to consume healthy food, built on a sustainable system providing access to healthy, affordable food for all.

Project Spotlight:

Yarra Ranges Emergency Relief Network (YRERN)

YRERN delivers a range of supports to community during emergencies. Council is now ensuring the sustainability of this network through building the capacity of the YRERN project funded by the Preparing Australian Communities fund.

Recent events have caused unprecedented challenges for everyone. Many individuals, families and communities find themselves needing support and it can be daunting to ask for help, and to know where to start. This network of organisations are an excellent source of information, resources, community connection and can offer referrals to additional services if necessary. The YRERN includes around 50 Emergency Relief agencies of very varied sizes and around 30 affiliated organisations.

Data collected from participating services indicates that the demand for food provision is still greater than pre-covid levels therefore the need for continuation of this essential network.

To learn more about local community relief services, visit: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/Health-and-Wellbeing/Community-relief-and-support-agencies>





Increase active living



Goal:

People have capacity to walk and be physically active in an inclusive culture.

Project Spotlight:

VicHealth-funded Art & Sole Project

Art & Sole was an \$80,000 Vic Health funded project delivered over two years. It aims to increase walking and active travel in Lilydale West through the celebration of creative and cultural expression, local history and social connection. It also aims to increase accessibility and knowledge of walking routes to the station and town centre, increase the number of artistic indicators to create a sense of place and culture and increase knowledge and awareness of walking and its health benefits. The completion of the project was celebrated through a launch event late 2022. It has already proven to increase the visibility of Indigenous identity, story, art and voice in Lilydale from 16% to 37%.

To learn more about Art & Sole, visit: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Experience/The-Arts/Our-creative-community/Art-and-Sole>





Improve mental wellbeing and social connections



Goal:

People have good mental wellbeing through strong community connections, family supports and ease of access to mental health services.

Project Spotlight:

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)

In 2021-2022, Council partnered with 7 community organisation delivering a total of 16 MHFA courses courses to residents and volunteers of Yarra Ranges.

- 201 participants from 37 townships attended the courses. This represented 46 community groups and organisations.



201

participants



37

townships



46

community groups

- Yarra Ranges Council Youth Team delivered 15 Youth and Teen MHFA courses to 284 participants across 9 schools.



15

youth and teen
MHFA courses



284

participants



9

schools



Prevent violence against women and children



Goal:

Women and children live free from abuse and violence in a culture of gender equity and respect.

Project Spotlight:

Free from Violence Local Government Program

Yarra Ranges continues to promote gender equity in its own operations and were successful in joining the Free from Violence Local Government Program. The Free from Violence Local Government Program contributes to the Victorian Government's vision to create a Victoria free from violence, where all community members experience equality and respect in all their relationships.

For 16 Days of Activism in 2022, Council also placed gender equity focussed banners across the municipality, implemented gender equity book readings at all Eastern Regional Libraries. The campaign came to an end with a powerful intersectional video screening event in partnership with Margins to Mainstream, a project highlighting women with disability and lived experience of violence against women.

Council played a role in supporting the presence of two Orange Door services located in Belgrave and Yarra Junction. This service responds to family violence and child welfare issues. This will increase access to support for those experiencing gender-based violence and abuse. Council played a role brokering the locations to enable access in areas where data indicated the highest need exists.

To learn more about the Gender Equity work Council is progressing in the Yarra Ranges visit: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Councillors-executive-team/Gender-equity-family-violence/Gender-equity>





Reduce harmful alcohol and drug use



Goal:

People are safe from the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs.

Project Spotlight:

Sunday Sessions Equity Project

Sunday Sessions is an existing primary prevention of alcohol harm program run in partnership across five Local Government Areas in the Eastern Metropolitan Region Melbourne. This program aims to encourage participants to push back against boozy weekends by getting involved in free exercise and wellbeing activities on Sunday mornings, in conjunction with providing participants with information and resources for alcohol and other drug support.

Sunday Session first launched in March 2020, and again in May 2021. Despite the onset of the global pandemic and enforced social distancing practices, Sunday Sessions was able to help a total of 218 participants push back against alcohol and make the most of their weekend. Findings showed that 32% of participants said they consumed less alcohol than they normally would on a Friday and Saturday night before planned activities on a Sunday. The campaign encouraged a further 19% to consider changing their current relationship with alcohol.

Come and join free and fun **#SundaySessions** every Sunday morning in August. We have Pilates, Yoga, Boxing, Spin, Aquatics and Body Pump and more!

- ✦ #SundaySessions ✦ #TakeBackSunday
- ✦ #DrinkLessMoveMore



Scan the QR code to find activities and sign up.

Community Voice & Lived Experience

Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee (HWAC):



The establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee brings together 12 community members who reside in the Yarra Ranges to provide advice, input and voice to Councils programs, plans and policies.

The Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee was inducted in January 2023 and will meet bi-monthly. The HWAC recently participated in a focus group for the Aquatics Strategy and Lilydale Lake Masterplan providing rich and comprehensive feedback showcasing the diverse lived experience within the committee.





Disability Advisory Committee (DAC):

Over 5% of the Yarra Ranges population, almost 8,500 people, identify as having a severe or profound disability that requires daily assistance to undertake core activities. A further 12% of the population provide unpaid care to a person with a disability, age or health needs (2021 ABS Census). The sheer number of people within our community represented in this cohort highlights the importance of including their voices in the development and evaluation of key Council strategies and Plans.

Council's Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) has 11 members representing people with disabilities, their unpaid carers and service representatives. The DAC provided input to development of the Plan and will help guide implementation, bringing lived experience to decisions. In late 2022, The DAC celebrated International Day of People with Disability by showcasing many of the significant Council projects they have contributed to. Following 8-year tenures, retiring members of this important committee were acknowledged and thanked.



Community Grant & Partnerships

Council distributes over \$1.7m to community organisations across Yarra Ranges through three grant programs. The grants invite locally focused, creative and community development projects that respond to health and wellbeing issues. Health and wellbeing goals form part of the grant criteria, along with access, inclusion and equity, Reconciliation and Environment Strategy goals. The grant programs are designed to elicit strength-based projects that tap into local skills, knowledge and energy to meet needs and take up opportunities to build vibrant communities. The programs deliberately drive strategic and evidence-based outcomes that are identified in Council's strategies.

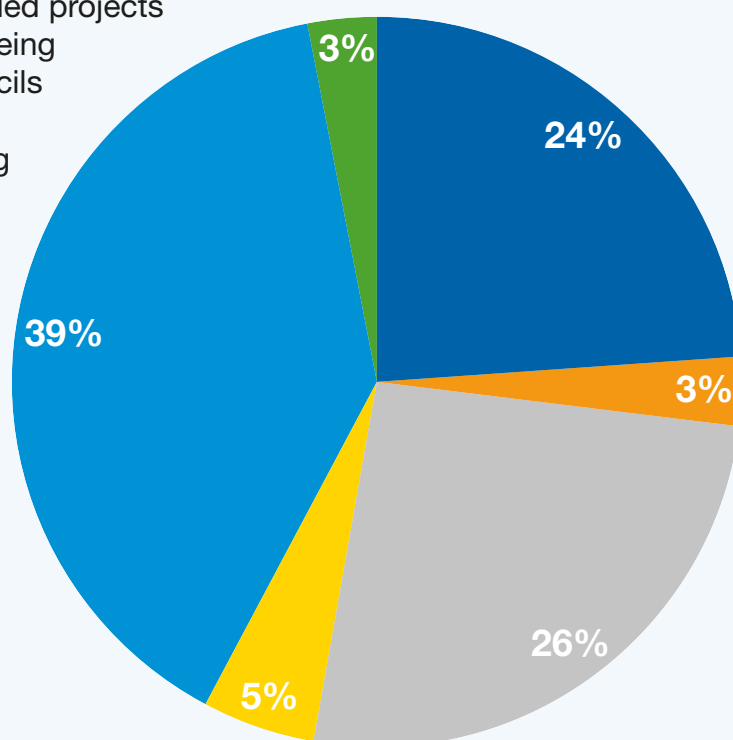
Over the past two years Council has supported 38 projects that have been delivered within the community and around 30% of grants applications contributing to the goals. The table below shows the breakdown of how these projects support the priority areas and health and wellbeing outcomes of the Plan.

Table 1. Community Grants delivering Health & Wellbeing Outcomes Breakdown

Table 1 breaks down grant funded projects into the seven health and wellbeing priority areas of the Plan. Councils grants programs are also supplemented with skill building activities for community that build capacity, leadership and sustainability.

Changemakers is one example of a leadership development course that is provided to supplement the community grants program. It provides a more intensive development opportunity and aims to grow new leaders who can contribute with confidence and skill to community development and asset-based community development activities in their local communities.

Council has an influential role supporting and facilitating activities that bring people together to do what they identify as meaningful and important.



- Yarra Ranges Communities recover from COVID-19 and other emergencies. **15**
- Tackle climate change and its impact on health. **2**
- Increasing Physical Activity. **16**
- Increasing Healthy Eating. **3**
- Increasing Mental Health & Social Connection. **24**
- Preventing Violence Against Women & Children. **2**

Grant Projects Build Health and Wellbeing

The new 2023-2027 *Partnership Grants* fund five emergency relief agencies. These agencies offer food and material aid and referral to other services and supports that address health and wellbeing. These agencies also support mental wellbeing and connection and were essential during the pandemic and post, for many people experiencing unemployment and other forms of financial hardship.

A partnership with Anchor funds an assertive outreach project to engage early with people who are sleeping rough. Arising from a longstanding partnership with Council and other housing agencies, the project meets a need that is growing.

Small Grants are for catalytic projects that make a difference in local projects. Examples of those supporting healthy communities included:

- Over 50s Friendship Group - providing ongoing get-togethers, social meetings and outings, Ballroom Dances and free Community Meals for people from the Yarra Valley. Increases social connection for the older demographic in Yarra Valley;
- ADRA – to support a range of community actions during the recent highway closure. This preventative project offered a workspace to access internet during the closure and aimed to reduce social isolation;
- The Healesville Community Garden included a Welcome to Country ceremony at their Homegrown Food Fair. This strengthened the garden’s relationship with local Wurundjeri-Woiwurrung community members. It provided opportunities for local community members, volunteers and groups to engage, connect on Country and share knowledge about gardening and environmental sustainability.

The annual Grants for Communities program includes festivals and events. These are more important after the years of lockdown to help reconnect and build back confidence through localised events. The Kilsyth Festival showcased local artists, the Chin community, local organisations and health focused businesses and showcased young people through dance. The longstanding Belgrave Lantern Festival adapted during Covid, using projections and window displays to light up Belgrave, when gatherings could not occur.

Community development grants awarded annually, invite applications that address the goals of the Health and Wellbeing Plan.

For more information visit:

<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Community/Grants/Apply-for-Community-Grants>





Conclusion

The Yarra Ranges community has faced great adversity over the first two years of the Plan due to the pandemic, extreme weather events and loss of funding for essential services within the region.

Despite these challenges, Council have been able to work with community to create greater opportunity for community voice and lived experience to inform local health and wellbeing issues. Council have also been able to establish critical internal and external relationships with partners to continue to advocate on emerging issues, and continue to deliver projects and initiatives within the community that build resilience, connection and wellbeing.

**Health and
Wellbeing Plan**
2021 – 2025



2024 GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS

Report Author: Executive Officer Partnerships & Community Building
 Responsible Officer: Director Communities
 Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting open to the public.

SUMMARY

Council is committed to partnering with the community through grant funding to encourage, support, and sustain an array of community-led initiatives. Grants support community led projects aligned to the delivery of Council's strategic objective of *"Connected and Healthy Communities."* These grants help communities to thrive, build social connections, enhance liveability, recover from natural disasters, and facilitate stronger, more resilient communities.

The three streams in the Grants for Community program focus on community development, arts and heritage, and festivals and events to bring community together. The grants encourage an asset-based community development (ABCD) approach, harnessing the strengths, experience, and ideas of communities across the municipality.

Two independent panels met for a day long deliberation where they developed a consensus on their recommendations to Council. This report presents the Panels' recommendations for projects to be funded through the 2024 Grants for Community Program. The projects recommended in each stream are contained in Attachment One. The recommendations are for funding totalling \$499,856.69 which is within the 2023-24 endorsed budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. ***Endorse the recommendations of the two assessment panels to award grants to projects that will be delivered in 2024 as part of the Grants for Community program***
 - (a) ***Arts and Heritage, 17 projects to the total value of \$160,133.***
 - (b) ***Community Development, 35 projects to the total value of \$241,920.***
 - (c) ***Festivals and Events, 14 projects to the total value of \$97,805.***
2. ***Acknowledge the panel members for their contribution of time and expertise in assessing the grant projects recommended for funding.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At its meeting of 9 May 2023 Council endorsed the following recommendations.

That Council endorse

1. *The 2024 Grants for Community guidelines, selection criteria and assessment panel members.*
2. *The allocation of \$500,000 to the program in the 2023-2024 budget as follows:*
 - a. *\$125,000 Festivals and Events*
 - b. *\$125,000 Arts and Heritage*
 - c. *\$250,000 Community Development.*

Council endorsed its Grant Policy in May 2020. The policy which provides high level guidance to its grant making functions.

DISCUSSION

The Grants for Community program harnesses the skills, knowledge and inspiration of artists, community organisations, volunteers, and services to deliver outcomes in their communities.

Purpose and Background

The objective of this annual grant program is to foster mental and physical wellbeing, increase social connection, facilitate cultural and heritage development, and celebrate local communities. Projects recommended by the Panels for the 2024 Grants for Community Program will support local community groups and creatives to implement projects that strengthen their communities with outcomes that are:

- creative and innovative, support recovery, build resilience, strengthen social connection, support the development of skills, capacity building and community leadership, and encourage community networks.

The three streams of the 2024 Grants for Community are:

Arts and Heritage - opportunities for community expression, to tell stories, connect with one another, and contribute to a sense of creativity, identity, and wellbeing.

Festivals and Events - community delivered activities that enhance local culture, celebrate community spirit, and contribute to the liveability of Yarra Ranges.

Community Development - focuses on people and social connection, building community capacity, promoting respect, equality, and asset-based community development projects.

Options

A thorough assessment process was undertaken. This three-stage process involves: eligibility checks, panel members' individual assessments, and the Deliberation Day to develop final recommendations.

The independent panels' recommendations are to fund a range of projects that meet the eligibility and strategic criteria of the program. The panels noted the depth of community projects and were impressed by the amount of volunteer contribution and people involved in their communities again.

This report presents the panel recommendations for endorsement by Council.

Recommended option and justification

The recommendations from the two independent assessment panels contained in Attachment 2 are presented for Council endorsement.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The approved budget allocation for the 2024 Grants for Community program is \$500,000. The recommendations are within the allocated budget.

The projects recommended by the independent assessment panels are summarised below:

Grant Stream	Applications Recommended	Funds Recommended
Community Development	35	\$241,920.00
Arts and Heritage	17	\$160,133.00
Festivals and Events	14	\$ 97,805.00
Total	66	\$499,858.00

The Community Development Panel re-allocated \$8,000 to the Arts and Heritage stream to enable them to fund all the projects the Panel recommended. In the Festival and Events stream the total allocation was under the budgeted amount and re-allocated to Arts and Heritage projects.

Generally, the Panels sought to fund projects adequately and in line with the amount requested. Any recommendations for less than the amount requested were the result of considered decisions based on project aims and budget set out in the applications.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The Grants for Community program supports Council's strategic objective to create "*Connected and Healthy Communities*".

The following Council Plan actions are well supported by the Grants program.

- Strengthen relationships and networks to support local community groups and build their capacity to be active in achieving community outcomes (CP 5.10.1.1).
- Improve mental health outcomes for the community, strengthen social connections, and advocate for equitable and accessible mental health services across the municipality (1.5.2.3).

Following the pandemic, the 2021 storms and then floods that have affected our communities, it is important to note that these grants also continue to provide support for recovery and resilience building. The importance of community led recovery remains central to how Council approaches the ongoing process of recovery.

The program invites and supports outcomes aligned with Council goals and objectives in the following strategies, plans and policies:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Creative Communities Strategy • Equity Access and Inclusion Strategy • Child and Youth Strategy • Municipal Recovery Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy and Active Ageing Plan • Liveable Climate Plan • Environment Strategy • Draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy • Reconciliation Action Plan
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RELEVANT LAW

Grants for Community can contribute to addressing the requirements of the *Gender Equality Act 2020* through promoting and encouraging consideration of a gender and intersectionality perspective in the application process. The grants include consideration of 11 Child Safe Standards and meeting the requirement of these standards where there is direct and indirect contact with children and young people.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Section 9(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2020 states: *“the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted”*. The following sections of the report address this.

Economic Implications

Grants can have positive impacts on local economies, with events and festivals generating significant economic activity, income and raising the profile of local areas. There are 14 Festivals and Events recommended this year that will bring economic activity into their areas.

Grants can also leverage volunteer contributions and attract resources through other funders. Grant applicants are encouraged to “buy local first” when procuring goods and services, in line with Council’s Grants Policy.

Social Implications

All projects recommended in this year’s Grants for Community program have important social outcomes. Projects will build community connections, strengthen cultural expression, and support activities that nurture the overall health and wellbeing of local communities. Increased social inclusion will be delivered through diverse projects such as: support for young people leaving out of home care, an active seniors’ project, radio skills for young people, and music to reduce isolation.

Environmental Implications

The program includes criteria for projects that safeguard the environment, build environmental resilience, and engage people with the natural environment. In this year's round there are community gardens and environmental projects recommended. These projects have additional health and wellbeing benefits for participants through social connection for example getting involved in growing food with others.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Prior to the round, applicants and panel members from the 2023 grant round were consulted to capture their observations of the process, any lessons and general feedback.

To engage community members and organisations in the opportunity to seek a grant, Council hosted three online and in person grant information sessions. A skill building workshop helped with grant seeking, designing projects, project implementation and acquitting grant funding. These sessions also promote networking across groups and projects to strengthen connections.

The assessment panels provided feedback on further improvements to the application process so that applicants can be clearer about what their project wants to achieve, how they will do that, the budget needed and who will be involved. These valuable insights and tips for applicants will inform improvements in future rounds.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

No collaboration with other Councils, governments or statutory bodies was sought. Continuous improvement is a focus in each round. For this round the following were part of the grant initiation process:

- Changes informed by feedback from previous round.
- Reducing the number of questions and changes to make the questions clearer.
- Review and updating of the criteria.
- Seeking feedback from this year's panels to be included in future rounds.

Further feedback including from the Panels will lead to more improvements to the process in future rounds.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Auditor General's report into local government grant making identified areas for improvement for the Council's that were audited. Officers reviewed these findings. An action regarding training for the organisation on the potential for grant related fraud will be progressed.

The table outlines the other risks inherent in the program and mitigating actions:

Risk	Mitigation
Conflicts of interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel members asked to declare COI and not assess that application. The member left the room during deliberations. • Assessment forms begin with asking if there is a conflict.
Confidentiality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel need to keep recommendations confidential until after the Council decision and sign a confidentiality agreement to this effect.
Panel members targeted by unhappy applicants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel member names are not made public.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Panel members with a conflict with any applications declare the conflict and do not assess. There were conflicts for some panel members and the process outlined above was followed.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Panel Recommendations for Funding - 2024 Grants for Community Round.

2024 Grants for Community - ARTS & HERITAGE

Recommended

Arts & Heritage Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C006	Natasja van Wyk	Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc	Waste to Wonder	"Waste to Wonder", an innovative project by emerging artists Natasja van Wyk and Macarena Ocampo, aims to revolutionize soft plastic upcycling in the Yarra Ranges. We intend to transform waste into remarkable textiles, fostering creativity and sustainability within the community. This will culminate in an exhibition, where through interactive artist talks and exhibiting our unique new textile, we will enlighten attendees on the urgent challenges posed by soft plastic waste and the transformative power of upcycling.	Hills	\$10,000.00
2024G4C011	Yarra Valley ECOSS inc.		Rhythms of the World	"Rhythms of The World" brings the world to The Valley. Celebrating 5 different cultures through music, food and art! The program includes First Nations representation, African drumming and dance workshops, Ghanaian Culture, Tibetan singing workshops and performance, Chin dancers (sharing their cultural harvest dance and stories) and Brazillian drumming.	Upper Yarra	\$10,000.00
2024G4C028	Yarra Ranges Heritage Network	Dandenong Ranges Historical Council Inc	Heritage First Responders - Disaster Plans (Pilot)	In partnership with the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum, the "Heritage First Responders - Disaster Plans (Pilot)" project will establish coordinated disaster preparedness plans in with six member groups of the Yarra Ranges Heritage Network (Monbulk Historical Society, Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society, Mount Dandenong & District Historical Society, Running Rabbits Military Museum, Save the Dandenongs League, Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society Inc.)	Hills	\$10,000.00
2024G4C030	Body Place Project - Gretel Taylor	Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc	On Country/In Residence	"BodyPlaceProject" proposes to walk the entire trail together with three guest artists, all specialists in responding to place through different artforms, exploring what it means to 'listen to Country' from the perspective of walking. BodyPlaceProject will host a series of workshops led by Wurundjeri facilitators (funded through a YR Partnership grant), introducing ways of sensing Country. A Welcome to Country by Wurundjeri elder would launch the artists' residency and guide us on the first section of the trail with local public invited to accompany this first hour.	Hills	\$10,000.00

Arts & Heritage Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C036	Sandra Thom-Jones	Healesville Living and Learning Centre	Auti-magination: Sharing Stories of Autistic Writers in the Yarra Ranges	The "Auti-magination: Sharing Stories of Autistic Writers in the Yarra Ranges" project aims to provide an opportunity for autistic children and adults in the Yarra Range to come together and share their passion for creative writing. It also provides opportunities for these authors to see their work in print and to raise community awareness of the imaginations and writing skills of autistic people. The project will be led by an autistic author and autism advocate, and the workshops co-facilitated by two autistic authors who live in the Yarra Ranges.	Whole LGA	\$10,000.00
2024G4C039	Mountain District Radio Inc 3MDR		3MDR 40th Birthday podcast series. Creating an oral history collection	Mountain District Radio Inc aims to produce a series of podcast episodes celebrating the 40th Birthday of 3MDR. The oral history collection will feature interviews with founders, current members, volunteers, broadcasters, staff, as well as members of the community and some of the many musical artists who have started and sustained their careers with the support of community radio. The podcasts will also feature live music recorded at 3MDR over the course of our history.	Whole LGA	\$9,800.00
2024G4C040	Upwey Community Group		Moving Forward Together	"Moving Forward Together" aims to create a collection of high-quality murals and totems in the Upwey Village Green to celebrate our diverse culture and history. They invigorate a dull space and encourage the community to reflect that we are one and walk the path of inclusion.	Hills	\$8,368.00
2024G4C045	YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub		Yarra Valley Open Studios	"Yarra Valley Open Studios" is the much anticipated annual event for Artists to connect face-to-face with artlovers & other artists in their private creative spaces. An exhibition of all artists participating will be held at YAVA.	Urban, Upper Yarra, Valley	\$10,000.00
2024G4C049	Dandenong Ranges Orchestra	Auspicious Arts Projects	Dandenong Ranges Orchestra Concert Season 2024	The Dandenong Ranges Orchestra will partner with three professional local musical identities; "Inventi Ensemble", composer Jenny Game and composer Jacquie Rutten, to undertake a series of workshops throughout the year, culminating in three concerts in the Yarra Ranges. Local musicians will be invited to join and participate in the activities.	Whole LGA	\$10,000.00
2024G4C051	Sarah Germain	YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub	Small Hall Gypsy Cabaret 3.0	"Small Hall Gypsy Cabaret 3.0" will be a small hall performance event, comprised of three live music acts, performance poetry, dance, performance art and catering. YAVA Gallery + Arts Hub aims to contract approximately 20 people to create this dazzling smorgasbord of live Gypsy music, spoken word poetry, dance and cabaret.	Hills	\$4,000.00
2024G4C055	Healesville Primary		Indigenous Mural on Junior School Building	"Indigenous Mural on Junior School Building" will be an Indigenous mural painted to tell a cultural story pertinent to the Healesville area. Brooke Wandin (Indigenous Leader) and Amanda Wright (Artist) will work together to create the work.	Valley	\$8,000.00

Arts & Heritage Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C060	Emma Jennings	Olinda Community House	Stories of Giants - a creative recovery project	"Stories of Giants - a creative recovery project" will be a painted series of portraits by Emma Jennings. The portraits will depict impacted residents and volunteers and document the devastating effects of the June 9, 2021 storm on people and their connection to place.	Hills	\$10,000.00
2024G4C069	Dr Beth Williams	YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub	Community Keys	The "Community Keys" project aims to install 6 upright pianos in community spaces in the Yarra Ranges region, in safe public areas. The objective for the project is to encourage community members to be playful, to interact with each other musically, and remind the community that the arts and music are what make us human, and bring us into our bodies to experience our emotionality and our humanity.	Whole LGA	\$9,965.00
2024G4C080	Belgrave Traders Association		Re-Generation	"Re-Generation" is a cross disciplinary arts initiative for young people aged 12-25 that live, work, study and play in the hills. The project aims to create conversations, collaborations, opportunities and public outcomes across multiple art forms. The resultant performances, installations and displays will reflect the current ideals, aspirations and visions of young people navigating a complex local, state, national and international terrain.	Hills	\$10,000.00
2024G4C082	Nicole Joy Wellington	Selby Community House	Putting more HeART into the Hills/ Belgrave - Community	"Putting more HeART into the Hills/ Belgrave - Community" aims to engage the local community, particularly children, in revitalizing creativity in the Hills / Belgrave. It seeks to connect individuals through collaborative and creative community workshops.	Hills	\$10,000.00
2024G4C093	Warburton Valley Market	Warburton Advancement League	Providing Music and Art at Warburton Valley Market	The Warburton Valley Market runs on the first Sunday of each month (excluding January). The Market supports local food producers, artisan makers, community groups artists and musicians. The market provides a platform to sell products, run workshops and access multi-cultural food stalls.	Upper Yarra	\$10,000.00
2024G4C108	Fleur Dean	YAVA Gallery & Arts Hub	What Lies Beneath (working title)	What Lies Beneath is bold, innovative and visually striking performance created by diverse marginalised local artists. Telling biographical story from the land they've sprung from, this is played out within the frame of Steve Curry's intriguingly crafted three-story venue on Maroondah Hwy, Healesville.	Valley	\$10,000.00
				Total Arts & Heritage		\$160,133.00

2024 Grants for Community - Festivals & Events

Recommended

Festivals & Events Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C003	www.cire.org.au		Cire's 2024 Halloween Street Party	Cire Services Inc want to further develop its "Halloween Street Party" in 2024, ensuring it is free for the whole Upper Yarra community. The Street Party aims to connect people of all ages with each other and with local businesses and organisations, further strengthening a sense of community and supporting/boosting overall health and wellbeing.	Upper Yarra	\$5,000.00
2024G4C010	Ecstatic Arts		Blacksmith & Artisans Festival	History comes to life as hundreds of enthusiasts share their love of history and the joy of pre-modern arts, crafts, trades and sports at Mont De Lancey Historic Museum. The "Blacksmith & Artisans Festival" aims to function as an Open Day for the museum, a conference for the clubs and groups, an exhibition for makers, educational skill share for enthusiasts, a thank you party for volunteers and a fun festival free for the public.	Hills	\$10,000.00
2024G4C027	Kilsyth Community Action Group	Japara Neighbourhood House	Kilsyth Festival	The "Kilsyth Festival" will be a 6-hour relaxed outdoor festive experience with a village fair feel. Japara Neighbourhood House aims to engage a wide a cross-section of community by offering a diverse range of active and passive attractions. Experience has shown that we achieve this by delivering variety - assembling over 40 stalls and activity centres drawn from local service, craft, creative, sporting, educational and community groups.	Urban	\$10,000.00
2024G4C031	Yarra Valley Living Centre		Peace in the Valley	"Peace in the Valley", The Yarra Valley Living Centre's third annual open day, will be a day of community spirit, well-being, experiential learning and fun.	Upper Yarra	\$3,000.00
2024G4C035	Tecoma Uniting Church		Voices from the Edge	Tecoma Uniting Church (TUC) aims to collaborate with local people and relevant organisations who represent those living with disability, people from First Nations, LGBTIQA+ and young people at risk, to plan and implement up to three Mini Festivals titled "Voices From the Edge". The objective is to celebrate difference, offer experiences for marginalised people to be heard and foster important conversations within our community.	Hills	\$2,900.00

Festivals & Events Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C038	Lilydale Township Action Group Inc		Lilydale Street Fair	The "Lilydale Street Fair" will bring the community, businesses and community groups together. It will invite visitors to our town and increase the profile of Lilydale and Lilydale Township Action Group. The aim is to continue to revitalise & celebrate Lilydale, show our town as a vital, thriving, proud township with a supporting, invigorated, engaged, community who come together to enjoy a great local event.	Urban	\$10,000.00
2024G4C041	Kallista Village Inc		Music@Kallista	"Music@Kallista" will have the revival of the historic Kallista Market as it's core objective, placing Kallista back on the map post Covid, Storm, and closure of the Community House. It will incorporate entertainment such as Live music acts and provide a place where musicians and artists can play and be supported.	Hills	\$10,000.00
2024G4C043	Yarra Ranges Film Society		Warburton Film Festival 2024	The "Warburton Film Festival 2024" will take place over the weekend in June following the King's Birthday weekend. It will feature 8 film sessions spread over 3 days as well as a festival dinner on the Saturday night.	Upper Yarra	\$2,000.00
2024G4C059	Ranges Academy of Performing Arts Inc (RAPA)		LANTERN & LIGHT INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL (LLICFF) 2024	The "Lantern & Light International Children's Film Festival 2024" (LLICFF) will be a three-day festival of films made by young people under 18 from Yarra Ranges. It will include national and international components with the motto "GIVING VOICE TO OUR CHILDREN FOR THEIR FUTURE". We believe this is the only Australian festival of its kind (i.e. a film festival of films made by, and for, young people).	Hills	\$9,280.00
2024G4C062	Rotary Club of Healesville		Festival and Events	The "Holi Festival" is a celebratory way to welcome spring, bring the community together, have fun, eat delicious food and enjoy cultural performances.	Valley	\$3,000.00
2024G4C081	The River Folk Festival	Auspicious Arts Projects	The River Folk Festival 2024	The "The River Folk Festival 2024" will be a 3- day boutique music, arts and cultural festival held in Warburton. It will celebrate the diverse creativity and culture of the area, with both local, national, and international acts (musicians, artists, performers and cultural groups), activating public spaces and bringing life, vibrancy and colour to Warburton and the Upper Yarra Valley.	Whole LGA	\$10,000.00
2024G4C100	Warburton Tennis Club Inc		Warburton Tennis Club Celebrating 120 Years	Warburton Tennis Club Inc would like to hold an event to commemorate our 120th year milestone. The Warburton Tennis Club are applying for funding for two special celebrations that bring together past and present members, local residents, tennis enthusiasts, and those who would like to come & try tennis from all walks of life.	Upper Yarra	\$8,425.00

Festivals & Events Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C104	Opus Twenty One (Eastern Suburbs Community) Big Band Incorporated		Big Band In The Park	"Opus Twenty One (Eastern Suburbs Community) Big Band Incorporated wish to hold two Sunday afternoon concerts at the Queens Park Sound Shell during summer and autumn. These will provide an opportunity for local musicians and vocalists to perform and showcase their craft, and the audience to appreciate the immense depth of talent of the band members"	Valley	\$4,200.00
2024G4C118	Victorian Skateboard Association (VSA) INC		Yarra Ranges Downhill Festival 2024	The "Yarra Ranges Downhill Festival 2024" intends to continue to provide an essential need for a public event for the local Yarra Ranges skate community. For the sport to encourage and foster new members and grow, it is essential that there are public events that involve closing down roads. This promotes a safe and supportive environment where members of the community can grow their skills, compete, socialise, and learn in a safe environment.	Upper Yarra	\$10,000.00
Total Festivals & Events						\$97,805.00

2024 Grants for Community - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STREAM

Recommended

Community Development Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C001	The Parents Hub (Blair Gowrie Playgroup Inc)		Connected and Healthy Communities	The Parents Hub are seeking funding to develop and implement their evidence based "Building Positive Connections" program in partnership with local business; Play Move Improve. They are facilitating regular, small group sessions for parents and their children with special needs. The focus is on supporting parents of children (under 5 years of age) with special needs who may or may not be part of the NDIS.	Urban	\$3,800.00
2024G4C002	Trek Learning Centre		Healthy Masculinity and Healthy Womynhood Program	As a community we are witnessing significant crisis for young people who are experiencing a sense of loneliness, lack of belonging and isolation. These experiences are paralleled by the ill-mental health presentations and increased incidents of self-harm/suicidal ideation/hospital admissions/eating disorders/substance use/family breakdown/school refusal/anxiety and depression diagnosis. The Healthy Masculinity and Healthy Womynhood 10-week programs hopes to offer a contrast whereby young people can run towards adulthood with healthy curiosity/a sense of anticipation of their own being/capability/strength/belonging/and joy for what is unfolding - that they can make this transition equipped and supported.	Hills	\$9,000.00
2024G4C008	www.cire.org.au		Level Up after school and holiday program connecting young people in the Yarra Ranges	Cire's "Level Up" is an inclusive after-school youth group/holiday program providing a safe space for children aged 8-14 years in the Yarra Ranges. Youth will have the opportunity to engage and interact with their peers, play, have fun and most importantly connect and feel a sense of belonging. The program will be delivered at Yarra Junction and Chirnside Park.	Urban	\$7,500.00

Community Development Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C012	Body of Wellbeing Ltd	Eating Disorders Victoria	My Body's Story - Empowering Futures	"My Body's Story" is a strengths-based, creative wellbeing program that fosters a positive relationship with one's body and develops the healthy behaviours that support this, including healthy eating and movement. After a highly successful My Body's Story offering for adult women in 2021-22, we seek funding to adapt and implement this program for young women/identifying, co-designing it with and piloting it at Upper Yarra Secondary College. The program culminates in participants presenting their story creatively, and an optional public showcase.	Upper Yarra	\$8,500.00
2024G4C020	Yarra Valley Singers		Reaching out through music	"Reaching out through music" is an outreach project for our two inclusive community choirs - reaching out to the wider community through music. Funding will go towards utilising technology to extend our reach to those community members who need social connection the most.	Whole LGA	\$7,400.00
2024G4C021	Yarra Ranges Community Toy Libraries Inc		Carers "Stay and Play" Borrowing Sessions	Yarra Ranges Community Toy Libraries Inc are seeking funds to open a new "Carers Stay and Play Borrowing session" for carers of additional needs children in our local community to have access to the Toy Library in a safe and inclusive environment. These sessions will run weekly and will be advertised within our established carers networks.	Urban, Hills	\$7,500.00
2024G4C022	Eco Warriors Australia Inc		Planting the Seed: Helping Schoolchildren to Create a Living Classroom	The "Planting the Seed: Helping Schoolchildren to Create a Living Classroom" project will engage with school students from Launching Place Primary School to revegetate degraded vegetation in Jadodade Reserve. It will teach students how to collect local native plant seeds, propagate and care for seedlings, prepare sites for planting, use native plants to revegetate sites and maintain sites to ensure the projects success. Activities will be carried out in conjunction with an Indigenous representative from the Wurundjeri to provide a link with the cultural history of native plants (eg. traditional storytelling, bush tucker).	Valley	\$9,000.00
2024G4C023	Billanook Primary School		Community Kitchen Garden	Billanook Primary School's "Community Kitchen Garden" project will foster positive food enjoyment and habits for children. We would like to build capacity for community and all ability groups to access our garden and help maintain the garden spaces. An Indigenous garden will also be planted to incorporate bush tucker and explore the connection to land. We will welcome indigenous groups to assist in the planting and education in this area.	Urban	\$4,000.00

Community Development Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C029	Mooroolbark Community Garden		Food for the folk of Mooroolbark	Mooroolbark Community Garden will establish a large communal food garden in the Mooroolbark main activity centre, activating underutilised public land to deliver broad community benefits. These will include developing community connectedness through participation in communal food production, workshops and working bees. The project hopes to engage with those experiencing social isolation and increase food security among Mooroolbark Community Garden members and the wider community.	Urban	\$7,500.00
2024G4C034	Yarra Valley ECOSS inc.		Crops for Community Volunteer Program	"Crops for Community" (C4C) program aims to educate and empower volunteers of all abilities to grow food crops for both distribution and sale. Currently there are over 50 participants in the program that attend on a weekly basis. This program provides participants with opportunity to be physically active, education around seasonal and healthy eating and growing organic produce from seed to harvest. Produce is taken home by participants, donated to two local food relief agencies: Oonah Indigenous Tuckerbag Program and Koha Community cafe and also sold at ECOSS Valley Market. Giving access for the broader community to organically grown local produce.	Upper Yarra	\$10,000.00
2024G4C042	The Philanthropic Collective		The Free Food Programs	"The Free Food Programs" provides access to fresh fruit and produce to upwards of 900 school children across the ridge and 500 people receiving support each week. By delivering the program through local schools we can ensure that disadvantaged families within our community have access to nutritious food.	Hills and beyond	\$9,000.00
2024G4C046	Big Brothers Big Sisters Australia		Mentoring for Young People in the Hills	The "Mentoring for Young People in the Hills" project aims to set up mechanisms for suitable members of the community to establish one-to-one caring relationships with vulnerable young people in our community. The objective is to employ a Mentoring Coordinator, who will be responsible for the recruiting, screening training and matching of appropriate community members.	Hills	\$8,500.00
2024G4C052	Freedom Healesville Inc		Chill	"Chill" is a free children's program designed to unify and connect primary and early high school aged children from multiple schools across the Yarra Valley. It is where children in Grade 4, 5, 6 & 7 can come to connect and participate in craft activities, learn to cook and learn basic practical life skills along with team building activities to build resilience.	Valley	\$7,000.00

Community Development Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C057	Healesville Community Garden Inc		Fed by Nature	The "Fed by Nature" program will incorporate 10 monthly workshops led by local gardeners and small businesses. Topics will include: Starting a garden, How to grow food, Cooking and preserving produce, Edible weeds and mushrooms, Indigenous edible plants, Flower arranging (with foraged flowers), How to use garden tools, and tool maintenance.	Valley	\$5,570.00
2024G4C058	Inspiro		Young Leaders - Vaping Prevention	The "Young Leaders - Vaping Prevention" program empowers middle years children aged 8-14 from schools in the Yarra Ranges to develop a student voice project promoting the prevention of vaping. Groups of young people chosen by the school, will take part in a series of evidence informed workshops, giving them a greater understanding of vaping, including it's dangers and the negative impacts on mental health and wellbeing.	Whole LGA	\$7,000.00
2024G4C067	U3AHealesville Inc		Keeping Seniors Active and Engaged	The "Keeping Seniors Active and Engaged" projects aims to provide opportunities, through playing pickleball, for seniors to be physically active in a team game suited to older people.	Valley	\$4,000.00
2024G4C068	Foothills Community Care Inc.		Mum's Cooking Together Pilot Project	Our "Mums Cooking Together Pilot Project" aims to offer a space fortnightly for mums and children with a shared experience of traumatic domestic and family violence. The project will be run from the Upwey kitchen base at Upwey Baptist Church, and will allow people to come together in a safe space and cook together.	Hills	\$10,000.00
2024G4C070	Anchor Community Care		Supporting Transitions - Breakfast Club and Community Dinner	The "Supporting Transitions - Breakfast Club and Community Dinner" program, operating in Lilydale and surrounding areas, works intensively to support young people, exiting State Residential Care with complex histories and experiences of sustained trauma, to transition into independent adults and successful living over a 12 - 24-month time frame.	Whole LGA	\$10,000.00
2024G4C075	Outer Eastern LLEN		2024 Yarra Ranges Youth Career Expo	The "2024 Yarra Ranges Youth Career Expo" project aims to provide an informative and engaging expo that increases the visibility of career pathways in the region, debunks gender-based trade stereotypes, and fosters a deeper understanding of various industries.	Urban	\$3,000.00
2024G4C076	Migrant Information Centre (Eastern Melbourne)		Young Women's Art Program	MIC Young Women's Art program is a partnership with the MIC Settlement, Engagement and Transition Program that aims to engage newly arrived refugee young women from refugee backgrounds, who live in the outer eastern region of Melbourne.	Urban	\$2,950.00
2024G4C078	Japara Neighbourhood House		Makerspace	"Makerspace" aims to create an ongoing learning exchange space for skill learning, social connection and reduced cost of living. There will be three objectives: Getting Skilled, Getting Connected and Getting In Control.	Urban	\$8,000.00

Community Development Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C079	Benwerren		Benwerren School Holiday Programs	The "Benwerren School Holiday Programs" exist to serve and strengthen women and children in need. This program aims to provide a family holiday for mothers and their primary-school aged children who have previously stayed at Benwerren during a time of crisis, strengthen family bonds and create lasting childhood memories, and build resilience in individuals and families (through connection, encouragement and confidence building activities).	Upper Yarra	\$8,000.00
2024G4C084	AUSTRALIA CHIN COMMUNITY (Eastern Melbourne) Inc.		Adults Social and English Classes	The "Adults Social and English Classes" project will primarily concentrate on elements of building positive social wellbeing and connection for elders who are culturally and linguistically diverse and face social disadvantages.	Whole LGA	\$8,000.00
2024G4C089	Friends of Kalorama Park Inc		Our People and Place - Kalorama Park	The objective of "Our People and Place - Kalorama Park" is to continue to facilitate bridging connections between locals and their environment. It also aims to increase people's wellbeing and rehabilitate the environment.	Hills	\$9,000.00
2024G4C091	Belgrave Food Garden Inc		Establishment of Belgrave's Community Food Forest	The "Establishment of Belgrave's Community Food Forest" project aims to tackle the issue of food insecurity. I will use various approaches to foster knowledge sharing through working bees, structured workshops, and the establishment of a community food forest that enables residents to harvest organic produce.	Hills	\$9,000.00
2024G4C092	The Good Life Farm Limited		Creating strong, resilient, sustainable life and social skills and connections for our vulnerable young people.	"Creating strong, resilient, sustainable life and social skills and connections for our vulnerable young people" project is a 10 week Life and Social Skills program. It aims to create strong, resilient, sustainable life and social skills and connections for vulnerable young people.	Valley	\$7,200.00
2024G4C094	Yarra Valley FM Inc		Youth skills and confidence development	The "Youth skills and confidence development" program plans to provide open access opportunities for young people in Yarra Ranges to participate with volunteers in our community radio station. We aim to provide development opportunities in media, public speaking, personal confidence, resilience and to raise awareness of other community organisations to which young people can turn for their own development and welfare.	Whole LGA	\$4,000.00
2024G4C095	Big Little Buddies Inc.		Younger & Older making Music and Memories: Intergenerational Music Program	The "Younger & Older making Music and Memories: Intergenerational Music Program" project involves aged care residents, pre-schoolers and caregivers coming together for a weekly music-based intergenerational program. Sessions are developed using evidence-based intergenerational practices developed by Griffith University.	Urban	\$8,000.00

Community Development Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C098	Northern Yarra Landcare Network Inc		Farm Dams as Habitat	The "Farm Dams as Habitat" project aims to achieve the following: 1. Widespread understanding amongst landowners about the benefits and key concepts of farm dam revegetation 2. The creation of sites where best-practice approaches continue to be visible for the longer term 3. An understanding in the community of how the benefits should be measured, with the opportunity to publish and 4. The creation of long term interest from owners as part of a community-led program supported by the Landcare Network	Valley	\$4,500.00
2024G4C101	CHAOS Inc: Lilydale Community House		Cook Eat Chat Repeat	The "Cook Eat Chat Repeat" program encourages residents (particularly older residents) to come back into social life after the past couple of years of upheaval with COVID and storms. Many are still reluctant to do too much for fear of COVID in particular. We have been running both "Soup & Stories" and "Cooking for One" throughout this year with a good response.	Urban	\$6,000.00
2024G4C102	Nangana Landcare Network	Johns Hill Landcare Group INC	Presenting Nangana	The aim of "Presenting Nangana" is to develop the public face of the Nangana Landcare Network. The objectives are to increase the profile of Nangana and its member groups; to provide information access for the wider public to Nangana information, stories and events; and to ensure all individual members of each group feel a part of the Network.	Hills	\$5,000.00
2024G4C103	Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater Inc		Nurture through Nature with Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater	The "Nurture through Nature with Friends of the Helmeted Honeyeater" project aims to highlight the importance of getting out in nature through volunteerism as a means to promote mental health and wellbeing. Our objective is to provide habitat restoration events focused on the benefits that time spent in nature through environmental volunteering, has on the mental health and wellbeing of Yarra Ranges residents. Our organisation will host 3 events at Yellingbo in partnership with mental health organisations or support groups in the Yarra Ranges.	Upper Yarra	\$7,000.00
2024G4C107	Mums of the Hills Inc		Running Up That Hill	The "Running Up that Hill" project addresses specific needs associated with social and environmental trauma and isolation. The devastating storms in 2021 have left many local residents with high levels of anxiety each time the wind blows or a natural disaster is discussed. In addition, our group has noticed a rise in discussions on domestic violence, postnatal depression and feelings of isolation. It's crucial that local mums have the tools, support and connections needed.	Hills	\$4,000.00

Community Development Application ID	Applicant	Auspice	Project Title	Brief Project Description	Council Ward	Total Recommended
2024G4C110	Woori Yallock Football Club		Empowering Community Sport Through Volunteer Engagement	Our project "Bring back the Volunteers" aims to address the declining number of volunteers due to the impact of Covid. Currently, a small group of individuals is shouldering the entire workload, resulting in limited capacity to increase the U19's team, offer any new programs or resurrect our Netball Teams.	Upper Yarra	\$3,000.00
2024G4C116	Vantage Point Community		Boosting healthy food accessibility	The "Boosting healthy food accessibility" project aims to increase the ratio of healthy food distributed at our foodbank program and also provide participants at our social gathering healthier food options to help encourage and motivate healthy eating.	Urban	\$10,000.00
Total Com Dev						\$241,920.00
All Streams Recommendations Total					Grants Total	\$499,858.00

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Report Author: Recreation and Sport Program Officer
 Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
 Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

This report outlines the outcome of the 2023/2024 Capital Development Grant Program.

Sixteen projects are recommended to be funded through this round of the grant program.

Funding agreements will be established with each recipient for the delivery of their initiative following formal consideration by Council.

Five projects are not recommended for approval in this round. Where eligible, the Recreation & Sport team will continue to work with these community groups on the development of their grant applications for future rounds.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the following grant amounts that are proposed to be delivered following applications to the 2023/2024 Capital Development Grant Program

- 1. \$24,000.00 to the Yarra Glen Cricket Club**
- 2. \$24,000.00 to the Mt Evelyn Cricket Club**
- 3. \$24,000.00 to the Wandin Community Hub**
- 4. \$20,000.00 to the Yarra Glen and District Pony Club Inc**
- 5. \$14,000.00 to the Lilydale Bowling Club Incorporated**
- 6. \$12,000.00 to the Mount Evelyn Tennis Club**
- 7. \$10,535.00 to the Upper Yarra Pony Club Inc**

8. ***\$10,000.00 to the Lilydale BMX Club Inc***
9. ***\$8,500.00 to the Lilydale Tennis Club***
10. ***\$8,050.00 to the Wesburn Junior Football Club***
11. ***\$5,275.50 to the Monbulk Netball Club***
12. ***\$4,600.00 to the Lilydale & District Model Flying Association Inc.***
13. ***\$3,910.00 to the Hoddles Creek Cricket Club Inc.***
14. ***\$2,285.00 to the Healesville Bowling Club***
15. ***\$1,805.00 to Mooroolbark & District Miniature Railway & Steam Club Inc***
16. ***\$888.50 to the Selby Tennis Club***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council Meeting 27 September 2022 - Council resolved to provide \$171,125 as part of the 2022/2023 Capital Development Grants Program to thirteen successful clubs and associations for improvements to their facilities.

Council Meeting 28 September 2021 – Council resolved to provide \$160,304 as part of the 2021/2022 Capital Development Grants Program to thirteen successful clubs and associations for improvements to their facilities.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

The purpose of the Capital Development Grants is to support the local community to carry out projects that will improve and benefit, not only sport and recreation organisations, but also the wider community.

The Grant applications proposed to be funded have been assessed as having demonstrated an ability to achieve significant outcomes in the four criteria (weightings apply) outlined in the Capital Development Grant Program – Funding Guidelines, as follows:

- Clear evidence of demand for the project and the ongoing benefits to community participation (40%).
- The degree to which the organisation has provided the required project documentation and can demonstrate the ability to deliver the project (30%).
- Demonstrated increased opportunities for female participation and/or disadvantaged groups (25%).
- Sustainability elements incorporated in design, materials, or outcomes (5%).

Options considered

To fund additional projects, some applications have had allocations reduced from what was requested. Officers have confirmed with these clubs/organisations the project will still be able to be completed with less funding.

Recommended option and justification

The 2023/2024 Capital Development Grant Program ('the Grant') will see a total of \$173,849 awarded to 16 successful applications.

Summary of recommended applications and funds awarded:

1. \$24,000 – Yarra Glen Cricket Club – Installing Outdoor Cricket Nets (Total project value \$80,000).
2. \$24,000 – Mount Evelyn Cricket Club – Multi-Purpose Practice Facilities/Cricket Net Roof (Total project value \$64,680).
3. \$24,000 – Wandin Community Hub– Scoreboard and Storage Facility (Total project value \$60,334).
4. \$20,000 – Yarra Glen and District Pony Club Inc – Upgrades and extension to their all-weather space (Total project value \$44,506) – Submission included cost of fencing. Project will now be staged with arena extension funded this year.
5. \$14,000 – Lilydale Bowling Club Incorporated – Shade sails for recreational area (Total project value \$35,000).
6. \$12,000 – Mount Evelyn Tennis Club– Facility Entry Upgrades (Total project value \$30,000).
7. \$10,535 – Upper Yarra Pony Club Inc – Levelling, fencing and surfacing of round yard (Total project value \$21,070).
8. \$10,000 – Lilydale BMX Club Inc– Lilydale BMX Club Track Renewal (Total project value \$22,000).
9. \$8,500 – Lilydale Tennis Club – Installation of the Book a Court system (Total project value \$17,100).
10. \$8,050 – Wesburn Junior Football Club – Coaches boxes, Timekeepers Box and Score board (Total Project \$16,100) – Submission included Upgrades to pavilion kitchen however, this portion of the project has been removed and will be discussed with the Property and Facilities Team for a future Capital Works bid.
11. \$5,275.50 – Monbulk Netball Club – Replacing Netball Post (Total project value \$10,551).

12. \$4,600 – Lilydale & District Model Flying Association Inc.– Shed Extension (Total project value \$9,335).
13. \$3,910 – Hoddles Creek Cricket – Renewal of the cricket pitch synthetic and Privacy Screen (Total project value \$7820) - Part of the application was to install a Shipping Container, Council cannot provide funding towards this project as we do not approve shipping containers to be placed on council land. Council would like to continue to work with the club to find an alternate solution for the storage issue at Hoddles Creek as it was agreed by the panel that the idea behind the project is warranted however the solution of a shipping container cannot be approved.
14. \$2,285 – Healesville Bowling Club – Scoreboard and Ambulatory Aides (Total project value \$4,570) – Part of the application included the purchase of free standing tables as club room improvements which have been removed as the Capital Development Program does not cover the purchase of freestanding equipment or appliances (see program guidelines).
15. \$1,805 – Mooroolbark & District Miniature Railway & Steam Club Inc.– Installing new tables/Tables for Disabled Persons (Total project value \$3,610).
16. \$888.50 – Selby Tennis Club – A New Shed For Our Community Club (Total project value \$1,777).

There were 21 applications submitted equating to a total grant request of \$352,741 from the 2023/2024 Program for projects that amount to a combined value of \$679,668.

The panel recommends funding the 16 applications totalling a grant request amount of \$173,849 for projects that amount to a combined value of \$428,453.

It is also recommended to reduce the grant request to those applications that were requesting more than \$11,000, enabling Council to fund as many applications as possible. Confirmation will be sought with the applicants that the clubs would be able to complete the project with the proposed Council contribution without compromising the project or putting the club in financial hardship.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

An annual budget for the program is included in Council's 10 Year Capital Expenditure Program. In 2023/2024 the total funds for this program have been increased to \$174,000. It is recommended to award a total of \$173,849 to 16 applications.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The projects delivered by the proposed successful applicants will significantly contribute to enhancing health outcomes, including decreasing obesity and improving mental health and wellbeing. By engaging and encouraging people to be

physically active and creative we can protect, improve and promote public health and wellbeing for all ages.

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 sets out directions for creating healthy and active environments and services in Yarra Ranges and provides a framework to guide future development and management of Council's recreation reserves, parks and community spaces.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

This funding program supports volunteer/not for profit organisations, delivering important community infrastructure that ensures sustainability of the organisation delivering the project.

Applicants are encouraged to utilise and source local goods and services for the construction of these projects.

Social Implications

Several of the projects submitted support recreation participation to the wider community, including female and disadvantaged community members.

Environmental Implications

This funding program supports volunteer/not for profit organisations, delivering important community infrastructure that ensures sustainability of the organisation delivering the project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Advertising for submissions occurred via Council's website and through contact with sporting clubs and user groups across the municipality.

It was advised that applications were open from 9am, Monday 5 June 2023 and were to close 11:59pm, Sunday 16 July 2023.

All applications were assessed against the criteria by four Council officers ('assessors') from Council's Recreation & Active Living team and one officer from Council's Community Development team, who understood the assessment process and/or had knowledge of infrastructure development and maintenance.

The following process was followed by each of the assessors:

1. Applications assessed independently

2. Allocated a project score using the criteria provided
3. Met and discussed each project
4. Agreed on a final score
5. Allocated funds based on the final outcomes of assessment and budget.

This process was overseen and coordinated by the Recreation Development & Liaison Officer.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not applicable.

RISK ASSESSMENT

All successful applications are required to enter into a formal funding agreement with Council prior to project commencing. The delivery of all successful projects will be overseen by the Recreation and Sport team.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. 2023/2024 Capital Development Grant Program Guidelines

RECREATION AND SPORT CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM



Lilydale Junior football Club - 2022/23 Capital Development Grant Project

FUNDING GUIDELINES 2023/24

What is the Capital Development Grant Program?

Yarra Ranges Council will provide funding to not-for-profit recreation and sporting organisations within the municipality to improve their existing facilities. This can be achieved through improvements to buildings, outdoor spaces and outdoor facilities as long as the building/area is owned and/or maintained by council.

The objective of the Capital Development Program is to support the local community to carry out projects that will improve and benefit not only sport and recreation Clubs in the Yarra Ranges, but also the wider community.

Why Yarra Ranges Council funds the Capital Development Grants

Yarra Ranges Council is committed to:

- Improving the physical and mental health of its community through sport and recreation
- Increasing participation across all sports and recreation activities.
- Support active living
- Improving the safety of the community

Important dates

Event	Date
Applications open:	9.00am, Monday 5 th June 2023
Applications close:	11.59pm, Sunday 16 th July 2023
Evaluation process:	August 2023 to September 2023
Projects to be completed:	October 2023 to 30 June 2024

**the project should be completed no later than 30 June 2024*

About the Grant?

- Grants are up to \$30,000
- Club contributions will constitute a minimum 50% of the total project cost (In-kind contributions will be accepted based on valid quotations)
- Total project cost can be no more than \$80,000 - which would consist of \$30,000 from Council and \$50,000 from the sport and active recreation organisation
- Funding is provided as a one-off grant for a capital improvement, to buildings, facilities or land managed/maintained by Yarra Ranges Council under a lease/licence or annual/seasonal tenancy
- Only one application per organisation will be accepted.

Who Can Apply

- Not-for-profit sporting or active recreation organisations that have a current lease/license or tenancy/JUA agreement with Yarra Ranges Council or recognised government body which the land is managed/maintained by Yarra Ranges Council

Who Cannot Apply

- Individuals
- Profit making organisations (Businesses).
- Sport or active recreation organisations without a current lease/license or tenancy/JUA agreement with Yarra Ranges Council on land which is not owned, managed or maintained by Yarra Ranges Council

Eligible Projects

- Improvements to pavilions and club rooms, including kitchens, bathrooms and social space
- Improvements to sporting and recreational facilities
- New infrastructure initiatives to encourage active living
- Projects that reduce risk/improve safety
- Storage improvements
- Fencing

Priority will be given to projects that address the following objectives:

- Improve opportunities and/or the environment for female participation in sport and recreation
- Improve access for disadvantaged groups (e.g. disability, cultural, low socio-economic) to sport and recreation facilities
- Projects that incorporate sustainability elements in design, materials or outcomes ie. environmental, economic or social

Ineligible Projects

- Maintenance works considered as your organisation/ clubs' responsibility under the current Tenancy or Lease agreement with Council
- Projects which exclude access to the public or community groups
- Ongoing administration/operational costs
- Works that have already been started or completed
- Sports Lighting Upgrades
- Appliances and/or non-permanent equipment.

Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Weighting
1. Clear evidence of demand for the project and the ongoing benefits to community participation.	40%
2. The degree to which the organisation has provided the required project documentation and can demonstrate the ability to deliver the project	30%
3. Demonstrated increased opportunities for female participation and/or disadvantaged groups.	25%
4. Sustainability elements incorporated in design, materials and outcomes.	5%

Prior to applying

Please consider the following prior to completing your application;

1. Discuss the grant opportunity with the Club Committee
2. Is there a project that will meet the criteria and enhance the Club?
3. Do you have the required funds to contribute?
4. Are you capable of delivering the project within the timeline?
5. Is there someone who can arrange the project and has the required time/skills?
6. Contact The Sport team to discuss the project and ensure it is eligible
7. Commence planning and research your project in detail.
8. Develop a clear project plan & collect required project information outlined in the online application form

Supporting documentation required as part of application:

Quotes and/or cost estimates	Mandatory
Draft plans/design/project details	Mandatory
Evidence of funds ie. Bank statement or letter from funding provider	Mandatory
Council's Project Management Framework	Mandatory
Letters of support	Desired
Current Annual Report or Business plan	Desired

If your project is successful you will need to provide the below documentation before commencement:

Updated Project Management Framework	Mandatory
Signed Council funding agreement	Mandatory
Evidence of Permit application only if required ie. Building or planning	Mandatory
Confirmation of tradesperson/contractor/supplier for project	Mandatory

How to Apply

- Head to the link: <https://yarraranges.smartygrants.com.au/CapitalDevelopmentGrants202324>
- Follow all the information and prompts on the online form
- Save as you go, to reduce the risk of losing your work
- You may save your application mid-way through and come back to it at another time
- If you have trouble attaching any supporting documents to the application form, email them through separately to sport@yarraranges.vic.gov.au with your application number.

Successful Applicants

Council will review applications after **19th July 2023** and notify applicants of the outcome by **Mid-October 2023**. All applicants will be notified via email.

Payments

- Payments of grants will be done via EFT
- **80%** of the monies will be transferred once the above mandatory requirements for Council have been received
- The remaining **20%** will be transferred upon competition and inspection of works by Council.

Variations

- Approval for any variation to projects outside of the completion timeframe must be received in writing to be considered by Council.

Further information

If you require further information or have questions, please contact;

Name	Position	Contact details
Jason Young	Recreational Development & Liaison Officer	p 9294 6773 m 0456 781 725 e j.young@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
Ellie Ingwersen	Recreational Development & Liaison Officer	p 9294 6769 m 0429 831 067 e e.ingwersen@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
Sarah Parsons	Project Support Officer	p 9294 6991 e s.parsons@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
General enquiries	Yarra Ranges Council Customer Service Team	p 1300 368 333 e sport@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

ACTIVE RECREATION PLAN

Report Author: Executive Officer Recreation & Sport
Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

This report seeks to:

- Inform Council of the outcomes of the recent consultation undertaken for the draft Active Recreation Plan (the draft Plan) - Attachment 1.
- Identify any changes proposed following consultation.
- Seek Council's endorsement for the draft plan.

The plan targets an increase in physical activity levels in Yarra Ranges by 15% over ten years. Currently, over 42% of women and over 36% of men in Yarra Ranges are sedentary or insufficiently active.

The draft Plan was available for community consultation from 10 July 2023 to 31 August 2023.

89% of feedback was in support of the plan. Most comments received related to suggestions for activation and infrastructure projects that could be considered as part of the plan's implementation.

There were two changes made to the plan following collation of all feedback and community consultation which related to how the plan referenced Aquatics facilities and altering the document structure to improve how some sections related to each other.

The development of the draft Plan is being partially funded through a grant received from Sport and Recreation Victoria in 2019. Full implementation of the plan is estimated to cost \$8,325,000 over ten years and will be subject to grant opportunities and budget availability.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Note the feedback and changes from the community consultation.**
- 2. Endorse the Active Recreation Plan.**

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

27 June 2023 – Council meeting – Yarra Ranges Active Recreation Plan – Community Consultation

DISCUSSION

The Active Recreation Plan will guide Council's effort to encourage people to be healthy and active through the provision and design of active recreation infrastructure and programs that remove barriers and respond to people's participation preferences over the next ten years.

Physical activity supports community health and wellbeing. It helps people become healthier, has proven mental health benefits and can also be a social connector. There is a spectrum of physical activity that people can participate in ranging from 'active living' (gardening, walking for transport, etc) through to organised and elite sport. Active recreation sits between these two in the spectrum and is defined as 'leisure time activity undertaken outside of structured, competitive sport' (<https://sport.vic.gov.au/our-work/participation/active-recreation>).

Active recreation is important because it enables people to participate in a way that they choose at a time that suits them. This flexibility can help to overcome many of the barriers to participation that more traditional, structured activity presents. Research has shown that active recreation is particularly important for women and girls, making up at least half of all physical activity undertaken for some cohorts (Active Impacts: The economic impacts of active recreation in Victoria, Sport & Recreation Victoria, 2018).

Over 42% of women and over 36% of men in Yarra Ranges are sedentary or insufficiently active. 89% of residents said they would be more active if there was something interesting, appealing, accessible, and convenient for them (Vic Health 2021). A higher percentage of residents in Yarra Ranges, when compared to the rest of Victoria, have sought help for a mental health-related problem in the last 12 months. Yarra Ranges community has 11% more residents who have been diagnosed with anxiety or depression than the Victorian average. Engaging in physical activity can have a significant positive impact on mental health. Providing options for people to be active at low cost and at times that suits them removes barriers to participation.

This plan identifies key principles to guide Councils actions to encourage physical activity. It takes a strategic approach to investment in recreation and identifies actions that are delivered through current operations, low-cost options to diversify opportunities and capital investment in the renewal of existing recreation assets and where gaps have been identified the provision of new infrastructure.

The plan targets an increase in physical activity levels in Yarra Ranges by 15% over ten years and encourages people who are not meeting their physical activity guidelines to be more active by engaging in at least 30 minutes of physical activity per day, on at least five days of the week.

Council's Youth Advisory Committee, Positive Aging Reference Group, and Disability Advisory Committee have been consulted during the development of the draft Plan. Their advice and feedback have been incorporated into the draft Plan.

Community engagement

Following the development of the plan we sought feedback from the community about whether we had missed anything. The community were encouraged to view the plan and submit their feedback. Between 10 July 2023 and 31 August 2023, Council used a range of different communications and engagement methods to make sure the community were able to provide feedback if they wished.

Council communicated and promoted the engagement via the following methods:

- Digital
- Shaping Yarra Ranges
- Social Media (Facebook, Instagram and Yarra Ranges Youth Facebook and Instagram pages)
- Yarra Ranges Local e-Newsletter.

Table 1: Digital engagement

Digital	Engagement	#
Shaping Yarra Ranges	Contributions	81
	Visitors	856
Facebook	Posts	3
	Impressions	12,149
	Reactions	94
	Link Clicks	185
	Shares	13
Instagram	Posts	3
	Reach	506
	Likes	52
Newsletter	Inclusions	3
	Link Clicks	695

- Community Pop ups
 - Four face-to-face opportunities were promoted and provided for people to talk to Council staff and learn more across the municipality.
 - 223 people engaged with the project team during these sessions.
- Advisory Group Sessions
 - A range of advisory group sessions were held with the Positive Ageing Reference Group, Disability Advisory Group and email correspondence with Indigenous Advisory Committee and Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee.
- Hard copies of the plan were available for review and feedback at our links and libraries during the community engagement period.

The project team reviewed the feedback received during the consultation period. 89% of the comments were in support of the plan whereas 11% of comments were either not in support of the plan or suggested that Council should be focusing on other priorities. The common themes that come through across the engagement were:

Table 2: Common Themes

Theme	Suggestions
The need for safety and access improvements (27%)	Road crossing/pedestrian access, renewal works, lighting, shared use paths and trail links
More of existing (18%)	Netball facilities, equestrian, exercise equipment, walking trails, croquet clubs, dog parks.
New facilities (17%)	Pickleball, disc golf, shaded areas.
Programming (14%)	Events, parents walking groups, programs for older adults
Other (13%)	Aquatics, biodiversity, environmental

The project team provided copies of the plan to the Indigenous Advisory Committee, Health and Wellbeing Committee and the Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee for comment.

Revised draft Active Recreation Plan

There were two changes made to the plan following collation of all feedback and community consultation which related to how the plan referenced Aquatics facilities and altering the document structure to improve how some sections related to each

other. Specifically, the 'design considerations' section was moved forward in the plan to respond to Action Area 1: Safety and Accessibility.

Options considered

The draft Plan considers the current and future demographics of the area, community feedback, feedback from advisory committees, and internal recommendations during the development of the draft Plan.

Most comments received related to suggestions for activation and infrastructure projects that could be considered as part of the Plans implementation.

Recommended option and justification

The draft plan supports the community to be healthy and well through physical activity. Increasing the number of people meeting physical activity guidelines can contribute to preventative health and have a positive impact on chronic illness.

It is recommended to note the feedback and changes from the community consultation and endorse the Active Recreation Plan.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The cost of the full implementation of the plan is estimated to be \$8,375,000 over ten years. Capital projects will be subject to suitable grant opportunities and budget allocation through renewal reserves and budget allocation through the public open space fund. The projects will be subject to assessment and approval by Councillors to determine opportunities for upcoming grants and capital funding allocation from the Public Open Space Fund (POSF) through the capital budget process.

- \$1,100,000 of the total cost is attributed to design upgrades to existing assets to address existing safety and accessibility to encourage a broader range of users. This is a one-off capital cost and can be funded through a combination of POSF and suitable grant opportunities.
- \$4,450,000 of the total cost is attributable to increasing facility provision in areas that have identified gaps. This is a one-off capital cost but will be subject to a long term (20-50 year) renewal program. This can be funded through a combination of POSF and suitable grant opportunities.
- \$2,515,000 is attributable to the provision of new recreation assets, or assets that don't currently exist within Yarra Ranges. This is a one of capital cost but will be subject to a long term (20-50 year) renewal program. This can be funded through a combination of POSF and suitable grant opportunities.
- \$260,000 is attributable to actions that support programming and activation through digital technology and equipment purchase. This will be sought through Government Grants and the Recreation and Sport operational budget.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objectives in the Council Plan:

- Connected and Healthy Communities
- Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places

The provision of improved facilities as identified by the plan will deliver facilities and infrastructure that meets the growing and diverse needs of our community. Activation and events will provide additional opportunities to form social connections with local people.

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025

- Increase active living; and
- Improve mental wellbeing and social connection.

New and improved facilities will contribute to improved health and wellbeing with increased opportunities to socialize and exercise. Activation and programming will provide additional opportunities for social connection.

Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013 - 2023

The Recreation and Open Space Strategy 2013-2023 sets out directions for creating healthy and active environments and services in Yarra Ranges and provides a framework to guide future development and management of Council's recreation reserves, parks, and community spaces.

Equity, Access and Inclusion Strategy 2013-2023

Through this Strategy, Council recognises that inclusion for people with a disability in all aspects of community life is a human right that also brings many social, cultural and economic benefits for the wider community. It further states as one of the goals that Council buildings and infrastructure are accessible to everyone in our community.

Child and Youth Strategy 2014-2024

This Strategy has the vision that Yarra Ranges will be a place where every child and young person will be able to thrive, reach their potential and actively participate in decision making. Outcome 2 has the most relevance to this draft Plan,

recommending that “Adequate Infrastructure exists to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.”

RELEVANT LAW

This plan is considered to have a direct and significant impact on the Yarra Ranges community. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) was undertaken as part of this work. The GIA was undertaken in collaboration with Council’s Gender Equity Team.

The draft Plan was developed from a whole of community perspective, including consideration of equitable opportunities for use of open space for recreation by females, males and gender diverse people. Underpinning the recommendations is the objective to provide opportunities and access that encourages people of all ages, abilities, gender preference and cultural background with spaces that are safe, welcoming and has the potential to improve individual health and wellbeing. A specific recommendation from the GIA was to apply a gender lens, and where appropriate seek feedback from specific genders, for future infrastructure and program design that is undertaken as part of the plan’s implementation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Implementation of the draft Plan has the potential to provide economic benefit to local communities and businesses. Research has shown that people walking or cycling to destinations are more likely to shop locally, visit more frequently and spend longer visiting local businesses. This plan encourages active modes of transport to destinations by making them easily accessible to residents of Yarra Ranges.

Likewise, given that people want a diversity of active recreation opportunities in the one location, there is the potential for people to spend longer at these locations while they undertake more of these activities and consequently will look for refreshments and snacks nearby. More people on bikes will also have a flow on effect to the local bike shops for supplies and services. The safe introduction for people to try new activities through this plan has the potential to develop life-long activity patterns that will have flow on effects for community sporting and recreation groups and private fitness and recreation providers.

The improvement to and/or provision of facilities is also expected to contribute to the local economy through employment opportunities and as a source of materials and equipment.

Improving overall health through physical activity has an economic benefit through preventative health outcomes that can lessen the burden on health facilities.

Social Implications

The Yarra Ranges municipality has a population of 157,419 (ABS 2021). Compared with the Greater Melbourne average, there is a higher percentage of older adults aged 50-84 (25% of residents), as well as those aged under 18 (16% of residents). The draft Plan aims to ensure that older residents and young people in the community are well catered for, particularly teenage girls who are often not well catered for in public space and so can lack an important sense of belonging in the community.

There are strong links to social and community impacts resulting from the development and improvement of active recreation initiatives and recreation spaces, which include:

- Enhanced community access to infrastructure that encourages alternative health and wellbeing outcomes
- Revitalization of local communities
- Reduction of social isolation, and
- Increased sense of belonging for females and people from culturally diverse backgrounds.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies high levels of obesity, dementia, and poor mental health as significant issues for our community. Provision of safe and accessible active recreation opportunities, as well as other diverse social active recreation opportunities are important contributors to improved health.

Environmental Implications

A highly valued aspect of the Yarra Ranges municipality is its unique nature and natural setting. The landscape provides the opportunity to walk, exercise, sit and take in the view, watch the children play or cycle one of the many trails. A consistent message through the consultation was that this unique connection and access to nature is what sets the area apart and why a lot of people choose to live in the Yarra Ranges.

The preservation, enhancement, and accessibility for people of all ages and abilities is a key driver for improvement underpinning recommendations. It is also vital that throughout this proper care and environmental consideration is taken wherever any upgrades or facility installations are implemented, to ensure sustainable materials are sourced and that the natural habit and connection to nature and the environment is maintained. The plan is not in conflict with Council's draft nature plan or the liveable climate plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The draft Plan was developed following a review of extensive consultation undertaken for the draft Recreation and Open Space Strategy, the draft Paths and Trails plan, various reserve master plans, as well as a review of community requests received by Council. Targeted consultation was undertaken with young people and

their parents/guardians at skate programs and Councils Youth Advisory Committee, Disability Advisory Committee and Positive Aging Reference Group to help shape the plan.

The draft Plan provides a 10-year strategic approach to improve access to, and use of, recreation programs and facilities across the municipality. Officers from across Council were engaged early in the process to identify issues and opportunities and later to provide feedback to enable refinement of the draft Plan.

Between 10 July 2023 and 31 August 2023, the draft Plan was released for community consultation. The community was engaged through the 'shaping Yarra Ranges Page', advisory group sessions and four pop up sessions as part of the community engagement roadshows lead by our community engagement team. The consultation for the plan was advertised through social media and our winter edition of the living local newsletter and through the Community Development Officer newsletters. Copies for comment were also made available at our links with hard copy surveys available on request.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Internal collaboration has been ongoing throughout the research and development phases of the draft Plan through an internal project reference group. Additional comment was sought from the Youth Advisory Group, the Positive Ageing Reference Group and the Disability Advisory Committee to help shape the early concept design, refine the content and layout of the design and initiatives included in the draft Plan.

A copy of the draft Plan and summary document was emailed to the Indigenous Advisory Committee, Health and Wellbeing Committee and the Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee for comment.

In addition, comment has been sought from Sport and Recreation Victoria as the funding partner for the project.

RISK ASSESSMENT

There was some risk to Council reputation if the community misinterpret how Council can deliver the actions within the plan. However, a disclaimer was included in the draft Plan and on all consultation, material stating the project delivery is subject to grant opportunities and allocation of capital budget.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Draft Yarra Ranges Active Recreation Plan 2023
2. Draft Yarra Ranges Active Recreation Plan 2023 Summary
3. Active Recreation Plan 2023 Consultation and Engagement Summary



Yarra Ranges Council

Draft Active Recreation Plan 2023



Page 120

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands. We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region. We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.



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Photo: Kylie Gromadovski

Introduction

What is active recreation?

Physical activity is good for everyone, in a multitude of ways. It makes you healthier, it can be a mood lifter and it can be a social connector. There is a spectrum of physical activity that people undertake ranging from ‘active living’ (walking places, gardening, etc) through to organised and elite sport. Active recreation (the focus of this Plan) sits between these two, as seen in figure 1.

Active recreation can be defined as ‘leisure time physical activity undertaken outside of structured, competition sport’ (<https://sport.vic.gov.au/our-work/participation/active-recreation>). It provides participants with a wide range of benefits related to physical health, mental health and social interaction. While all activity types can provide these benefits, active recreation plays an important role because it allows people to participate in a way of their choosing at a time that suits them. This flexibility can help to overcome barriers to participation that exist for more structured activity types.

The importance of active recreation is underscored by research that has shown that active recreation makes up at least 80% of all physical activity undertaken for all age groups, and up to 85% of physical activity undertaken for some female cohorts (Active impacts: The economic impacts of active recreation in Victoria, Sport & Recreation Victoria, 2018).

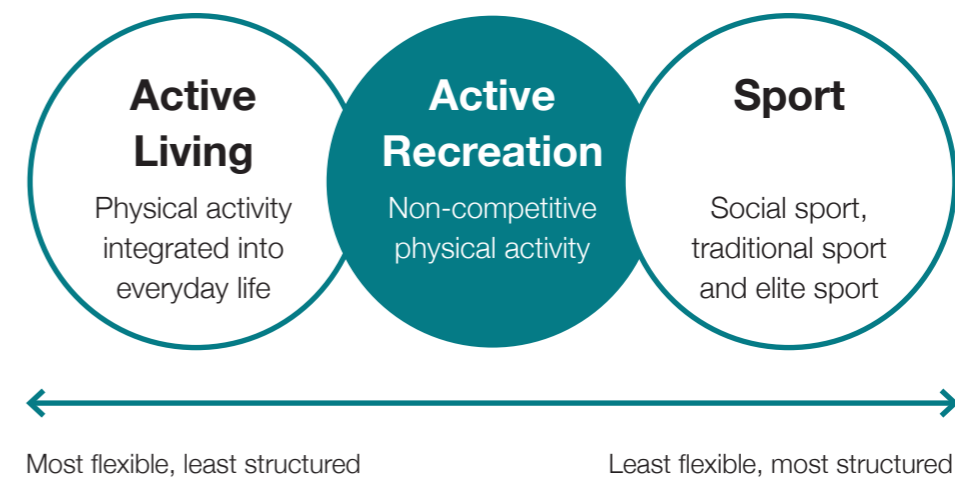


Figure 1: Physical activity spectrum

Source: Adapted from Physical Activity Spectrum adapted from the Vichealth ‘Doing Sport Differently’ resource accessed via www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre

Plan scope and focus

Yarra Ranges Council has a range of strategies and plans that aim to support social recreation from an infrastructure renewal perspective. Rather than replicate this, this plan aims to identify:

- Opportunities for the activation of existing assets;
- Design features that can be used in new asset design and retrofitted to existing assets to help make active recreation easy and enjoyable;
- Equity in providing opportunities for people to be active in Yarra Ranges.

While some additional assets have been recommended, a full audit and program for delivery of each recreational asset class has not been undertaken. Nor does this plan guide requirements for structured sport.

People who are currently 'less active' or 'inactive', but who would engage in active recreation if there were facilities and programs in place that catered to their preferences and abilities are a key focus of this Plan. 'Less active' adults are defined as those who don't meet Australian physical activity and sedentary behaviour guidelines, being 30 minutes of physical activity at least 5 days a week for adults (<https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/dsd-principles-research>). Less active people make up around 70% of the Victorian population. Being too busy with other things (such as work or parenting) and the impacts of age are two of the common factors found to contribute to inactivity (https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre/PublicationsandResources/Life-Stages/VH_Life-stages_Info-sheet.pdf)

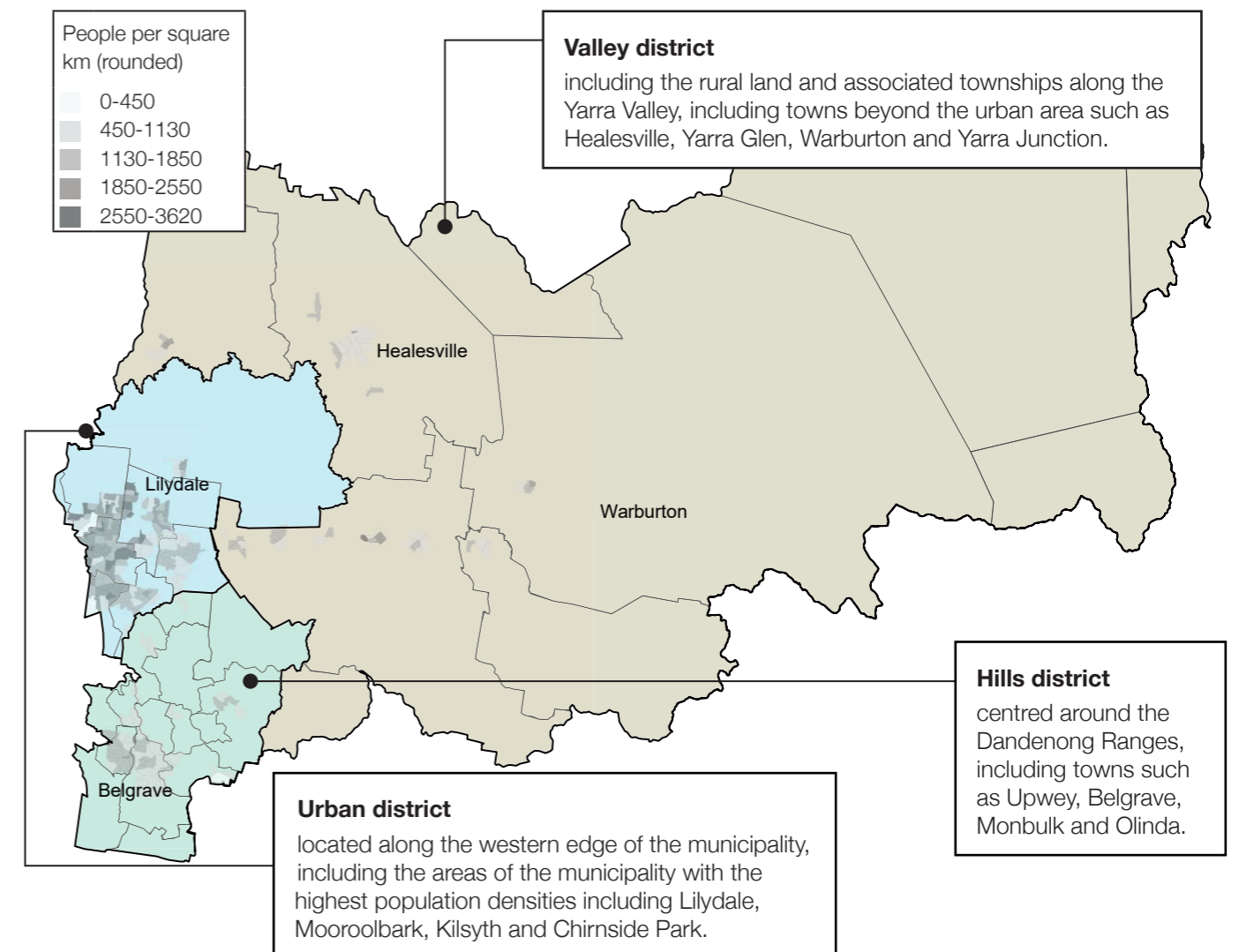
The Active Recreation Plan will guide Council's effort to encourage people to be healthy and active through the design of active recreation infrastructure and programs that remove barriers and respond to people's participation preferences over the next ten years.

The study area

The Yarra Ranges Local Government Area covers an area of 2,477 square kilometres with an estimated 2021 population of 157,419 (growing an average of 1.4% per annum between 2016 and 2021). The populated parts of Yarra Ranges can be divided into three key districts for planning purposes, defined by their geographical locations and characteristics (as shown in figure 3).

One of the key characteristics of the study area is the very uneven population distribution (as can be seen in figure 4). There is a high concentration of people living in the urban western part of the municipality, and very low population densities for most of the eastern part (which is dominated by National Parks and State Forests). Over the next 10-20 years population growth will be focused in the Urban District, particularly Lilydale, Mooroolbark and Chirnside Park. This may have implications for infrastructure provision and also provide opportunities to focus on activation in more rural locations.

Figure 4: Yarra Ranges districts and population density map



Existing active recreation opportunities

There are many and varied active recreation opportunities currently existing within Yarra Ranges that can be broadly grouped into the eight categories identified in the table below.

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Open space

Existing opportunity types:

- Recreation reserves (47)
- Parks, nature reserves, bushland, creeks (100+)

Examples:

- Birdsland Reserve, Belgrave South
- Don Road Sporting Complex, Healesville
- Halley Supple Reserve, Coldstream
- Pinks Reserve, Kilsyth
- Melba Park, Lilydale.



Existing Qty: 100+

Exercise facilities

Existing opportunity types:

- Outdoor exercise equipment

Examples:

- Belgrave Lake, Belgrave
- Don Road Sporting Complex, Healesville
- Lillydale Lake, Lilydale



Existing Qty: 8

Aquatic facilities

Existing opportunity types:

- Swimming pools
- Splash parks

Examples:

- Belgrave pool
- Lilydale pool
- Lillydale Lake Splash Pad
- Seville water play park
- Warburton Water World (splash park)



Existing Qty: 11

Wheeled play facilities

Existing opportunity types:

- Skate/scooter parks (8)
- BMX tracks/Pump tracks (5)

Examples:

- Lilydale Skate Park
- Mount Evelyn Pump Track
- Upwey Skate Park
- Yarra Glen Skate Park



Existing Qty: 13

Play spaces

Examples:

- Belgrave Lake Park play space
- Castle Hill Reserve, Mooroolbark
- Lillydale Lake play space
- Olinda play space
- Yarra Glen Adventure Playground



Existing Qty: 117

Ball play facilities

Existing opportunity types:

- Basketball/netball courts/half courts

Examples:

- Gateway Reserve, Lilydale (outdoor halfcourt)
- Pinks Reserve, Kilsyth (outdoor halfcourt)
- Kimberley Reserve, Chirnside Park



Existing Qty: 27

Dog off-lead facilities

Note: dog walking also occurs on trails (covered under 'Paths & Trails' above)

Examples:

- Don Road Recreation Reserve Healesville
- Summerhill Park Drive Reserve, Mooroolbark



Existing Qty: 24

Paths & trails

Existing opportunity types:

- Footpaths
- Shared paths
- Trails

Examples:

- Urban footpaths
- Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail
- Brushy Creek Trail
- Green Spine Shared Path, Chirnside Park



Existing Qty: 100+



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Strategic context

Council takes an integrated approach to planning and develops strategic documents that are intrinsically linked. Councils highest level plans such as the Council Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Plan are supported in their delivery by lower order plans developed by teams within Council.

Two of the five strategic objectives identified in the Yarra Ranges Council Plan 2021-25 are 'Connected and Healthy Communities' and 'Quality Infrastructure and Livable Places'. Councils Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 identifies increasing active living as a priority area to support our community. Council's Recreation and Open Space Strategy (ROSS) responds to these plans and provides a guiding policy and framework that helps create healthy and active environments for the community. The Active Recreation Plan is one of a suite of strategic documents that will assist Council in achieving the objectives of these plans.

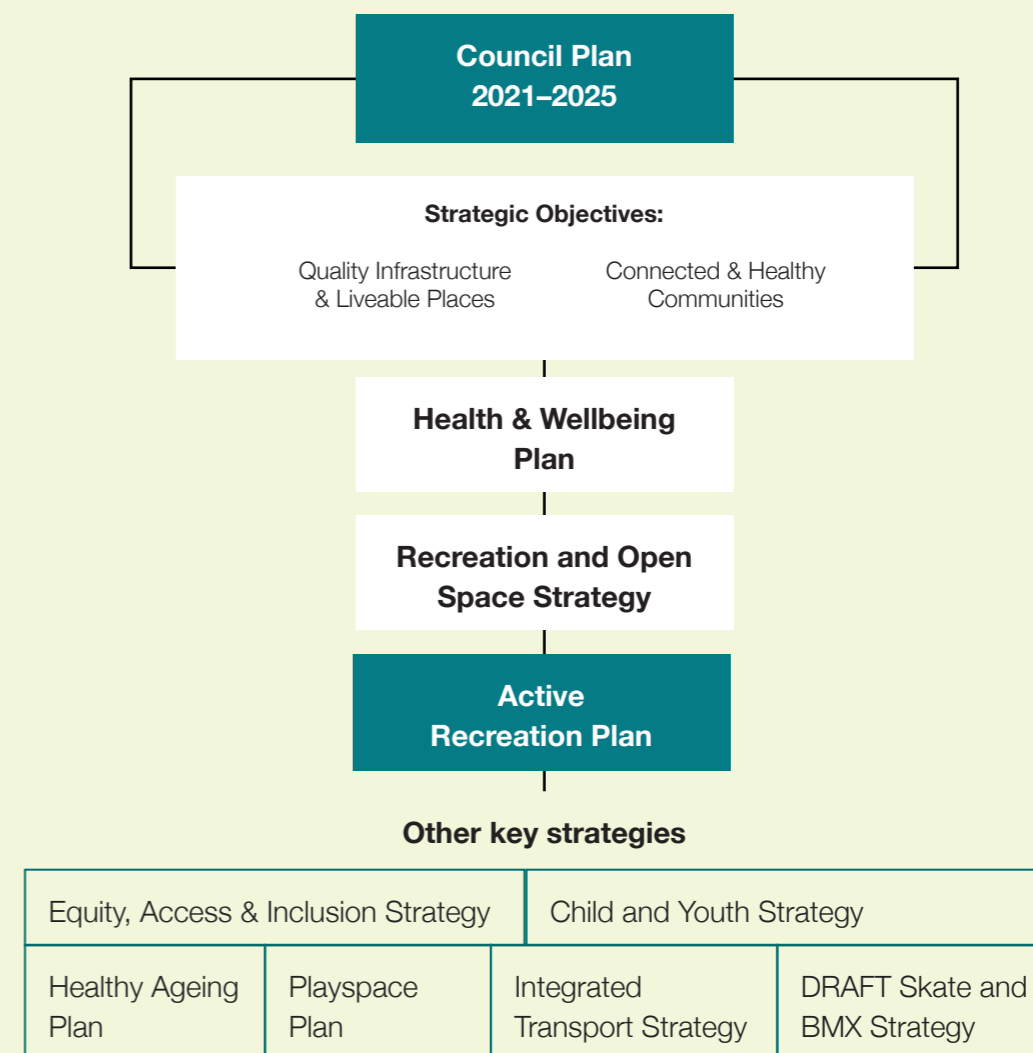


Figure 3: Strategic context summary diagram

How we engaged with the community

Council's previous consultation with the community has established trends in how people participate in active recreation and the barriers they face to being more active. When combined, this consultation provided community focus used for this plan.



Consults with relevant and varied Industry Leaders and Health Organisations (including DELWP and the DHHS), various advisory committees and close engagement with Council's elected representatives.



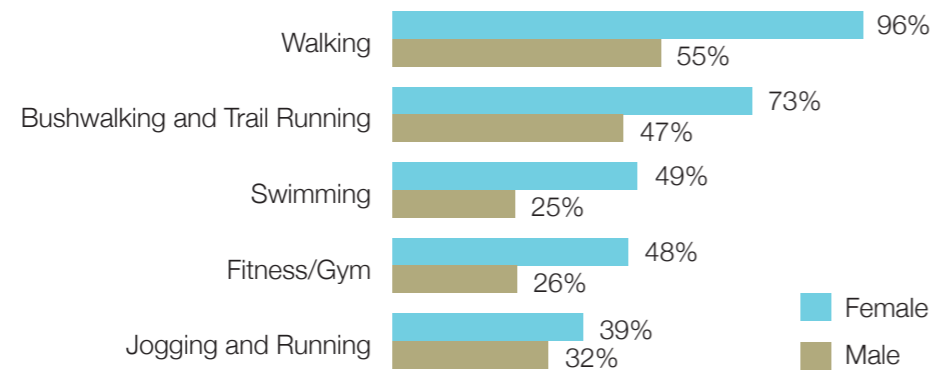
2,436 Online Surveys; 15 Listening Posts and 367 Intercept Surveys



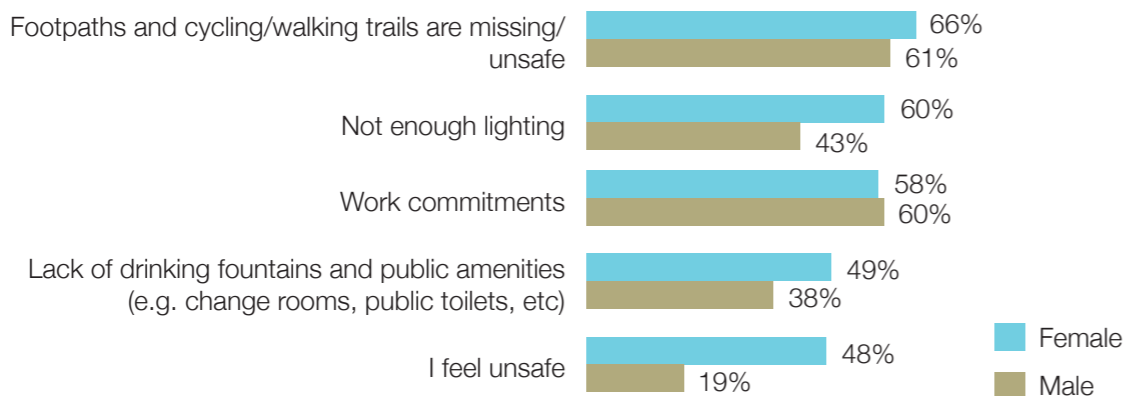
Engagement from Community Recreation and Sport providers (Belgravia Yarra Centre, Lilydale E-Jays Softball, sporting and recreation clubs, Tennis for Life, The Running Company, Paul Sadler Swimland, Lilydale Community Sailing Club).

Key online survey findings

Top 5 Sport/Recreation Participation Activities



Top 5 Sport/Recreation Participation Barriers



What we heard

In 2020, overall satisfaction with Council's parks and recreation trails was high with 98.3% of respondents being satisfied or very satisfied.

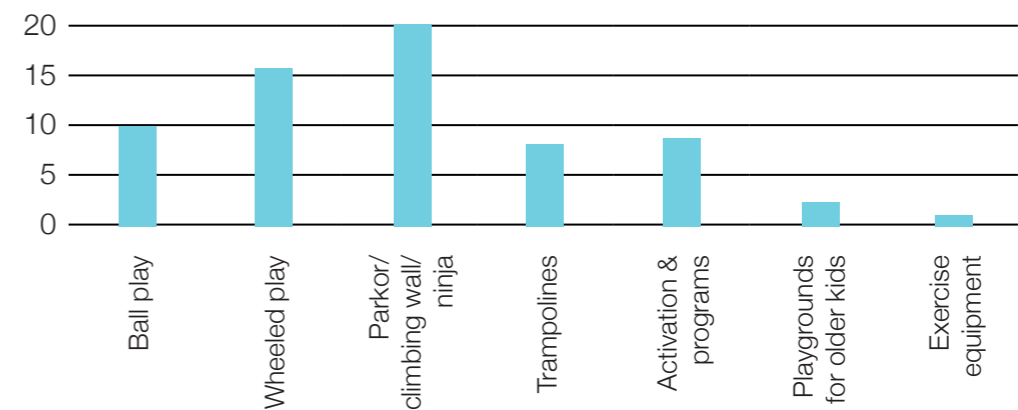
The most important amenity or service in green spaces was cleanliness, followed by security, shade, gardens/trees and toilets.

"We need to strip back the traditional thinking about profit versus non-profit activities and look at the overall community benefit the activity provides. We need to work with clubs and educate them about what they aren't doing that private providers are."

"If you activate places of cultural and environmental significance, you build a connection and pride, and instil a sense of conservation and protectionism in the next generation."

"The water playspace (in Seville) has been a huge success. The community are really proud of it"

In 2021, we checked in with 50 young people and their parents or guardians at skate clinics in YRC. They told us what they wanted to see in Yarra Ranges:



Check in with community

Different people choose to participate in different active recreation activities based upon personal preferences. In the preparation of this Plan, a variety of groups and individuals were engaged (with an intentional focus upon those who may experience barriers to recreation participation). This included meetings with:

- Positive Aging Reference Group (PARG)
- Disability Advisory Committee (DAC)
- Yarra Ranges Council's Youth Ambassadors
- 50 participants of skate clinics (for 5-19 years olds, held in Lilydale, Healesville, Yarra Junction, Mount Evelyn, Monbulk and Upwey)
- And information gained from reviewing related engagement previously undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council for other purposes.

The following recreation preferences were identified;

People want **social** active recreation opportunities.

Key examples include:

- a strong interest in using events or programming to encourage the use of active recreation facilities (eg. running festivals or workshops).
- an interest in play spaces as places to hang-out for youth.
- older people saying that they feel safer and less vulnerable undertaking activities in groups.
- older people appreciating opportunities for active recreation spaces to be inter-generational (noting the need for safety to be considered).

People want a **diversity** of active recreation opportunities

Potential active recreation activities that have arisen as a part of engagement undertaken for this project that are not currently catered for within Yarra Ranges include the following (in alphabetical order):

- All-ages play spaces
- Beach volleyball
- Bocce/boules/petanque
- Disc golf
- Exercise equipment for seniors
- Parkour/'ninja' park
- Rock climbing/bouldering
- Roller skating

People want active recreation opportunities that provide **connections to nature**

The opportunities for connections to nature while undertaking active recreation came up in most of the engagement activities undertaken. Yarra Ranges is fortunate to have access to a range of natural landscapes that provide these kinds of opportunities.

It was also noted in the Positive Aging Reference Group that quieter spaces where people can connect with nature are also valuable within urban parks. These spaces are more easily accessed for people with limited mobility or transport options, and can also provide a respite from more boisterous park activities.

People want active recreation opportunities in locations that are **convenient** and **co-located** with compatible facilities

A number of examples of positive co-location of active recreation facilities arose during the engagement activities.

- Locations used for University of the Third Age (U3A) activities attract older people and might be a logical place to provide active recreation opportunities targeting this age cohort.

- It was also noted that having a wide variety of activities in one location provides an easy opportunity to try things that you may not otherwise do. ie. you might come to a park to do one thing, but end up trying a few other activities because they're there.

People want **safe** and **accessible** active recreation opportunities, designed to maximise their usability

Key examples include:

- Accessibility to people of all abilities. Accessibility was the major item discussed in the Disability Advisory Committee. While new facilities are generally designed with accessibility in mind, there may be a need to undertake works at older facilities to improve accessibility.
- People feeling safe when using facilities. This includes locating and designing facilities to have good levels of surveillance and the provision of lighting where appropriate.
- Intergenerational design focusing upon safety. While older people like to be around activity, there are also safety concerns regarding things like stray balls and scooters. Design can help to resolve these safety concerns.

Active recreation variables

There are three key variables relating to active recreation. The type of activity being undertaken, the location/facilities where the activity occurs, and the people/participants.

Yarra Ranges Council has a range of plans and strategies that deal with two of these key variables. There are high level municipality-wide strategies dealing with specific activity types (eg. play spaces) as well as more detailed strategies and plans dealing with specific locations (eg. reserve master plans).

This Plan approaches active recreation with a focus upon the third variable; people. The main goal of the Plan is to encourage people (including men, women, boys, girls, and gender diverse people) in Yarra Ranges to be more active, regardless of the activity type or location.

Factors influencing active recreation participation

There are a range of factors that influence active recreation participation, including age, gender, ability, disability, cultural factors, socio-economic factors and personal preferences. While there is research and participation data relating to the impacts of age and gender, it is acknowledged that these interact with all of the other factors that shape people's identities and experiences. All of the factors noted above may play a role in the amount and type of recreation activities that people in the Yarra Ranges undertake.

Yarra Ranges has a commitment (clearly stated in the Council Plan 2021-25 and other strategic documents) to providing equitable access to opportunities and resources. This Plan addresses the factors noted above that influence active recreation participation with the goal that active recreation opportunities can be available, safe and enticing to all members of the community.

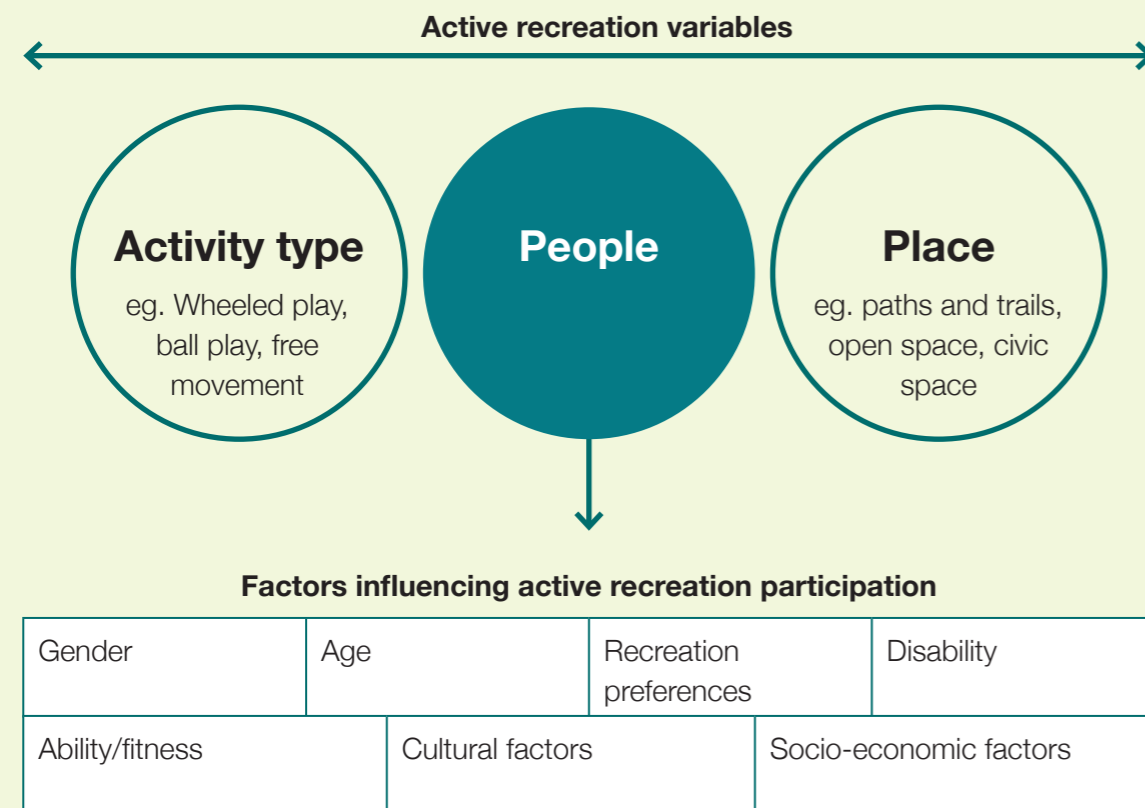


Figure 2: Active recreation variables and factors influencing active recreation participation



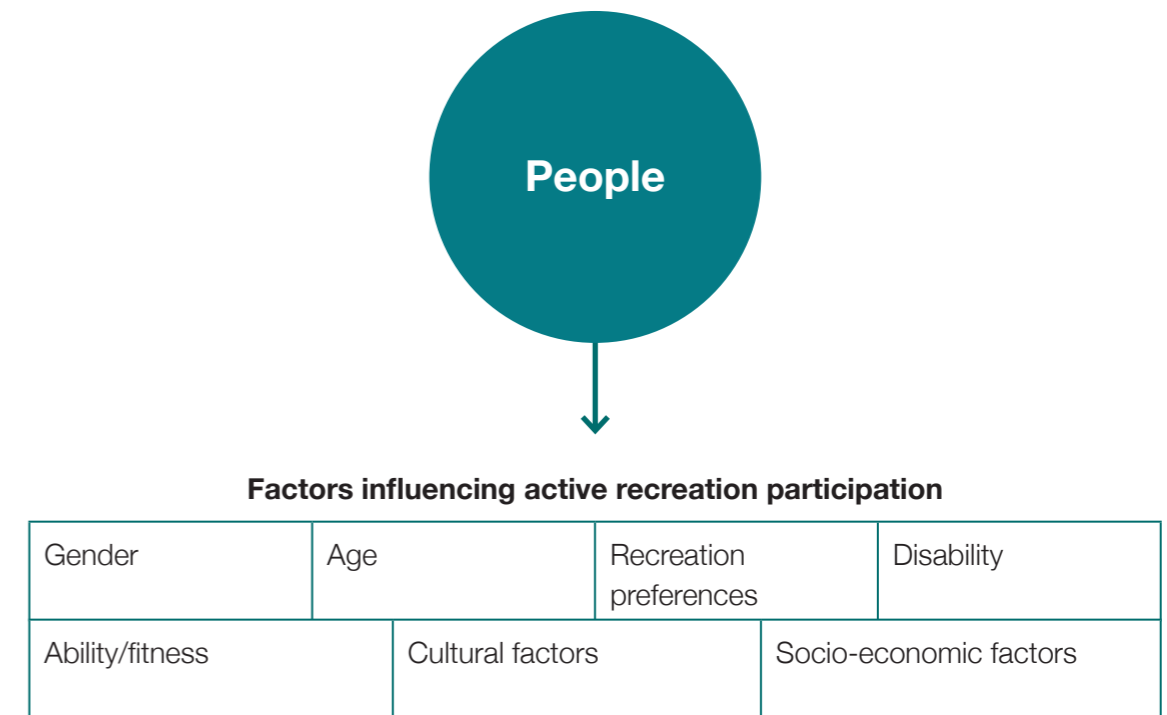


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The people

Seven key personal factors that influence people’s active recreation participation have been identified (refer to Figure 5). Each will be examined separately in this section.

Figure 5: Personal factors influencing people’s active recreation participation



Age

Active recreation activities are strongly influenced by age. In some cases the influence is obvious (eg. play spaces). The following table identifies key active recreation opportunity types currently existing in Yarra Ranges, and identifies the predominant user age group/s (acknowledging that all of these facilities will be used by some people outside the identified age brackets).

Existing active recreation opportunity types	User age group					
	0-8	8-14	12-24	25-50	50-70	70+
Open space Parks and reserves cater well to most age groups, for activities including walking and informal sport (eg. kicking a ball).	●	●	●	●	●	●
Paths & trails Footpaths, shared paths and trails cater well to a wide range of users, including kids on scooters, long walks and rides, or a gentle walk around the block.	●	●	●	●	●	●
Play spaces Specifically designed for younger age groups. Opportunity for play spaces to include elements or areas designed for more mature users.	●	●				
Ball play facilities Ball play, including facilities such as half-court basketball courts cater well for most age groups except the youngest and oldest categories.		●	●	●	●	
Dog off-lead facilities Dog off-lead areas are targeted at adult dog owners.			●	●	●	●
Wheeled play facilities Facilities such as skate ramps and pump tracks are largely targeted at children and young adults.		●	●			
Aquatic facilities Swimming pools are used by a very wide age range (including for exercise, socialising and rehabilitation), while splash parks and water play are targeted at younger users.	●	●	●	●	●	●
Exercise facilities Outdoor exercise facilities are targeted mostly at adult users. The use by older people depends upon the kinds of facilities provided.			●	●	●	●

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Implications

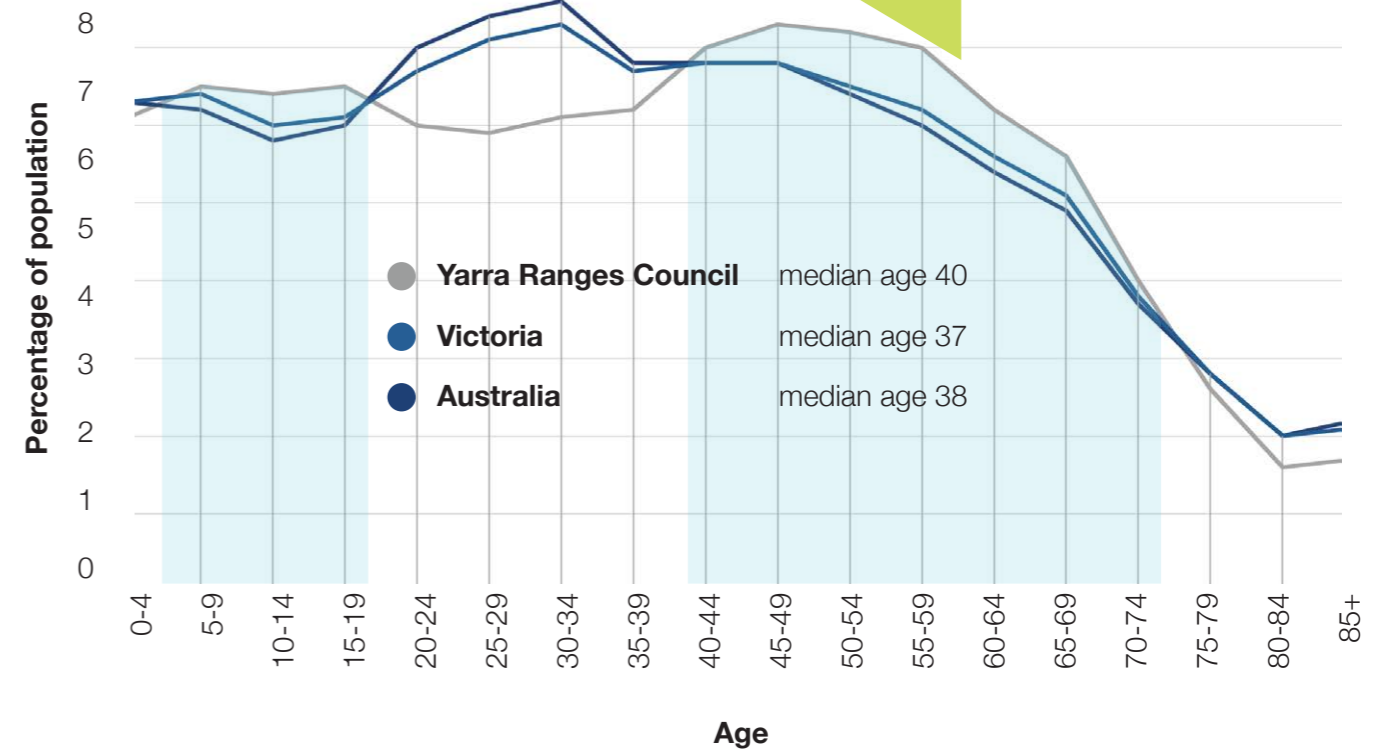
Open space, paths and trails provide active recreation opportunities for a broad range of age groups, and should continue to be a focus for Council.

Specialist active recreation facilities (such as play spaces, and facilities for ball play and wheeled play) are focused at a younger demographic. There is an opportunity to provide more specialist facilities targeted at other age groups, particularly those aged over 70. eg. outdoor exercise equipment designed with use by older people in mind.

Yarra Ranges has a higher-than-average number of residents in the 5 to 20 and 40 to 70 age groups. Population forecasts show a relatively stable population over the next decade (growth of approximately 1% per year, <https://forecast.id.com.au/yarra-ranges>). Facilities provided should therefore prioritise targeting these age groups over the life span of this Plan. Co-locating facilities that cater for different age-group preferences can facilitate intergenerational use and encourage people to participate in family/friends groups.

Yarra Ranges has comparatively high proportions of people in the 5-20 and 40-70 age categories.

Figure 6: Population by age group
(Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)



Gender

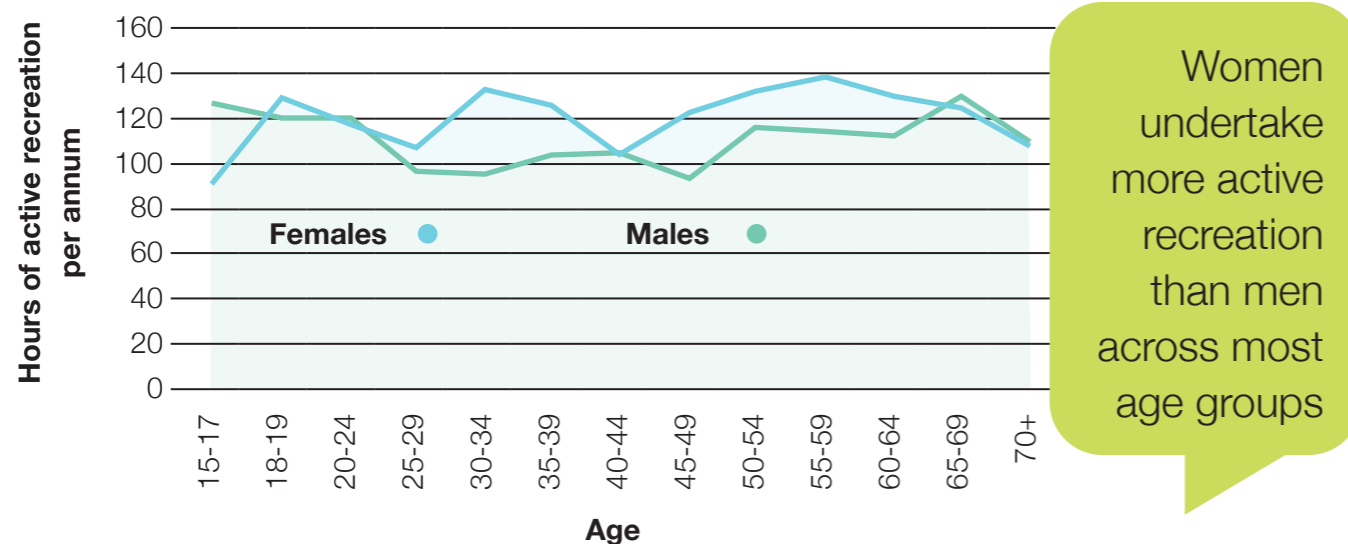
Traditionally, gender has been a strong determinant in the kinds of sporting and recreation activities that people have undertaken. Particularly in organised sports, there has been a focus upon gender equality and encouraging participation of women and girls. The kinds of active recreation people undertake is less obviously gendered than organised sports, but research shows that active recreation is a very important part of women's health and wellbeing. Women undertake more active recreation than men across most age groups and it forms a greater proportion of the total physical activity they undertake than other forms of exercise (refer to figures 7 & 8). Council can promote physical activity undertaken by women and girls by focusing and investing in active recreation alongside its investment in organised sport. A Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) has been undertaken as part of the development of this plan. Generally, the GIA found the recommendations within the plan are supportive of gender inclusivity. As a specific recommendation of the GIA, a gendered lens will be applied to all projects that are being undertaken as part of the plans implementation.

People mostly undertake active recreation in public spaces, often in areas without high levels of passive surveillance (eg. a walking path along a creek). A popular time to undertake active recreation is at the start or end of the day to fit in around other commitments. These are times that may involve low light and low levels of passive surveillance, which may result in people feeling unsafe. The design and maintenance of all active recreation facilities should have a strong focus upon the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles (including passive surveillance). Examples of the kinds of design & maintenance items that should be considered to achieve better surveillance include consideration of sight lines when locating facilities, vegetation trimming to maintain sight lines, and the incorporation of lighting where appropriate.

Figure 7: Victorian average active recreation hours per capita, by age and gender*

(Data source: Active impacts: The economic impacts of active recreation in Victoria (Sport & Recreation Victoria, 2018)

*No data currently available for gender diverse people.



Studies also show that teenage girls are not well served by most active recreation facilities (eg. www.sport.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-04/sprinter-women_and_girls_participation_review_final.pdf), and this was reflected in engagement undertaken for this Plan. To address this, consideration should be given to providing active recreation spaces that specifically target teenage girls. Examples include:

- intentionally incorporating social spaces into recreation infrastructure (eg. a cluster of seats at a basketball/netball half-court)
- providing opportunities within social/recreation spaces for performance
- making active recreation spaces inviting and welcoming,

Providing specific design elements that reflect known trends/preferences associated with women and girls provides a signal that they belong in the space.

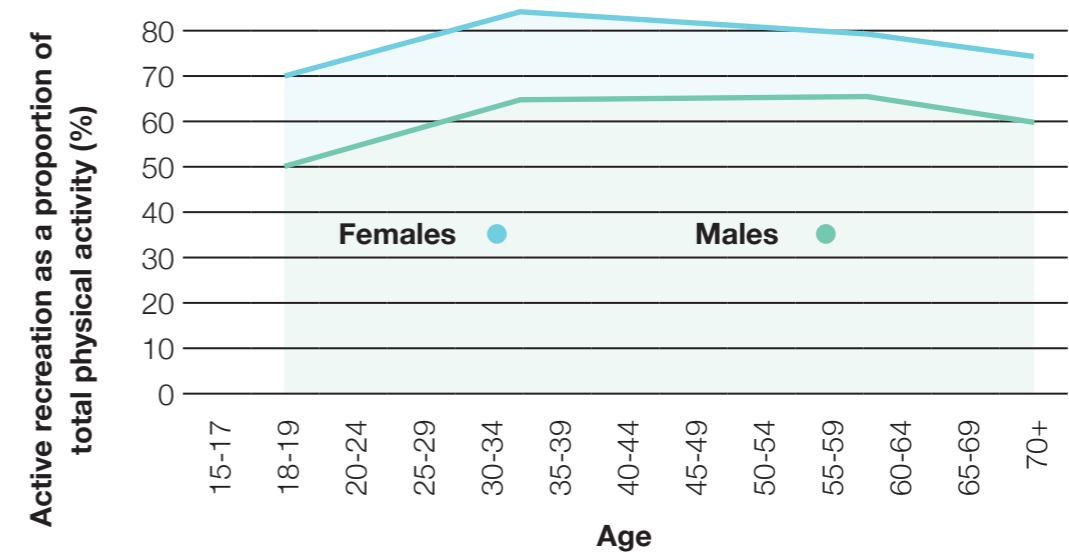
There is currently no accurate demographic data available within Australia regarding people who don't identify as either female or male. The range of different identities that fall within this category also makes projections regarding their active recreation participation or preferences difficult.

Research has shown that 'trans and gender-diverse young people have elevated rates of psychological distress, mental ill-health, and suicide risk when compared with their cis-gender counterparts' (<https://www.orygen.org.au/About/News-And-Events/2022/Mental-health-and-suicide-risk-in-trans-and-gender>). The known benefits to mental health provided by active recreation therefore have a particular potential benefit to this cohort. As for women and girls, physical safety when using active recreation facilities in public places is a key potential barrier.

Figure 8: Active recreation as a proportion of total physical activity hours per capita, by age and gender*

(Data source: Active impacts: The economic impacts of active recreation in Victoria (Sport & Recreation Victoria, 2018)

*No data currently available for gender diverse people.





Implications

Facilitating women and girls participation in recreation activities is a focus for Yarra Ranges Council. The data available shows that investing in active recreation is a good way to achieve these goals, due to existing high levels of use by women and girls. Active recreation facilities and programs within Yarra Ranges must be designed to encourage use by women and girls, and so that they feel that they belong in these spaces.

The design of all active recreation facilities should have a strong focus upon the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles (including passive surveillance), to increase the sense of safety for all users.

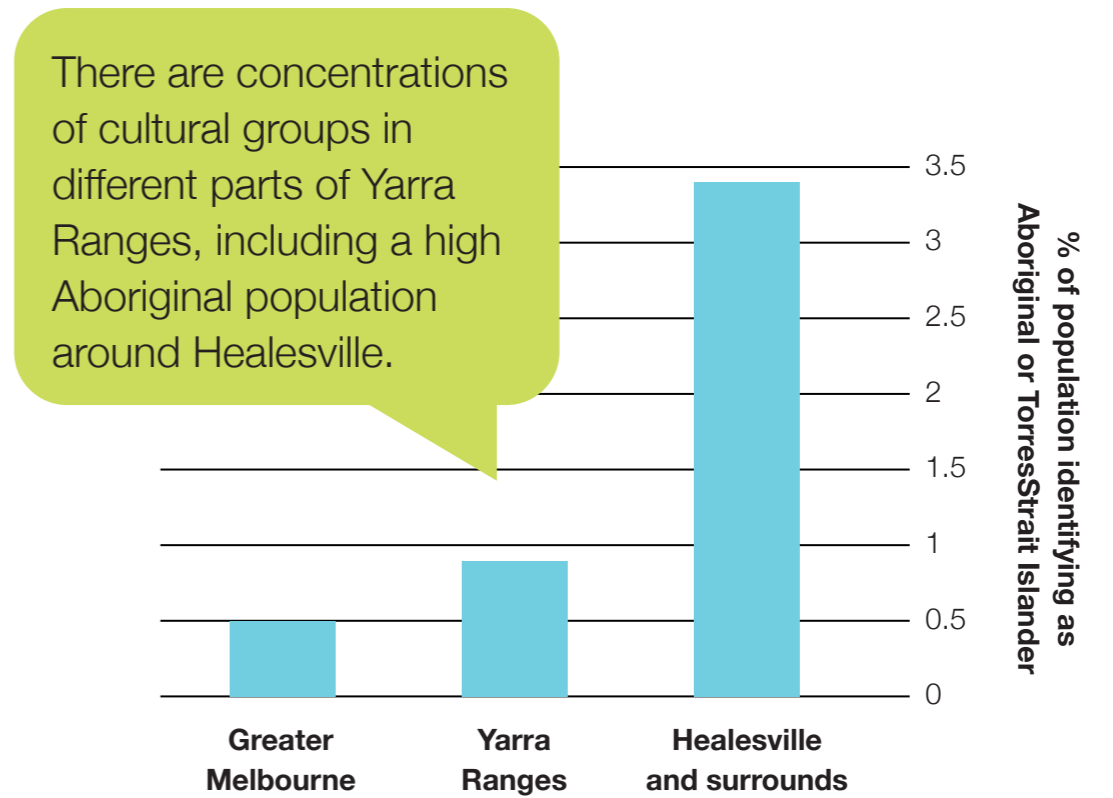
Spaces should be provided that specifically target the recreation preferences of teenage girls (including social and performative spaces), due to this cohort not being well served by most other active recreation facilities provided.

Culture

People’s cultural backgrounds has some impact upon the kinds of active recreation activities they choose to undertake. But a person’s cultural background can also be a barrier to participation, particularly with regard to cultural safety (ie. people feeling threatened, uncomfortable or challenged due to aspects of their cultural identity, customs and beliefs). This can apply to people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds, including indigenous Australians.

People who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander make up 0.9% of the overall population of Yarra Ranges, but there are areas including around Healesville where this percentage is as high as 3.4% (see figure 9).

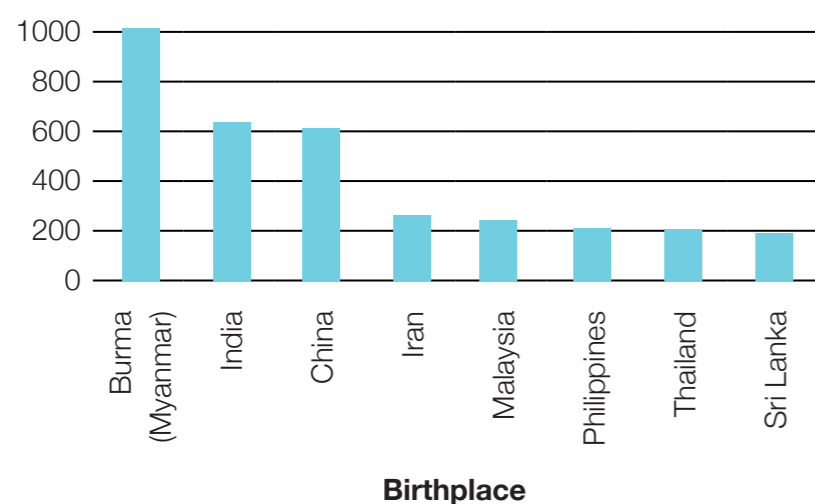
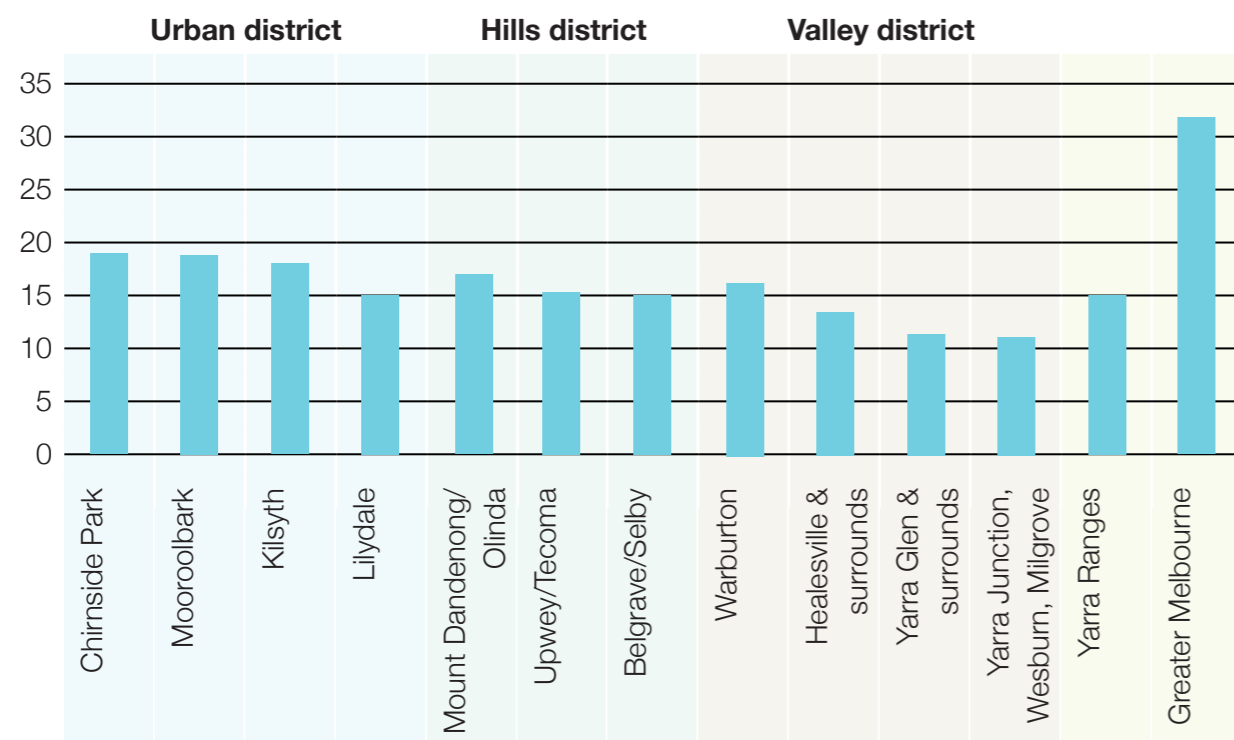
Overall, Yarra Ranges is less culturally diverse than the Victorian and Australian populations, as measured by the proportion of residents born overseas (refer to figure 10). For Yarra Ranges residents not born in Australia, most were born in English-language-speaking or European countries, including England (5.4%), New Zealand (1.2%), Netherlands (1.1%), Germany (0.7%) and Italy (0.6%). However there are also prominent and emerging cultural groups, the fastest-growing of these over the past decade being the Chin people from Burma/Myanmar (refer to figure 10a) known to be concentrated around Mooroolbark.



There are concentrations of cultural groups in different parts of Yarra Ranges, including a high Aboriginal population around Healesville.

Figure 9: Proportion of population identifying as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

(Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)



Above: Figure 10

Left: Figure 10a

Yarra Ranges has relatively low levels of cultural diversity, but the diversity differs across the districts (with the Urban District having higher proportions of overseas-born residents than the Valley District).

Implications

Cultural safety should be considered in the design of active recreation facilities especially given the relatively low levels of cultural diversity in Yarra Ranges.

Active recreation facility provision should seek to respond to cultural factors in areas of known cultural concentrations (eg. the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population in Healesville and surrounds, and the Chin Burmese community around Mooroolbark). Designing flexible spaces that can be used by anyone at any time for any purpose supports different activities that may be preferred by different cultural groups.

Implications

Barriers to use associated with cost should be considered in the provision of active recreation opportunities, particularly in areas of known disadvantage.

The eastern parts of Yarra Ranges should be a focus for increasing the provision of low cost and free active recreation opportunities.

Disadvantage

Socio-economic disadvantage is linked to poor health outcomes. There are things that prevent people experiencing disadvantage from undertaking active recreation that can contribute to poor health, including:

- costs associated with accessing active recreation activities. This includes things as simple as appropriate footwear and clothing, as well as specialist equipment, entry/service fees, and transport costs.
- less access to information, resources and messaging that encourages physical activity
- a lack of convenient access to active recreation opportunities. The Australian Bureau of Statistics gathers data relating to relative socio-economic conditions, and in Yarra Ranges the areas of highest disadvantage are located away from major population centres where facilities, services and programs are more prevalent.

Both the provision of assets and programs can impact participation in active recreation. For the purposes of active recreation assets and program provision, areas of recognised social disadvantage should be seen as priority communities to assist in addressing the issues noted above.

Figure 10: Proportion of population born overseas

(Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Figure 10a: Fastest-growing ethnic groups (measured by growth between 2011 & 2021 of numbers of people born outside Australia by birthplace)

(Data source: Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Disability

Disability influences the way people participate in active recreation in many different ways. Some examples include:

- Mobility-related access issues, including people in wheelchairs.
- Psychological or mental barrier for people experiencing mental health conditions.
- Access and communication issues associated with hearing and vision impairment.
- Access and logistical barriers for unpaid carers of people with disabilities,

Disability impacts a significant percentage of the population. The Australian Bureau of Statistics Disability, Aging & Carers, Australia 2018 report found that 17.7% of the Australian population (and 17.0% of the Victorian population) reported having a disability (with disability defined as 'any limitation, restriction or impairment which restricts everyday activities and has lasted, or is likely to last, for at least six months'). 5.7% of Australians reported having either a profound or severe disability, requiring assistance or having difficulty with core day to day tasks. It also found that the prevalence of disability increases with age - almost half (49.6%) of people aged over 65 years old experienced disability. 16% of people in Yarra Ranges reported having a disability which is comparable to the Victorian average.

Almost one-quarter (23.2%) of all people with a disability reported a mental or behavioural disorder as their main condition. Physical activity has been shown to benefit mental health.

49.6% of Australians over the age of 65 have a disability

17.7% of Australians have a disability

1/3rd (approx.) of those with a disability have a severe disability

People with a disability make up a significant part of the population of Yarra Ranges, especially in the older age groups. It is important that active recreation opportunities are provided that are accessible and attractive to them.

Implications

- People with a disability make up more than 1 in 6 people within the community, and should be provided active recreation opportunities.
- Consideration needs to be given to active recreation opportunities for unpaid carers of people with disabilities. eg. opportunities for people of different abilities to undertake active recreation together.
- Active recreation opportunities provided should seek to reflect the diversity of abilities within the community.





Active recreation framework

Based upon the outcomes of the research and engagement undertaken, the following vision and principles have been developed.

Target:
We're aiming to **increase Physical Activity by 15% over ten years**

Vision

Yarra Ranges is a place where everyone has the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of active recreation facilities programs and events that contribute to a healthy life.

Key principles



Access

Active recreation opportunities that encourage participation and have a positive influence on physical health are provided in accessible and convenient places for residents within Yarra Ranges.



Diversity

A diversity of active recreation opportunities are provided reflecting the diversity of our community and places across the municipality, the diversity of needs and preferences of the community, and different financial capacities.



Activation

Programming and events are delivered through internal and external partnerships to optimise utilisation of recreational assets, maximise health and wellbeing outcomes for the community, and contribute to sustainable tourism and economic prosperity across the municipality.



Inclusion

Facilities are designed with inclusion, accessibility, and safety of all people in mind, enabling individuals to make choices based on their needs and interests. There is a particular focus on women and girls, gender diverse people, disability, and Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing.



Social Connection

Where possible, active recreation facilities are provided in proximity to other compatible uses where they facilitate social interaction and encourage intergenerational use of reserves and spaces.



Photo: Kylie Gromadovski

Action Areas

There are four action areas that will help us increase the number of people meeting their physical activity guidelines in Yarra Ranges. These are:

Action Area 1: Improving safety and accessibility

providing active recreation infrastructure and programs that are appealing and accessible to all community members, where participation is encouraged and people feel safe.

Action Area 2: Activating existing facilities

identifying ways to increase the use of existing active recreation facilities (through partnerships with other agencies and community groups, events, programming and promotion).

Action Area 3: Increasing existing facility provision

relating to active recreation opportunities that currently exist within Yarra Ranges but are few in number, and where providing additional facilities, where gaps in provision have been identified, would increase the opportunity for participation.

Action Area 4: New facility provision


identifying new active recreation opportunities that do not currently exist within Yarra Ranges.


Action Area 1: Improving safety and accessibility


There are a number of key design considerations that should be taken into account for all active recreation facilities to maximise their use by the community. Wherever possible, a diversity of recreation opportunities should be provided in one location. In addition we should;




Design Considerations


Maximise passive surveillance of active recreation facilities from passers-by and surrounding roads and buildings. Avoid elements that block view lines or create hiding places. 


Consider lighting active recreation facilities active recreation facilities likely to be used outside daylight hours (eg. walking circuits). 

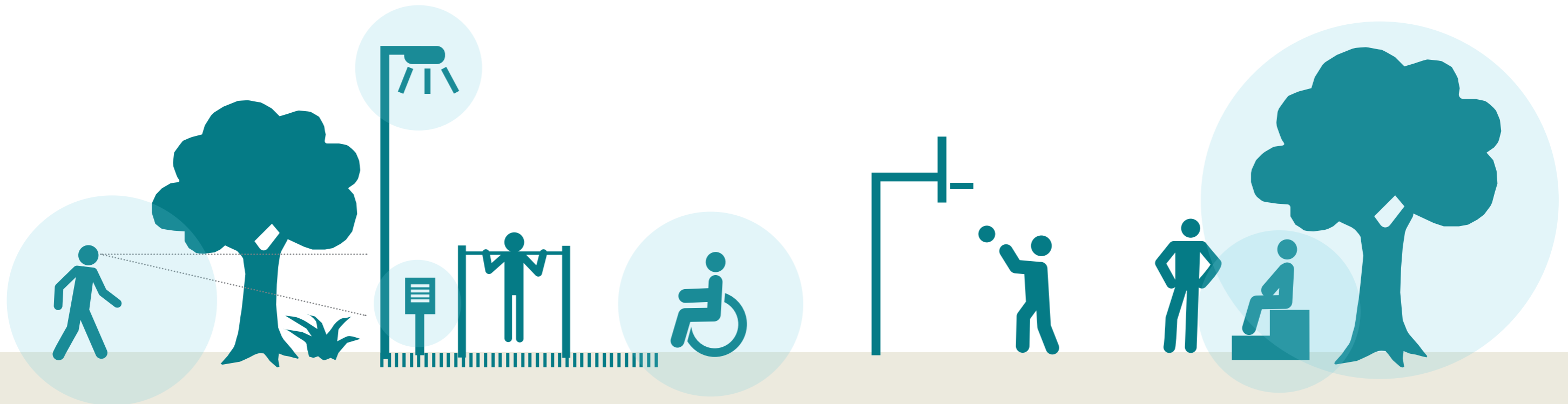
Make facilities accessible. This includes careful consideration of ground surfacing. Loose surfaces (eg. mulch surfaces under play or exercise equipment) can make facilities difficult to access for people with mobility issues. 

Design Considerations

Provide carefully considered signs and other information to notify people of active recreation opportunities, without creating unnecessary visual clutter. 

Create social opportunities at active recreation facilities by providing seating. Consider seating types that are suitable for groups (rather than standard park benches) especially for youth-focused spaces. 

Provide shade and shelter from the wind. 










Action Area 2: Activating existing facilities

Existing active recreation facilities have the capacity to encourage more participation by connecting our communities to information, programs, events and opportunities to be active. A range of options have been identified and assessed in the table below to help activate our spaces.



Activation type	Options	Opportunities	Considerations	Priority
Facility awareness (promotion/media)	Promotion of existing facilities, programs or events (eg. via print & social media) to ensure people know what opportunities exist.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing processes in place (eg. Council has a communications team). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficulty for Council communications to effectively target the least active people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High priority (relatively low cost, low-moderate impact)
	Introduce a 'find active recreation opportunities near me' function on the Yarra Ranges Council web site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A useful asset, particularly for new residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for ongoing resourcing to ensure it is kept up to date. Has the potential to highlight a lack of quantity or variety of infrastructure in some areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium priority (moderate cost, low-moderate impact)
Facility awareness (signs)	On-site signs highlighting active recreation opportunities (including a range of opportunities that may not be obvious). Potentially including 'QR codes' linking to further information.	Has the potential to encourage people to engage in a wider variety of activities and supports less active people to participate confidently.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-site signs will primarily target those who are already active. Risks associated with signs, including vandalism and visual cluttering open spaces. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium priority (moderate cost, low-moderate impact)
Events and activities (site based)	Partner with agencies and community groups to run events that encourages active recreation at a particular site or facility. eg. learn to skate clinic at a skate park.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduces people to new activities. Provides a social aspect. Opportunity to partner with others (eg. health promotion & youth teams within Council) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event organisation can be resource-intensive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High priority (moderate cost, moderate-high impact)
Events and activities (activity based)	Partner with agencies and community groups to run events that encourages active recreation that is based around an activity, rather than a specific site. eg. 'Ride to Work Day'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduces people to new activities. Opportunity to partner with others (eg. health promotion & youth teams within Council, and service providers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event organisation can be resource-intensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High priority (moderate cost, moderate-high impact)

Activation type	Options	Opportunities	Considerations	Priority
Events & activities (digital)	Geocaching, digital puzzle trails, and augmented reality games (such as Pokemon Go) provide opportunities for the active use of public spaces. These activities can appeal to people who may not be attracted to sport-based activity types.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These activities can appeal to people who may not be attracted to sport-based activity types. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event organisation can be resource-intensive 	 Medium priority (low-moderate cost, low-moderate impact)
Partnering with existing clubs/groups	Partnering with existing clubs/groups that assist and encourage people to participate in non-sport active recreation. eg. social walking groups. (Note that organised sport activities fall outside the definition of active recreation).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support/encouragement of activity, with relatively low inputs from Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively few suitable clubs/organisations exist 	 High priority (low cost, moderate impact)
Establishing new clubs/groups	Establishing support networks that assist and encourage people to participate in non-sport active recreation. eg. social walking groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support/encouragement of activity. Provides a social aspect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing groups is resource-intensive. Likely need for ongoing involvement & support 	 Low priority (moderate cost, moderate impact)
Equipment provision	Making equipment available that facilitates active recreation. eg. Having table tennis paddles and balls available for loan from a business located near an outdoor table.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourages the use of facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing Council management, repair & replacement required. 	 Medium priority (moderate cost, moderate impact)
Incentives	Providing a reward for undertaking an activity. eg. a free coffee at a park for people who arrive via active transport collecting stamps in an 'activity passport'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a motivation, and has the potential to be very targeted based upon the incentive offered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost (dependent upon the type of incentive offered) 	 Low priority (moderate cost, moderate impact)
Facility improvement (accessibility/safety)	Changes to a facility to make it more attractive to certain user groups, particularly related to accessibility and safety. (Significant functional additions to a facility are dealt with under the increasing/new facility provision categories).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reduction in barriers to facility use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many barriers to use will not be easily resolved (eg. poor siting) Changes need to be considered against the cost of facility replacement. 	 High priority (moderate cost, high impact)
Facility improvement (social)	Interventions to improve the social opportunities of a facility (eg. seating edges at a basketball half court).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging a broader group of users (particularly teenage girls who highly value social aspects of active recreation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes need to be considered against the cost of facility replacement. 	 High priority (moderate cost, high impact)

Action Area 3: Increasing existing facility provision

One way to provide more active recreation opportunities is to provide more of those opportunities that already exist. Generally, the provision of active recreation facilities is adequate for the density of population within Yarra Ranges however the large geographical area presents long travel distances to some assets. Therefore finding gaps in existing provision rather than expanding existing facilities is likely to be the best approach in most cases, with the exception of the Urban area where population is expected to significantly increase. The approaches to each of the existing facility types identified earlier are explored below. Where there has been found to be gaps in provision, additional assets have been factored into the implementation plan.



The provision of these facilities is guided by other plans and strategies including the Recreation and Open Space Strategy, Playspace Plan, Aquatics Strategy and Paths and Trails Plan.

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Ball play facilities

Opportunities for increasing provision:

There is an opportunity for more quantity and variety of ball play facilities. These opportunities are explored over the following pages.



Existing Qty: 20-40

Wheeled play facilities

Opportunities for increasing provision:

Yarra Ranges has an existing draft strategy relating to skate and BMX facility provision. Opportunity for strategy review and asset renewal.



Existing Qty: 10-20

Paths & trails

Opportunities for increasing provision:

Opportunity to improve the extent, connectivity, quality and safety of the shared path and trail network. New footpaths should be developed as a part of new residential subdivision.



Existing Qty: 100+

Aquatic facilities

Opportunities for increasing provision:

Yarra Ranges has a separate strategy relating to aquatic facility provision.



Existing Qty: 1-10

Dog off-lead facilities

Opportunities for increasing provision:

There is an opportunity for more quantity and variety of dog off-lead facilities. It is recommended that these opportunities are addressed as a part of a separate strategy.



Existing Qty: 20-40

Exercise facilities

Opportunities for increasing provision:

There is an opportunity for more variety of outdoor exercise facilities. These opportunities are explored over the following pages.



Existing Qty: 1-10

Open space

Opportunities for increasing provision:

New open space can be developed for new communities as a part of new residential subdivision. For established areas the focus instead should be upon improving the quality of the spaces.



Existing Qty: 100+

Play spaces

Opportunities for increasing provision:

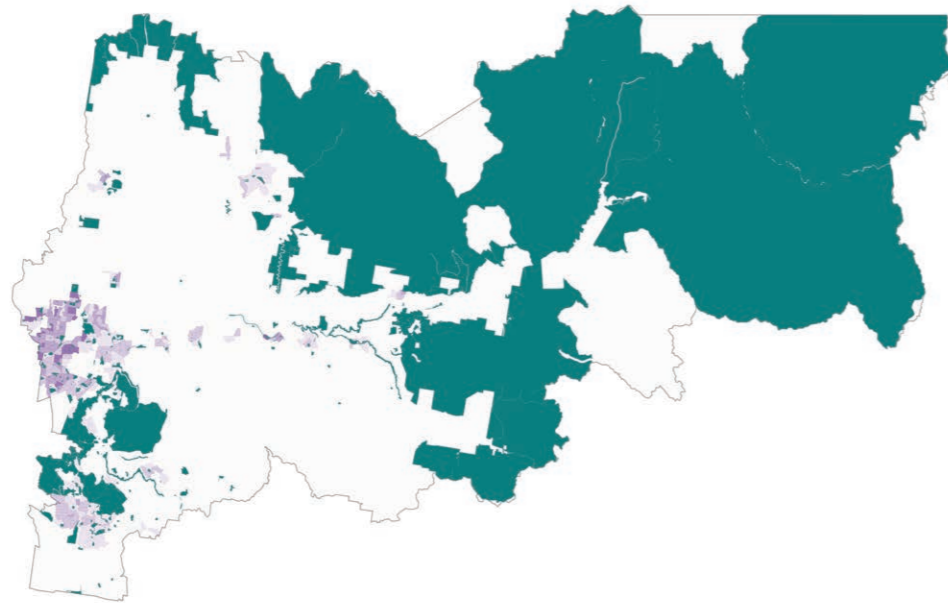
Play space development and renewal guided by the play space plan. Additional considerations may include elements or areas within play spaces that can be used by more mature community members.



Existing Qty: 100+

Existing facility locations
Open space

The open space mapped here includes spaces designated for recreation purposes as well as nature reserves. Yarra Ranges is fortunate to have very large areas of natural open space (particularly in the Hills and Valley districts) as well as spaces for recreation around key population centres.



A more detailed analysis of the provision of open space will be undertaken as part of the ROSS.

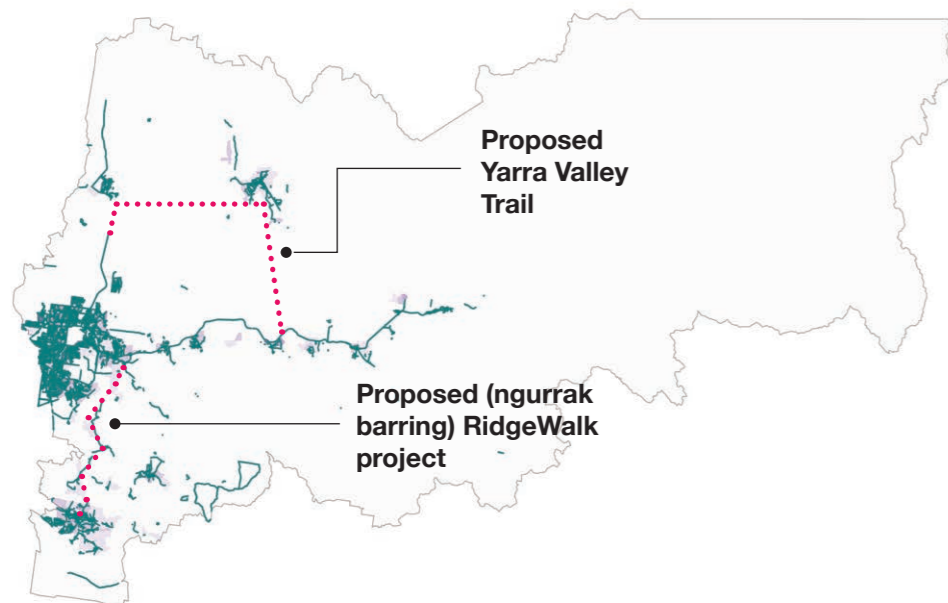
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Photo: Kylie Gromadovski

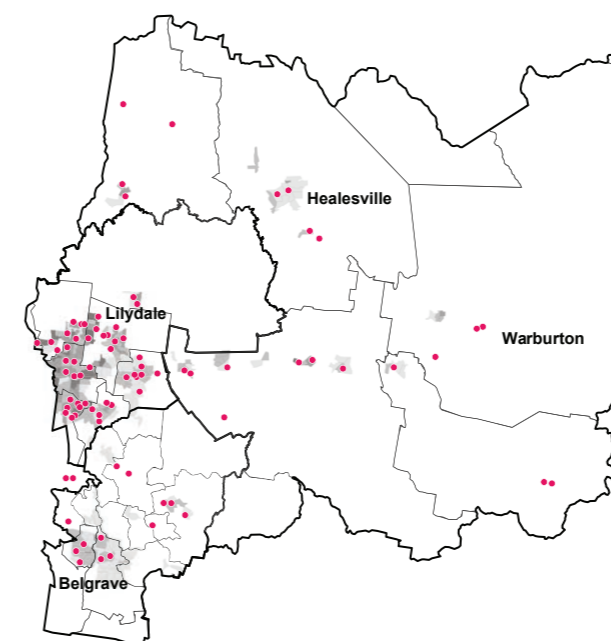
Existing facility locations
Routes (walking/cycling)

The routes mapped here include trails, shared paths and footpaths. Yarra Ranges is in the process of further developing links between population centres and districts, including projects such as the Yarra Valley Trail and Ridgewalk. More detailed information regarding priority trails and walking routes will be provided in the paths and trails plan.



Existing facility locations
Play spaces

The mapping of existing play spaces within Yarra Ranges shows a good correlation between population centres and play space provision. These facilities are covered by a separate plan. There are opportunities to consider designing areas within these spaces for different age cohorts and including elements that facilitate use by older members of the community. The provision, location and renewal program is identified within the Playspace Plan.

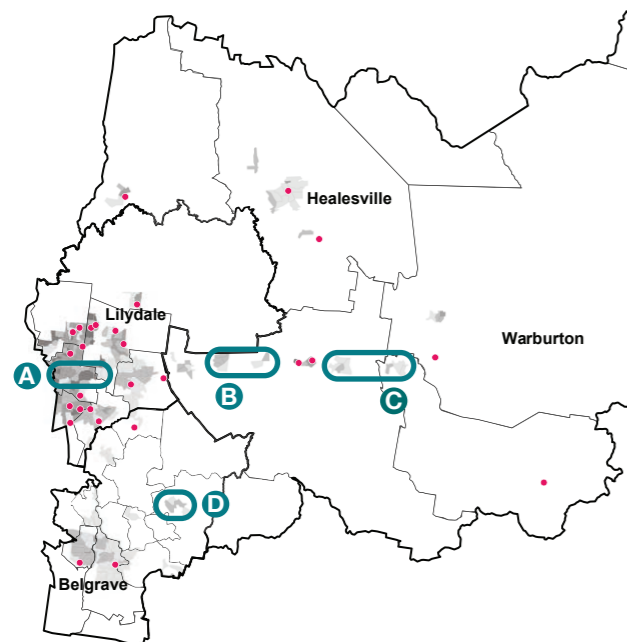


Existing facility locations Ball play facilities

The ball play facilities existing in Yarra Ranges providing active recreation opportunities currently primarily comprise basketball courts and half-courts. While designed for basketball usage, these facilities often also cater for other ball play, including netball (where netball rings are provided), and a wide variety of other ball play that requires hard paved surfaces. There is the potential to encourage these alternative uses by including additional line marking (eg. for four-square or 'pickleball', a form of paddle tennis). Beach volleyball is an example of a ball sport that doesn't require hard surfacing that should also be considered.

Key opportunities/considerations regarding the provision of outdoor ball play facilities include:

- These facilities are most-used by older children and young adults. Therefore, consideration should be given to locating them near places where these age groups congregate (such as education facilities).
- There are standard sizes for basketball hoops and ground line marking, and the surface needs to be flat. This impacts upon suitable locations for these facilities to be installed.
- Balls being bounced on hard pavement can be quite noisy, so care needs to be taken when locating these facilities in residential or noise-sensitive areas.



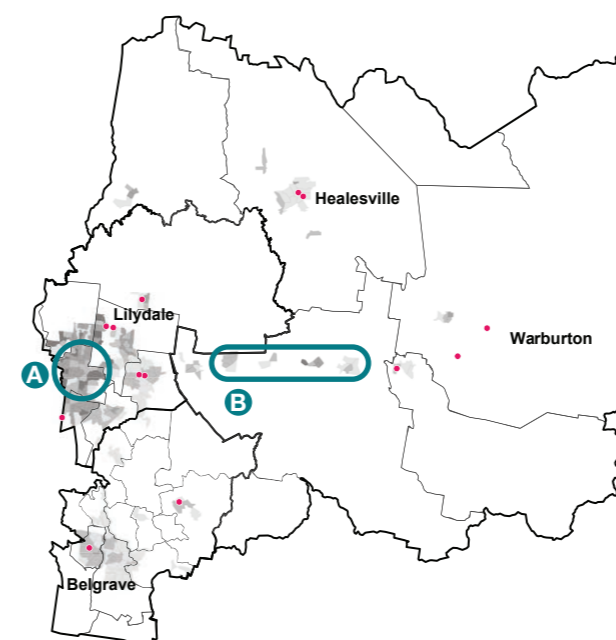
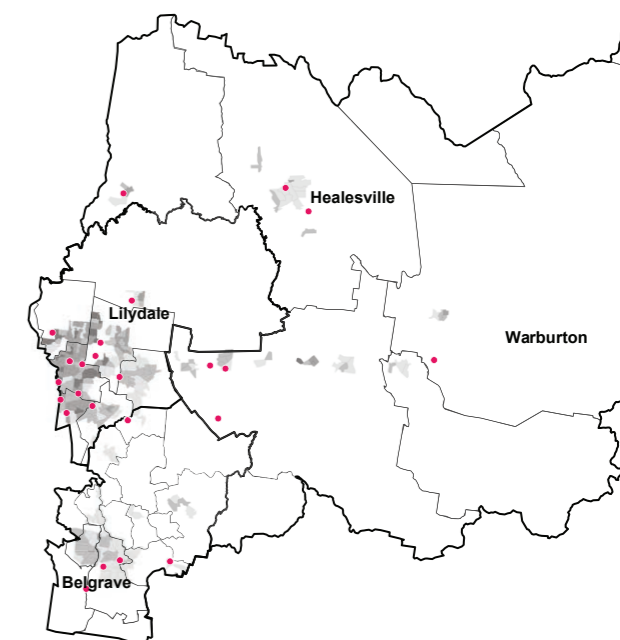
Key gaps:

Code	Area	District
A	Mooroolbark	Urban
B	Wandin North/Seville	Valley
C	Launching Place/ Yarra Junction	Valley
D	Monbulk	Hills

Existing facility locations Dog off-lead facilities

The mapping of dog off-lead facilities shows a spread of facilities across the municipality, with a focus upon more urban areas where space for dog exercise is generally more needed. It is noted that dog walking and exercise also occurs at many other locations (including those covered under 'Paths & Trails').

Recommendations relating to the provision of dog off-lead facilities should be addressed by a separate plan.



Existing facility locations Wheeled play

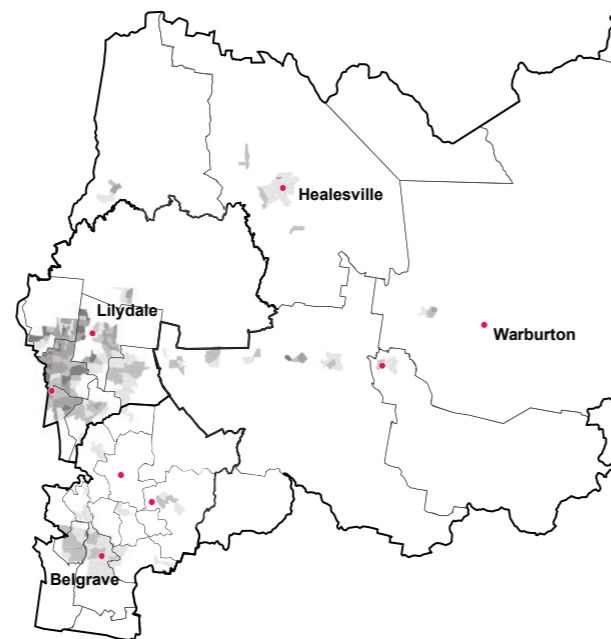
Wheeled play facilities mapped here include facilities designed for skating (eg. skate parks), scooters and bikes (eg. pump tracks). The mapping of these facilities shows a good spread throughout the populated parts of Yarra Ranges, with just a few gaps in provision identified. Many of the existing facilities are well used, indicating that more of these sorts of facilities could be required within Yarra Ranges. An action of this strategy will be to develop a skate and scooter park plan and a bike infrastructure plan.

Key gaps:

Code	Area	District
A	Mooroolbark	Urban
B	Warburton Highway (west)	Valley

Existing facility locations Aquatic facilities

Aquatic facilities mapped here include swimming pools and splash parks. The mapping of these facilities shows a good spread throughout the populated parts of Yarra Ranges. Swimming is an important recreational pursuit for the community within Yarra Ranges. The provision and mix of aquatic services provided in Yarra Ranges in the future will be guided by the Aquatics Strategy which is currently in development.



Existing facility locations Exercise equipment

The mapping of outdoor exercise equipment shows that they are spread throughout the populated parts of Yarra Ranges, with a number of gaps as identified. The range of facility types available that fall under this category are covered on the following page.

Key gaps:

Code	Area	District
A	Warburton Highway towns	Valley
B	Mount Evelyn	Urban
C	Upwey	Hills

Exercise facilities

There are a wide range of outdoor exercise equipment options available that can be broadly grouped according to the following categories:

- Equipment complexity - the simplest (and therefore usually the lowest cost and most robust) equipment has no moving parts, such as sit-up benches and chin-up bars. More complex equipment involves multiple moving parts and provide the range of exercise options that can be found in a commercial gym (including exercise bikes, and weight training machines for arms and legs).
- Age focus - In addition to exercise equipment focused upon fitness and strength, there are also a range of suppliers offering outdoor exercise equipment focused upon older adults (with a focus upon things like dexterity and balance rather than strength and aerobic fitness). Seniors exercise parks also have the benefit of creating meeting places for social interaction among seniors.



An example of simple equipment with few or no moving parts.



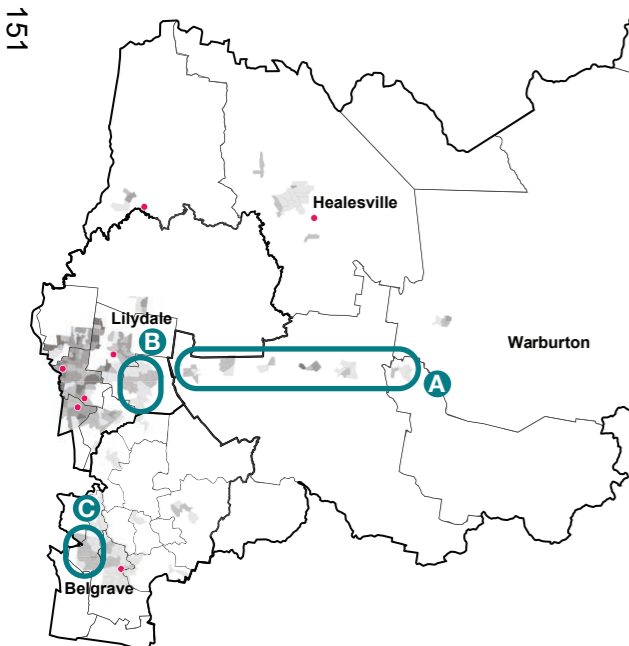
An example of more complex equipment replicating the range of exercise options that can be found in a commercial gym.



An example of seniors-specific exercise equipment, with a focus upon things like dexterity and balance rather than strength and aerobic fitness.

Key opportunities/considerations regarding the provision of outdoor exercise equipment include:

- Equipment installation is very scalable. Installations can be small and simple, or large and complex, to suit a variety of spaces and settings (including sites constrained by size or topography).
- Usage can be increased by locating them along paths or trails already used for walking or jogging.
- Exercise equipment for seniors can be located in areas known to be frequented by older residents (including senior citizens centres and University of the Third Age venues).
- The design of ground surfacing beneath equipment should consider accessibility impacts. Rubber surfacing will make equipment easier to access for people with mobility issues.






Action Area 4: New provision



Providing new types of active recreation facilities, particularly those that are unique or interesting, creates variety and draws attention to the opportunities on offer. There are many potential active recreation opportunities that could be provided within Yarra Ranges. The following table identifies some key options, reflected in the implementation plan where appropriate.



Facility category	Facility type	Opportunities	Considerations	Priority
Ball play	Outdoor table tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many examples of successful robust public installations. Relatively low installation cost. Potential for tables to be painted to assist in place-making. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for users to bring their equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium priority. Most suited to urban settings.
	Bocce/petanque	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many examples of successful robust public installations. Relatively low installation cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for users to bring their equipment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium priority. Most suited to urban settings.
	Disc golf (Disc golf is a golf-like game played using flying discs or 'frisbees'. Rather than holes, the discs are thrown into basket nets. Open spaces can be converted to accommodate the game with relatively few modifications).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively low installation cost. Council has received a submission requesting a facility, indicating some demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for users to bring their equipment. Large space required, limiting available options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium priority. Suited to underutilised existing parkland.
	Beach volleyball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively low installation cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for users to bring their equipment (ie. ball and net) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium priority. Suited to some existing locations (eg. Lillydale Lake 'beach').

Facility example (above): 'Swing Time' (Boston, USA), Howeler & Yoon Architecture
(image www.howeleryoon.com)



Facility category	Facility type	Opportunities	Considerations	Priority
Climbing/obstacles/play	Rock climbing/bouldering walls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Able to be installed in otherwise underutilised areas such as bridge abutments. eg. Hopkins Bridge Bouldering Wall, Footscray (City of Maribyrnong) Walls can also be installed as stand-alone elements, usually at a smaller scale. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These facilities require a level of fitness and expertise to use, and are therefore likely to be most used by people who already have high levels of activity. 	 Medium priority
	Obstacle courses (parkour/'ninja parks')	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground-like spaces that appeal to a wider audience. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These facilities require a level of fitness and expertise to use, and are therefore likely to be most used by people who already have high levels of activity. 	 Medium priority. Consider addressing within play space development/upgrade program.
	'All-aged' play spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds that appeal to a wider audience. eg. 'Swing time' - temporary installation of illuminated hoop swings (Howeler & Yoon Architecture), Boston, providing a social/performative and social-media friendly experience 		 Medium priority. Consider addressing within play space development/upgrade program.

Activation type	Notes/examples	Opportunities	Considerations	Priority
	Youth spaces (Outdoor spaces targeting youth that encourage outdoor activity and socialisation without sporting activities such as skating or basketball being the focus).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A space dedicated to youth who can fall into the gap between facilities for children and adults. eg. Geelong Youth Activities Area - designed as a flexible, multi-purpose outdoor youth-focused area catering for events, markets, live music, art exhibitions, catwalk, dance, street theatre, interactive media, wireless internet and seating (as well as sport activities). 	High cost	 High priority
Water-based activities (excluding swimming pools/water play)	Water access (Jetties, ramps, etc to allow access to the water of human-powered water craft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunity to increase the opportunities for human-powered water craft in the municipality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These activities require specialised equipment (kayaks, canoes, etc) making it a niche user target group. Careful siting of facilities required to avoid environmental damage. Often the jurisdiction of multiple agencies. 	 Low priority. Resource intensive.












Action, implementation & evaluation plan

Action Area 1: Improving safety and accessibility

Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	




Priority		High
		Medium
		Low











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Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority
<p>1.1 CPTED: The design of all active recreation facilities should have a strong focus upon the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles.</p> <p>CPTED to be incorporated onto the design of all new active recreation facilities. Where possible, improvements are undertaken to existing active recreation facilities to improve safety.</p>		<p>Increase perception of safety for females and vulnerable groups using active recreation facilities.</p> <p>Increased use of active recreation facilities by females and vulnerable groups within the community.</p>	<p>Increased percentage of females and vulnerable groups feeling safe when using the active recreation facility. As measured by engagement with DAG, YAG and community members asking about how interventions have impacted their sense of safety.</p>	<p>Observation data at active recreation facilities</p> <p>Community engagement data on facility usage barriers</p>	Capture required baseline data for all site assessment sites	
					All new active recreation facilities designed in accordance with CPTED principles. Short term KPI (output)	
					CPTED site assessment of existing active recreation facilities undertaken	
					20 improvement projects undertaken as identified by site assessments. eg. lighting, improved surveillance sight-lines).	
<p>1.2 Universal access: The design of all active recreation facilities should have a strong focus upon universal access.</p> <p>Accessibility is to be incorporated into the design of all new active recreation facilities.</p> <p>Where possible improvements to existing recreations facilities should be undertaken to improve accessibility</p>		<p>Improved accessibility of active recreation facilities.</p> <p>Increased use of active recreation facilities by groups who benefit most from accessibility (including people with mobility issues and people with prams).</p>	<p>Increased use of active recreation facilities by target groups as evidenced by increased bookings for groups catering to all abilities, mothers groups etc.</p>	<p>As above</p>	Capture required baseline data for all site assessment sites	
					Universal design site assessments of existing recreation facilities undertaken and specific improvement projects identified.	
					All new active recreation facilities designed to achieve universal access to at least 1 component.	
					Site assessment of existing active recreation facilities to identify barriers to accessibility	
					20 improvement projects to be undertaken over the life of the plan.	






Action Area 1: Improving safety and accessibility



Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	







Priority		High
		Medium
		Low

Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority		
1.3 Cultural safety: All facilities and events/programs related to active recreation consider cultural safety (ie. avoiding people feeling threatened, uncomfortable or challenged due to aspects of their cultural identity, customs and beliefs).		All new active recreation facilities, events and programs informed by cultural safety considerations.	Increased perception of cultural safety by target groups as evidenced by 'secret shopper' experiencing facilities.	As above	Engage with representatives from Cultural Groups and document design elements that can be incorporated into active recreation facilities and programs to encourage cultural safety. Establish a process to respectfully engage representatives from different cultures throughout the design process.			
		Increased use of active recreation facilities by diverse cultural groups.						
1.4 Facility improvement (social): All active recreation facilities will consider opportunities for social interaction (eg. seating suitable for groups close to recreation infrastructure). Opportunities for social interaction should be incorporated into the design of all new active recreation facilities. Large projects should provide a safe 'edge' for people to approach and engage in the activity slowly over time.		Recreation facilities are used by a broader range of users (particularly teenage girls who highly value social aspects of active recreation).	More diverse groups using the facility as evidenced by observational data at facilities Diverse groups of people feeling comfortable to engage in the space and try the activity	As above	Capture required baseline data for all site assessment sites			
						Specific consultation with diverse cultural groups during the design of recreation facilities and recommendations incorporated into the design.		
							All new active recreation facilities are designed to provide social opportunities.	
							Site assessments of existing active recreation facilities and opportunities to improve social interaction identified as specific projects.	
							Identification and implementation of 10 social interaction improvement projects relating to existing active recreation facilities as recommended by the audit.	
							Identification of 3 opportunities for larger nodes to provide opportunities for social interaction at existing active recreation facilities. These projects should provide a safe 'edge' for people to approach and engage in the activity slowly over time.	
							3 large nodes constructed to provide opportunities for large groups to socialise and for people to slowly approach and engage in the activity.	






Action Area 2: Activating existing facilities




Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	












Priority		High
		Medium
		Low

Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority
2.1 Facility awareness: promotion of existing facilities by Council (via print & social media) to ensure people know what opportunities exist.		Residents and visitors to Yarra Ranges are aware of opportunities for active recreation within the municipality.	<p>Increased knowledge about and use of active recreation facilities within the community.</p> <p>Increase in the number of people engaging with social media</p>	Assessment of current internal social media analytics	Work with the Communications Team to develop promotion of active recreation opportunities	
2.2 Facility awareness: introduce a 'find active recreation opportunities near me' function on the Yarra Ranges web site.		Residents and Visitors to Yarra Ranges can easily find opportunities to participate in active recreation	Increase in the number of people engaging with website	As above	Create a 'find active recreation opportunities near me' function on the Yarra Ranges web site	
2.3 Facility awareness: on-site signs highlighting active recreation opportunities.		Increased knowledge about the presence of, and how to use active recreation facilities within the community.	<p>Presence of useful signs associated with active recreation facilities (and the avoidance of unnecessary visual clutter).</p> <p>The community has a greater awareness of active recreation facilities and how to use them as evidenced by a decrease in public requests for guidance on how to use them?.</p>	Community survey/ recreation activity observations	Identify sites, design signage and install signs to assist the community to engage with active recreation facilities.	






Action Area 2: Activating existing facilities




Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	

Priority	 High
	 Medium
	 Low















Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority
<p>2.4 Site-based events and activities: run events at sites that draw attention to active recreation opportunities, and potentially provide assistance for beginners to get started (eg. a learn to skate class at a skate park).</p> <p>Events also provide an opportunity to engage with attendees/participants more broadly about active recreation.</p>	 	<p>A minimum of five well-attended site-based events and activities per year.</p> <p>Increased knowledge about and use of active recreation facilities within the community.</p>	<p>Participants have an increased knowledge of how to use, and, are more likely to use active recreation facilities</p>	<p>Recreation activity observations</p>	<p>Partner with internal and external partners to run five site based events at existing active recreation facilities.</p>	
<p>2.5 Activity-based events and activities: run an event based around an active recreation activity (ie. an event in the style of 'ride to work day', which is based around the activity not the location).</p>	 	<p>Development of at least one activity-based event/activity of interest/relevance to the Yarra Ranges community.</p> <p>Increased participation in active recreation related to the selected activity.</p>	<p>Community participation rates in activity/events and events has increased as evidenced by registration data. Five successful events are held.</p>		<p>Partner with internal and external partners to promote and participate in an annual active recreation activity.</p>	
<p>2.6 Digital activities/events: eg. geocaching, digital puzzle trails, and augmented reality games providing opportunities for the active use of public spaces.</p>	  	<p>Increased participation in active recreation by people/groups not motivated by existing opportunities.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of people engaging with digital technologies within open space.</p>	<p>Digital analytics data</p>	<p>Development and implementation of a pilot digital activity/event of interest/relevance to the Yarra Ranges community.</p> <hr/> <p>Learnings from the pilot activity/event to be used to determine viability/desirability of additional activities/ events.</p>	 

Action Area 2: Activating existing facilities

Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	





Priority		High
		Medium
		Low




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Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority
2.7 Partnering with existing clubs/groups: provide support to existing clubs/groups who facilitate active recreation participation.	 	Increased participation in active recreation through sporting clubs	Number of people engaged in recreation programs	Participation in recreation programs	Identification of existing clubs/groups providing active recreation opportunities, liaising with these groups about the potential support Council could provide to increase participation, and provision of identified support.	
2.8 Establishing new clubs/groups: Council to help to establish new clubs/groups that facilitate active recreation participation where such groups don't already exist.	 	Increased participation in active recreation through newly established clubs or groups	Two new clubs established that support participation in active recreation	Understanding of existing number of clubs and participation rates	Identification of any gaps (relating to either activity or location) where clubs/groups related to providing active recreation opportunities could be formed. eg. social walking groups, or groups associated with potential new facilities proposed elsewhere within the implementation plan (such as bocce/petanque, rock climbing/bouldering, etc). Liaison with interested parties and provision of appropriate support to help establish clubs/groups.	 
2.9 Equipment provision: identify locations where Council can supply active recreation equipment for loan	 	Increased use of active recreation assets	Community using active recreation equipment on loan as evidenced by bookings.		Identification of opportunities to provide active recreation related equipment to the public in a safe and convenient way, and acting upon these. This may need to include liaison with non-Council entities (eg. a cafe next to an outdoor table tennis table who can assist in distributing balls and paddles). Three locations established where community members can loan active recreation equipment.	 
2.10 Incentives: develop and deliver incentives associated with active recreation participation (eg. collecting stamps in an 'activity passport')	 	Increased participation in active recreation	Increased participation in active recreation by people/groups not motivated by existing opportunities.	observation data at active recreation facilities	Identification and implementation of at least one incentive scheme of interest/relevance to the Yarra Ranges community.	

Action Area 3: Increasing existing facility provision

Facility provision will be guided by relevant asset plans and strategies as they are developed






Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	




Priority	 High
	 Medium
	 Low

Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority
3.1 Ball play facilities:	 	Provision of active recreation opportunities relating to ball play to increase provision/variety and in areas where there are identified gaps.	Increase in community use of facilities evidenced through observational data		Recreation Infrastructure constructed at up to 2 locations per year over 5 years.	
					Develop new multi-purpose court facilities as itemised below:	
					Lillydale Lake Exercise and Youth Activity Hub - multi-use court/half court development (combined with other activities including outdoor exercise and parkour).	
					McDermott Avenue Reserve, Mooroolbark - develop multi-purpose courts (including volley ball)	
					Eyrefield Park, Lilydale - develop multi-purpose courts (including pickleball)	
					Belgrave (site to be determined) - develop multipurpose courts (including pickleball)	
					Wandin North/Seville (site to be determined) - develop multi-purpose courts	
					Launching Place/Yarra Junction (site to be determined) - develop multipurpose courts	
Monbulk (site to be determined) - develop multipurpose courts						















Action Area 3: Increasing existing facility provision

Facility provision will be guided by relevant asset plans and strategies as they are developed

Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	






Priority		High
		Medium
		Low




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Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority
3.2 Outdoor exercise facilities:		Provision of active recreation opportunities in areas where there is high demand and/or identified gaps to increase participation in active recreation.	Community use of facilities (observations)		Recreation Infrastructure constructed at up to 2 locations per year over 5 years.	
					Explore opportunities to develop new exercise facilities where need is identified as itemised below.	
					Lillydale Lake Exercise and Youth Activity Hub – develop outdoor exercise node (combined with other activities including multi-use court and parkour).	
					Warburton Highway (sites to be determined) – develop two outdoor exercise nodes.	
					Mount Evelyn (site to be determined) – develop an outdoor exercise node.	
					Upwey (site to be determined) – develop an outdoor exercise node.	
3.3 Wheeled play facilities:		Provision of active recreation opportunities in areas where there is high demand and/or identified gaps.	Community use of facilities (observations)		Recreation Infrastructure constructed at up to 2 locations per year over 5 years.	
					Develop new wheeled play facilities (including skate parks and pump tracks) as itemised below.	
					Belgrave South Recreation Reserve, Belgrave South - develop skate facilities.	
					Montrose – site to be determined	
					Seville - develop skate park and pump track facilities (in central location behind shops)	
					Jadodade Community Park, Launching Place – develop pump track and skate park.	
					Eyrefield Park, Lilydale - skate park extension and upgrade.	
Queens Park Healesville - renewal upgrade of existing bike track and minor improvements to the skate park						

















Action Area 4: New facility provision

Facility provision will be guided by relevant asset plans and strategies as they are developed

Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	






Priority		High
		Medium
		Low




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Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority
4.1 Outdoor table tennis:	 	<p>Increased diversity of active recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Provision of active recreation facilities that appeal to a cohort not well catered to by existing facilities.</p>	<p>Installation of table tennis tables at up to 4 sites</p> <p>Increased community satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Identify suitable locations in urban areas and larger towns for table tennis table installation.</p>	
4.2 Bocce/petanque:	 	<p>Increased diversity of active recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Provision of active recreation facilities that appeal to a cohort (older age groups) not well catered to by existing facilities.</p>	<p>Installation of Bocce/petanque at up to 5 sites</p> <p>Increased community satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Identify suitable locations in urban areas and larger towns for bocce/petanque installation. Bocce trialed at Melba Park</p>	
4.3 Disc golf:	 	<p>Increased diversity of active recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Increased community satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Work with interested parties to identify a suitable location for installation of disc golf facilities in existing parkland.</p>	
4.4 Climbing/obstacles/play:	  	<p>Increased diversity of active recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Increased community satisfaction with diversity of recreation</p>	<p>Satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities</p>	<p>Investigate the possibility and construction of a rock wall at McDermott Avenue Reserve</p> <hr/> <p>Identify suitable locations for obstacle course spaces (parkour/'ninja park'). Up to 3 sites.</p> <hr/> <p>Lillydale Lake Exercise and Youth Activity Hub - develop parkour facility (combined with other activities including outdoor exercise and multi-use court).</p> <hr/> <p>Identify suitable locations for social/performative play spaces (targeted at teenage girls). Up to 3 sites.</p>	   

Action Area 4: New facility provision

Facility provision will be guided by relevant asset plans and strategies as they are developed

Key principle	 Access	 Activation	 Social Connection
	 Diversity	 Inclusion	

Priority		High
		Medium
		Low

Recommendation	Key principle	Outcomes	Measures of success	Baseline Data	Action/s	Priority
4.5 Youth Space:	  	<p>Increased diversity of active recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Provision of active recreation facilities that appeal to a cohort not well catered to by existing facilities.</p>	Increased community satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities.	Satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities	<p>Develop a flexible multi-purpose youth focused area as detailed below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lillydale Lake Exercise and Youth Activity Hub - develop activity hub including multi-use courts, parkour and outdoor exercise equipment. 	
4.6 Develop appropriate water access for human-powered water craft (eg. jetties & ramps).	   	Increased diversity of active recreation opportunities.	Water craft access infrastructure has been created.	Satisfaction with diversity of recreation opportunities	Lillydale Lake - develop appropriate water craft access infrastructure	



Yarra Ranges Council
PO Box 105
Lilydale VIC 3140

1300 368 333 | mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Draft Active Recreation Plan 2023

Summary Report



Vision:

Yarra Ranges is a place where everyone has the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of active recreation facilities programs and events that contribute to a healthy life.

Target: increase physical activity by 15% over 10 years

Development of the Plan

The Plan has four action areas with a set of measurable actions. The development of the actions within the plan were guided by our key principles and will help us achieve our vision and overall target. These actions reflect the collective aspirations received from community engagement regarding active recreation. Industry research and review as well as targeted community consultation informed the plans content, key principles, action areas and actions.

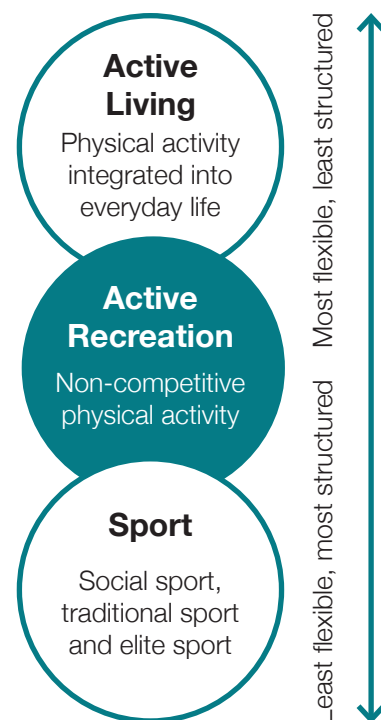


What is active recreation?

Active recreation can be defined as ‘leisure time physical activity undertaken outside of structured, competition sport’ (<https://sport.vic.gov.au/our-work/participation/active-recreation>). It provides participants a wide range of benefits related to physical health, mental health and social interaction. While all activity types can provide these benefits, active recreation plays an important role because it allows people to participate in a way of their choosing at a time that suits them. This flexibility can help to overcome barriers to participation that exist for more structured activity types.

Figure 1: Physical activity spectrum

Source: Adapted from Physical Activity Spectrum adapted from the Vichealth ‘Doing Sport Differently’ resource accessed via www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/-/media/ResourceCentre



Why do we need this Plan?

The Active Recreation Plan will guide Council's effort to encourage people to be healthy and active through the design of active recreation infrastructure and programs that remove barriers and respond to people's participation preferences over the next ten years. Over 42% of women and over 36% of men in YRC residents are sedentary or insufficiently active. 89% of residents said they would be more active if there was something interesting, appealing, accessible and convenient for them.



What the community told us

“We need to strip back the traditional thinking about profit versus non-profit activities and look at the overall community benefit the activity provides. We need to work with clubs and educate them about what they aren't doing that private providers are.”

“If you activate places of cultural and environmental significance, you build a connection and pride, and instill a sense of conservation and protectionism in the next generation.”

“The water playspace (in Seville) has been a huge success. The community are really proud of it”

Key principals



Access

Active recreation opportunities that encourage participation and have a positive influence on physical health are provided in accessible and convenient places for residents within Yarra Ranges.



Diversity

A diversity of active recreation opportunities are provided reflecting the diversity of our community and places across the municipality, the diversity of needs and preferences of the community, and different financial capacities.



Activation

Programming and events are delivered through internal and external partnerships to optimise utilisation of recreational assets, maximise health and wellbeing outcomes for the community, and contribute to sustainable tourism and economic prosperity across the municipality.



Inclusion

Facilities are designed with inclusion, accessibility, and safety of all people in mind, enabling individuals to make choices based on their needs and interests. There is a particular focus on women and girls, gender diverse people, disability, and Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing.



Social Connection

Where possible, active recreation facilities are provided in proximity to other compatible uses where they facilitate social interaction and encourage intergenerational use of reserves and spaces.



Action Areas: We will achieve our target through

Action Area 1: Improving safety and accessibility



providing active recreation infrastructure and programs that are appealing and accessible to all community members, where participation is encouraged and people feel safe.

Refer to actions 1.1–1.4

Action Area 2: Activating existing facilities



identifying ways to increase the use of existing active recreation facilities (through partnerships with other agencies and community groups, events, programming and promotion).

Refer to actions 2.1–2.10

Action Area 3: Increasing existing facility provision



relating to active recreation opportunities that currently exist within Yarra Ranges but are few in number, and where providing additional facilities, where gaps in provision have been identified, would increase the opportunity for participation.

Refer to actions 3.1–3.3

Action Area 4: New facility provision



identifying new active recreation opportunities that do not currently exist within Yarra Ranges.

Refer to actions 4.1–4.6

For more information, please see our detailed action plan from page 51 of the Active Recreation Plan.

Yarra Ranges Council
PO Box 105
Lilydale VIC 3140

1300 368 333 | mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au
yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Yarra Ranges Council

DRAFT
ACTIVE
RECREATION
ENGAGEMENT
SUMMARY



Draft Active Recreation CONTENTS

01

What did we ask?

03

How did people get involved?

04

What were we told?

05

Who told us?

07

Survey Comments



Acknowledgment of Country

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands.

We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region.

We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.



Draft Active Recreation

What did we ask?

The Draft Active Recreation Plan will help guide Council's efforts to increase the rate of physical activity across the Yarra Ranges over the next 10 years. The draft Active Rec plan was developed using previous community consultation undertaken for the:

- Recreation and Open Space Strategy
- Path and Trails Survey, monitoring, satisfaction reports
- Integrated Transport Strategy
- Yardstick Parks User Survey

Prior to the development of this plan, we checked in with the community again via Positive Ageing Group, Disability Advisory Group, Yarra Ranges Youth Ambassadors, 50 participants of skate clinics. Key findings from this consultation were:

Table 1: Key online survey findings

Top Sport/Recreation Activities	Top Sport/Recreation Barriers
Walking	Footpaths and cycling/walking trails are missing/ unsafe
Bush walking/Trail Walking	Not enough lighting
Swimming	Work commitments
Fitness/Gym	Lack of drinking fountains and public amenities (e.g. change rooms, public toilets, etc)
Jogging/Running	I feel unsafe



Draft Active Recreation

What did we ask?

Following the development of the plan we sought feedback from the community about whether we had missed anything. The community were encouraged to view the plan and submit their feedback.

The following sections summaries how we engaged, who we engaged and the outcomes of the engagement on the draft plan.



Draft Active Recreation

How did people get involved?

Between 10 July 2023 and 31 August 2023, Council used a range of different communications and engagement methods to make sure the community were able to provide feedback if they wished.

Council communicated and promoted the engagement via the following methods:

- Digital
 - Shaping Yarra Ranges
 - Social Media
 - Yarra Ranges Local e-Newsletter

Digital	Engagement	#
Shaping Yarra Ranges	Contributions	81
	Visitors	856
Facebook	Posts	3
	Impressions	12,149
	Reactions	94
	Link Clicks	185
	Shares	13
Instagram	Posts	3
	Reach	506
	Likes	52
Newsletter	Inclusions	3
	Link Clicks	695

- Community Pop ups
 - Face-to-face opportunities were promoted and provided for people to talk to Council staff and learn more
 - 223 people engaged with the project team
- Advisory Group Sessions
 - A range of advisory group sessions were held with the Positive Ageing Reference Group, Disability Advisory Group and email correspondence with Indigenous Advisory Committee and Yarra Ranges Environment Advisory Committee.



Draft Active Recreation

What were we told?

89% of comments were in support of the plan. The common themes that came through across the engagement were:

Table 3: Common Themes

Theme	Suggestions
The need for safety and access improvements (27%)	Road crossing/pedestrian access, renewal works, lighting, shared use paths and trail links
More of existing (18%)	Netball facilities, equestrian, exercise equipment, walking trails, croquet clubs
New facilities (17%)	Dog parks, community garden, disc golf, shaded areas, seating
Programming (14%)	Pickleball, events, parents walking groups, programs for older adults
Other (13%)	Aquatics, biodiversity, environmental

11% of comments were either not in support of the plan or suggested that Council should be focusing on other priorities.



Draft Active Recreation

Who told us?

There were 856 visitors to the Shaping Yarra Ranges page and 81 contributions to the survey. An evaluation of the survey respondents indicates that:

- More females (64.56%) than males (32.91%) provided feedback through the survey.
- The 45-54 age group (26.03%) represented the highest percentage of respondents.
- 11.84% of respondents identified as someone with a disability.
- The postcode with the highest percentage (14%) of respondents was 3799 (Millgrove, Warburton, Wesburn ...).

Table 4: User Survey Respondent Sample

Category	Sub-group	Number	%
Gender	Male	26	32.91%
	Female	51	64.56%
	Prefer not to specify	1	1.27%
	Other	1	1.27%
Age Range	16 years and under	1	1.37%
	16 to 24	0	0%
	25 to 34	6	8.22%
	35 to 44	11	15.07%
	45 to 54	19	26.03%
	55 to 64	15	20.55%
	65 to 74	12	16.44%
	75 to 84	8	10.96%
	85 or over	1	1.37%

Table 5: Identify as someone with a disability

Do you identify as someone with a disability ?	Number	%
Yes	9	11.84%
No	63	82.89%
Prefer not to answer	4	5.26%

Draft Active Recreation

Who told us?

Table 6: Respondent postcode

Postcode	Number	%
Millgrove, Warburton, Wesburn, Big Pats Creek, East Warburton, McMahan's Creek ... (3799)	11	14%
Belgrave, Tecoma ... (3160)	9	11%
Kilsyth (3137)	8	10%
Mooroolbark (3138)	7	9%
Lilydale (3140)	6	8%
Olinda (3788)	4	5%
Hoddles Creek, Launching Place, Seville, Seville East, Wandin East, Wandin North, Woori Yallock ... (3139)	4	5%
Badger Creek, Castella, Chum Creek, Healesville ... (3777)	4	5%
Selby (3159)	3	4%
Montrose (3765)	3	4%
Monbulk (3793)	3	4%
Chirnside Park (3116)	2	3%
Upwey (3158)	2	3%
Dixons Creek, Steels Creek, Tarrawarra, Yarra Glen ... (3775)	2	3%
Kallista (3791)	2	3%
Gladysdale, Powelltown, Yarra Junction ... (3797)	2	3%
Croydon (3136)	1	1%
Hampton (3188)	1	1%
Coldstream, Yering (3770)	1	1%
Sassafrass (3787)	1	1%
Sherbrooke (3789)	1	1%
Mount Evelyn (3796)	1	1%
Narre Warren East (3804)	1	1%



GROWING SUBURBS FUND UPDATE

Report Author: Manager Asset Planning and Investment
 Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure
 Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public.

SUMMARY

This report proposes a list of projects to be prioritised and endorsed by Council for their submission to the Growing Suburbs Fund 2023-2024 (GSF).

Applications opened on 25 August 2023 and close on 20 October 2023, with outcomes to be announced in January 2024.

This program's total fund is \$10 million. There is no limit on the number of projects councils can submit however no council will be awarded more than 20% of the total pool of funds. All amounts in this report exclude GST.

Funding ratio is Yarra Ranges \$1 : Growing Suburbs Fund \$1.

In line with previous GSF programs, successful projects are to be commenced no later than 18 months after the date of funding agreement execution and to be completed no later than 24 months after construction works commenced.

Submission of proposed projects must have been discussed with GSF representatives and have the formal endorsement of Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. ***Endorses the following listed projects, subject to meeting funding criteria, to the 2023- 2024 Growing Suburbs Fund***
 - (a) ***Mount Evelyn Recreation Reserve Playspace***
 - (b) ***Kemp Reserve Playspace***
 - (c) ***Bimbadeen Reserve Playspace***

(d) Lilydale Heritage Station

- 2. Endorses a maximum 1:1 funding contribution for playspace projects from existing Council budgets.**
- 3. Notes Council's contribution for the Lilydale Heritage Station project comprises third party funding and Council's component of the Lilydale Revitalisation Project.**

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

26 September 2023 Council Forum: Initial list of proposed projects for GSF 2023-2024 program.

DISCUSSION

The 2023-2024 Growing Suburbs Fund (GSF) program opened on 25 August 2023. This year's program will be administered through the Victorian State Government's Office for Suburban Development in the Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions.

This year's program presents the following changes:

- Total pool of funds: \$10 million (reduced from \$50 million in 2022-23).
- Only Interface Councils can apply (a reduction from 16).
- Maximum amount that can be awarded to any council: \$2.0 million (reduced from \$7.5 million).

Projects must commence within 18 months of the funding announcement and be completed within 24 months of construction commencement.

Purpose and Background

The following list of projects is proposed for Council consideration:

Name	Total Project Cost (,000)	Council contribution (,000)	GSF contribution (,000)
Mount Evelyn Recreation Reserve Playspace	\$300	\$150	\$150
Kemp Reserve Playspace	\$250	\$125	\$125
Bimbadeen Reserve Playspace	\$300	\$150	\$150
Lilydale Heritage Station	\$1,620	\$810 ¹	\$810
Total	\$2,470	\$1,235	\$1,235

- Only includes \$16,500 of Council rates from the Lilydale Revitalisation Project. The balance comprises \$500,000 Victrack contribution, \$200,000 LXP rent of Council land, \$93,500 DJSIR funding through the Lilydale Revitalisation Project

Officers' recommendation:

Submission of these four projects is recommended based on the maximum GSF amount of \$2 million potentially to be awarded to any one council and the available matching contribution from Council.

Submission of the Lilydale Train Station is subject to:

- Successful vetting by GSF representatives
- Final risk review including of project costs to ensure the defined scope of works is achievable with the allocated budget and contingency.
- An in-principal agreement with VicTrack (currently in development)

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

This report contributes to the following strategic objectives listed in Council Plan:

- High Performing Organisation

Council Plan 2021-25 states that, as part of our Vision for 2036, "... We are visible, transparent, accountable and communicate clearly and honestly. Council resources are managed responsibly, and principles of fairness and consistency are applied to avoid unnecessary burdens for rate payers."

The development of a robust process to audit and evaluate infrastructure, projects and external funding opportunities provide transparent and evidence-based project justification and prioritisation across asset classes and services.

The outcomes of this work through the delivery of the capital expenditure program and projects which have received external funding will also positively impact on the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

- Connected and Healthy Communities
- Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places
- Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment
- Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism.

Options considered

The initial suite of projects considered by officers to be submitted in to the GSF program included:

- Mount Evelyn Recreation Reserve Playspace (Total project cost \$300,000)
- Yarra Junction Recreation Reserve Playspace (Total project cost \$900,000)
- Kemp Reserve Playspace (Total project cost \$250,000)
- Bimbadeen Reserve Playspace (Total project cost \$300,000)
- Community Garden Food Systems (Total Project cost \$160,000)
- Regenerative Interactive Wetlands (Total project cost \$600,000)
- Lilydale Heritage Station (Total project cost \$1,620,000)

Recommended option and justification

- Mount Evelyn Recreation Reserve Playspace (Total project cost \$300,000)
- Kemp Reserve Playspace (Total project cost \$250,000)
- Bimbadeen Reserve Playspace (Total project cost \$300,000)
- Lilydale Heritage Station (Total project cost \$1,620,000)

Yarra Junction Recreation reserve is not recommended as the total project cost will likely be increased as the project is now proposed to incorporate additional all-abilities upgrades to meet high needs participants in the Valley region of Yarra Ranges. As Council is about to commence a Place Plan and Urban Design Framework process in Yarra Junction, which is anticipated to take 18 to 24 months, it is recommended that a funding application be deferred by 12 months to ensure Council is able to meet the delivery timelines required under the grant guidelines.

Community Garden and Food Systems is not recommended as there is no allocated council budget in its Capital Expenditure Program, and council's co-contribution will require borrowings or deferral of other projects with higher priority to create capacity.

Cool Squared Water and Solar at Warburton Water World is not recommended as its funding is likely to require borrowings or deferral of other projects to create capacity.

This project's feasibility planning is not complete and there is a significant risk with the limited consultation that has been undertaken for this project at this point. Ongoing costs to Council for future maintenance of constructed assets would also need to be fully determined once the feasibility is complete.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Based on the recommended project applications for submission into the Growing Suburbs Fund 2023-24 Program, the total grant amount that Council will be seeking is \$1,235,000.

The playspace contribution totalling \$425,000 is proposed to be allocated from existing capital allocations for playspace projects.

The contribution to the Heritage Station project is proposed to be allocated from a combination of VicTrack (\$500,000), LXRP rent of Council land (\$200,000) and Lilydale Revitalisation Project (\$110,000, comprising \$93,500 DJSIR funding and \$16,500 of Council rates).

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan

High Performing Organisation

Under 'High Performing Organisation', the Council Plan 2021-2025 states that as part of our Vision for 2036 "... *We are visible, transparent, accountable and communicate clearly and honestly. Council resources are managed responsibly, and principles of fairness and consistency are applied to avoid unnecessary burdens for rate payers.*"

The core functions of the Capital Investment Planning team align closely with this strategic objective and Vision for 2036. The development of a robust process to audit and evaluate infrastructure, projects and external funding opportunities will provide transparent and evidence-based project justification and prioritisation across asset classes and services.

The outcomes of this work through the delivery of the capital expenditure program and projects which have received external funding will also positively impact on the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan:

- Connected and Healthy Communities
- Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places
- Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment
- Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism.

RELEVANT LAW

Applicable laws have been considered as part of the assessments of each individual project. This includes legislative requirements.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Each project has its own local economic benefit, the implications of each will be articulated in the grant application.

Social Implications

The social implications of each project will be documented in the grant application.

The social implications of playspaces are generally well understood. The Heritage Station project opens up the potential for Council to lease this building for community use.

Environmental Implications

Environmental implications are considered on a project-by-project bases and will be addressed as part of the Grant Application Assessment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The engagement undertaken on each project will be documented within the Grant Application Assessment report.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The list of proposed projects for submission has been developed in consultation with Council executives and officers.

External collaboration on the projects occurs with relevant state agencies and the Yarra Ranges community.

RISK ASSESSMENT

An assessment of each project has been undertaken through a risk-based lens as well as considering the risk to Council should the project not proceed.

Further risk assessments will be undertaken on the projects as they progress through their planning and delivery stages.

The Lilydale Train Station Building submission has the potential for latent conditions and associated cost variation, however, there have been investigations and remediation works already carried out by LXRP during the level crossing removal project thereby reducing the risk, and the proposed design has some degree of flexibility to enable adjusting scope to comply with budget. The proposed GSF funding would maximise delivery and community outcomes and includes contingency commensurate with the building condition.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

No officers and/or delegates acting on behalf of the Council through the Instrument of Delegation and involved in the preparation and/or authorisation of this report have any general or material conflict of interest as defined within the *Local Government Act 2020*.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

Nil

11. COUNCILLOR MOTIONS

In accordance with Chapter 3 Division 4 of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Councillor motions received prior to the Agenda being printed.

12. ITEMS THROUGH THE CHAIR

13. REPORTS FROM DELEGATES

14. DOCUMENTS FOR SIGNING AND SEALING

In accordance with Clause 87 of the Meeting Procedures and Use of Common Seal Local Law 2015, as prescribed by Section 14(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Documents for Signing and Sealing listed for this meeting prior to the Agenda being printed.

15. INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

Report Author: Governance Officer
 Responsible Officer: Director Corporate Services
 Ward(s) affected: All Wards

The author(s) of this report and the Responsible Officer consider that the report complies with the overarching governance principles and supporting principles set out in the Local Government Act 2020.

CONFIDENTIALITY

This item is to be considered at a Council meeting that is open to the public

SUMMARY

Chapter 8, Rule 1, of the Governance Rules requires that records of informal meetings of Councillors must be kept and that the Chief Executive Officer must ensure that a summary of the matters discussed at the meeting tabled at the next convenient Council meeting and recorded in the Minutes of that Council meeting.

An 'informal meeting of Councillors' is defined in the Governance Rules as a meeting of Councillors that:

- is scheduled or planned for the purpose of discussing the business of Council or briefing Councillors;
- is attended by at least one member of Council staff; and
- is not a Council meeting, Delegated Committee meeting or Community Asset Committee meeting.

The records for informal meetings of Councillors are attached to the report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the records of the Informal Meetings of Councillors, copies of which are attached to the report, be received and noted.

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. 19 September 2023 - Council Briefing
2. 19 September 2023 - Council Forum
3. 19 September 2023 - Review of Complex Planning Matters
4. 26 September 2023 - Council Forum.

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Council Briefing	
Date:	19 September 2023	Start Time: 6.15pm Finish Time: 6.23pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via video conference	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child (Chair), Sophie Todorov (Deputy Mayor) Andrew Fullagar, Johanna Skelton, Len Cox and Richard Higgins
	Via Zoom:	Fiona McAllister
	CEO/Directors:	Andrew Hilson (Acting CEO), Kath McClusky, Jane Price and Hjalmar Philipp
	Officers:	Gina Walter and Ben Waterhouse
	Externals:	Nil
Apologies	David Eastham, Tim Heenan and Tammi Rose	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For transparency the following officers noted their involvement in matters relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Manager Procurement, Risk & Governance declared a conflict of interest pertaining to Item 10.5 - EOI7330 Landscape Contractors Panel 	
Matter/s Discussed:	This briefing covered the following items of business to be considered at the 26 September 2023 Council Meeting.	
	10.1	YR-2023/32 - 275 Edward Road, Chirnside Park - Planning Report
	10.2	Yarra Ranges Regional Museum Trust - Resignations and Appointments
	10.3	Audit and Risk Management Committee - Chair Appointment
	10.4	CT5628 - Supply of Playground Products, Products, Service and Works - Extension of Contract
	10.5	EOI7330 Landscape Contractors Panel
	10.6	EOI7333 Building Contractors Panel
	10.7	EOI7333 Building Contractors Panel
Completed By:	Gina Walter	

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Council Forum	
Date:	19 September 2023	Start Time: 7.00pm Finish Time: 9.36pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via video conference	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child (Chair), Sophie Todorov (Deputy Mayor) Andrew Fullagar, Johanna Skelton, Len Cox, Richard Higgins and Tim Heenan
	Via Zoom:	Fiona McAllister
	CEO/Directors:	Andrew Hilson (Acting CEO), Kath McClusky, Jane Price and Hjalmar Philipp
	Officers:	Gina Walter, Ben Waterhouse, Nathan Islip, Alison Fowler, Ben Champion, Jo Hammond, Isha Scott, Clint Hong and Jenny Davies
	Via Zoom:	Abby McCarthy, Crystal McDonald, Helen Ruddell, Kris Hansen, Jane Sinnamon, Phil Murton, Catherine Bennett, Ellie Ingwersen, John Strachan and Jason Young
	Externals:	Nil
Apologies	David Eastham and Tammi Rose	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	For transparency, Andrew Fullagar noted their involvement in matters relating to Item 2.5 - Grants for Community Panel Recommendations 2024	
	2.1	Action and Agreement Record from 05 September 2023
	2.2	Councillor Discussion Time
	2.3	Draft Housing Strategy – Introduction to Councillors
	2.4	Amendment C207 Lilydale Heritage Consideration of Panel Report and Adoption of Amendment
	2.5	Grants for Community Panel Recommendations 2024
	2.6	Capital Development Grants
	3.0	For Noting
	3.1	Indicative Forum & Council Meeting Schedule
	4	Mayor & CEO Update
	5	General Business
	6	Late Items and Urgent Business
	Completed By:	Gina Walter

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Review of Complex Planning Matters	
Date:	19 September 2023	Start Time: 5.37pm Finish Time: 5.56pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via video conference	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child (Chair), Sophie Todorov (Deputy Mayor) Andrew Fullagar, Johanna Skelton and Len Cox
	Via Zoom:	Fiona McAllister
	CEO/Directors:	Kath McClusky, Jane Price, Hjalmar Philipp(From 5.43pm) and Andrew Hilson
	Officers:	Gina Walter, Ben Waterhouse, Amanda Kern, Katie Douglas
	Via Zoom:	Amanda Kern
	Externals:	Nil
Apologies	David Eastham, Richard Higgins, Tim Heenan and Tammi Rose	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Nil	
Matter/s Discussed:	1.2	YR-2023/32 - 275 Edward Road, Chirnside Park – Planning Report
Completed By:	Gina Walter	

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Council Forum	
Date:	26 September 2023	Start Time: 8.35 Finish Time: 9:56
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via video conference	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Sophie Todorov (Chair) Andrew Fullagar, Johanna Skelton, Len Cox, Richard Higgins, David Eastham, Fiona McAllister and Tim Heenan
	Via Zoom:	Jim Child
	CEO/Directors:	Tammi Rose, Andrew Hilson, Kath McClusky, Jane Price and Hjalmar Philipp
	Officers:	Andrew Edge, Ben Waterhouse, Sarah Candeland, Phil Murton, Amanda Kern, Joanne Hammond, Nathan Islip, Catherine Bennett,
	Via Zoom:	Enrique Gutierrez
	Externals:	Nil
Apologies	Nil	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Nil	
	2.1	Growing Suburbs Fund Update
	2.2	Sport and Recreation Victoria 2023-2024 Country Football Netball Program
	2.3	Active Recreation Plan
	3.0	For Noting
	3.1	Indicative Forum & Council Meeting Schedule
	4	Mayor & CEO Update
	5	General Business
	6	Late Items and Urgent Business
	Completed By:	Andrew Edge

16. URGENT BUSINESS

In accordance with Chapter 3 Rule 24 of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

17. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

In accordance with Chapter 3 Rule 24 of the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

There were no Confidential Items listed for this meeting.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday 24 October 2023 commencing at 7.00pm, at Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via videoconference.



In providing for the good governance of its community, Councillors are reminded of their obligation to abide by the provisions as set within the Local Government Act 2020 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

When attending a Council Meeting, Councillors should adhere to the procedures set out in the Governance Rules developed by Council in accordance with section 60 of the Local Government Act 2020.

The following is a guide for all Councillors to ensure they act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of Yarra Ranges as a whole.

1. Councillors will respect the personal views of other Councillors and the decisions of Council.
2. Councillors may publicly express their own opinions on Council matters but not so as to undermine the standing of Council in the community.
3. The Mayor is the official spokesperson for Council.
4. Councillors will incur expenditure in a responsible manner and in accordance with the Councillor Expenditure and Policy.
5. Councillors will avoid conflicts of interest and will always openly disclose any direct and indirect interests where they exist.
6. Councillors will act with integrity and respect when interacting with Council staff and members of the public.
7. Councillors will demonstrate fairness in all dealings and conduct and be open with and accountable to the community at all times.
8. Councillors will conduct themselves in a manner that does not cause detriment to Council or the Yarra Ranges community.