

Council Meeting

Agenda

Tuesday, 13 December 2022

Civic Centre, 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale and via
videoconference

Information for Councillors and the community

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri People, as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.



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 Communities, Jane Price
Director Corporate Services, Andrew Hilson
Director Recovery, Jane Sinnamon

Acting Director Environment & Infrastructure,
Phil Murton
Director Planning Design & Development,
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>

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- 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.

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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

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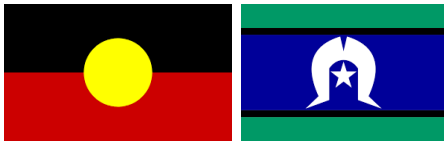
YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

**AGENDA FOR THE 572ND COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY
13 DECEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 7.00PM IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC
CENTRE, ANDERSON STREET, LILYDALE AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE.**

1. MEETING OPENED

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, the Wurundjeri People, as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.



3. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

OUR COUNCILLORS

Billanook Ward: Tim Heenan
Chandler Ward: David Eastham
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Chief Executive Officer, Tammi Rose
Director Communities, Jane Price
Director Corporate Services, Andrew Hilson
Director Recovery, Jane Sinnamon
Director Environment & Infrastructure, Bill Millard
Director Planning, Design & Development, Kath McClusky

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 22 November 2022, 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.

SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

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.

DRAFT MONBULK URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK FOR CONSULTATION

Report Author: Executive Officer Urban Design & Landscape Architecture
Responsible Officer: Director Planning, Design and Development
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

Between 2014-2017 the Monbulk Community participated in several engagement activities to share their aspirations for the future of Monbulk. This was captured in the development of the Monbulk Community Plan 2015-2020 and embedded into the more expansive Monbulk Structure Plan adopted by Council in 2017.

The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework builds upon the vision and strategic direction of the Monbulk Structure Plan by providing practical design solutions to realise the intent as a suite of deliverable projects and proposed controls to guide private investment.

Focussing on the Monbulk Town Centre, the framework will assist Council decision making in the areas of development, infrastructure and programs for Monbulk that aligns with community needs.

Following consultation with key internal and external stakeholders during its development, the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework is now ready to be placed on public exhibition for broader community input.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Support the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework to be placed on public exhibition between 16 December 2022 and 26 February 2023; and***
- 2. Note that findings from the community feedback and proposed amendments to the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework will be presented at a future Council meeting.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The Monbulk Structure Plan was adopted by Council in October 2017, and numerous actions identified in the Monbulk Structure Plan are addressed through the development of this Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Purpose

This report introduces the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework (Attachment 1), to seek endorsement to commence public consultation and exhibition of the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework.

Background

The Monbulk Community Plan 2015-2020 (MCP) was identified as an important initiative to capture the aspirations of the Monbulk Community for the future of the township. Community Plans are developed by community, and all actions are deliverable by community. While they are not endorsed by Council, they can be used to advocate to Council seeking support for improvements. At a high level the Monbulk Community Plan has been a helpful reference that identified for Monbulk what works well, what needed to be fixed and what was missing.

The Monbulk Structure Plan (MSP), adopted in 2017, embeds some of the vision setting of the Community Plan while adding deep research and rigour to provide a framework for the land use and layout of Monbulk Township. More specifically it identified land use issues and opportunities; located preferred land uses and infrastructure; and outlined development controls to support intended land uses.

Following the completion of the MSP, several actions were identified to enable its implementation. Many of these actions required further detailed analysis of built environment issues and opportunities for commercially and publicly owned land in proximity to the Monbulk Town Centre.

The development of a Draft Urban Design Framework for Monbulk was identified as an important initiative to provide the detailed design guidance and site specific design solutions to address many of these actions.

The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework will assist Council's decision making for development, infrastructure, and programs for Monbulk Town Centre that aligns with community expectations, and industry best practice. It will form the basis for updated planning controls for private development. The framework also guides Council's ability to prioritise and allocate capital resources for the town centre.

Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework – Document Structure

The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework applies to 18.5 hectares of commercial and public land within walkable proximity to Main Road (see page 9 of the draft Urban Design Framework). The document is structured into six sections:

1. *Introduction* – which provides a design vision for Monbulk, an overview of the project area, intended outcomes and the relationship of the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework with existing frameworks;
2. *Context* – outlines current characteristics and controls around the centre of Monbulk;
3. *Analysis* – breaks the Monbulk Town Centre into three precincts based on similarly identified issues and opportunities that impact upon the community's experience of the Monbulk Town Centre, and maps where these occur;
4. *Frameworks* – provides an integrated framework for each precinct, embedding design solutions across different discipline areas. It outlines the preferred development character of three precincts within central Monbulk underpinned by high level design solutions to key issues and opportunities and built form guidelines;
5. *Places* – a more focussed exploration of concept designs for key sites demonstrating possible responses to key design parameters to achieve the preferred character of Monbulk; and
6. *Actions and Costings* – a summary of supporting actions to deliver on the vision and resultant precinct frameworks, along with estimated likely timeframes and costs for each.

Urban Design Frameworks have traditionally focussed on commercial and mixed-use areas, and public land. This Draft Urban Design Framework has focussed on land along the Main Road, extending from Caroola Road to David Hill Road, and the adjacent open space areas along Moores Road.

Commercial areas, such as Main Road, and Council-owned land, such as the recreation reserve spaces, are the places where Council has the greatest control to influence high quality design-based outcomes that reflect the vision of the community and the intended strategic land use outcomes of a structure plan.

Design guidance for privately owned residential land is set out by Planning Frameworks (in this instance the Structure Plan) and the Planning Scheme, in particular Clauses 54-58 (ResCode). Commercial and public land are not afforded the same specialised design guidance, although the Main Road shopping strip does benefit from application of the Design and Development Overlay Schedule 12, which applies to many town centres throughout the Yarra Ranges. The findings of the draft framework will help to inform future planning design controls in the form of a further refined and Monbulk specific Design and Development Overlay. This work will be subject to a future Planning Scheme Amendment.

Key design opportunities and challenges

The design analysis for the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework identified the following key design opportunities and challenges:

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capture and frame key viewlines to the surrounding hills. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Movements across Main Road.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and improve the path network to and along Main Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing landform and topography of Monbulk.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a consistent and high-quality streetscape that is accessible for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of useable passive open space areas.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance connections between Main Road and the Moores Road Recreation Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfire risk.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance connections between Moores Road Recreation Reserve and Monbulk Recreation Reserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interface treatment between Moores Road Recreation Reserve and Monbulk Bowling Club.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace laneways as part of the public realm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to public transport options and alternatives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate arrival to Monbulk with treatments at key gateways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interfaces to residential land.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of surplus car parking and Council owned land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connections to the Monbulk Tennis Club.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide end-of-use facilities within precinct for public use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of housing diversity options.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and enhance connection to the indigenous history of Monbulk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inconsistent streetscape treatments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide electric vehicle and electric bike charging stations throughout Central Monbulk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conflicting intersection treatments (Moores Road and Emerald-Monbulk Road).
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve permeability between Mount Pleasant Road and Moores Road. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved mixed-use developments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide new built form along Moores Road Recreation Reserve perimeter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of connection to heritage and culture of Monbulk.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve relationship of Monbulk Living & Learning Centre; Monbulk Recreation Reserve; and Monbulk Primary School. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve access to Monbulk Recreation Reserve from the east. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repurpose Moores Road Recreation Reserve as a public plaza or 'Village Green'. 	

Key design solutions

The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework addresses the key opportunities and challenges by defining Central Monbulk into three precincts based on similar opportunities, challenges and land uses identified. The precincts are:

1. Main Road Activity Centre – all land that has frontage to Main Road between Monbulk Road and Moxhams Road (excluding the Monbulk Living & Learning Centre and Monbulk Primary School);
2. Moores Road Recreation – the original soccer reserve and adjoining public land and open space areas (including the Monbulk Bowling, Netball and Tennis Clubs) along Moores and Mount Pleasant Road; and
3. Monbulk Civic – the cluster of community land uses anchored by the Monbulk Living & Learning Centre, Monbulk Primary School and Monbulk Recreation Reserve.

Each of the precincts provides solutions to the key challenges and opportunities through the provision of:

- Preferred character statements – vision statements which articulate the desired look and feel of the built environment of the precincts;
- Built form guidelines – clear guidance to inform built form outcomes and decision making to ensure that the preferred character is achieved;
- Design diagrams – a series of high-level plans, elevations, cross sections and illustrations that demonstrate how the guidelines could be applied to the design of development to achieve preferred character outcomes; and
- Concept design sites – indicative design solutions on key sites that set the benchmark to achieve the preferred character.

Framework Design Principles

There are 13 design principles embedded in the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework that provide the overarching outcomes that all design projects and concepts within Monbulk should achieve. These principles have been derived from the Urban Design Charter for Victoria and Indigenous Design Charter, and together will provide a consistent approach to design practice.

The principles are centred around four themes:

- Structure – the layout of the key uses in the precinct and site.
 - Structure & Connections
 - Continuity & Change
 - Fit & Function

- Public Realm - the allocation of key features and use of materials throughout the precinct and site.
 - Sense of Place
 - Safety
 - Sensory Pleasure
 - Animation
 - Inclusiveness & Interaction
- Movement and Access – how people and transport will move through the precinct and site.
 - Legibility
 - Accessibility
- Built Form – the buildings and structures that occupy the precinct and site.
 - Complementary mixed uses
 - Consistency & variety

The thirteenth principle is an all-embracing ‘Indigenous Design’ principle, that works in tandem with every other design principle. This is to ensure that design interventions are conscious of and actively connect to the deep history of Aboriginal belonging on country within the Yarra Ranges, and Monbulk (which is derived from the Indigenous word ‘Monbolloc’).

This principle sets out a series of actions that need consideration to ensure that the Indigenous voice is impactful on design outcomes, allowing the story of the land to continue in a contemporary and meaningful manner.

Precincts design

These design principles are applied to the three precincts, through a series of relevant design concepts and guidelines. These design concepts and guidelines provide additional detail to aid Council, the Community and Developers to achieve the desired future development of Monbulk.

The guidelines are separated into six categories including:

- Building Design – that sets how the buildings in the precinct should look and feel with respect to their location;
- Building Frontage & Interfaces – that sets out how buildings should present to the street, as well as treatments to consider when adjoining sensitive uses (such as residential);

- Building Performance – that sets out how the building should function over its lifespan;
- Car Parking and Access – that sets out how access to developments is undertaken and where car parking areas should be located, designed, and accessed;
- Servicing – that sets out where services (such as mechanical plant) should be located; and
- Public Realm – that sets out the key guidelines to ensure the Town Centre is well presented and enjoyed by a wide variety of user groups.

The guidelines and concepts proposed by the Draft Urban Design Framework as part of the precincts design will be captured as part of future Strategic Planning work including the preparation of Design and Development Overlay controls. This work will be subject to a future Planning Scheme Amendment.

Concept design sites

The Draft Urban Design Framework outlines concept designs for ten sites within Central Monbulk. Each of the project sites seeks to achieve known community outcomes or improve the conditions of an existing space. The sites are as follows:

1. Monbulk & Main Road Intersection Activation – proposes a gateway ‘arrival’ treatment into Monbulk Township, as well as a slip lane and the creation of 16 car parks;
2. St George Anglican Church Forecourt Redevelopment – explores ways to deliver housing and residential outcomes that respond to community needs, which may take the form of aged care, social and affordable, or accessible dwellings. This would support a prominent landmark built form to help bookend the north-west end of Main Road and create a stronger sense of arrival;
3. Nugent Street Car Park (west) Access – proposes an access (new crossover) to the existing car park from Nugent Street;
4. Nugent Street Car Park (central) Access – proposes an access (new crossover) to the existing car park from Nugent Street and new, *Disability Discrimination Act*, compliant pedestrian pathway from Nugent Street to Main Road;
5. RSL Car Park Access – upgrades the existing path network connecting Main Road and Nugent Street as well as providing a raised pedestrian crossing at Main Road;
6. Main Road – Village Green Links Revitalisation – proposes accessible paved pedestrian connections between Main Road and the former soccer pitch site. The connections are activated with ground level retail and dining;

7. Main Road Streetscape Revitalisation – improved access from parallel car parking to stepped down pedestrian path through the inclusion of Disability Discrimination Act compliant ramps;
8. Village Green Redevelopment – proposes the creation of a large passive open space area that provides all abilities playground and amphitheatre and is activated by a mix of uses including townhouses and retail. Council officer's preferred option for the layout has been provided in the Draft Urban Design Framework. An addendum document (see Attachment 3) provides details of the three other development options considered for the site along with the pros and cons;
9. Moores Road (North) Redevelopment – options for the redevelopment of the Monbulk Netball Club and Monbulk Tennis Club sites for 38 medium density residential developments (for example rear-loaded townhouses); and
10. Monbulk Recreation Reserve (south-east) Revitalisation – which proposes several improvements made possible due to the extension of the existing open space area to the corner of David Hill Road and Haig Avenue. The space is suggested to be activated with a range of active recreation opportunities including a pump track, bouldering wall and basketball court. A new 35 space car parking area could also be provided.

These projects are deliberately resolved to the concept design level to both provide an indication of what could be achieved in these spaces while allowing for other design solutions to still be possible. Each of these project sites will be subject to a future master planning process which will flesh out fully resolved design solutions.

Key Issues and Challenges

The following discussion outlines the key issues that have arisen through the development of the Draft Urban Design Framework, as well as the likely challenges to the future delivery of design outcomes envisaged.

Village Green

The proposal of a Village Green has been identified since the creation of the Monbulk Community Plan. This space has been advocated for by the community to address the lack of passive open space within the Monbulk Township.

Currently the Monbolloc Sanctuary is the only formally designated passive recreation open space within the centre. The future relocation of the Monbulk Soccer Club to the new Monbulk Regional Soccer Facility on Old Emerald Road will create a significant opportunity to address the shortfall in passive open space as well as address the issues around accessible and diverse housing options in the town centre.

In 2017, the Monbulk Structure Plan (MSP) included four high level concepts for the Village Green on this site for the town to consider. These concepts were very high level and did not extensively explore the opportunities associated with these options, however there was a preference for an option that combined open space and an element of housing.

Several submissions in this process preferred the entirety of the site be converted into open space, though Council has received advocacy from sections of the community to develop part of the land for housing. This divergence of opinion continues in current community discussions. The MSP did not arrive at a final position, resulting in deferral of a clear way forward and any project delivery on this land.

The Draft Urban Design Framework has revisited this discussion and provides a greater level of design detail. Best practice design strategies for open space is to activate the edges with a variety of built form and uses to create safe, inclusive and welcoming spaces, providing passive surveillance and deterring antisocial activities. Parallel to this concern is the high need for diverse housing in Monbulk and the shortage of suitable land to deliver this. The development of the Village Green site offers an opportunity to address all these concerns in a single integrated project providing medium density housing that overlooks high quality open space, as is regularly seen in leading developments throughout Australia.

To inform discussion about the development of the Village Green during the consultation of the draft Urban Design Framework four options to develop the site have been investigated that test different scales of housing development. The accompanying Addendum (Attachment 2) outlines the pros and cons of the four options. The preferred option as recommended by Officers has been included in the draft Urban Design Framework, but Council is able to decide to substitute this for one of the other options in a final version of the document if one of those options proves to be the most supported by the community as the result of consultation.

Bowls Club Pokies

The Bowls Club is currently the main land use to the immediate north of the proposed Village Green site. Developing the site will expose the primary entrance to the club which includes a clearly signed pokies venue. Highlighting a gambling venue through a Council project, such as the Village Green, is considered incompatible with Council's Health and Wellbeing objectives. The built form proposed along the edge of the Village Green will enhance the quality of the open space while also helping to screen the advertising of the pokies. It will not impact on movement between the Bowling Club and the Village Green nor impact on the operations of the Bowling Club.

Department of Transport - arterial roads

Many of the design ideas and solutions proposed in the Draft Urban Design Framework will require a close working relationship with key State Government agencies. As Main Road is a declared road, this will require the approval of the Department of Transport for any works within this space, including the provision of extended outstands, car parking reconfigurations, new bus stops and pedestrian crossings. Including designs in an adopted plan (such as the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework) enables Council to effectively advocate for delivery of these solutions to State Government.

Bus service inefficiencies

The current bus service has only one stop in Main Road (and the Town Centre) requiring multiple laps of the street when heading east bound. This inefficiency

reduces the value and frequency of the service and can be resolved through integration of an additional stop as outlined in the Draft Urban Design Framework.

Planning applications under current controls

Recent planning applications proposing shop-top apartment developments have highlighted the inadequacy of the current controls, resulting in poor built form and ambiguity in applying the Design Development Overlay – Schedule 12. The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework creates clear setbacks and character outcomes that can be translated into easily applied updated Design Development Overlay controls.

Lack of coordination and integration of projects

Numerous discrete projects have been delivered in Monbulk without any overarching masterplan or design, leading to fragmentation, lost opportunities, inefficiencies and poor integration. The Draft Urban Design Framework will assist in providing a clear coordinated approach for all future projects.

Aged Care needs

Currently there is a lack of aged care services within a reasonable catchment from Monbulk Town Centre. It is increasingly a concern as the demographic trend ages. The lack of vacant land, steep nearby topography and low diversity of housing products is making it difficult for community to age in place and remain connected with their social networks and supports.

The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework explores opportunities for this with a focus on the church land at the west end of Main Road. Some community members are advocating for this to be located on the existing soccer pitch however this would be contrary to the preferred option in the Monbulk Structure Plan to utilise this cluster of Council-owned land for a combination of open space and residential uses.

Options considered

The following options have been considered:

1. Develop the Monbulk Urban Design Framework

The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework is an important step towards achieving coordination and integration between Council-led projects, and when finalised developing rigorous built form controls using a methodology that will stand up to the scrutiny of a possible future Planning Panel.

It creates a pipeline of projects through a costed action plan enabling improved advocacy efforts and management of expectations for timing of delivery.

The design solutions directly address the community's concerns and known issues in the centre. This is the recommended option.

2. Produce precinct masterplans

Masterplans for each of the precincts will enable a coordinated project delivery however will not inform built form controls for a Planning Scheme Amendment.

The current planning applications for the Monbulk Town Centre have demonstrated the need to improve clarity and outcomes with a revised Design Development Overlay, and embed stronger place-based controls.

Preparation of discrete precinct masterplans are not recommended.

3. Produce reactive or localised projects as needed

Many projects delivered in Monbulk to date have been isolated and disconnected interventions in the absence of any coordinating vision and plan. This has led to inefficiencies, lost opportunities and lack of integration with the context and rest of centre. This is not recommended.

4. Develop only updated built form controls

5. This option will enable progress of the Planning Scheme Amendment to update the Design Development Overlay to align with the adopted Structure Plan. However, this option creates significant issues due to lack of coordination and detail for design approaches within each precinct. As a result, this does not offer a well-developed advocacy basis to State and Federal Governments for larger scale infrastructure projects. This is not recommended.

Recommended option and justification

It is recommended that Option 1, progression of the Monbulk Urban Design Framework is the most appropriate option. Progression of Option 1 enables Council to respond meaningfully to known issues within the centre, progress planning controls to improve development outcomes, and develop a pipeline of agreed projects that are supported by community and Council.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Section 6 of the Draft Urban Design Framework outlines the schedule of projects to be delivered, including project type, project size, estimated cost and delivery timeframes.

Each of the projects are categorised as follows:

- Public Realm Projects – e.g. parks, streetscapes and play spaces;
- Access Projects – e.g. car parking areas, pedestrian paths and bicycle parking;
- Movement Projects – e.g. pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures;
- Major Developments – e.g. large scale projects requiring significant resourcing;
and

- Other Projects – e.g. Planning Scheme Amendments and other background reports.

Below is a summary table of actions identifying their description and estimated cost.

These projects have been proposed and assessed at a concept design level and the costings, in turn reflect the high-level nature of these estimates that have been generated by a quantity surveyor. It is particularly noted that construction costs have been highly volatile recently and that any estimates need to be reviewed closer to delivery.

A more detailed breakdown of the actions and costings are found on pages 93 to 97 of the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework.

There is currently no committed funding available to deliver the below projects, and all projects will require funding bids within Council's competitive Capital Expenditure Program and advocacy to State and Federal governments for funding.

Action	Description	Cost Estimate
A01	Whole Draft Urban Design Framework Area Cultural Values Assessment to identify, understand and record the traditional, historical, and contemporary indigenous cultural values of Monbulk.	\$50,000
A02	Monbulk & Main Road Intersection Activation Installation of public art treatment at Monbulk Road and Main Road roundabout.	\$250,000
A03	Nugent Street Car Park (central) Access Prepare a masterplan for the Nugent Street (central) car park to include detailed site planning to investigate new crossover from Nugent Street, pedestrian paths, parking configuration, stormwater and arborist information.	\$1,383,000
A04	Main Road Streetscape Revitalisation Streetscape improvements on the north-east side of Main Road between Mount Pleasant Road and Moores Road, with new DDA compliant ramps, new furniture, new drainage, new retaining walls and new landscaping.	\$2,249,500
A05	Precinct 3 Installation of public art treatment at David Hill Road and Main Road roundabout.	\$250,000
A06	Whole Draft Urban Design Framework Area Prepare a car parking demand analysis for the whole area covered by the Draft Urban Design Framework.	\$50,000
A07	Whole Draft Urban Design Framework Area Investigate feasibility and implementation of electric bicycle and vehicular charging stations throughout central Monbulk.	\$50,000
A08	Precinct 1 Undertake upgrade (bitumen seal) of Helen Chandler Alley.	\$1,713,500
A09	Precinct 1 Bitumen seal rear laneways to properties facing Main Road.	\$459,900
A10	Nugent Street Car Park (west) Access Develop a crossover from Nugent Street to car park at 28 Nugent Street.	\$80,800

Action	Description	Cost Estimate
A11	Village Green Redevelopment Provision of 16 45° Angle Car Spaces within Moores Road Road Reserve.	\$647,500
A12	Whole Draft Urban Design Framework Area Investigate funding options to deliver new pedestrian and cycling connections as identified in the Draft Urban Design Framework.	\$50,000
A13	Precinct 1 Installation of 2 signalised raised pedestrian crossings on Main Road between Emerald-Monbulk Road and Mt Pleasant Road.	\$176,300
A14	Precinct 1 Installation of 2 signalised raised pedestrian crossings on Main Road between Emerald-Monbulk Road and David Hill Road.	\$171,700
A15	Precinct 1 Upgrade of 2 existing pedestrian crossings on Main Road to raised pedestrian crossings.	\$147,400
A16	Monbulk & Main Road Intersection Activation Installation of 3 raised pedestrian crossings at Monbulk Road and Main Road Roundabout.	\$412,400
A17	Monbulk & Main Road Intersection Activation Establish slip lane treatment at Monbulk Road and Main Road Roundabout.	\$532,100
A18	St Georges Anglican Church Forecourt Redevelopment Installation of a new bus stop adjacent to St Georges Anglican Church on Main Road.	\$368,200
A19	RSL Car Park Access Upgrade existing path connection between 8 Nugent Street and Main Road.	\$800,700
A20	Main Road – Village Green Links Revitalisation Relocate crossover to supermarket carpark and widen pedestrian outstand at 37-39 Main Road to establish a pedestrian link between Main Road and the Village Green.	\$2,841,500
A21	Precinct 2 Installation of 3 raised pedestrian crossings along Moores Road between Main Road and McAllister Road.	\$210,400
A22	Precinct 1 Investigate potential development of a residential aged care facility along Main Road.	\$50,000
A23	St Georges Anglican Church Forecourt Redevelopment Investigate potential to develop land on the St Georges Anglican Church site for medium density housing.	\$50,000
A24	Village Green Redevelopment Works for the development of the Village Green passive open space area including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District level playground; • Outdoor plaza; • Public amphitheatre; • Upgrades to laneways; and • Development of some land for medium density housing. The project work is also to include investigation of pedestrian paths, parking configuration, stormwater and arborist information.	\$9,240,400

Action	Description	Cost Estimate
A25	Moores Road (north) Redevelopment Works for the development of Monbulk Netball Courts and Monbulk Tennis Courts. Masterplan is also to include investigation of pedestrian paths, parking configuration, stormwater and arborist information.	\$4,056,500
A26	Monbulk Recreation Reserve (southeast) Revitalisation Upgrades to the Monbulk Recreation Reserve land, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boulderling wall, • Pumptrack • Multipurpose outdoor court, • 4 tennis courts, • Informal spectator stands, • 35 new car park bays, • Pedestrian paths and • Provision for 2 bus bays. Upgrades to include, site survey stormwater and arborist information.	\$5,967,900
A27	Precinct 3 Upgrades to the Monbulk Living & Learning and its forecourt. The Masterplan is also to include investigation of pedestrian paths, parking configuration, stormwater and arborist information.	\$3,500,000*
A28	Whole Draft Urban Design Framework Area Undertake a Planning Scheme Amendment to update planning controls to reflect the design and built form outcomes of the Draft Urban Design Framework.	\$50,000
A29	Whole Draft Urban Design Framework Area Investigate the need for the inclusion of the activity centre within the municipal Development Contributions Plan or prepare a new Development Contributions Plan for the activity centre.	\$50,000
A30	Main Road – Village Green Links Revitalisation Purchase, design and develop 43 Main Road to establish a pedestrian connection between main Road and the Village Green.	\$2,000,000
A31	Precinct 2 Undertake a Planning Scheme Amendment to rezone land from Public Park and Recreation Zone to a Residential Zone to reflect the proposed medium density development at the Village Green, Monbulk Netball Courts and Monbulk Tennis Courts.	\$50,000
TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS		\$37,909,700
<i>*Nominal amount only not included in Quantity Survey estimate – scope and extent to be defined.</i>		

The full suite of actions and concept designs proposed by the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework are estimated to cost around \$38 million over a period of ten to fifteen years.

Some actions and design projects can be undertaken within existing resources achieving cost savings from reduced external consultant fees, however delivery of projects through construction would all require funding.

The Village Green project, which is the most expensive, is estimated to be approximately between \$9-10 million. Part of the cost could be offset through land sales to facilitate housing outcomes.

The purchase of 43 Main Road and the construction of a pedestrian link (\$2 million) is noted as a current opportunity due to its market availability. The acquisition may explore seeking funding through a State Government funding stream such as 'Our Suburbs Grants', as this project supports the State Government's 20-minute neighbourhood principles. The remainder of public realm works identified would seek funding through normal project bids in the annual Capital Works Program cycle.

The timing of some projects requires significant pre-planning, authority approvals and complex documentation, such as the arterial corridor works and the creation of the Village Green. As a result, delivery would not be possible for five to ten years. Most other projects are simpler and can be scheduled once funds are available.

The Draft Urban Design Framework provides Council with a thorough evidence-based document to help prioritise and justify the delivery of remaining key capital works projects. The Draft Urban Design Framework also provides Council the opportunity to present shovel ready projects as candidates for any external funding grants, including those with short application timeframes.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report for the Draft Urban Design Framework contributes to the following Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan (2021-25):

- *Connected and healthy communities — Communities that are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive, and socially well connected and where quality services are accessible to everyone.*

By providing an overarching design framework that connects built form, services, and public realm areas for the Monbulk Town Centre.

- *Quality community infrastructure and liveable places — Quality facilities and infrastructure that meet current and future needs. Places are well planned hubs of activity that foster well-being, creativity, and innovation.*

By identifying projects needed within Monbulk to help meet demand for infrastructure and facilities from residents and visitors.

It also supports Goal 4 of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which is that Yarra Ranges be recognised for its healthy, accessible places to live, work and visit.

RELEVANT LAW

The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework has also been developed in accordance with the provisions of the *Planning & Environment Act 1987*, the Victoria Planning Provisions, and the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme to ensure that any guidelines or proposed outcomes align with the intent of this legislation and policy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The actions and proposed design solutions within the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework, such as improved accessible streetscapes, outdoor dining opportunities and new commercial/retail sites, foster positive investment for Monbulk by diversifying economic and retail activity supporting business growth, and providing employment opportunities.

Social Implications

The actions and proposed design solutions for public realm areas and integration of social infrastructure, such as the area around the Monbulk Living and Learning Centre improves the accessibility of the services provided, thus fostering better community connections and overall improved community health outcomes.

Environmental Implications

The Draft Urban Design Framework has taken into consideration the high quality natural and landscape features of the Monbulk area into the development of actions and proposed design solutions, including significant views and vistas, drainage and water runoff, and vegetation types.

Complementing these features has been the introduction of sustainable transport and technology opportunities within the Monbulk Township. The Draft Urban Design Framework supports active transport and zero emissions transport options and promotes increased tree canopy cover.

It strengthens residential development opportunities within a walkable catchment of the town centre and increases microclimate outcomes through improved landscape treatments.

Water Sensitive Urban Design solutions will enhance stormwater quality and waterway health.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft Monbulk Draft Urban Design Framework has progressed to a point where it is resolved enough to allow for informed community feedback on the intent and purpose of the document to be achieved.

It is proposed to undertake an extensive program of engagement with the broader Monbulk Community, with a low intensity period over December 2022 and January 2023, with a more intensive engagement during February 2023 (see Attachment 3). The engagement activities include:

- Media - Media release;
- Website – Shaping Yarra Ranges Webpage, Hive, and E-news;

- Social Media – Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter;
- Audio Visual – Photography, Visuals and Diagrams;
- Direct mail – letterbox drop of project brochure;
- Internal communications – Staff bulletin, internal workshops;
- Drop-in sessions – Senior Urban Designer to work from Monbulk Living & Learning Centre;
- Webinar – online webinar for property owners, business owners and community members;
- Community Meeting – a presentation and question & answer session; and
- Pop Up – stall at the Monbulk Community Market

An additional concept of a Place Walk through the Town Centre is being explored with the Communications team to enhance community participation and engagement with the Draft Urban Design Framework.

The proposed program of engagement will be undertaken across a variety of times including business hours, weekday evenings and the weekend to capture the input of as many Monbulk residents, traders and visitors as possible.

Following the close of the consultation period it is proposed to report the feedback received to Council along with any suggested changes to the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework to address ideas or concerns raised throughout the consultation period.

Noting the length of the whole document due to the rigorous analysis undertaken, a summary document which contains Sections 4 and 5 of the draft Urban Design Framework (see Attachment 4) has been created to focus discussion with the Community around the proposed concept designs for Monbulk.

The full draft Urban Design Framework, as well each individual section of the draft Urban Design Framework (6 sections) will be available on the Shaping Yarra Ranges Webpage.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The development of the Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework has relied on a mix of previous engagement undertaken for the Monbulk Community Plan and Monbulk Structure Plan; and more recent targeted consultation.

The framework has been guided internally by a Project Working Group which included input from the following units:

- Statutory Planning;

- Strategic Planning;
- Place Recovery;
- Community Development;
- Economic Development;
- Infrastructure Development;
- Transport Engineering;
- Recreation and Leisure;
- Indigenous Development;
- Gender Equity;
- Disability Inclusion;
- Waste Management;
- Emergency Management; and
- Communications and Engagement.

The project team has been meeting regularly with the Monbulk and District Community Opportunities Working Group (MADCOW), Council's Indigenous and Disability Advisory Committee's, and Council's Positive Ageing Reference Group who have provided valuable assessment on how the Draft Urban Design Framework is responding to community perceptions.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework provides the necessary evidence-based context to decision making by identifying key capital works projects for upgrade or construction. The Draft Urban Design Framework's holistic approach will assist in informing a wide range of Council service delivery areas of the specific opportunities and challenges to consider in the Monbulk area and maximise Council's response to the Community's expectations.

Failure to deliver the framework will result in Council's expenditure of capital works projects continuing to be undertaken in an ad hoc manner, which does not consider the net benefit of both Council's resources and the Community's expectations.

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 Monbulk Urban Design Framework (Published Separately)
2. Addendum - Village Green Options (Published Separately)
3. Proposed Community Engagement Plan (Published Separately)
4. Draft Monbulk Urban Design Framework – Summary Document (Published Separately)

DRAFT WARBURTON URBAN DESIGN FRAMEWORK FOR CONSULTATION

Report Author: Executive Officer Urban Design & Landscape Architecture
 Responsible Officer: Director Planning, Design and Development
 Ward(s) affected: O'Shannassy;

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 Warburton community outlined their vision and values through an extensive community engagement process during late 2018 and early 2019. The findings resulted in the development of the now-adopted Warburton Place Plan 2021. One of the priorities of the Place Plan was development of an Urban Design Framework for the Warburton Town Centre.

The Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework provides practical design solutions to realise the intent of the design, development, and public realm actions within the Warburton Place Plan. Focussing on the commercial centres within Warburton Township, the Framework will assist Council decision making in the areas of development, infrastructure, and programs for Warburton that aligns with community expectations.

Following consultation with key stakeholders during its development, the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework is now ready for broader community review and input. With the recent announcement by the Minister for Planning regarding support for the majority of the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination project, it is timely to engage community around solutions and a future character for the centre to support alignment across all projects in the area.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Support the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework being placed on public exhibition between 16 December 2022 and 24 February 2023; and***
- 2. Note that findings from the community feedback and proposed amendments to the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework will be presented at a future Council meeting.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council adopted the Warburton Place Plan at the 23 November 2021 Council meeting. As part of the plan, one of the priorities was “Priority 3 – Character, Place and Inclusion” and identified Action 3.1 – Urban Design Framework’ which stated that the action is to:

- Produce an Urban Design Framework along with a suite of projects, translating the Place Plan into design solutions through strong community engagement, addressing the key issues and focussing on Warburton’s unique culture, environment and opportunities.
- Include design guidelines for built form and streetscapes that protect the character of the townships and can be translated into Planning Scheme controls and updates to Design and Development Overlay Schedule 12.

This Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework (see Attachment 1) and community consultation is a key step in the delivery of this action.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Purpose

This report introduces the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework (Attachment 1), 2022 to seek endorsement to commence public consultation and exhibition of the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework.

Background

Council adopted the Warburton Place Plan at the 23 November 2021 Council meeting.

Priority 3, Action 3.1 of the Warburton Place Plan was to undertake an Urban Design Framework for Warburton.

The development of an Urban Design Framework along with a suite of projects for Warburton was identified as an important initiative, translating many actions of the Place Plan into design concepts reflecting community aspirations, addressing the key issues, and focussing on Warburton’s unique culture, environment, and opportunities.

It also provides the detailed design guidance and site-specific design solutions to address many of the actions within the Warburton Place Plan. The draft Framework includes design guidelines for built form and public realm that protect the character of the Warburton commercial townships, and can be translated into future Planning Scheme controls, and updates to Design and Development Overlay (Schedule 12).

The Framework will assist Council’s decision making for development, infrastructure, and programs for Warburton Township that aligns with community expectations, and

industry best practice. It will form the basis for updated Planning controls for private development. The Urban Design Framework will also guide Council's ability to prioritise and allocate capital resources for the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework area.

Parallel to the Place Plan and subsequent development of the draft Warburton Urban Design Framework, the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (WMBD) project has been a central focal point of both Council and community. Throughout that project there have been a broad range of views expressed including strong concerns of the impacts of the project on the township.

In addition, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a marked increase in local tourism resulting in significant traffic congestion and intense visitation to the area, notably to destinations such as the new Warburton Water World aquatic play park and the Cement Creek / Redwood Forest.

While the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework is not dependent on the outcomes of these projects, each of the design recommendations will assist in alleviating some of the current and anticipated amenity impacts and create better flexibility to respond to the fluctuating demands on the township.

With the recent release of the Minister for Planning's Assessment under the *Environmental Effects Act 1978* of the WMBD project it is timely to progress community consultation on the Draft Urban Design Framework.

Urban Design Framework – Document Structure

The Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework applies to 55 hectares of commercial and public land within proximity to the Yarra River, and Warburton Highway, and is structured into six sections.

1. Introduction – provides a vision for Warburton, an overview of the project area, intended outcomes and the relationship of the Urban Design Framework with existing frameworks;
2. Context – outlines current characteristics and controls around the centre;
3. Analysis – identifies issues and opportunities that impact upon commercial viability, liveability and community experience of the Warburton town centre, and maps where these occur;
4. Framework – provides an integrated framework for each precinct, embedding design solutions across different discipline areas. It outlines the preferred development character of four precincts within Warburton underpinned by high level design solutions to key issues and opportunities and built form guidelines;
5. Places – a focussed exploration of concept designs for key sites demonstrating possible responses to key design parameters to achieve the preferred character of Warburton; and
6. Actions and Costings – a summary of supporting actions to deliver on the vision and resultant precinct frameworks, along with estimated likely costs for each.

Urban Design Frameworks have traditionally focussed on commercial and mixed-use areas, and public land. The Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework has focussed along the Warburton Highway which forms the primary access and activity corridor for the Activity Centre, extending from Mayers Bridge in the west to Warburton Water World in the east, including the two commercial centres and Warburton Recreation Reserve.

The frameworks also include the north bank of the Yarra River / Birrarung including an enhanced Dammans Road and the various pockets of open space along its length, while proposing a new southern connecting road south of the Water Wheel building. This new network of three parallel movement corridors will both improve the amenity and safety within the core of Warburton while opening up greater leisure opportunities.

Warburton’s two commercial areas, and Council-managed land, such as Warburton Recreation Reserve, are the places where Council has the greatest control to influence high quality design-based outcomes that reflect the vision of the community and the intended actions, and priorities of the Warburton Place Plan.

Design guidance for privately owned residential land is set out by Planning Frameworks and the Planning Scheme, in particular Clauses 54-58 (ResCode), and the current Design and Development Overlay – Schedule 12 (DDO12). Public land is not afforded the same specialised design guidance. The final Urban Design Framework will help to inform future updated planning design controls in the form of a Design and Development Overlay for Warburton. This work will be subject to a future Planning Scheme Amendment.

Key Design Opportunities and Challenges

The design analysis of the draft Warburton Urban Design Framework identified the following key design opportunities and challenges:

Opportunities	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish gateways into Warburton identifying Mayers Bridge and Signs Bridge as the recognisable entries into the township. • Provide an additional pedestrian connection across the Yarra River. • Enhance existing public open space interfaces with the Yarra River increasing amenity within the public realm. • Improve public open spaces to cater for growing demand from the local community and visitors to the precinct. • Improve connections between the Warburton Rail Trail and destinations within the precinct. • Increase activation along the Warburton Highway and the Yarra River corridors. • Enhance the commercial interface and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respond to the existing landform and topography of Warburton managing the impact of the natural environment, including accessibility, flood levels, and bushfire. • Meet the needs of the local community and tourist population, responding to the demand driven by the commercial precincts. • Provide public transport options and alternatives to access the precinct and link to the broader Warburton area. • Respect existing heritage buildings and protect the character of Warburton. • Increase access to and amenity of public open spaces to cater for growing demand from the local community and visitors to the precinct.

<p>connection with the Yarra River through the activation of Thomas Avenue, and improved access throughout the precinct.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide end-of-trip facilities within the precinct for public use. • Provide opportunities for electric vehicle and electric bike charging stations within the precinct. • Improve the built form interface with the Warburton Highway, edging the Highway with active built form on the northern and southern interfaces. • Enhance existing public open space interfaces to the Yarra River increasing amenity within the public realm. • Enhance the commercial interface and connection with the Yarra River, Sanitarium Health Food Company and Signs Publishing Company heritage sites. • Create new residential accommodation areas within the precinct increasing access and amenity within the public realm to support this use. • Establish residential catchment within the precinct. • Explore the strong Indigenous significance of the region, noting the role of the Birrarung/Yarra River and its source that winds down to Naarm/Melbourne, and the strong landscape values that hold deep values as Country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve car parking within Warburton to service the needs of the local community and visitors without eroding the character and urban fabric. • Improve pedestrian, and vehicle access and movement within Warburton to service the needs of the local community and visitors. • Establish a built form identity within Warburton to serve the multiple functions and uses occurring. • Respond to size and scale of existing heritage sites and current state for redevelopment. • Manage and respond to complex Planning overlays including Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (flooding) and Bushfire Management Overlay. • Future proof for major projects such as Warburton Mountain Bike and Sanitarium Building developments.
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Key Design Solutions

The Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework addresses the key opportunities and challenges by defining Warburton into four precincts based on similar opportunities, challenges, character and land uses identified.

The precincts are:

1. Warburton Gateway – Serves as the gateway into Warburton. It is defined by linear movement corridors, and open space routes including the Warburton Highway, the Warburton Rail Trail, and the Yarra River which is the precinct's most defining natural feature;
2. Yarra Town Centre – The main town centre for Warburton with a strong hospitality and tourism focus. Accessed by the Warburton Highway, the precinct is the main commercial town centre of Warburton. The Warburton Highway provides vehicle access through the precinct, and Thomas Avenue, which runs adjacent to the Yarra River, provides rear access for the bulk of the commercial offering as well as visitor parking;

3. Warburton Recreation – Defined by a number of active and passive recreation areas and sits between Warburton’s two town centres;
4. La La Town Centre – The secondary town centre for Warburton with convenience and servicing local needs. This commercial town centre caters for a more local offering within Warburton. The area is defined by iconic architecture in the form of the Sanitarium Health Food Company heritage building.

Dammans Road runs along the length of the north bank of the Yarra River connected by a sequence of high character pedestrian and vehicle bridges. It plays an important role as a relief option for each precinct away from the intensity of the southern side.

Each of the precincts provides solutions to the key challenges and opportunities through the provision of:

- Preferred character statements – vision statements which articulate the desired look and feel of the built environment of the precincts;
- Built form guidelines – clear parameters to guide built form outcomes and inform decision making to ensure that the preferred character is achieved;
- Design diagrams – a series of high-level explanatory plans, elevations, cross sections and illustrations that demonstrate how the guidelines could be applied to the design of development to achieve preferred character outcomes; and
- Concept design sites – indicative design solutions on key sites that set the benchmark to achieve the preferred character.

Framework Design Principles

Thirteen design principles are embedded in the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework to provide the overarching outcomes that all design projects and concepts within Warburton should achieve. These principles have been derived from the Urban Design Charter for Victoria and the Australian Indigenous Design Charter, and together will provide a consistent approach to design practice.

The principles are centred around four themes:

- A. Structure – the layout of the key uses in the precinct and site.
 - Structure & Connections
 - Continuity & Change
 - Fit & function
- B. Public Realm - the allocation of key features and use of materials throughout the precinct and site.
 - Sense of Place
 - Safety o Sensory Pleasure

- Animation
- Inclusiveness & interaction
- C. Movement and Access – how people and transport will move through the precinct and site.
 - Legibility
 - Accessibility
- D. Built Form – the buildings and structures that occupy the precinct and site.
 - Complementary mixed uses
 - Consistency & variety

The thirteenth principle is an all-embracing ‘Indigenous Design’ principle, that works in tandem with every other design principle. This is to ensure that design interventions are conscious of and actively connect to the deep history of Aboriginal occupation of country within the Yarra Ranges.

Precincts Design

The design principles are applied to the four precincts through a series of relevant design concepts and guidelines. These design concepts and guidelines provide additional detail to aid Council, the community and developers to achieve the desired future development of Warburton. The guidelines are separated into six categories including:

- Building Design – how the buildings in the precinct should look and feel in order to reflect the character of Warburton and respect the location;
- Building Frontage & Interfaces – how buildings should present to the street as well as treatments to consider when adjoining sensitive uses (such as residential areas);
- Building Performance – how buildings in the precinct should function over their lifespans;
- Car Parking and Access – how access to developments is undertaken and where car parking areas should be designed, accessed, and be located;
- Servicing – that sets out where services (such as mechanical plant) should be located; and
- Public Realm – that sets out the key guidelines to ensure the precinct is enjoyed by a wide variety of user groups.

The guidelines and concepts proposed by the Framework as part of the precinct design will be captured as part of future Strategic Planning work including the preparation of planning controls such as a Design and Development Overlay or other tools in the Planning Scheme. This work will be subject to a future Planning Scheme Amendment.

Concept Design Sites

The Urban Design Framework outlines concept designs for fifteen strategic sites within Warburton. Each of the project sites seeks to achieve known priority community outcomes or improve the conditions of an existing space.

The sites are as follows:

1. Dolly Grey Activation – A gateway car parking area with 44 car parks with supporting pedestrian and cycling links to the main centres of Warburton through the Warburton Rail Trail and river trail, as well as future connections into the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (WMBD) trail network (which is partly private land, and partly Crown land).
2. Warburton Highway Road Reserve (north) Access – Canopy tree avenue to frame the arrival into Warburton, alongside 31 highway car parks established by formalising the existing road reserve area with the upgraded car parking to meet the local demand.
3. Upper Yarra River Reserve (west) Rejuvenation - Open space enhanced with new riverfront node, public toilets, and 32 formalised car parks with water sensitive urban design solutions.
4. Warburton Rail Trail Space Animation - New tree lined car park with permeable grass pavements and seating nodes will activate an underutilised area with the increased car parking for 44 car parks designed as pleasant public space when not occupied by vehicles. Access to the Warburton Rail Trail and the Yarra Town Centre, and a new improved orderly through-movement of vehicles eastwards to reduce congestion.
5. Yarra Square Renewal - Yarra Square is located in the core of the activity centre. This space is to be rejuvenated through improved landscape elements, improved integration of public toilets, enhanced accessibility and amenity of open space and proposed active edges of built form. Integrated play elements to be developed in the core of the site, and bicycle facilities to be upgraded to improve value and usability.
6. Thomas Avenue Interface Activation - Development options to activate Thomas Avenue and the Yarra River interface by presenting a flexible and activated lower level built form edge, and possible upper level dwellings to cater for future demand for accommodation (ideal for private rental and short-stay to improve local community housing access).
7. Memorial Park Activation - This park provides an elevated open space interface with the commercial strip and provides distant views of Mount Donna Buang. Enhance connectivity to and through this open space, with a particular emphasis on fully accessible paths and usable spaces.
8. Warburton Water Wheel Forecourt Revitalisation - The forecourt interfaces with commercial buildings on the northern side of the Warburton Highway, linking to the Warburton Water Wheel Information Centre. New landscape elements

embrace the views and orientation of the space and offer opportunities for pop-up activations such as markets.

9. Warburton Swing Bridge Forecourt Redevelopment – Relocate tennis courts to create a new western gateway to the Yarra Town Centre and provide a new access to Thomas Avenue enabling through movement and reduce congestion on Warburton Highway while preserving the historic pavilion and enhancing the public realm surrounding it.
10. Warburton Highway Southern Interface Development - Create an eastern gateway to the Yarra Town Centre and maximise pedestrian access to Thomas Avenue. The area will utilise hard landscaping and outdoor dining elements to create a desirable and active main street interface.
11. Chisholm Park (west) Reactivation – Formalise existing car parking area to tighten footprint and improve efficiency, resulting in 30 car parks with strong water sensitive urban design landscape solutions adjacent to the Yarra River and Brisbane Bridge.
12. Warburton Recreation Reserve Revitalisation - Co-location of active recreation uses including tennis, netball, and football which is supported by a new community pavilion and car parking. Integrated pavilion solution with improved accessibility and flexibility for community use and functions. Protected root zones for significant tree, and more orderly parking to increase efficiency and reduce footprint. Enhanced spectator experience and connections to the Yarra River. Supportive of development on adjacent Sanitarium heritage site.
13. Warburton Sanitarium Redevelopment - Large redevelopment site with high significance heritage architecture. Potential to activate the Yarra River interface and enhance the existing heritage values of the site while introducing short stay accommodation and function space to support local economy and alleviate housing stress.
14. Redwood Community Centre Access – Flexible grass paved car parking area with the option of 66 car parks during peak periods to support demand from uses in the local area, and able to revert to pleasant river edge event and activation space. Improved nodes of connection to the Yarra River banks.
15. Upper Yarra River Reserve (east) Activation - Open space enhanced with new riverfront nodes, avenue tree planting and seating, and picnic area. Improve amenity and safety of pedestrian underpass beneath Warburton Highway through improved activation.

These projects are intentionally only resolved to the concept design level to both provide an indication of what could be achieved in these spaces while allowing for other design solutions to still be possible that meet the design intent. Each of these project sites will be subject to a future master planning process which will flesh out fully resolved design solutions.

Issues

- Car Parking

Priority 5 – Parking, Traffic, and Transport Solutions within the Warburton Place Plan identified a number of actions concerning Parking Solutions (Action 5.1), Cycling and Pedestrians (Action 5.2), and Traffic Movement and Innovation (Action 5.3).

Car parking and traffic congestion is an ongoing issue within Warburton and the Urban Design Framework proposes various project outcomes that aim to:

- increase walking and driver safety, reduce car-dependence, and congestion
- support positive travel experiences for visitors and locals
- improve accessibility and inclusion throughout the centres
- contribute to a township that is safe and liveable
- encourage active transport and walkability
- improve appearance of streetscapes while protecting heritage areas

- Planning applications under current controls

There is a planning application proposing a revised development for an IGA Supermarket (3466-3472 Warburton Highway) which has highlighted shortfalls in the clarity of the current design controls applying to the town. The draft Framework creates clear built form, and character outcomes that can be translated into updated Design and Development Overlay controls to assist with planning applications of this nature in the future.

- Sanitarium Building

- The Warburton Sanitarium has recently been returned to a secure state following extensive make-safe works that were carried out by the property owner in coordination with Yarra Ranges Council, the Warburton Advancement League and local contractors. Conversations with the owners of the building have been initiated to explore ways to reactivate the site for the community through possible short-term uses.

The draft Warburton Urban Design Framework has identified longer term outcomes, or ultimate development of the site to restore and protect the architectural heritage and provide development outcomes consistent with previous planning applications for the site. Through this approach the Framework supports future redevelopment of the site subject to a separate planning application process being undertaken by the land owner.

- Thomas Avenue (Warburton Tennis Courts)

The draft Warburton Urban Design Framework proposes to relocate the current tennis courts in the Yarra Town Centre precinct to the Warburton Recreation Reserve. This proposal provides an opportunity to create a through connection

for Thomas Avenue, establishing a western gateway to the commercial centre, and provide improved movement and access around the commercial core.

The current tennis courts are part of an existing heritage overlay (Warburton Swing Bridge, Tennis Courts, Club House, and Rotunda - HO339), and community feedback will inform the proposed relocation of these courts to Warburton Recreation Reserve. The courts have had significant modifications and reconstruction over the years and do not reflect the original levels and materials, and continue to be impacted by drainage issues. The other heritage elements including a pavilion and swing bridge would remain intact and would seek to attract broader community use and value through a more inclusive open space solution.

- Warburton Recreation Reserve

Warburton Recreation Reserve is a critical community asset and serves to link the commercial centres within Warburton. The draft Warburton Urban Design Framework proposes a major redevelopment of the Reserve, relocating the tennis courts from the commercial centre, adding two additional tennis courts, adding an additional netball court, and proposing the creation of a new integrated community pavilion to support consolidating sporting club uses into one integrated and flexible facility.

This proposal will require a significant investment from Council and should be considered a major development outcome for Warburton. The proposal within the Framework will inform the intended master planning project which will be undertaken for the Recreation Reserve and the Framework will establish community expectations for this project.

- Warburton Highway - Department of Transport (DoT) arterial

A number of the design proposals in the Framework will require a close working relationship with key State Government agencies. As Warburton Highway is a declared road, this will require the approval of the Department of Transport for any works within this space, including the provision of extended outstands, car parking reconfigurations, new bus stops and pedestrian crossings. Embedding designs within an adopted plan (such as the Urban Design Framework) enables Council to effectively advocate for these design solutions to State Government and demonstrates broad community benefit.

- Lack of coordination and integration of projects

Various projects continue to be delivered in Warburton, to manage ongoing issues, without any overarching masterplan or design, leading to fragmentation, lost opportunities, inefficiencies and poor integration. The Framework is a powerful tool that will assist in providing a clear coordinated approach for all future projects.

Options considered

The following options have been considered:

1. Develop the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework

The Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework is an important step towards achieving coordination and integration between Council-led projects, while developing rigorous built form controls using a methodology that will stand up to the scrutiny of a possible future Planning Panel. It creates a pipeline of projects through a costed action plan enabling improved advocacy efforts and management of expectations for timing of delivery. The design solutions directly address the community's concerns and known issues in the centre.

2. Produce precinct masterplans

Instead of an overarching Urban Design Framework, produce Masterplans for each of the precincts which will enable locally coordinated project delivery however will be less effective in achieving a unified whole-of-centre outcome and will not inform built form controls for a Planning Scheme Amendment. The current planning applications for the centre have demonstrated the need to improve clarity and outcomes with the Design and Development Overlay and embed stronger place-based controls. This is not recommended.

3. Produce reactive or localised projects as needed

Many projects delivered in Warburton to date have been isolated and disconnected interventions in the absence of any coordinating vision and plan. This has led to inefficiencies, lost opportunities, and lack of integration with the context and rest of centre. This is not recommended.

4. Develop only updated built form controls

This option would enable a Planning Scheme Amendment to update the Design and Development Overlay (DDO12), however there will remain significant issues of lack of coordination and detail for design approaches within each precinct, and this option does not offer a well-developed advocacy basis to State and Federal Governments for larger scale infrastructure projects.

Recommended option and justification

Option 1 is recommended, to proceed with the development of the Warburton Urban Design Framework in order for Council to be able to respond meaningfully to known issues within the centre, establish planning controls to improve development outcomes, and develop a pipeline of agreed projects that are supported by community and Council.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

No capital funding (Council funding) is committed to projects proposed within the Draft UDF at this time. Any future funding streams required to establish new

buildings, public realm projects, streetscape projects, or undertake upgrades of an existing building/place/infrastructure including design, architectural, surveyor and permit costs; site preparation costs; project management costs; construction costs; and other associated costs will rely on future funding streams including, but not limited to, capital works and available grants.

Section 6 of the Draft Urban Design Framework outlines the schedule of projects from the Draft Urban Design Framework to be delivered, including project type, project size, estimated cost and delivery timeframes.

Each of the projects are categorised as follows:

- Public Realm Projects – e.g. parks, streetscapes and play spaces.
- Access Projects – e.g. car parking areas, pedestrian paths and bicycle parking.
- Movement Projects – e.g. pedestrian crossings and traffic calming measures.
- Major Developments – e.g. large scale projects requiring significant resourcing.
- Other Projects – e.g. Planning Scheme Amendments and other background reports.

Below is a summary table of actions identifying their description and estimated cost. No projects listed below have current funding in Council's Capital Expenditure Program and will require individual funding bids and advocacy for State and Federal funding.

These projects have been proposed and assessed at a concept design level and the costings, in turn reflect the high level nature of these estimates that have been generated by a quantity surveyor. A more detailed breakdown of the actions and costings are found on pages 92 to 99 of the Draft Urban Design Framework.

Action	Description	Cost Estimate
A01	Upper Yarra River Reserve (west) Rejuvenation Upgrades to reserve including: upgrade of public toilets; additional car parking, new furniture; riverfront landscaped node; and pedestrian paths.	\$1,163,012
A02	Yarra Square Renewal Upgrades to Square including: upgrade of public toilets; new furniture; new ramp entries; landscaped areas; bike charging; bike wash; and bike storage.	\$1,136,108
A03	Memorial Park Activation Upgrades to park including: upgrade of pedestrian paths with new accessible paths; new furniture; new landscaping; and new stair access.	\$492,291
A04	Warburton Water Wheel Forecourt Revitalisation Upgrades to forecourt including: new access ramp; new hard landscaped forecourt; new furniture; new soft landscaping; and amphitheatre seating.	\$290,273
A05	Upper Yarra River Reserve (east) Activation	\$483,555

Action	Description	Cost Estimate
	Upgrades to reserve including: new furniture; two riverfront landscaped nodes; new soft landscaping; picnic area; and pedestrian paths.	
A06	Dolly Grey Activation Redevelopment of reserve including: new car parking; pedestrian paths; accessible parking; stormwater; WSUD; and soft landscaping.	\$728,904
A07	Warburton Highway Road Reserve (north) Access Redevelopment of road reserve including: new car parking; bus bay; pedestrian paths; accessible parking; stormwater; WSUD; and soft landscaping.	\$658,926
A08	Warburton Rail Trail Space Animation Creation of Warburton Rail Trail Space car parking to include new car parking; pedestrian paths; accessible parking; stormwater; WSUD; EV charging; bicycle storage; bicycle wash; lighting; stormwater; and soft landscaping.	\$1,227,239
A09	Chisholm Park (west) Reactivation Redevelopment of existing car park including: upgraded car parking; pedestrian paths; accessible parking; stormwater; WSUD; and soft landscaping.	\$658,001
A10	Redwood Community Centre Access Redevelopment of reserve including: new car parking; pedestrian paths; accessible parking; stormwater; WSUD; and soft landscaping.	\$1,084,786
A11	Pedestrian Crossing Warburton Highway (near Mayers Bridge) Installation of pedestrian crossing along Warburton Highway to east of Mayers Bridge to connect bus stop/s and public toilets.	\$381,892
A12	Pedestrian Crossing Warburton Highway (near Station Road) Installation of pedestrian crossing along Warburton Highway to east of Station Road to connect Memorial Park with existing laneway to Thomas Avenue.	\$357,271
A13	Raised Intersection and Pedestrian Crossing Warburton Highway/Thomas Avenue (includes ramps and stairs on Warburton Highway interface) Installation of raised intersection and pedestrian crossing along Warburton Highway at Thomas Avenue to create eastern gateway to commercial centre.	\$1,305,158
A14	Pedestrian Crossing Warburton Highway (near Warburton Recreation Reserve) Installation of pedestrian crossing along Warburton Highway to connect Warburton Rail Trail to Warburton Recreation Reserve.	\$332,476
A15	Path Links from Signs Bridge to Warburton Waterworld Installation of pedestrian paths along parts of Yarra River and Warburton Highway near Signs Bridge to connect proposed car parking at Redwood Community Centre with Warburton Water World.	\$551,836
A16	WMBD Proposed Pedestrian Bridge Provide a safe and comfortable cycling link between the Warburton rail trail and the trail head proposed at the Warburton Golf Course. An at-grade connection is the preferred outcome,	\$2,026,137

Action	Description	Cost Estimate
	however given the terrain, Warburton Highway and the Yarra River, a bridge should be considered, provided the connection is well designed and integrates into the local environment, is well-lit and properly maintained.	
A17	Warburton Swing Bridge Forecourt Redevelopment Redevelop Warburton Swing Bridge Forecourt. Development is to include: retention of tennis pavilion; relocation of tennis courts; investigation of pedestrian paths; car parking; accessibility; furniture; outdoor dining; hard and soft landscaping; road access; and land subdivision. Cost of built form development has not been estimated. Return on investment can be achieved through sale/development of land parcel created but has not been estimated at this stage.	\$7,626,647
A18	Warburton Recreation Reserve Revitalisation Prepare a master plan for upgrades to Warburton Recreation Reserve. Master plan is to include relocation of tennis courts, new tennis courts, new netball courts, new cricket nets, new pavilion, investigation of pedestrian paths, car parking, accessibility, public toilets, relocation of skate park, furniture, hard and soft landscaping, and road access.	\$21,008,880
A19	DDO12 Undertake a Planning Scheme Amendment to update planning controls (Design Development Overlay 12) to reflect the design and built form outcomes of the Urban Design Framework.	\$30,000*
TOTAL PROJECTED COSTS		\$41,543,392
* Did not form part of Quantity Surveyor (QS) estimate. Covered by operational budget.		

The full suite of actions and concept designs proposed by the Draft Urban Design Framework are estimated to cost approximately \$42 Million which would be delivered over the next ten to fifteen years depending on funding.

A collection of these actions and design projects can be undertaken within existing staff resources achieving cost savings from reduced external consultant fees, however delivery of projects through to construction would all require additional funding.

The timing of some projects may require significant pre-planning, authority approvals and complex documentation, such as any arterial corridor works and the creation of the Warburton Recreation Reserve Master Plan. These major development projects would anticipate delivery timeframes potentially beyond 10 years. The remainder of projects, by comparison, are simpler and would be able to be scheduled once funds and resourcing become available.

The Framework will provide Council with a thorough evidence-based document to help prioritise and justify the delivery of remaining key capital works projects. The Framework will also provide Council with the opportunity to present shovel ready projects as candidates for any external funding grants that might be on offer, including those with short application timeframes.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework meets the following Strategic Objectives of the Council Plan (2021-25):

- Connected and healthy communities — Communities that are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive, and socially well connected and where quality services are accessible to everyone.

By providing an overarching design framework that connects built form, services and public realm areas for the Warburton Town Centre.

- Quality community infrastructure and liveable places — Quality facilities and infrastructure that meet current and future needs. Places are well planned hubs of activity that foster well-being, creativity and innovation.

By identifying projects needed within Warburton to help meet demand for infrastructure and facilities from residents and visitors.

It also supports Goal 4 of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which is that Yarra Ranges be recognised for its healthy, accessible places to live, work and visit.

RELEVANT LAW

The Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework has been developed in accordance with the provisions of the Planning & Environment Act 1987, the Victoria Planning Provisions, and the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme to ensure that any guidelines or proposed outcomes align with the intent of this legislation and policy.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The actions and proposed design solutions within the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework, such as improved accessible streetscapes, outdoor dining opportunities and new commercial/accommodation/retail sites), foster positive investment for Warburton by diversifying economic and retail activity supporting business growth, and providing employment opportunities.

Social Implications

The actions and proposed design solutions for public realm areas and integration of social infrastructure, such as the Warburton Recreation Reserve area improves the accessibility of the services provided, thus fostering better community connections and overall improved community health outcomes.

Environmental Implications

The Framework has taken into consideration the high quality natural and landscape features of Warburton into the development of actions and proposed design solutions, including significant views and vistas, drainage and water runoff, and

vegetation types. Complementing these features has been the introduction of sustainable transport and technology opportunities within the Warburton Township.

The Framework supports active transport and zero emissions transport options. It strengthens residential development opportunities within a walkable catchment of the commercial centres and increases microclimate outcomes through improved landscape treatments. Water Sensitive Urban Design solutions will enhance stormwater quality and waterway health.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework has progressed to a point where it is resolved enough to allow for informed community feedback on the intent and purpose of the document to be achieved.

It is proposed to undertake an extensive program of engagement with the broader Warburton community, with a low intensity period over December 2022 and January 2023, with a more intensive engagement over February 2023 (see Attachment 2).

The engagement activities include:

- Media - Media release;
- Website – Webpage, Shaping Yarra Ranges (HIVE);
- Social Media;
- Audio Visual – Photography, Visuals and Diagrams;
- Direct mail;
- Internal communications – Staff bulletin, internal workshops;
- Drop-in sessions – Warburton Mechanics Hall;
- Webinar – online webinar for property owners, business owners and community members; and
- Stakeholder Meeting/s – presentation and question and answer sessions for key stakeholders.

The proposed program of engagement will be undertaken across a variety of times to capture the input of as many Warburton residents, traders and visitors as possible.

Following the close of the consultation period it is proposed to report the feedback received to Council along with any suggested changes to the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework to address ideas or concerns raised throughout the consultation period.

Noting the length of the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework, a result of undertaking a rigorous existing conditions analysis, a supporting Summary

Document has been provided for consultation (see Attachment 3). The Summary focuses on information in Section 4 Framework, and Section 5 Places within the draft Warburton Urban Design Framework, and has been created to concentrate discussion with the community around the proposed framework and place concepts for Warburton.

A high resolution digital version of the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework, as well as each individual chapter/section of the draft Urban Design Framework (6 sections) will also be available on the Shaping Yarra Ranges Webpage as part of the consultation.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The development of the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework has relied on a mix of previous engagement undertaken for the Warburton Place Plan and more recent targeted consultation. The Framework has been guided internally by a Project Working Group which included input from the following units: Statutory Planning; Strategic Planning; Place Recovery; Community Development; Economic Development; Infrastructure Development; Transport Engineering; Recreation and Leisure; Indigenous Development; Gender Equity; Disability Inclusion; Waste Management; Emergency Management; and Communications and Engagement.

The project team has also met with Council's Disability Advisory Committee.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The draft Warburton Urban Design Framework provides the necessary evidence based context to decision making by identifying key capital works projects for upgrade or construction. The Framework's holistic approach will assist in informing a wide range of Council service delivery areas of the specific opportunities and challenges to consider in the Warburton area and maximise Council's response to the Community's expectations.

Failure to deliver the Framework will result in Council's expenditure of capital works projects being undertaken in an ad hoc manner, which does not consider the net benefit of both Council's resources and the community's expectations.

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 Warburton Urban Design Framework (Published Separately)
2. Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework Communications and Engagement Plan (Published Separately)
3. Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework Summary Document (Published Separately)

STRUCTURE PLAN REVIEW AND ACTION LIST UPDATE

Report Author: Principal Strategic Planner
 Responsible Officer: Director Planning, Design and Development
 Ward(s) affected: Chandler; Chirnside; Melba; Ryrie; Walling;

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

Over the last 12 years Council has adopted structure plans for its activity centres (Lilydale, Coldstream, Monbulk, Healesville, Mooroolbark) and an Urban Design Masterplan for Chirnside Park, which is similar in content to a structure plan.

The lifespan of a structure plan is approximately 20 years, which is the timespan a structure plan is expected to remain relevant, and provides enough time to implement actions within each plan.

A recent review of structure plan actions has identified that many actions have either been implemented or are out of date.

This report outlines how actions within each structure plan have been rationalised and updated to improve their relevance and longevity, excluding the Lilydale Structure Plan that was adopted by Council earlier this year.

Should Council resolve to adopt the revised action lists, consistent with the recommendations of this report, it is intended that the revised lists will then form the basis of annual reporting to Council on status of action implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council adopt the revised action lists for the Healesville, Coldstream, Mooroolbark and Monbulk Structure Plans and the Chirnside Park Masterplan, consistent with the recommendations of this report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

The status of actions for the Coldstream Structure Plan, 2016 was reported for noting at the Council meeting of 28 August 2018.

The status of actions for the Healesville Structure Plan, 2016 has been reported twice for noting at the Council meetings of 28 November 2017 and 23 July 2019.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a status update and revised plans for the actions within the adopted structure plans for Healesville, Coldstream, Monbulk and Mooroolbark and the Urban Design Masterplan for Chirnside Park.

Background

Structure Planning

Structure Plans are strategic land use plans that apply to activity centres. The key aims of structure planning are to plan for and develop a shared vision for an activity centre and to identify the type and scope of change projected within the activity centre over time. A list of actions for implementation forms part of a Structure Plan.

Actions can include:

- Planning Scheme Amendments, such as rezoning of land;
- Further studies or work needed, such as masterplans for parks or streets;
- Capital works, such as new roads or paths; and
- Advocacy to other levels of government to achieve outcomes beyond Council's role and/or control.

While the content and focus of a structure plan can vary depending on the specific issues and context of a particular centre, in general the issues covered within a plan include:

- Land use and development;
- Infrastructure, including transport linkages;
- Open space, including linkages and paths;
- Urban design; and
- Economic development.

In preparing a structure plan, Council must adhere to State Government guidance on process and content. These requirements are specified in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Planning Practice Note 58 *Structure Planning for Activity Centres, September 2018*.

Council has a legal obligation under the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme to provide for the implementation of State, regional and local policies affecting land use and development. This includes:

- Clause 11 (Settlement): Planning 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; and
- Clause 11.03-1S (Planning for Places): Planning for major retail, residential, commercial, administrative, entertainment and cultural developments into activity centres that are highly accessible to the community.

Structure Plans are the appropriate tool to assist councils to meet their responsibilities and to set the strategic policy framework for the municipality and initiate changes to the planning scheme.

Hierarchy of Activity Centres

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050, the strategic plan for metropolitan Melbourne, includes a hierarchy of activity centres that sets out different expectations for land use and development based on the 20-minute neighbourhood concept.

- 20-minute neighbourhoods are areas intended as compact, walkable places that emphasise the importance of living locally, giving people the ability to meet most of their daily needs within a 20-minute return walk from home, with access to safe cycling and local transport options. Benefits of a 20-minute city include;
 - Housing that is close to existing services, jobs and public transport;
 - Urban areas that encourage walking and cycling rather than driving for small trips, improving environmental and health outcomes;
 - A housing mix encourages diversity of options, enabling people to downsize or upsize without leaving their neighbourhood; and
 - More diversity of housing options that creates opportunities for medium and low income households.
- Major Activity Centres are suburban centres that provide access to a wide range of goods and services. They have different attributes and provide more diverse functions, with some serving larger subregional catchments; and
- Neighbourhood Activity Centres are smaller centres that provide access to local goods, services and employment opportunities and serve the essential needs of the surrounding community.

Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Activity Centre Hierarchy

Planning Scheme Amendment C148, that has recently been approved by the Minister for Planning and is awaiting gazettal, includes a rewrite of the Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme Municipal Strategic Statement and local policies. When gazetted, its policies will then be translated into the new format Planning Policy Framework, to translate the local policy content of the Planning Scheme. This translation will include a hierarchy of Yarra Ranges activity centres, to inform which centres are to be prioritised for structure planning.

The proposed hierarchy is shown below in Table 1:

Table 1

Activity Centre Type	Role
<p>Major Activity Centres</p> <p><i>Chirnside Park and Lilydale</i></p>	<p>These centres provide a large, diverse and intensive mix of retail, commercial, entertainment, cultural and other uses.</p> <p>They have strong public transport links, serve a large regional-sized catchment, and are priority locations for future private and public sector development.</p> <p>Land within and adjoining these centres is the preferred location for additional and more diverse residential development.</p>
<p>Large Neighbourhood Activity Centres</p> <p><i>Belgrave, Healesville, Kilsyth, Monbulk, Mooroolbark, Mount Evelyn, Seville, Yarra Glen, Yarra Junction</i></p>	<p>Smaller in floor space terms than Major Activities Centres, these centres have a retail mix that is focussed on convenience and grocery shopping. They also provide a range of community services to the surrounding communities.</p> <p>Some of these centres, which serve a catchment that extends into the rural hinterland, perform a significant role in the provision of community and civic services, with some also providing a range of facilities and services for tourists.</p> <p>Land within and adjoining these centres is generally an appropriate location for additional housing.</p>
<p>Small Neighbourhood Activity Centres</p> <p><i>Coldstream, Montrose, Mount Dandenong, Olinda, Sassafra, Tecoma., Upwey, Wandin North,</i></p>	<p>These centres have a more limited role in providing convenience retailing and community facilities for an immediate surrounding catchment.</p> <p>Usually, they have a small supermarket as the main anchor tenant. In some cases they also serve a tourist market.</p>

Activity Centre Type	Role
<i>Warburton, Woori Yallock.</i>	
Local Activity Centres <i>Examples include: Colby Drive - Belgrave South, Monbulk Road Silvan and Switchback Road - Chirnside Park</i>	Local Activity Centres consist of a small group of shops that typically serve a local walk-in catchment, and provide for the daily convenience and ‘top up’ needs of local residents and passing motorists. Some of these centres contain a limited number of community facilities and other uses.

Living Places Framework

The Living Places Framework, which provides a framework of options for use in planning for Yarra Ranges’ centres into the future, will be presented to Council at a future meeting. The Framework sets out criteria to determine which of Yarra Ranges’ activity centres is to be prioritised for structure planning, and which may be more appropriate for other levels of plans, such as Urban Design Frameworks or Masterplans.

KEY ISSUES

Yarra Ranges Structure Plans

The following provides an overview of the context, issues and recommended updates for each Council adopted structure plan with the exception of Lilydale that was adopted in August 2022.

Many of the updates are required to enable greater clarity and effectiveness and include:

- Deletion of actions that have been completed;
- Consolidation of similar or duplicated actions;
- Updating the nominated ‘responsible Council department’ for each action. This has been necessary as Council has restructured since many of the structure plans were adopted. These updates provide clarity on which Council department has primary responsibility for each action, which can be integrated into the Council action reporting system (Camms Strategy) for increased effectiveness;
- Updating references to outdated planning scheme zones, with the current equivalent (for example former Business 4 Zone translated to Commercial 2 Zone);
- Updating references to any State Government departments or agencies that are outdated;

- Updating wording to reflect new addresses due to subdivision approvals changing these in some instances; and
- Updating wording to remove reference to former land-owner names.

Chirnside Park Urban Design Masterplan 2010

Chirnside Park is a Major Activity Centre.

This Masterplan was written at a time when the expectations for land use in Chirnside Park were changing, with the previous industrial focus for the area found unviable, necessitating a new vision for the centre. The Masterplan proposed a high-density residential future, set around mixed-use commercial, office and entertainment land uses focussed on a local road precinct in Kimberly Drive and Fletcher Road.

While the Plan is formally named an 'Urban Design Masterplan', it addresses all the major required content of a Structure Plan and was based on background studies for land use and housing and an economic analysis.

The key actions of the Masterplan include:

- Rezoning of land to assist the centre's transition from industrial uses to the new vision for land use advanced by the Masterplan;
- Application of Planning Scheme controls to achieve the desired height and built form outcomes;
- The creation of an urban park, as a key open space asset near the shopping centre;
- A green spine pedestrian and cycle linkage along the Highway, also enabling and improved pedestrian connection across the Highway; and
- Creation of a Development Contributions Plan Overlay as a funding mechanism for the urban park and green spine projects.

Since the 2010 Council adoption of the Masterplan, a number of significant changes to the centre have occurred, including the following:

- Ministerial Planning Scheme Amendment C175 which removed Development Plan Overlay Schedule 5 for the Eastridge site to facilitate a Masters Home Improvement and Dan Murphy's store;
- The development of previously vacant sites, including the Old Colonist's site for medium density residential development (YR-2011/598), and the McMullins site a four-level residential aged car facility (YR-2018/1143); and
- A planning permit issued for a Retirement Village and a Residential Aged Care Facility and Dwellings at the Eastridge site (YR-2021/1040), and a series of

planning permits for the GPT owned shopping centre expansion (YR-2011/1536, YR-2016/1021, YR-2017/983, YR-2021/695).

A status update on all actions is at Attachment 6.

Mooroolbark Structure Plan 2011

The Mooroolbark Structure Plan was adopted soon after adoption of the 2009 Housing Strategy, which identified Mooroolbark as a centre where medium and higher density residential development were encouraged in order to improve housing diversity, due to its location near a railway station and commercial centre with excellent access to services, parks and community facilities, employment opportunities, and schools.

The key actions of the Structure Plan include:

- Planning scheme changes to allow for increased residential densities in areas within and surrounding the commercial centre;
- Encouragement to develop key redevelopment sites to accommodate higher residential densities, including the former Primary School site (now developed with three storey townhouses) and the Terrace Shopping Centre;
- Streetscape improvements to Brice Avenue, with improved linkages to key land uses such as the Red Earth Community Centre;
- Remodelling of the former train station entry, with a new village square to be created;
- Feasibility study for the Red Earth Community Centre, to also establish a future library location; and
- Improvements to Hookey Park to make it a community focal point and 'village green'.

Since adoption of the Structure Plan in 2011, the centre has been significantly changed by the level crossing removal, creation of a new train station, and a multi-level car parking structure.

A status update on all actions is at Attachment 7.

Coldstream Structure Plan 2016

The Coldstream Structure Plan was prepared to address matters raised through the Coldstream Community Plan, relating to the restricted potential for urban growth and the impact this may have on the town's range of retail, services and ongoing sporting and community participation.

The Structure Plan investigated this issue, including correspondence with the State Government. It found that the expansion of the Urban Growth Boundary to provide for greenfield urban development was not a viable option. The Structure Plan did however look at the town's opportunities for residential development, including the

key site at 638-640 Maroondah Highway, as well as improvements to its traffic and pedestrian connections, open spaces and urban design.

The key actions of the Structure Plan include:

- A requirement to engage with the Department of Transport (formerly VicRoads) over a need for improvements to traffic management, and intersections along the Maroondah Highway through the town;
- Planning scheme changes to facilitate the Structure plan vision, including:
 - Planning controls to guide residential development of the key site at 638-640 Maroondah Highway;
 - A Design and Development Overlay to guide future development in a way that is respectful of the interfaces between residential, commercial, and green wedge land; and
 - A Design and Development Overlay to allow for limited residential infill development near small parkland areas, to activate the park edges and increase user safety; and
- A requirement for the preparation of landscape masterplans for defined precincts.

A status update on all actions is at Attachment 8.

Since the adoption of the Structure Plan in 2016, significant changes and events in Coldstream have included:

- Announcement of a Federal Government commitment to a \$20 million upgrade to the Maroondah Highway between Melba Avenue and Ingram Road, in the 2019-2020 Federal Budget;
- Planning permit issued for the redevelopment site at 638-640 Maroondah Highway for a 67 lot subdivision (YR-2017/354);
- Completion of the Melba trail, linking Halley Supple Reserve to Coombe cottage, with a series of art installations along its length;
- Completion of the Yarra Valley trail link from Lilydale to Yarra Glen, with construction soon to begin on recreational facilities at the former train station site, including a pump track and picnic facilities; and
- Change of ownership for key green wedge zoned land at 535-537 Maroondah Highway, Coldstream from private ownership to Yarra Valley Water.

Healesville Structure Plan 2016

The Healesville Structure Plan, adopted by Council in 2016, underwent extensive community consultation over a two-year period, and was based on expert reports for land use planning, economy, transport and parking, environment, bushfire risk and

community infrastructure. Some of the key issues addressed by the Structure Plan include:

- Appropriate type and amount of new residential development;
- Commercial and industrial land use needs;
- Scale and form of future development in the town centre to protect the rural town character;
- A need for new and upgraded infrastructure, and community and health care services;
- How to appropriately provide for increased tourist numbers; and
- Pedestrian and cycle movement and linkages.

The key actions of the Structure Plan include:

- Planning scheme changes to achieve the Structure Plan vision, including provision for additional commercial land, and for a change to the minimum subdivision size for identified land in the Low Density Residential Zone land to 0.2 hectares (rather than 0.4 hectares);
- Planning scheme changes to provide design guidance on new development in the town centre;
- Protection of the town's street trees, and identification of a preferred streetscape character;
- A review of the Bushfire Management Overlay for the town;
- A review of parking provision and restrictions;
- Supporting key organisations and land holders, such as the RACV Club and Yarra Valley Railway, to further their objectives; and
- Advocacy for infrastructure improvements, such as for additional reticulated sewer, and services infrastructure such as phone, internet, power and water.

A status update on all actions is at Attachment 9.

Since the adoption of the Structure Plan in 2016, significant changes in Healesville have included:

- Refusal of Amendment C143 that proposed to reduce the minimum subdivision size for Low Density Residential Zone land in Healesville to 0.2 hectares from 0.4 hectares. In refusing the amendment the Minister suggested that more strategic analysis was required and that it would be more efficient to manage

this through a separate planning scheme amendment. Officers are currently working on this further analysis;

- Approval of Amendment GC13 in 2017, that updated state wide mapping for the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO), resulting in the entire township of Healesville being covered by the BMO. The amendment also introduced BMO schedules, intended to streamline the planning permit process for applicants and councils by pre-setting bushfire protection measures and not requiring referral to the CFA if all requirements are met. The schedules were applied to central Healesville and some surrounding areas. This significantly changed expectations of planning for bushfire risk in Healesville;
- Planning approval for an Aldi supermarket at 175 Maroondah Highway, Healesville (YR-2016/640), which is a second supermarket for Healesville, identified as a need in the Structure Plan;
- Master planning work and construction of Lilydale Road including improved parking capacity; and
- Works to create a new Tarrawarra Train Station, which involves the relocation of the former Mooroolbark Train Station, as part of the Yarra Valley Railway.

It should be noted that one of the key changes proposed to the actions for Healesville is the deletion of Action 2.8.

This action states that Healesville's Special Use zoned major tourist facilities sites should be rezoned to the underlying zone (a rural zone in each instance), if there has been no planning permit issued within a five-year period of adoption of the Structure Plan, and no exhibition of any proposal to amend the planning scheme. This action contradicts Action 2.7, which seeks to work with the land-owners of the sites to review the current planning provisions. Action 2.7 is considered a more constructive approach to the sites' future use and development.

Monbulk Structure Plan 2017

The Monbulk Structure Plan was prepared following the announcement of Yarra Valley Water works to provide a reticulated sewer connection to the town, meaning limitations on residential growth and development changed. The Structure Plan explored the implications of further residential development, given bushfire and other environmental risks, and preferred locations. It also made recommendations addressing employment, the town centre, the environment and Council owned land, particularly the Moores Road Precinct.

The key actions of the Structure Plan include:

- Work with relevant government agencies (CFA, Yarra Valley Water) to determine the appropriate extent and density of future housing development, based on proposed areas designated in the Structure Plan;
- Activate the Main Street as a vibrant, pedestrian-oriented town centre, with landscape and public realm improvements;

- Apply a Design and Development Overlay to the town centre, based on the design guidelines in the Structure Plan;
- Provide policy support for use of existing industrial areas for services that support the town; and
- Explore opportunities for smaller housing or assisted living in the Moores Road Precinct, if existing facilities can be relocated, and create design guidelines for this area based on the Structure Plan.

A status update on all actions is at Attachment 10. Since the adoption of the Structure Plan in 2017, significant changes in Monbulk have included:

- Approval of Amendment GC13 in 2017, that updated state-wide mapping for the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) that resulted in the entire Monbulk township area being affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO). This significantly changed the expectations for planning for bushfire risk, and meant that further bushfire investigations were required to support any additional residential development occurring; and
- The completion of Yarra Valley Water sewer works in July 2022, that will serve the entire area within Monbulk's urban growth boundary, as well as some areas outside it. It provides an additional capacity for a potential 327 new dwellings.

Options considered

Option 1

That Council adopt the recommended updates to the structure plan action lists for Chirnside Park, Mooroolbark, Coldstream, Healesville, and Monbulk (Attachments 1-5) to replace the current action lists (Attachments 6-10).

Option 2

That Council require further review of the Structure Plan action lists in order to address any issues identified with the proposed updates.

Option 3

That Council do not update the existing Structure Plan action lists.

Recommended option and justification

Option 1 is recommended. The updates will remove redundant actions, clarify responsibility for implementation, and renew relevance of the actions with regard to changes to each centre since adoption. These changes will make the actions more accessible, more useable, and more easily integrated into the work program of relevant Council departments. This will extend the relevance and usefulness of the action lists in future years.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Implementation of structure plan actions, where actions are within Council's remit, occurs from ongoing operational budgets.

The updated action plans contain some actions with budgetary implications, which are listed in Attachment 11. The estimated cost of the actions recommended by this report is \$175,000.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

Relevant Council strategies and plans include:

- Connected - Integrated Transport Strategy 2020-2040;
- Liveable Climate Plan 2020;
- Recreation and Open Space Strategy (currently under review);
- Housing Strategy 2009 (currently under review); and
- Economic Development Strategy 2012 (currently under review).

State and local planning strategies and plans encourage Structure Plans to be completed for Major Activity Centres, including:

- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050;
- The Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme:
 - Clause 11.02-2S Structure planning;
 - Clause 11.03-1S Activity centres;
 - Clause 11.03-1R Activity centres - Metropolitan Melbourne; and
 - Clause 21.05 Settlement.

RELEVANT LAW

In carrying out its planning functions under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, Council has a responsibility as the Planning Authority to set the strategic policy framework for the municipality and to initiate changes to the planning scheme. Structure planning for activity centres is a key means to achieve this.

Planning Practice Note 58 *Structure Planning for Activity Centres (DELWP, September 2018)*, sets the standards and required content, methodology and process for creation of Structure Plans by local government.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Structure plans aim to support local business activity through targeted changes to the physical environment, development capacity, and other initiatives.

Indirectly, the preparation of structure plans may lead to increased investment confidence in activity centres, and stimulate investment in the long term.

Social Implications

Structure plans aim to create more vibrant and cohesive centres, which are intended to foster social connectedness and wellbeing, through the application of 20-minute city principles as described earlier in this report under 'Background'.

Structure plans also generally consider issues of affordable housing, and the need for ageing in place.

Environmental Implications

Structure plans consider environmental and sustainability objectives, aiming to improve the environmental performance of centres through various strategies. These strategies include promoting active and public transport, supporting higher density transit-oriented development, supporting improved tree canopy cover, and improved connections with natural features such as creeks and parkland.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

All the Structure Plan's underwent significant community consultation in their preparation. The proposed action updates are considered to be policy-neutral as they are intended to audit and update the existing structure plan actions only.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

No collaboration with other agencies was required as part of this audit and update work.

The updating of structure plan actions to extend their relevance and longevity is consistent with innovation and continuous improvement principles.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Without an update, the structure plan actions will decrease in relevance and clarity as time passes, which undermines the significant Council resources and community consultation undertaken to create the structure plans.

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. Chirnside Park Urban Design Masterplan Updated Action List (Published Separately)
2. Mooroolbark Structure Plan Updated Action List (Published Separately)
3. Coldstream Structure Plan Updated Action List (Published Separately)
4. Healesville Structure Plan Updated Action List (Published Separately)
5. Monbulk Structure Plan Updated Action List (Published Separately)
6. Chirnside Park Urban Design Masterplan Action Status Update (Published Separately)
7. Mooroolbark Structure Plan Action Status Update (Published Separately)
8. Coldstream Structure Plan Action Status Update (Published Separately)
9. Healesville Structure Plan Action Status Update (Published Separately)
10. Monbulk Structure Plan Action Status Update (Published Separately)
11. Amended Actions with Additional Costing Summary (Published Separately)

COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES & EXTERNAL BODIES

Report Author: Governance Coordinator
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

Each year Council appoints representatives to a number of committees and external bodies.

Approval is sought to appoint Council representation to the committees and external bodies listed for the period November 2022 to November 2023. This also includes the four Regional Community Recovery Committees (RCRCs) established by Council and due for expiry June 2023.

A list of the appointments recommended to be made to committees and external bodies is included at Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the appointment of representatives to committees and external bodies for the period November 2022 to November 2023, as per Attachment 1 to the report.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Current appointments to committees and external bodies were made at the Council meeting held on 23 November 2021.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

The appointment of representatives to the committees and external bodies listed ensures that the interests of Council can continue to be properly represented, together with those of the wider community. As delegates, Councillors are provided with an opportunity at each Council Meeting to provide verbal reports in respect of their attendance at meetings of the committees and external bodies to which they have been appointed.

Requirements for all appointees representing Council

In considering the appointments to committees and external bodies, it is important that Councillors:

1. Clearly understand the basis of their appointment;
2. Commit to attending meetings of committees and external bodies they have been appointed to;
3. Recognise the differences in their obligations as a delegate or member of the governing body of an external organisation;
4. Understand that in claiming any reasonable, bona-fide out of pocket expenses incurred as a result of their appointment, they are required to sign a declaration that they have not received reimbursement from any other sources;
5. Understand that the provisions of the Councillor Code of Conduct apply when representing Council on external organisations;
6. Are aware that the Local Government Act 2020 and Local Government (Integrity and Governance) Regulations 2020 provide for an exemption from the conflicts of interest requirements for Councillors, where an interest only arises because they are the representative of Council on a not-for-profit organisation and they receive no personal advantage or remuneration from the not-for-profit organisation; and
7. Report back to Council on meetings they have attended of the body or organisation they have been appointed to and ensure Minutes are made available to their fellow Councillors. Provision is made on the agenda of each Council Meeting for this to occur

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Any costs that may be associated with a Councillor's role as delegate can be met from within approved budgets.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The appointment of representatives to the committees and external bodies listed ensures that the interests of Council continue to be properly represented, together with those of the wider community, and therefore contributes to meeting Council's strategic objectives.

RELEVANT LAW

Advisory committees are defined in the *Local Government Act 1989* as being any committee established by the Council, other than a special committee, that provides advice to the Council; or a special committee; or a member of Council staff who has been delegated a power, duty or function of the Council.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

There are no economic impacts associated with this report.

Social Implications

Councillors can attend and report back to Council on the various meetings and events of the committees and external bodies to which they have been appointed.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental impacts associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No community consultation has been undertaken in respect of the recommendations in this report. The committees and external bodies listed within the attachments to this report will be notified of appointments once made by Council.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Not relevant.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Councillors should consider the implications and responsibilities of being involved with committees and external bodies, as they must:

- Continue to comply with the Councillor Code of Conduct when acting as a representative of the Council; and

- Comply with any code of conduct of the committee or external body they are appointed to, if one exists.

Councillors are recommended to ensure that when they take up their appointment with a committee or external body they have access to the key documents regulating the organisation, such as its constitution or terms of reference, to ensure they are aware of what the body can and cannot do, and receive a briefing on the body or their role within it if necessary.

A risk exists if a delegate were to not regularly attend meetings of the body they have been appointed to. This could hinder Council in furthering its interests and priorities, and those of the community.

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. Appointments to External and Other Bodies 2022-2023

Appointments to Committees and External Bodies

Committee	Term	2022/23 Councillors
Agribusiness Yarra Valley (One representative required and one substitute)	1 year	Cr Eastham Cr McAllister (sub)
Audit and Risk Management Committee (Two representatives required)	1 year	Cr Child Cr McAllister
Burrinja (One representative required)	1 year	Cr Eastham
Disability Advisory Committee (Two representatives required, one as Chair)	4 years	Cr Cox (Chair) Cr Higgins appointed on 8 December 2020 for a 4 year term. <i>Appointment is not required until 2024.</i>
Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance (One representative required)	2 years	Cr Heenan Cr Todorov (sub) <i>Appointment is not required until 2023.</i>
Eastern Alliance of Greenhouse Action (One representative required)	1 year	Cr Skelton
Your Library Est June 2022 – formally known as Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation (Two representatives required)	1 year	Cr Fullagar Cr Child
Eastern Transport Coalition (One representative required as Chair, and one substitute)	1 year	Cr Higgins Cr Fullagar
Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee (One representative required as Chair, and one substitute)	1 year	Cr Todorov (Chair) Cr Fullagar (sub)
Interface Councils (Mayor required as representative and Deputy Mayor as substitute)	1 year	Cr Child Cr Todorov (sub)
Jack Hort Memorial Indoor Pool Management Committee (Ryrie Ward Councillor to be appointed)	2 years	Cr McAllister To be appointed on 13 December 2022 for a 2 year term.
Metropolitan Education Traffic Centre (METEC) Board (One representative required)	2 years	Cr Higgins To be appointed on 13 December 2022 for a 2 year term.

Appointments to Committees and External Bodies

Committee	Term	2021/22 Councillors
Municipal Association of Victoria (Mayor traditionally appointed as representative and Deputy Mayor appointed as substitute)	1 year	Cr Child Cr Todorov (sub)
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (One representative required and one substitute)	1 year	Cr Child Cr Todorov (sub)
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (One representative required and one substitute)	1 year	Cr Child Cr Skelton (sub)
Positive Ageing Reference Group (One representative required)	5 years * * appointed for term of office only	Cr Higgins Cr Cox (sub) appointed on 8 December 2020 for their term of office. Appointment is not required until 2024.
Regional Community Recovery Committees - Hills (One representative required as Co-Chair and one substitute)	To 30 June 2023	Cr Skelton Cr Eastham (sub)
Regional Community Recovery Committees - Urban (One representative required as Co-Chair and one substitute)	To 30 June 2023	Cr Heenan Cr Higgins (sub)
Regional Community Recovery Committees – Upper Yarra (One representative required as Co-Chair)	To 30 June 2023	Cr Child
Regional Community Recovery Committees - Valley (One representative required as Co-Chair)	To 30 June 2023	Cr McAllister
Rural Advisory Committee (One representative required as Chair and one substitute)	2 years	Cr Eastham (Chair) Cr McAllister (sub) To be appointed on 13 December 2022 for a 2 year term.
Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee (Two representatives required, one as Chair)	1 year	Cr Skelton (Chair) Cr Heenan

Appointments to Committees and External Bodies

Committee	Term	2021/22 Councillors
Indigenous Advisory Committee (Two representatives required)	1 year	Cr McAllister Cr Skelton (sub)
Yarra Ranges Regional Museum Trust (Two representatives required)	1 year	Cr Higgins Cr Heenan
Yarra Valley ECOSS (One representative required)	1 year	Cr Child

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ANNUAL REPORT

Report Author: Executive Officer Emergency Management

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

This report is to note the status of Bushfire Shelter Options within the municipality of Yarra Ranges.

Annual Audits have been completed for the existing 18 designated Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) in Yarra Ranges. Eighteen (18) sites are currently designated NSPs and comply with the required assessment criteria and as such, will maintain their status as designated NSP's for the 2022/23 fire danger period.

Three existing Community Fire Refuges (CFRs) are still commissioned by Emergency Management Victoria and will be retained within the municipality. These buildings are state owned managed assets, listed on both the CFA and Yarra Ranges Council websites.

No additional NSP or CFR sites have been established for the 2022/2023 fire danger period.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council notes

- 1. eighteen (18) Neighbourhood Safer Places remain designated for the 2022/2023 fire danger period and three (3) Community Fire Refuges managed by Emergency Management Victoria remain designated for the 2022/2023 fire danger period.***
- 2. the Seville Recreation Reserve, First Oval Upon Entry, 20-28 Monbulk-Seville Road, Seville is not compliant for the 2022/2023 year. The oval continues to be decommissioned due to oval resurfacing maintenance.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

No related Council decisions with regard to the NSP or CFR sites for the 2022/2023 fire danger period.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

In accordance with the Country Fire Authority Act, Local Government are to identify, designate, establish and maintain suitable sites as NSPs in their municipal districts. The CFA conducts an annual assessment of each NSP to ensure compliance with the assessment guidelines.

Neighbourhood Safer Places, also known as Places of Last Resort, are not intended to replace a personal bushfire survival plan. The CFA advises that everyone should have a written Bushfire Survival Plan. The CFA advises that there is no guarantee that people will not be injured or killed by fire or radiant heat when travelling to or sheltering at a Neighbourhood Safer Place - Place of Last Resort.

Following the introduction of the NSP legislation, Yarra Ranges Council currently has 18 designated NSP's within the municipality.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

There will be minimal costs for installation and maintenance of signage at each location and periodic inspections to ensure that the sites comply with the assessment criteria. All sites are subject to ongoing maintenance programs which are maintained within current budgets.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

Neighbourhood Safer Places Annual Report contributes to the following strategic objectives in the Council Plan:

- Connected and Healthy Communities
- Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places

The report also ensures Council is responsive to:

- Bushfire Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.
- Yarra Ranges Council Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan
- Country Fire Authority Act 1958 - Section 50J

RELEVANT LAW

Municipal councils of which are wholly or partly in the country area of Victoria, identify potential suitable locations, designate, establish and maintain NSP-BPLRs within their municipal district, pursuant to provisions within Part IIIA, Division 3 of the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (CFA Act). The Country Fire Authority (CFA) supports municipal councils in the establishment of NSP-BPLRs as a last resort option for communities living in high-risk areas (and people visiting, working in or traveling though high-risk areas).

Economic Implications

In meeting the criteria for ongoing designation as an NSP no economic impacts are expected as a result.

Social Implications

The social impacts of a designated NSP are minimal until they are used during an emergency. In the instance of the decommissioned site at Seville for this fire danger period, communications are to be shared across Council and the CFA to inform local residents and visitors of the nearest NSPs.

Environmental Implications

In meeting the criteria for ongoing designation as an NSP some vegetation maintenance may be required around sites. Where required, Council works with neighbouring property owners to achieve required vegetation maintenance.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Country Fire Authority, Victoria Police, relevant landowners/managers, and Yarra Ranges Council staff are consulted during the NSP assessment process.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

In 2022 updated signage has commenced in consultation with the CFA to improve accessibility, this has been commended by the CFA as an innovative addition.

All Neighbourhood Safer Places and Community Fire Refuges within Yarra Ranges have been reassessed. They have been found to comply with the assessment guidelines and will be available for use by the community for the 2022/2023 fire danger period.

RISK ASSESSMENT

In meeting the criteria for ongoing designation as an NSP, each year a risk assessment is carried out by Council, CFA and Victoria Police representatives to ensure designated NSP's still meet relevant criteria.

Community education and information will provide consistent key messages to highlight the role of NSP's. NSP's are a place of last resort and do not replace the

need for residents to have a bushfire plan. Travelling to a NSP may be dangerous because of traffic congestion, fire activity, heavy smoke, accidents or fallen trees blocking the route.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil

ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT

1. Neighbourhood Safer Places Municipal List

There are eighteen (18) designated (published) Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) within Yarra Ranges Municipality to retain designation for the 2022/2023 fire danger period

Neighbourhood Safer Places or Places of Last Resort within Yarra Ranges Municipality			
NSP ID	Township	Location	Address
1000008394	Belgrave	Recreation Reserve (Oval)	Reserve Road Belgrave 3160
1000009211	Belgrave	Belgrave Alexanders Carpark	Alexanders Car Park – Terrys Ave, Belgrave 3160
1000008492	Coldstream	Halley Supple Reserve (Oval)	Bounded by South Gateway and North Gateway Coldstream 3770
1000009803	Dixons Creek	Dixons Creek Recreation Reserve (Oval)	Melba Highway (between Pinnacle Lane and Lorimers Lane) Dixons Creek 3775
1000008493	Healesville	Queens Park	Bounded by Don Rd, Maroondah Hwy & Badger Creek Rd (entry off Don Road) Healesville 3777
1000009273	Healesville	RACV Healesville Country Club Underground Car Park	Healesville-Kinglake Road (near corner Chum Creek Road) Healesville 3777
1000008374	Lilydale	Recreational Reserve area	Main Street (Maroondah Highway) opposite Hutchinson Street Lilydale 3140
1000008410	Lilydale	Lake Park (Between Car Park, Playground and Rotunda)	Swansea Road Lilydale 3140
1000022819	Millgrove	Millgrove Recreation Reserve	Moore Crescent Millgrove 3799
1000008512	Monbulk	Monbulk Recreational Reserve (Oval)	Moores Road (near McAllister Road) Monbulk 3793
1000008504	Mount Evelyn	Yarra Hills Secondary School (Oval)	Bounded by Old Hereford Road, Mikado Road and Burdap Drive (Reserve access Road) Mount Evelyn 3796
1000008408	Upwey	Upwey Recreation Reserve (Oval)	Alexander Ave (opposite Austral Ave) entry also via Chosen Ave Upwey 3158
1000009219	Upwey	Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre 'Burrinja' (Rear Car Park)	Corner Glenfern Road and Matson Drive Upwey 3158
1000009281	Wandin North	Wandin North Reserve (Oval)	Corner Clegg Road and Warburton Highway Wandin North 3139
1000009503	Warburton	Warburton Recreation Reserve (Oval)	3455 Warburton Highway Warburton 3799
1000009817	Woori Yallock	Woori Yallock Recreation Reserve (Oval)	Healesville-Koo Wee Rup Road opposite Nester Road Woori Yallock 3139
1000009235	Yarra Glen	Yarra Valley Racing Centre Yarra Glen (carpark area)	Armstrong Grove Yarra Glen 3775
1000008503	Yarra Junction	Recreation Reserve (Oval)	Park Road (off Warburton Highway) Yarra Junction 3797

There are three (3) Community Fire Refuge (CFR) locations within Yarra Ranges municipality which will remain designated during the 22/23 fire danger period. Yarra Ranges Council has no designation responsibility for CFRs.

Community Fire Refuge (CFR) locations within Yarra Ranges municipality as endorsed by the Fire Services Commissioner		
Township	Location	Address
East Warburton	Millwarra Primary School. E Warb Campus	Woods Point Rd East Warburton
Ferny Creek	Ferny Creek Primary School	School Rd Ferny Creek
Millgrove	Wesburn/Millgrove CFA Fire Station	Warburton Highway, Millgrove

DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2022-2026

Report Author: Disability Inclusion Officer

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 Disability Advisory Committee (DAC) was established in 2012 as an advisory committee to Council. It assists in the consultative process for a wide range of activities and initiatives, provides advice to support Council's decision making and monitors the achievement of objectives of the Equity, Access and Inclusion Strategy.

The Disability Advisory Committee is appointed by Council for a four year term. The process for recruiting a new advisory committee has been conducted and recommendations are presented in this report for membership of the 2022-2026 Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

1. ***Appoints the following representatives to the 2022-2026 Disability Advisory Committee:***
 - (a) ***Representatives of people with disability - Michelle McDonald, James Wood, Isabella O'Hara, Paul Stoney, Marie Pleuger and Allyson Lees***
 - (b) ***Unpaid Carer representatives - Shek Kho, Tracey Wannet and Renae Purcell***
 - (c) ***Service Providers/representative of Community Organisations - Lesley Grimes – Belgravia Leisure, Julie McDonald – Montrose All abilities Netball group, Lisa McIlfatrick – Capability in Action***
2. ***Directs officers to notify the new members of their appointment and extend Council's congratulations.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference adopted by Council on 27 July 2021; and
- Access, Equity and Inclusion Strategy (2013-2023) endorsed. Page 14

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

An expression of interest was advertised through Council's website, social media, local media and through communications to the sector and other relevant local and peak community organisations, for individuals, representatives of service providers and community organisations interested in being a member of the DAC.

The recruitment process involved written applications followed by shortlisting candidates for interview. Interviews were conducted by the Disability Advisory Committee Chair, the Disability Inclusion Officer and a council staff member with broad professional and lived personal experience. This experience included as a carer for more than 30 years and extensive experience across the sector in NDIS planning and engagement (including holding the lead for the Victoria/Tasmanian portfolios for CALD, Indigenous, LGBTIQ+ and "Hard to Reach" communities) and in the private sector as a Senior Support Coordinator.

Options considered

Council is presented with a group of proposed members who:

- Represent a diverse range of disability and life experiences (6 members);
- Have the unpaid carer perspective, which is a critical group in our community with unique needs and experiences (3 members); and
- Bring the skills and expertise of local service providers and community organisation representatives (3 members).

The proposed new DAC includes some former members and new members. This provides a balance of experience and fresh input to this important advisory committee.

Over the past four years the role and influence of the DAC has grown. A key commitment to the inaugural DAC was that Council would genuinely and openly seek the advice of the DAC on important decisions. The retiring DAC commented on the value of this to the people they represent.

The DAC continues to be a critical advisory committee for council officers, gaining insight and input into processes, projects, plans and strategies. This work will continue and strengthen with the new DAC.

Recommended option and justification

Council endorse the recommended appointments to the DAC listed above.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The expenditure associated with the operation of the Disability Advisory Committee is met through the approved operational budget. This includes the costs of advertising the Advisory Committee recruitment and ongoing operational expenditure.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The establishment of the DAC contributes to the following strategic objectives:

- The Council Plan: Connected and Healthy Communities; and
- Yarra Ranges Health and Wellbeing Plan: To promote inclusive and equitable communities.

The Disability Advisory Committee directly relates to the Health and Wellbeing Plan and the Equity, Access and Inclusion Strategy.

The Committee will also be a key advisor for the development of Yarra Ranges Council's upcoming Disability Action Plan (2023).

RELEVANT LAW

Council is required by legislation to develop a Disability Action Plan. The Disability Advisory Committee plays a key role in the development and implementation of this plan. In recruiting members, Council strives to establish a committee that is diverse and representative of the community. This includes, but is not exclusive to, Aboriginality, gender, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, culture, nationality, refugee or asylum seeker background, migration or visa status, language, religion, ability, age, mental health, socioeconomic status, housing status, and geographic location.

The proposed membership aligns with the requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020, in ensuring diverse representation.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental impacts arising from the recommendations in this report.

Economic Implications

The DAC has previously promoted economic participation of people with a disability. Achieving greater participation of people with a disability within the workforce presents significant economic opportunities for local communities including increased spending at local businesses and through tourism for example. This

involves removing barriers, creating awareness of the opportunities and informing and resourcing businesses. The DAC will continue to offer this advice and support Council's efforts.

Social Implications

The social impacts of the DAC are many. Feedback from the retiring DAC members indicated positive impacts of the DAC arising from:

- Having a voice and being heard;
- Representing their community on important local issues;
- Influencing projects to include the needs and aspirations of people with a disability; and
- Engaging with other people with a shared commitment to improving access and inclusion for all.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications for this recommendation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

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

RISK ASSESSMENT

The process undertaken has ensured Council recruits a balanced representation of people with disability, unpaid carers and service providers to provide advice to Council across a diverse range of issues relevant to Council's role and responsibilities. The Terms of Reference bring clarity to the role and responsibilities of the Committee, its members and those who support it.

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

No Attachments

2022-2026 BURRINJA CULTURAL CENTRE PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Report Author: Manager Creative & Connected Communities

Responsible Officer: Director Communities

Ward(s) affected: Streeton;

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

For nearly twenty years, Council has supported Burrinja Cultural Centre (Burrinja) as a key strategic partner via funding and representation on the independent Board.

The most recent agreement between Burrinja and Council expired on 30 June 2022 and there have been delays in finalising a new agreement. The Burrinja Board have been briefed and kept updated on the delay and work towards a new agreement.

This report presents the draft 2022-2026 agreement with a proposal to increase the term from 3 to 4 years with two further 1 year options to extend the agreement and includes updated key performance indicators (KPI's) which better align with key Council strategies. (See attachment 1 – Draft 2022-2026 Burrinja Partnership Agreement).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the 2022-2026 Burrinja Cultural Centre Partnership Agreement which includes:

- (a) A 4 year term with two further 1 year options to extend;***
- (b) Annual funding of \$592,885 for the term of the agreement; and***
- (c) Updated KPI's which better align with Burrinja Cultural Centre and Council Strategies.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

In 2016 Council endorsed a multi-year partnership program that is open and competitive. In doing so Council identified that in the case of Burrinja there are specific service-related outcomes that are different from other partners. Council agreed that the partnership should not be open to competition.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Burrinja Cultural Centre (Burrinja) is the operational name for the Dandenong Ranges Community Cultural Centre Inc. Burrinja occupies the previous Shire of Sherbrook council offices through a lease agreement with Council. Council undertook a redevelopment of the facility in 2012 establishing a 400 seat performing arts centre and then in 2021 upgraded the galleries, studios and café. The cultural centre is a not-for-profit arts organisation and registered charity, incorporated in 1999. Burrinja is governed by an independent Board, which includes Yarra Ranges Council representation.

Burrinja is an important cultural institution, which provides valuable services and support to our community. This has been particularly important in recent times when local creatives have been hard hit and the broader community is in need of places to support creative expression, joy and connection.

Council funds Burrinja via a multi-year Partnership Agreement which has historically been for a period of 3 years.

In recent years despite the challenges of the pandemic and its impact on creative industries, Burrinja has been able to progress through a period of growth and change.

Partnership Outcomes

The Partnering Agreement with Council, formed in 2012, initiated a mutually beneficial alliance between Burrinja and Council to ensure effective planning, development and delivery of arts and cultural services for the region in keeping with the aims and objectives of Burrinja and relevant Council policies including Council's Creative Communities Strategy.

Burrinja delivers programming, artist workspaces and collection management services as well as the full operation of the facility via a lease agreement with Council.

In the 2021-22 financial year, Burrinja welcomed over 30,000 audience members and supported almost 800 artists with over 600 unique artworks shown in the gallery.

Programming highlights included a creative response to the June 2021 storm event with curated exhibitions, community engagement and artist commissions, open studios, free workshops and outdoor music festivals.

Burrinja have contributed to the local community via auspicing services and giving in-kind project management support to community projects. They continue to support community events and have partnerships with key community groups and facilities.

Through leveraging Council's partnership, Burrinja have been successful in securing multi-year funding of \$100,000 annually from Creative Victoria which will increase their impact in driving community outcomes. They have also secured funding to add crucial humidity control capability to gallery spaces, further improving this state of art facility.

(See Attachment 2 for the Burrinja Cultural Centre 2021-2022 Annual Report).

2018-2021 Partnership Agreement

The previous agreement between Council and Burrinja was approved by officers under delegation.

The 2018-2021 agreement was extended for 12 months under the CEO's delegation and ended on 30 June 2022.

In accordance with the contract terms a review of the contract period was conducted to ensure continued alignment with objectives. The previous four year contract period delivered many challenges to the Burrinja team with a change in leadership, Covid impacts, and a community heavily impacted by the storm event. Throughout this period Burrinja continued to deliver uninterrupted service to the community which included online and digital engagement, provision of a work hub during ongoing power outages and deep engagement in cultural recovery activities. The review conducted by Council officers found that the service that is provided by Burrinja continues to be required to meet the cultural needs of the local community with the key finding being to update KPI's to have a stronger alignment with Councils Creative Communities Strategy and the Burrinja Strategic and Creative Plan 2021-2025.

2022-2026 Partnership Agreement

In the context of the agreement ending on 30 June 2022, Council officers have been in regular contact with Burrinja management regarding their funding needs and Burrinja indicated their financial position is stable and instead of extending the previous agreement for a further 12 months, their preference is to enter into a new agreement incorporating improvements recommended from the previous agreement.

The recommended improvements are:

- Clearer and measurable KPIs which better align with Burrinja Cultural Centre's Business Plan and Strategic Plan as well as with key Council strategies; and
- Aligning the Partnership Agreement with the 4 year Lease Agreement to streamline processes and provide a level of certainty with all touch points between Burrinja and Council.

In 2020 Burrinja appointed a new Creative Director who undertook a process to develop a new strategic plan. This work involved considerable community engagement and consultation with Council officers to develop a plan that is underpinned by both a Creative Plan and Business Plan.

The Burrinja Strategic and Creative Plan 2021-2025 is embedded in the Partnership Agreement (See Attachment 1 – Draft 2022-2026 Burrinja Partnership Agreement Schedule 2 pg 18) and outlines four key focus areas:

- Enabling, facilitating, and developing creative practice;
- Strengthening communities through art;
- Championing multiple voices and cultural values; and
- Developing leadership and sustainability

The four key focus areas form the basis of the updated KPI's that have been established with four clear measurable actions relating to each focus area. (See Attachment 1 – Draft 2022-2026 Burrinja Partnership Agreement – Schedule 10).

Options considered

Rollover the previous agreement with existing KPI's. This was deemed not suitable as the KPI's did not adequately align with key Council strategies and the changing situation within the creative sector.

Extend the previous agreement by 12 months to allow time to develop updated KPI's. With the objective to align all agreements between Burrinja and Council, this would delay the renewal of the new lease agreement. Burrinja also indicated their preference to develop a new agreement in line with their Strategic and Creative Plan 2021-2025.

Recommended option and justification

Finalise a new agreement backdated to 1 July 2022 for a period of 4 years which aligns with the Lease Agreement and reflects KPI's which contribute to the Burrinja Strategic and Creative Plan 2021-2025.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The total funding allocated to Burrinja from the 2018-2021 agreement including the 12 month extension was \$2,268,678 over the term of the agreement and extension. This included an annual increase by CPI.

The 2022-2026 agreement provides annual funding of \$592,885 for the term of the agreement. This amounts to \$2,371,540 over the 4 year term not including two further 1 year options to extend.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

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

“Connected and Healthy Communities”

Communities are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially well connected. Quality services are accessible to everyone.

“Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places”

Quality facilities and infrastructure meets current and future needs. Places are well planned and are hubs of activity that foster wellbeing, creativity and innovation.

And aligns with the following strategies, plans and policies:

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Creative Communities Strategy;
- Equity Access and Inclusion Strategy;
- Child and Youth Strategy;
- Healthy and Active Ageing Plan; and
- Reconciliation Framework for Action and Reconciliation Policy.

RELEVANT LAW

The agreement includes a statement about commitment to Council’s Gender Equity vision and meeting requirements of the Gender Equality Act 2020.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Burrinja provides Yarra Ranges with a valuable attraction which can draw economic benefit to the region due to their programming offering and initiatives delivered. Burrinja also contributes to the Creative Industry by offering a high quality working space for local creatives.

Social Implications

Burrinja is an important cultural institution, which provides valuable services and support to our community particularly at a time when local creatives have been hard hit and the broader community is in need of places to support creative expression, joy and connection.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There is no requirement for community engagement

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Burrinja management and internal Council departments have been consulted in developing this agreement.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risk	Mitigation
Impact on community of not supporting Burrinja with funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New agreement with improved KPI's is finalised • Ongoing evaluation of Burrinja programming outcomes • Designated contract manager from Council
Not receiving best value for funding provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust monitoring process including regular meetings with Burrinja management • Improved KPI's to better align to Council strategies and Burrinja's strategic plan • Monitoring and completion of reporting as required • Councillor representation on the Burrinja Board • Designated contract manager from Council

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. Attachment 1 – Draft 2022-2026 Burrinja Partnership Agreement (Published Separately)
2. Attachment 2 – Burrinja Cultural Centre 2021-2022 Annual Report (Published Separately)

MUNICIPAL RECOVERY PLAN VERSION 3

Report Author: Executive Officer - Evaluation & Service Planning

Responsible Officer: Director Recovery

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards)

The author 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 Municipal Recovery Plan (MRP) Version 3 (Attachment 1) details the actions Yarra Ranges Council, in partnership with the State Government, support agencies and community groups, will undertake in response to the storm and pandemic. Through these initiatives, Council will support recovery from impacts of the 9 June storm event and the Covid-19 pandemic.

The first version of the MRP was endorsed by Council at its meeting held on 14 December 2021. This third version of the MRP has been extensively updated with the most recent storm and pandemic impact data, expenditure data, cultural recovery priorities, and details the anticipated recovery timeframe going forward and a revised action plan.

Unlike previous versions of the MRP, version 3 is fully funded excluding those actions that are identified in the Advocacy section of the Action Plan.

The MRP clearly identifies that the majority of the remaining recovery activities will be delivered by June 2024, with a small number of activities continuing beyond this point supporting residents still progressing with rebuilding and ongoing trauma.

With the maturing of this recovery strategy we enter the next phase of recovery, focusing on the medium and long-term needs which can be sustainably supported through Council's standard business units.

Included with this report is Attachment 2 – Progress Against Recovery Activities. This document provides an overview of recovery activities to date and includes the expected completion dates for each stream of recovery activity as it is defined in the MRP.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Notes the recovery activities completed to date; and**
- 2. Endorses the attached Municipal Recovery Plan Version 3.**

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 14 June 2022

- Item 7.1 Municipal Recovery Plan Update for noting

Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 12 April 2022

- Item 7.1 Municipal Recovery Plan Update for noting

Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 14 December 2021

- Item 7.1 Municipal Recovery Plan for endorsement and Storm Recovery Update for noting

Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 14 September 2021

- Item 7.5 Draft Financial Plan 2021/22 – 2030/31 for adoption in principle
- Item 7.6 Community Recovery Committees

Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 27 July 2021

- Item 9.1 Special Resident Storm Branch Kerbside Collection

Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 13 July 2021

- Item 9.1 Urgent Motion – Storm Recovery Assistance

DISCUSSION

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an overview of the MRP Version 3, and request Council endorsement of this plan.

Version 3 of the MRP has been revised substantially with updates drawing from additional consultation, data gathering and research.

This version of the MRP includes refined and amalgamated actions in the Action Plan. This rationalisation of actions is based on feedback from both internal and external stakeholders.

In addition, the MRP clarifies the expected timeframe required to support the remaining complex needs in the community and the transition of these ongoing needs into sustainable arrangements within the standard Council structure.

Eighteen months after the June 2021 storm

18 months after the storm event, progress has been made against many of the actions that were detailed in the first two versions of the MRP. The first two versions were ambitious, detailing actions to address both the needs that had been identified and also those that were anticipated (e.g. an increase in family violence).

However, with research indicating that major events require at least a five-year recovery window, it is unsurprising that several recovery priorities remain. On this basis, Council is expecting to have some level of engagement with the impacts of the June 2021 storm for at least a further 3.5 years.

The MRP continues to include six action plans that have been revised based on the latest data and consultation. These are:

- Advocacy;
- Planning and Rebuilding;
- Environment and Biodiversity;
- Public Infrastructure;
- Business, Tourism and Economy; and
- People, Culture and Wellbeing

An overview of the progress made against active and completed actions is provided in *Attachment 2 – Progress Against Recovery Activities*.

Although the number of respondents is reducing, results from Council's most recent *Pandemic & Storm Impact Survey* (undertaken in June 2022) show some improvement in levels of anxiety or trauma relating to the storm (down 9% since June 2021), a reduction in green waste on private property (down 19% since June 2021) and a reduction in dangerous trees on private property (down 3% since June 2021).¹

However, there remains many ongoing issues identified through this survey and several other engagement avenues, the most critical of which are explored below.

Trauma

Many residents that are in contact with both Council Recovery Teams and partner agencies, have discussed feeling anxious when there are strong winds and heavy rain, particularly in relation to the recent heavy rains. 23% of respondents to Council's June 2022 *Pandemic & Storm Impact Survey* -continue to experience anxiety or trauma related to the June 2021 storm.² Trauma in The Hills region is

¹ Yarra Ranges Pandemic & Storm Impact Survey – Jun 2022

² Yarra Ranges Pandemic & Storm Impact Survey – Jun 2022

even higher with 35% of respondents reporting ongoing trauma / anxiety as of June 2022.³

This level of trauma is particularly concerning with the pending closure of the State Government Funded - Recovery Support Program. This service provides case managers to support our most impacted residents with the logistics and stress of coping after a significant event. This service is currently winding down for closure in December and the pre-existing support services are already at capacity. Advocacy has occurred across 2022 and continues, for the continuation of an adequately resourced Recovery Support Program.

The People, Culture and Wellbeing Action Plan includes actions that should help manage this ongoing trauma within the community. However, Council will not be able to mitigate for the loss of the Recovery Support Service if this occurs.

Rebuilding & Temporary Housing

Over the course of the storm event in 2021, 79 homes were deemed non-habitable. Of these 79 homes, only one planning permit has been submitted which was approved in October 2022. Many of these properties have undertaken repairs that do not require a planning application, and nine have been on-sold.

There are still 20 remaining non-habitable properties. The timeline for rebuilding these homes is hard to predict, but it is expected that most of the significant rebuilds would have submitted a planning application (or been sold) within the next 3-4 years. There is also an expectation that the rebuilding process will be hampered by significant delays caused by weather impacts as well as materials and trades-people shortages.

Yarra Ranges has a severe shortage of rental properties, with access to these made harder by the steep increase in rental fees due to increases in interest rates across 2022. As such, temporary accommodation options for those whose homes were seriously damaged by the June 2021 storms are increasingly limited.

This is made worse as insurer provisions for temporary accommodation (rentals) comes to an end. Council will seek to remain connected with 'displaced residents' to maintain an understanding of their overall needs to inform ongoing advocacy for short- and long-term accommodation solutions to the State.

Private Property Clean-Up

The volume of debris remaining on resident properties is now significantly reduced. However, it is evident that a number of resident properties are still struggling to deal with the significant amount of fallen tree debris.

There are a number of projects and partnerships underway which are supporting residents in this situation.

³ Yarra Ranges Pandemic & Storm Impact Survey – June 2022

Recovery timeline

The key recommendation coming from the '10 Years Beyond Bushfires Report'⁴ is that a five-year framework for recovery from major disasters be established. In line with this recommendation, this version of the MRP acknowledges those few areas that will still be evident up to the five-years from the date of the storm. However, the majority of activity will be completed by June 2024, and the available resources have been realigned to limit the impact on Council's standard business teams during this timeline.

Transition to Standard Council Business Structure

The initial influx of actions following an emergency event have now stabilised which is allowing for the ongoing work to be integrated through Council's permanent business units. The transition of this work from the stand-alone Recovery Directorate to the permanent teams commenced in April 2022 and is expected to be fully integrated by the end of December 2022.

Recovery activities by completion date

The table below details the number of recovery activities discussed in the MRP by their expected completion date. It indicates that a high proportion of recovery activities are expected to be completed by June 2023 (53%) and that by June 2024 it is anticipated that 78% of active activities will be completed.

The anticipated timelines shown below are associated with the activities that can be supported primarily through the resources funded through the Council Support Fund, with longer term activities being driven by issues that cannot be determined by Council directly e.g. the time it will take some residents to rebuild.

An overview for all recovery activities is provided in *Attachment 2 – Progress Against Recovery Activities*.

Table 1: Recovery Activities by Expected Completion Date

Active recovery activities by expected completion date							
Activity completion date	Bus Tourism & the Economy	Environment & Biodiversity	People Culture & Wellbeing	Planning & rebuilding	Public Infrastructure	Total	% of total
Dec-22	0	0	0	0	1	1	3%
Jun-23	6	2	6	2	0	16	50%
Jun-24	1	0	7	0	0	8	25%
Jun-25	0	1	1	0	0	2	6%
Jun-26	0	0	1	4	0	5	16%
Total	7	3	15	6	1	32	100%

Source: MRP Recovery Action Plan at November 2022

Note: Advocacy activities have been omitted from this table as there is no confirmed funding for these tasks

⁴ Gibbs L, Molyneaux R, Harms L, Gallagher H C, Block K, Richardson J, Brandenburg V, O'Donnell M, Kellett C, Quinn P, Kosta L, Brady K, Ireton G, MacDougall C, Bryant R. 10 Years Beyond Bushfires Report 2020. University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Consultation with Advisory Committees

Consultation has been undertaken with all seven of Council's Advisory Committees, with a particular emphasis on the indigenous community, young people and the disability sector.

Regional Community Recovery Committees (RCRCs), who are formally linked to Council in a similar way to the other Advisory Committee until June 2023, have developed clarity on the localised impacts of the pandemic and storm through consultation activities they have led. This information has directly supported this version of the MRP and will inform the continuing distribution of funding as recommended by the RCRCs.

Evaluation of the MRP

To determine the effectiveness of Council's efforts in helping the community recover from the pandemic and the June storm event, Council will ensure a neutral evaluation is undertaken of the activities defined in the MRP.

Options considered

The MRP has evolved over its three versions from an advocacy document that described the preferred level of works required to enable the recovery of the impacted communities, businesses, environment and infrastructure to this version, which is a more modest scope of works, maximising the grant funding for programs and rehabilitation in combination with the budget Council allocated for recovery in May 2022.

Recommended option and justification

This third version of the MRP is built on a suite of data sets, research and consultations that have enabled the development of a strategic plan that is well evidenced in its recommendations. It aligns with the demonstrated pattern of how communities recover from disasters and continues with the work plan agreed to in May with minor modifications associated with changes in funding or context.

This MRP is fully funded, excluding those activities clearly identified in the Advocacy section of the Action Plan.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Delivering the full outcomes outlined in the Municipal Recovery Action Plan is expected to cost \$24.5 million.

Table 2 summarises the forecast cost per action plan within the MRP, identifying that the likely cost to Council of delivering this Plan will be \$6.2M.

Table 2 Revised Cost To Delivery The MRP Version 3

Work Stream	Revised Cost	Revised External Funding	Revised Net Cost to Council
People Culture & Wellbeing	2,841,835	1,479,563	1,362,272
Business Tourism & Economy	664,165	0	664,165
Public Infrastructure	1,593,341	1,009,129	584,212
Environment & Biodiversity	11,138,858	7,980,440	3,158,418
Planning & Rebuilding	740,000	440,000	300,000
Recovery Directorate	6,122,321	6,122,321	0
Storm Branch Collection	1,337,305	1,337,305	0
Evaluation	100,000		100,000
Total	24,537,825	18,368,757	6,169,068

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The MRP has direct links to the recently adopted Council Plan 2021-2025 and is one of the key strategic documents for how Council will achieve its Council Plan objective for a community safety strategy.

The MRP is also complementary to the Health and Wellbeing Plan which aims to deliver major initiatives to improve mental health.

Council has delivered, and continues, to deliver a range of projects and activities that seek to address the impact of the pandemic, guided by Council's Pandemic Recovery Framework. While the majority of actions in this MRP address the impact of the June 2021 Storm, this plan does include a number of significant actions that also address the impact of the pandemic. These actions have been included where the impact of the pandemic and storm, and undoubtedly the increasingly frequent weather events, have compounded each other.

RELEVANT LAW

Not applicable.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Analysis of expenditure data over the first half of 2022 has shown the local economy to have largely recovered following significant downturns in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic and the June 2021 storm event. However, future economic performance is uncertain with numerous factors underway that are outside the control of government including high inflation, rising interest rates, high oil costs, rising energy costs and the possibility of a recession.

Social Implications

There should be significant social benefits from the implementation of the MRP, notably a further reduction in the experience of trauma by residents from the most impacted areas as well as increased resilience and community capacity building through activities such as those championed by the RCRCs.

Environmental Implications

The environmental impacts to the Yarra Ranges from the June 2021 storm were extensive. The key concerns in Council's jurisdiction remain the rehabilitation of Council's damaged bushland reserves and supporting biodiversity and habitat loss more broadly.

The MRP actions talk to the local efforts and partnerships that will support the environment and biodiversity through habitat creation in Council bushland reserves and on private property. These projects will be monitored and evaluated to improve our understanding of how best to support local species through these types of programs.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

While no whole-of-municipality consultation has been undertaken to inform this version of the MRP, its development has been informed by:

- feedback from Council's seven advisory groups;
- results from three iterations of the Storm and Pandemic survey;
- an Indigenous community engagement event;
- surveys and consultation undertaken by the four Regional Community Recovery Committees; and
- direct feedback through our recovery partners and impacted residents.

This provides a high degree of confidence that these actions are those that will be of greatest community benefit.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Council established a municipal recovery governance structure to oversee the delivery of recovery services for both the pandemic and storm response and to support a coordinated approach. This included representation from the State Government, support organisations and the community. As such, all recovery activities are driven by collaboration, consultation and input from the community,

Community Recovery Committees, township groups, Council's standard advisory committees and government agencies.

State representatives including Emergency Recovery Victoria, Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Department of Education and Training, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria. Other key agencies include the Country Fire Authority, Anglicare, EACH, Eastern Community Legal Centre, Inspiro and Windemere.

As the scale of actions have reduced in the third version of the MRP, a revised, tailored governance structure will be implemented.

Some of the more unique approaches that Yarra Ranges has undertaken to date to ensure effective and accessible recovery services includes:

- Pop-up community hub model that was developed to provide a COVID safe means of engaging residents;
- The *Re-imagining Your Rebuild* model that has enabled the most impacted residents to engage in a highly trauma-informed approach to support the rebuilding process;
- '*Hard Place/Good Place*' augmented reality project for young people impacted by the storm; and
- The *Private Property Clean Up Partnership* model developed with not-for-profit organisations and recovery support agencies to enable vulnerable residents to have debris cleared from their properties.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The Yarra Ranges Council MRP is now a strategy that is fully funded either through Council or with the support of the State and Federal Governments excluding those activities described in the Advocacy section of the plan. Previous concern about there being a significant financial risk to Council of funding recovery have been avoided through the adaptation of the scope of works.

The risk associated with the level of direct involvement from State partners is of current concern due to a change in focus caused by the extensive flooding across Victoria.

There is also a current risk that recovery for some residents requiring case-management and some other specialist support may be hindered by the reduction in support services being funded by the State Government.

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. Attachment 1 – Municipal Recovery Plan Version 3
2. Attachment 2 – Progress Against Recovery Actions



Municipal Recovery Plan

Pandemic and Storm Recovery
November 2022

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Related Documents/Plans

YRC Municipal Emergency Management Plan
YRC Relief and Recovery Plan

Document Approval

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Date	



1. Executive summary

Yarra Ranges Council is the largest physical metropolitan municipality in Greater Melbourne with a population density of only 64 persons per square kilometre compared with 453 persons per square kilometre for Greater Melbourne.¹

The area, renowned for its environment and resulting bounty is literally the bedrock for its residents and those who have cared for it for thousands of years.

This land and its people located on Wurundjeri Country, have weathered many natural disasters. However, the combination of the COVID-19 pandemic and the June 2021 storm event placed untold levels of stress on the community.

COVID-19 restrictions have had severe implications across the Yarra Ranges consisting of:

- Wellbeing issues with a significant proportion of the community reporting a major impact on their mental health (21 per cent in September 2021, 15 per cent in June 2022) ²
- The community not feeling socially connected during the pandemic (22 per cent in September 2021 and 13% in June 2022) ³
- Support agencies reporting an increase in domestic violence incidents with rates double the State average prior to the pandemic. ⁴ Anecdotal reports over 2022 suggest that rates have increased recently in the Yarra Ranges, particularly in the Hills region
- The ongoing unreliability of telecommunication and power networks which undermined the ability of businesses to operate, magnified social isolation for communities with no services, and severely impacted the education of our young people It should be noted that Council's telecommunications advocacy through the 'Connecting Victoria program' has been highly effective, with the Victorian Government announcing funding for dozens of new mobile towers across 26 suburbs in the Yarra Ranges, including 15 in Mount Evelyn, 8 in Mooroolbark and 4 in Lilydale
- Tourism, hospitality, and creative industries brought to the brink of collapse

On the eve of restrictions lifting from Victoria's fourth lockdown, as businesses were restocking and readying to welcome the public back, the Yarra Ranges was the epicentre of the most violent storm in Victoria's recorded history resulting in:

- 79 properties non-habitable
- 183 properties registered for storm impacts
- more than 1,000 homes and business extensively impacted by storm debris

- almost 5,000 properties impacted by flood
- more than 3,000 homes without power and internet for more than month
- a conservative estimate of 25,000 fallen trees across the region
- 34 communities lost NBN/internet service and were unable to call 000 for assistance
- extensive damage to roads
- 3,157 drainage/tree related requests for assistance from the community

Unlike an environment after a bushfire where fire consumes the fuel, many communities are still living amongst giant trees that are now destabilised as well as the remains of many trees which fell and have not yet been removed.

Initial estimates were that it would cost \$65 million to resurrect public land, infrastructure, and support the community to rebuild both mentally and physically through a community led multi-agency response.

18 months after the storm event, recovery costs are now much clearer. As of September 2022, the total amount spent on recovery efforts has been \$18 million while the total amount of recovery funding received by Yarra Ranges Council is \$15.2 million.

The experience from the 2009 bushfires, as detailed in the '10 Years Beyond Bushfires Report', is that a proportion of the community most impacted by the disaster were still recovering up to 10 years after the event occurred. As such, it is acknowledged by Yarra Ranges Council that we are moving into a new phase in recovery that is more focussed on resilience for most. Much of the immediate response can wind back without negatively impacting residents, but some ongoing support will be sought in response to the June 2021 storm event over the medium to longer term.

To this end, Yarra Ranges Council proposes that a medium to longer term recovery partnership between Council and the Victorian Government be piloted, with a focus on those activities that take longer to resolve:

- Rebuild and repair support
- Cross-government collaboration on temporary accommodation options for those rebuilding, and
- Ongoing support with a focus on trauma and private property clean-up

Yarra Ranges will be advocating with government agencies for ongoing funding in order to support recovery efforts in those specific areas over the medium to long term. The Action Plan located at the back of this document outlines a number of advocacy actions designed to support these needs, as well as activity that will support residents, businesses, and country to recover.

While support will be required over the medium to longer term, longer-term recovery activities will engage a relatively smaller cohort consisting of those most impacted by the June storm. As such, Yarra Ranges Council's Recovery Directorate is being progressively integrated into the organisation's ongoing business units which will raise the organisation's capacity in responding to impacted communities as well as reflecting the changing needs of the municipality.

Looking forward, it is anticipated that some elements of this recovery plan will be in effect until June 2026 with most activities having been completed by then. The few recovery activities beyond June 2026 will be captured and implemented through other Council plans.

Finally, while this Municipal Recovery Plan outlines the preferred model for recovery of the Yarra Ranges, many aspects will only be achievable with adequate support from the Victorian and Australian Governments.

2. Background

2.1 Key facts about the Yarra Ranges and its natural environment

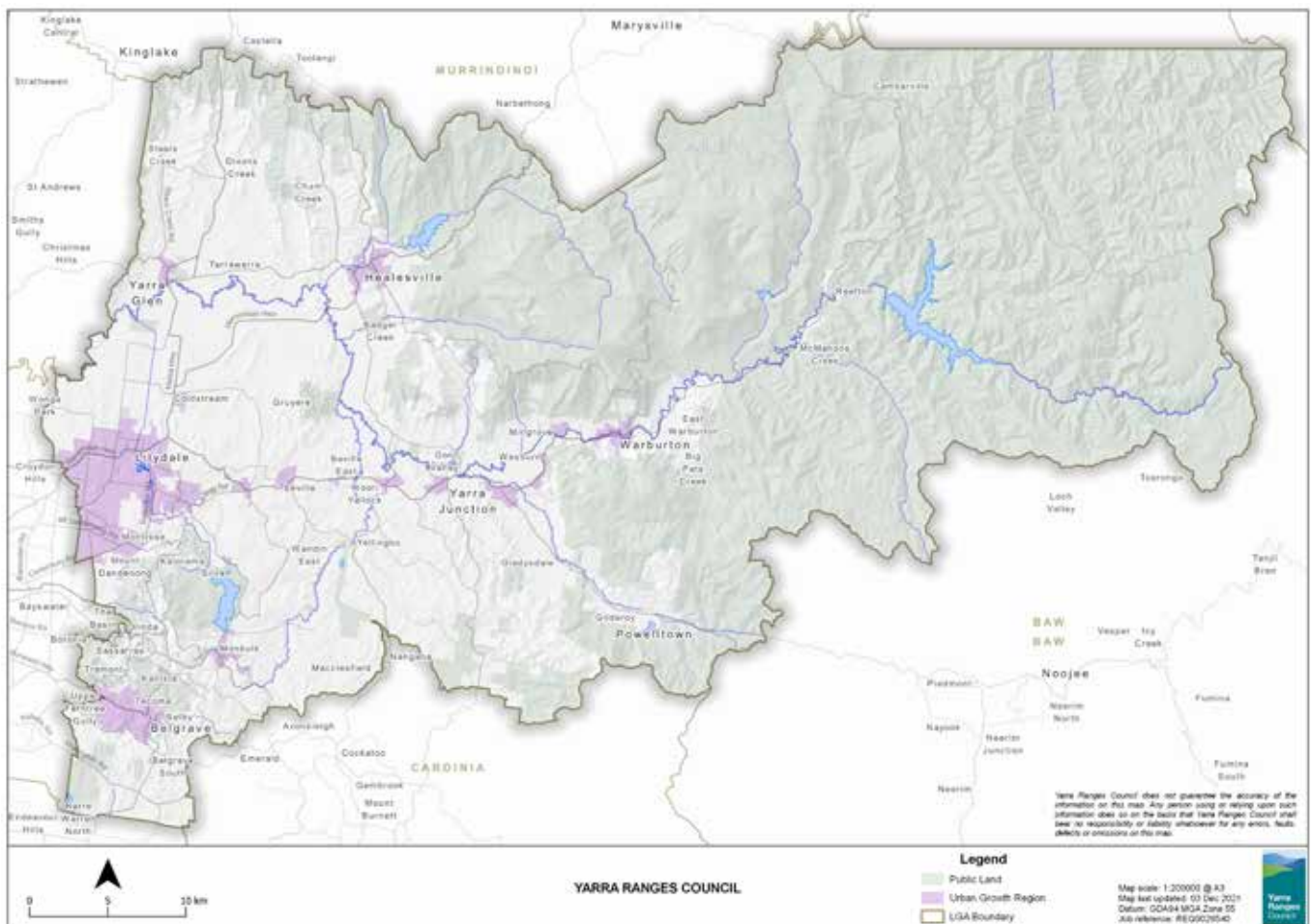
Yarra Ranges Council is the largest physical municipality in Greater Melbourne comprising of:

- 63% crown land
- 31% primary production (agriculture/horticulture/viticulture)
- 5% residential land

The vast majority of the Yarra Ranges consists of unpopulated areas with a small number of dispersed townships and some urban areas on the fringes - see the map below showing Yarra Ranges by land type for details.

Economically, Yarra Ranges boasts 6.7 billion in Gross Regional Product, \$3.4 billion in exports, over 40,000 jobs and 13,600 businesses of which 98 percent are small businesses.⁵

The natural beauty of the Yarra Ranges is one of its defining aspects. Extensive trees and forest are what makes the area unique and, in part, attracts residents and tourists to the area. Living within this environment has many benefits but also involves risk.



The Dandenong Ranges is recognised as one of the highest risk environments for bushfire in the world which comes from a combination of a northerly aspect, steep slopes and gullies, being surrounded by forest, and residential areas along the ridge and throughout the region nestled into a forested environment.

The Dandenong Ranges are a significant recreational resource loved by the people of Melbourne, offering unique access to a number of National Parks, State Forests, and cultural opportunities.

Generally speaking, the housing stock across the Dandenong Ranges Hills region is old and septic reliant. Residents rebuilding here are faced with significant restrictions on what is now allowed. Notably, there are some areas identified under the erosion management overlay where landslips have occurred historically creating another serious challenge to rebuilding. Overall, the area's environment and topography mean that there are greater risks from erosion and bushfire.

2.2 Access to essential services

Residents of the Yarra Ranges are used to managing life and business around unreliable, poor-quality telecommunications and vulnerable power supplies.

Council delivered a community survey on broadband connectivity in 2020 and commissioned independent testing of the mobile network in 2021. It was found that 98.4 per cent of survey respondents relied on the internet to access emergency information during bushfires and other disasters. However, a significant number of townships are serviced by NBN satellite and fixed wireless technologies, which are impacted by smoke and other climatic events.

Many residents are still using ADSL, with speeds lower than the NBN minimum. A specialist consultant tested mobile network quality at more than 24,000 locations across the region – including schools, community centres, and CFA stations – with 25 per cent of those locations having unusable signal or no coverage.

Results from Council's Storm Impact Survey conducted in June 2022, indicate that 33 per cent of respondents report frequent power outages, while 35 per cent report frequent internet outages. These statistics further support the case that power and internet infrastructure across the Yarra Ranges is often unreliable.

Notably, Council's telecommunications advocacy through the Connecting Victoria program has been highly effective, with the Victorian Government announcing funding for dozens of new mobile towers for Yarra Ranges. Council will be re-engaging with telecommunications providers to offer Council's support (e.g. community engagement, planning advice etc) to ensure their delivery as soon as possible, which typically takes 2-3 years.

Monbulk has been included in Connecting Victoria's NBN upgrade program and will receive fibre to the premises. Completion dates are yet to be advised, however the national program is due to be rolled out by mid-2025 with some locations complete from mid-2023. Ongoing advocacy is needed to improve NBN connection across other parts of the municipality.

Other utility infrastructure including gas and water, is ageing, and becoming less reliable. All of these dated services encounter issues - particularly during emergency events.



3. Key social, health & wellbeing statistics

The general health and wellbeing of the Yarra Ranges community is relatively poor in comparison to rates for Melbourne & Victoria overall:

- Yarra Ranges local government area ranked seventh highest for residents with mental health conditions within metropolitan Melbourne ⁶
- 35.2% of Yarra Ranges residents have one or more long-term health conditions, compared to 31.4% of Victorian residents ⁷
- The Yarra Ranges also has higher rates than Victoria for other common health conditions including arthritis (9.4%), asthma (9.6%), and cancer (3.2%) ⁸
- Yarra Ranges has one of the lowest levels in Melbourne of both rental properties and social housing (14% of dwellings are rented in the Yarra Ranges compared with the 28.5% for Victoria) ⁹
- Yarra Ranges has very little social housing with only 1% of occupied private dwellings being rented from a state or territory housing authority or from a community housing provider ¹⁰
- Family violence rates are almost double the Victorian average ¹¹

⁶ ABS Census 2021

⁷ ABS Census 2021

⁸ ABS Census 2021

⁹ ABS Census 2021

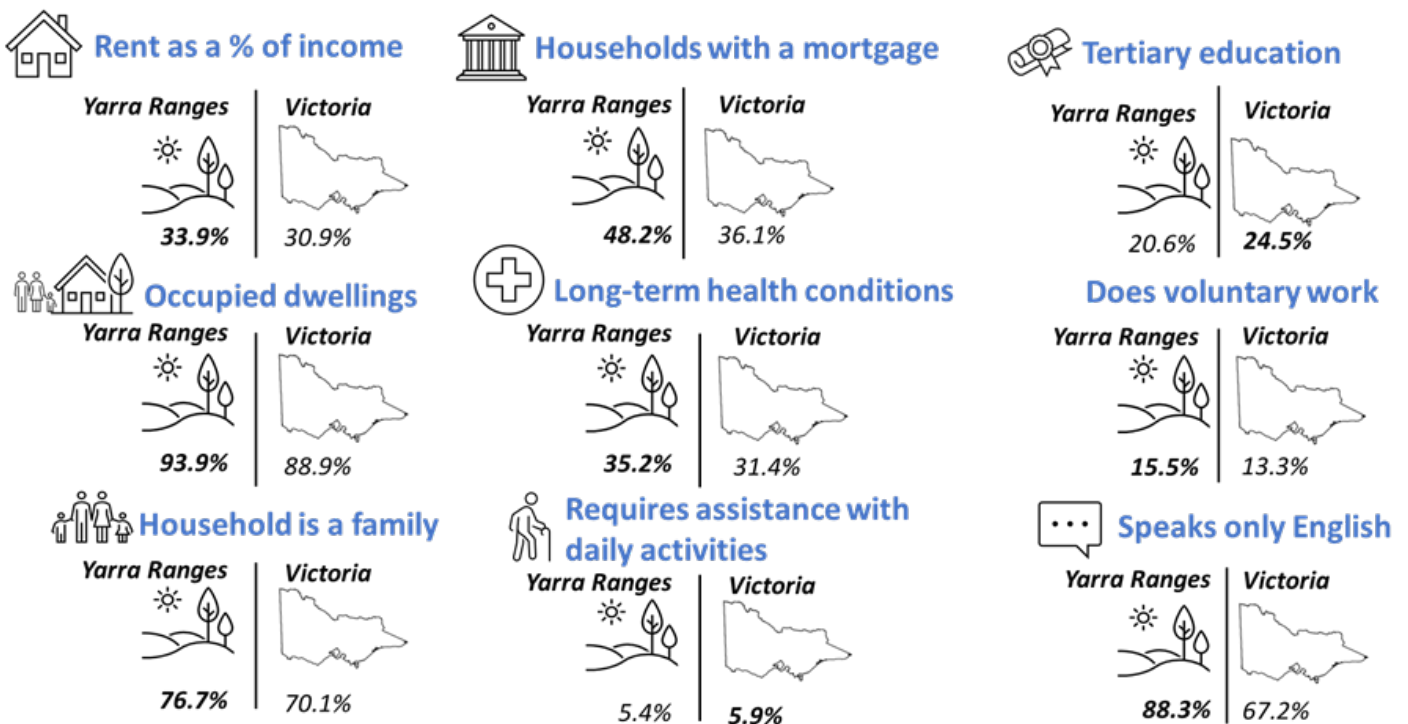
¹⁰ ABS Census 2021

¹¹ EDVOS Family Violence Report July 2020

4. 2021 Census key statistics - Yarra Ranges compared with Victoria

The following infographic compares the Yarra Ranges community against Victoria for a variety of indicators. It illustrates that the Yarra Ranges community is potentially more vulnerable to the average Victorian in terms of:

- Rental and mortgage increases - Yarra Ranges residents are paying a higher proportion of their income on rent or mortgage payments and may therefore be more vulnerable to rental increases and interest rate increases
- Occupied dwellings – A higher proportion of dwellings are occupied in the Yarra Ranges which means that there are few properties that can be rented out or used to meet other housing needs
- Tertiary education – A smaller proportion of Yarra Ranges residents are attending tertiary education. This may make residents more vulnerable to being unemployed in the event of a recession
- Long term health conditions – A higher proportion of Yarra Ranges residents have long term health conditions. This is likely to indicate that demand for health services in the Yarra Ranges per capita is higher compared with the average for Victoria overall



5. Pandemic impact overview

Pandemic restrictions shattered the local economy in Yarra Ranges and the community on many levels. Council obtained community feedback once restrictions began to build which demonstrated the isolation impacts on residents including teenagers and younger people.

When the five kilometre restrictions were implemented during Melbourne's COVID-19 lockdowns, many residents had severely limited access to shops and no services or family within 5kms of their home.

Prior to the pandemic, the Yarra Ranges unemployment rate of 3.5 per cent was well below the Australian rate of 5.6 per cent. In October 2020, 8.4 per cent of the Yarra Ranges labour force were receiving JobSeeker or Youth allowance compared with the national rate of 6.9 per cent.¹²

In 2020, 43 per cent of Yarra Ranges businesses were on JobKeeper support placing it within the top 20 per cent of local government areas receiving these payments.¹³

Many older workers who lost their jobs, did not have sufficient computer literacy skills putting them at greater risk of not finding work longer term.

Research undertaken by Council has identified a number of cohorts that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic including Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people, people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds, unpaid carers, people living with disability, women/girls, LGBTIQ+ people, people experiencing pre-existing economic disadvantage, people who are socially and/or geographically isolated, children, young people, and single parents.

Particular sectors of the local economy have also been affected by the pandemic. Townships with a high reliance on tourism and hospitality (e.g. Healesville, Warburton, Belgrave, Olinda) reported a disproportionate decline in business as a result of the pandemic.

And further exacerbating the pandemic impacts, businesses reported telecommunication and internet issues as well as ongoing supply chain issues making it difficult to source products necessary to the running of their business.

Council has been tracking social impacts stemming from the pandemic over the 2021-22 financial year. Results from the three Pandemic and Storm Impact Surveys indicate social connection, mental health, hardship, employment, and the financial stability of the community have all been adversely affected by the pandemic.

However, a positive trend is emerging with impacts across several key indicators showing improvements over the last 12 months, see the Impact Assessment section for survey details, suggesting that recovery in the community is beginning.

Economic impacts from the pandemic have also been tracked using Spendmapp expenditure data. This shows a clear correlation between the six lockdowns and a corresponding downturn in expenditure.

¹² REMPLAN Economic Statistics produced using data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

¹³ REMPLAN Economic Statistics produced using data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics

However, following the easing of restrictions in November 2021, expenditure in the Yarra Ranges grew by 7% in the first half of 2022 compared with the first half of 2021. This indicates a solid recovery in expenditure over the first half of 2022.

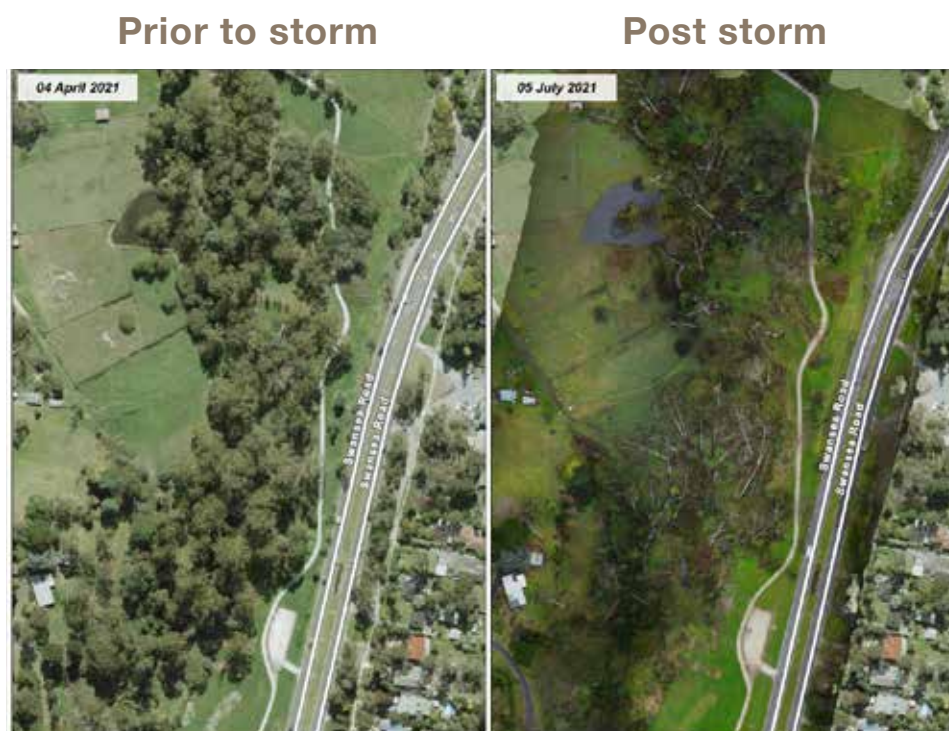
While there is evidence of some recovery from the pandemic, there are still ongoing impacts in significant sections of the community, particularly among those most marginalised including young people, those with a disability, people experiencing family violence, and people experiencing homelessness. Details on pandemic impacts to vulnerable cohorts is outlined in the Impact Assessment section of this document.

The support services available are non-existent within a 5km, or even reasonable distance, to Warburton and other outlying communities.



6. June 2021 storm

On Wednesday, 9 June 2021, just before Melbourne's fourth pandemic lockdown was lifted, a violent storm hit the Yarra Ranges which resulted in widespread and catastrophic damage to homes, businesses, trees and vegetation, along with significant power, telecommunications, as well as water and gas outages.



Photos of Swansea Road in Lilydale before the storm with tree canopy and after the storm with a large loss of tree canopy.

The strength and direction of this storm caused destruction unlike anything Yarra Ranges had seen before in terms of the sheer scale of loss and damage.

The total loss of communications, flooding, blocked roads, powerlines down, and properties with highly unstable trees added to the complexities of emergency response. When the mains power cut out during the storm, batteries at local mobile towers lasted mere hours before depleting, leaving residents and services completely cut off, unable to call 000 or connect with their workforces. As well as this there was also a risk of spreading COVID-19 to traumatized communities.

The epicentre of the storm was Kalorama in the Dandenong Ranges, with subsequent flooding occurring throughout the Yarra Valley and Upper Valley.

The immediate physical impacts included:

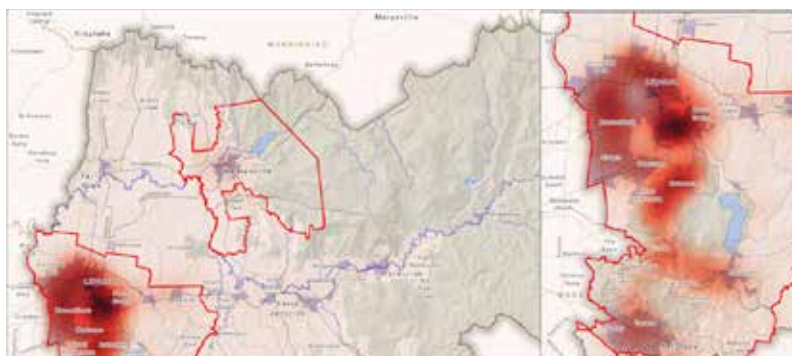
- 79 properties non-habitable and a further 50 being badly damaged
- more than 1,000 homes and business extensively impacted by storm debris
- almost 5,000 properties impacted by flood
- more than 32,000 customers were without power for up to 1 week, while 11,000

customers had to wait up to 2 weeks and 3,000 homes without power and internet for more than month

- a conservative estimate of 25,000 fallen trees across the region
- 34 communities lost NBN/internet service and were unable to call 000 for assistance
- 150kms of arterial roads and 300+ council managed roads were damage
- 13 fire access tracks inaccessible
- 2 bridges were impacted
- 3,157 drainage/tree related requests for assistance from the community

Water supplies were also impacted, with some contamination issues and damage to pipes. Some residents were still trying to resolve these issues five months later.

The Dandenong Ranges is one of the highest bushfire risk locations in Victoria. The clean-up of tree debris remains an ongoing concern as each fire season presents and the debris cures.



Map with fire danger areas highlighted in red and most over Lilydale towards Mount Evelyn and the Hills area.

More difficult however, is the number, scale, and inaccessibility of large logs impacting both private properties and government land. Removing these massive trees is financially unviable for many and continues to increase the risk profile as each summer passes.

The canopy loss incurred across the Dandenong Ranges is significant. Within the Dandenong Ranges National Park at least 300 hectares (approx. 9% of the parks area) experienced windthrow or broad acre uprooted trees. Significant portions of this windthrow area lost 90% of its canopy.

I was very disconnected without internet for months. It affected my ability to work, community connection and relationships which I fear will never be the same.



7. Emergency storm response

In the immediate days and weeks following the storm event, priority actions by Council, emergency services, relief agencies, community groups and utility companies were:

- clearing tree debris on roads and properties to support access
- restoring power and telecommunications to homes and businesses
- providing relief services and material aid to those in need
- keeping the community informed of how the relief effort was tracking
- maintaining effective liaison with stakeholders across all levels of government
- providing Shower and Power Hubs which supported 15,000 attendees
- supporting residents seeking assistance including welfare checks and those seeking accommodation
- providing building inspections, financial assistance, food relief, flood outreach calls and requests for generators

8. Transition to recovery

The Shower and Power relief hubs were consolidated and transferred to a recovery hub status on 16 July 2021 when management of the incident officially transferred from the SES to Council.

8.1 Initial recovery activities

In the weeks following the transition from emergency response to recovery, a number of initial recovery activities were undertaken as summarised below:

- Community Debrief Sessions were conducted at Community Recovery Hubs located in Olinda, Kalorama, and Mount Evelyn
- Community Recovery Committees were established – bringing together the community to lead conversations and community driven recovery initiatives. Subsequently these committees were charged with identifying and overseeing programs that support local recovery
- Community Recovery Hubs continued to support community and businesses with ongoing recovery needs over the weeks that followed
- Subsequent community engagement was undertaken through community planning sessions, online community meetings as well as mental health and wellbeing sessions run by psychologist Rob Gordon
- Community Mental Health First Aid Training Program was implemented which provided accredited Mental Health First Aid training to volunteers and staff at Neighbourhood Houses and Emergency Relief Services
- The Assertive Outreach Project was implemented to support and enhance existing outreach services for people experiencing homelessness and/or adversity in Yarra Ranges

8.2 Secondary impact assessment

After the emergency response phase to the June storm was concluded, Council undertook a secondary impact assessment to quantify impacts from the storm in more detail. This included a broad range of areas including personal, residential, economic, environmental, and public infrastructure impacts.

The following is a sample of that information:

- 1700 storm impact residents recorded on Council's case management system
- 373 Ha of windthrow identified in and around the Dandenong Ranges.
- -\$13M (-8%) drop in economic expenditure from June 2021 vs Jun 2020
- 26,000 cubic metres of storm debris collected
- 50 nurseries & berry producers impacted
- 12,255 hectares of farmland affected
- 325 Livestock lost 308km of roads impacted
- 37 parks and reserves impacted



My property was like a parkland prior to the storms and it is now still in ruins. I don't think it will ever be the same again.

Power out for 14 days. Destruction all around us. Emotionally devastated. 14 days without power and poor communication. Very cold. Every day was about doing all we could to be safe and keep warm. Purchasing generators, trying to work from home off a generator. One of the worst experiences of our lives.



“
Our immediate concern is how on earth is Council going to get all the fallen trees and debris cleaned up before summer arrives? There are mountains of tree branches stacked all over the Ranges.”

9. RECOVERY

Under Victorian emergency management arrangements, Council is responsible for coordination of recovery at the municipal level. As the level of government closest to community, Council is well placed to connect and work with affected communities.

Yarra Ranges Council is committed to support its community through the recovery process for as long as it takes. The following sections define how that task is approached.

As part of recovery planning for the pandemic and storm impacts, Yarra Ranges Council will support community recovery activity through:

- Advocacy
- Providing Council services and recognising Council's essential service provision to prioritise, enable and support community recovery
- Promoting the work of our partners and others
- Enabling and supporting our community partners
- Facilitating connection between community and community services

Yarra Ranges Council will consider the needs of the most affected or impacted sectors of our community throughout the recovery phase of COVID-19.

9.1 Principles of recovery

Yarra Ranges Council supports and adopts the National Principles for Disaster Recovery, which are underpinned by Council's own vision. These include the following principles:

- Understand the context - Successful recovery is based on an understanding of the community context, with each community having its own history, values, and dynamics
- Recognise complexity - Successful recovery responds to the complex and dynamic nature of both emergencies and the community
- Use community-led approaches - Successful recovery is community-centred, responsive and flexible, engaging with community, and supporting them to move forward
- Coordinate all activities - Successful recovery requires a planned, coordinated, and adaptive approach, between community and partner agencies, based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs
- Communicate effectively - Successful recovery is built on effective communication between the affected community and other partners
- Acknowledge and build capacity - Successful recovery recognises, supports, and builds on individual, community, and organisational capacity and resilience
- Recognising vulnerable groups - Successful recovery recognises emerging vulnerable groups including young people, the older workforce, newly homeless, and women experiencing family violence

9.2 Recovery objectives

The objectives that will guide the recovery response to the impacts of the pandemic and the June storm event are:

- To ensure recovery activities reinforce and build community leadership and capacity
- To ensure community members have access to the support, services, and resources they need to address impacts; prevent the escalation of needs; and long-term negative impacts on health and wellbeing
- To address the economic impacts, inclusive of those on individuals and households, small and large businesses, industries, primary producers, tourism, and the broader economy
- To inform the priorities of whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements so that affected communities receive timely and appropriate information, services, and support as they relate to the built and natural environment, and
- To manage consequences and mitigate risks to the built and natural environment on public and private land.

Council understands and achieving these objectives will take time and is dependent on the readiness of individuals, the complexities they are managing, the reconnection and resilience in the community and the support available.

9.3 Commitment to community led recovery

A key tenant under the National Principles for Disaster Recovery is the recognition that successful recovery is achieved through community led approaches that empower the community to move forward.

Council recognises the importance of the following key principles in implementing community-led recovery:

- all communities are different, and there is no one-size-fits-all approach to community recovery
- community groups are best supported through a partnership approach
- community-led recovery is determined by broad and inclusive engagement
- building the capacity and capability of the community

9.4 Cultural Recovery

Cultural recovery has been identified as being an intrinsic need for storm recovery across Yarra Ranges. As such, work is underway to develop an understanding of the impact the storm has had on Aboriginal communities in the Yarra Ranges, and what can be done to improve the response immediately after an event.

The first step is to identify Aboriginal community response and recovery priorities that are not being addressed by other agencies, and to work with relevant Council staff to design appropriate responses. To this end, officers from Yarra Ranges Council held an engagement event in October 2022 with representatives from Aboriginal communities to discuss impacts from the June storm and to identify their priorities.

The key cultural recovery preparedness priorities consist of the following:

- Develop culturally safe education resources for Aboriginal families on how to respond to disaster situations
- Ensure Aboriginal organisations are appropriately resourced to meet Aboriginal community needs during disaster relief and recovery processes including the availability of infrastructure access, power generation, communications equipment, and social and emotional wellbeing supports
- Ensure the cultural safety capacity of mainstream relief and recovery agencies to ensure that the Aboriginal community can safely access services during and post disaster events
- Ensure relief and recovery agencies adherence to Aboriginal appropriate protocols when engaging with the Aboriginal community during sensitive disaster situations and outcomes

The key cultural recovery priorities consist of the following:

- Resource initiatives to enable the Aboriginal community to develop a range of culture-based recovery programs using disaster generated resources such as fallen timber
- Ensure traditional owners and Aboriginal land managers have immediate access to disaster affected areas to assess damage to Country and significant trees
- Ensure Aboriginal perspectives on Country and culture are well understood and integrated into relief and recovery processes



- Develop healing and resilience building programs for landscapes and communities based on Indigenous knowledge systems as part of the recovery process
- Engage traditional owner expertise to apply Indigenous knowledge systems for healing and rehabilitation of sensitive and/or prioritised areas affected by tree canopy loss

9.5 Regional Community Recovery Committees

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.

Council has committed \$800,000 for RCRCs to initiate Community Led Recovery Grant rounds and make recommendations for the allocations of grant funding for community-led recovery projects. Oversight and support for the funding processes will be managed by a partnership between the Council, Local Bendigo Community Banks of the Yarra Ranges, and the Community Enterprise Foundation™(CEF).

Since the establishment of RCRCs in November 2021 there have been a number of benefits delivered, particularly in terms of the collaboration and strengthening the relationships between recovery stakeholders. This is evidenced by:

- RCRCs delivering their first round of Community Led Recovery Grants, receiving 69 applications for Community Led projects with \$448,000 worth of funding requested. As of October 2022, a total of \$264,000 has been approved for the implementation of community led projects



- Community Enterprise Foundation hosted three Grants Information Sessions and liaised extensively with RCRCs and community to ensure all stakeholder were well supported through the Grants process
- RCRCs initiated community surveys which provides additional insight into the key themes and recovery priorities of their region which is essential preparation for the development of regional Community-Led Recovery Plans
- The willingness for RCRC members to actively participate in operations of their committee and to enthusiastically execute their role

Over the last quarter of 2022, RCRCs will undertake a variety of activities including further engagement with the community and delivery of further grants.

9.6 Recovery priorities by region – Regional Community Recovery Committees

RCRCs engaged in consultation with the community over the June quarter of 2022. This was done through conducting surveys in each of the RCRC regions to ascertain the issues residents viewed as being important for recovery from the pandemic and June storm.

In addition to the survey work undertaken by several of the RCRCs, the Valley RCRC consulted numerous community groups during the community engagement process. This included holding in excess of a dozen workshops and meetings with the community to identify key recovery priorities for their region.

Map showing the geographical boundaries for each of the four Regional Community Recovery Committees



Based on analysis of collected data, priorities for each region are summarised as follows.

Hills Region Priorities

- **Community Support Networks** – Many residents reported that support they received from formal or informal community groups, volunteers, or neighbourhood cooperatives have been a great help either through the pandemic or after the storm. It is recommended these community groups and networks be made aware of available funding opportunities and identify what further support is needed to continue operating in the future
- **Property Clean-up** – Identify residents who still need assistance with clearing storm debris from their property. Refer them to appropriate support services (Habitat for Humanity or Treasuring Our Trees) or reach out to community members who may be willing to volunteer their time to help.
- **Emergency Planning and Preparedness** – Identify what the community is generally lacking when it comes to emergency planning and preparedness. Spread awareness about the importance of having an emergency plan and refer community members to education and support services.
- **Build Community Connection** – Organise a series of community led events targeting residents with the aim of building upon existing local connections, creating new networks, and improving the social confidence of residents returning to regular community activities.
- **Advocate for Improved Infrastructure** – Identify key concerns of residents around power, internet, and phone infrastructure, advocating on their behalf for an appropriate resolution to ongoing issues they may face.





Urban Region Priorities

- **Build Community Connection** – Organise a series of community led events targeting urban residents with the aim of building their community connections and encouraging them to return to regular community activities.
- **Support for Community Groups** – Engage with community groups (volunteer organisations, youth groups, sports clubs etc.) to identify the present challenges they are facing and advocate within the community for residents to join community organisations and return to their pre-pandemic activities.
- **Improve Public Spaces** – Identify what urban residents believe community spaces are lacking at present and advocate for improvements that will benefit the community. Aim to inform residents around what public spaces and resources are presently available and encourage community engagement with these facilities.
- **Mental Health Awareness** – Identify present challenges urban residents face when trying to access mental health support services. Advocate for improved mental health resources and aim to build awareness around key mental health challenges that may be impacting the community.
- **Engagement with Council** – Ensure residents are aware of the presence of urban RCRCs in the community, their objectives, and the roles they play within Yarra Ranges Council. Educate the community around how residents can effectively engage with the urban RCRCs and Council more broadly.

Valley Region Priorities ¹⁴

- **Build social connection within the community** – Plan and implement activities encouraging residents to socially re-connect with friends, family, and others following the easing of pandemic restrictions.
- **Build confidence in the community in returning to daily activities** – Hold a series of community events encouraging the community to get together with the aim of building upon existing local connections, creating new networks, and improving the social confidence of residents in returning to regular community activities.

- **Improve the mental health and wellbeing of the community** – Implement evidence-based activities promoting mental wellbeing that target and appeal to the broader community including activities that specifically appeal to young people.
- **Assist those who are struggling financially since the pandemic** – This focusses on those who have lost their employment since the pandemic and those on very low incomes.
- **Encourage residents to develop an emergency plan in response to future natural disasters** – This includes referring residents to reputable online resources to help them develop their own emergency plan.

Upper Yarra Priorities

- **Build strong community connection** - Organise a series of community led events targeting residents (rather than tourists) with the aim of building strong local connections and increasing confidence among the community in getting back to regular community activities.
- **Identify community spaces** – Identify spaces (outdoor and indoor) within the Upper Yarra region that are suitable and available to hold regular community connection events targeting residents.
- **Housing** – In consultation with the community, and potentially public and private sector housing services, explore options for secure housing that could be made available to those on low incomes and/or experiencing homelessness.
- **Improve the mental health and wellbeing of young people** - Implement evidence-based activities that promote mental wellbeing that target and appeal to young people.



9.7 Common themes and differences among the four regions

Several themes have emerged from the survey work conducted across the four regions of the Yarra Ranges. And among these, three common themes were identified across all regions consisting of:

- **Mental health** – This priority encompasses 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.

The survey data has also identified key differences in priorities specific to each local community. In the Hills Region, recovery priorities include advocating for more reliable power and internet services as well as having emergency event plans in place. While in the urban region, improving public spaces, which the community views as not being sufficient at present, is seen as having a higher priority.

Priorities for recovery identified in the Upper Yarra Region include the need for secure housing, particularly for those on low incomes or those experiencing homelessness. And in the Valley Region, recovery priorities include having emergency event plans in place as well as assisting those who are struggling financially since the pandemic.

9.8 Advisory Committees

Yarra Ranges Council has seven long-term cohort specific Advisory Committees that consider key aspects of Council's business through their expert lens. These groups have been consulted in mid to late 2022 on any additional recovery actions that they see as being a priority going forward and to advise of any potential gaps in the plan overall.

Consultation has been undertaken with all seven of Council's Advisory Committees to ensure that perspectives are canvassed from a diverse range of cohorts, with a particular emphasis on the Indigenous community, young people, and the disability sector.

Advisory Committees consist of:

- Disability Advisory Committee
- Business Leaders Roundtable
- Rural Advisory Committee
- Positive Ageing Reference Group
- Youth Advisory Group
- Indigenous Advisory Committee
- Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee

9.9 Recovery governance

To support the recovery objectives and ensure their success, an emphasis on effective recovery coordination between Yarra Ranges Council, the Victorian State Government, responding agencies and the broader municipality is a high priority. With 55 townships and settlements across Yarra Ranges impacted by the pandemic and storm event, effective coordination of recovery will aim to reduce community fatigue and duplication of effort.

The main body monitoring the progress, coordination and impacts for the Storm and Flood event is the Municipal Storm Recovery Committee.

To ensure that all activities are driven by the needs of the community, the Community Recovery Committees, along with township groups and Council's standard advisory committees, will have input and provide influence up, down, and across the governance structure.

9.10 Establishment of the Recovery Directorate

Following the six week emergency phase, the response transitioned to a recovery phase. At this point a decision was taken to establish a dedicated Recovery Directorate within Council. This was done to ensure that recovery actions would be delivered in the quickest, most effective, and targeted way over the ensuing 18 months of recovery. The next phase involves embedding medium and longer term recovery activities into Council's existing functions. This will take effect from late 2022.





10. Recovery Activities 2021-22

In response to many of the serious impacts coming from the pandemic and June storm (mental health, access to mental and physical health services, family violence, and hardship), Council, in partnership with other agencies, has delivered a number of targeted activities.

A complete list of recovery activities that have been delivered to date is provided in Attachment 2 – Progress Against Recovery Activities. The attachment lists activities delivered over 2021 and 2022 with descriptions provided for each activity. Below are examples of activities listed against each recovery stream.

People, Culture and Wellbeing - key recovery activities

- Delivery of 'Pop-up Recovery Hubs' with a range of recovery partners and an Outreach Program to enable residents to connect with services
- A range of recovery activities have been delivered e.g. for families with young children, mental health first aid, and the significant 'Healing In Our Gardens' recovery program has now been launched
- A grant for community programs enabling townships and community groups to mark 12 months on from the June 2021 storm

Business, Tourism, and the Economy - key recovery activities

- Yarra Ranges JobLink - the online employment portal that connects jobseekers with employers in the Yarra Ranges.
- Hospitality training through a partnership with educators including CIRE and the Box Hill Institute.
- Buy/Enjoy/Employ Local – a marketing campaign developed to encourage the community to support local business.

Planning and Rebuilding - key recovery activities

- The 'Reimagining your rebuild' program is a series of workshops that provides expert planning and building guidance to residents whose homes were damaged by the June storm.
- Outreach to all 183 private property owners with storm damaged structures, and monitoring progress of application from these owners, with the team waiting on 51 potential planning applications.

Environment and Biodiversity - key recovery activities

- The two kerbside storm branch collections which picked up over 45000 cubic meters of branch debris from across the municipality including the Urban, Valley, and Hills regions.
- The private property clean-up program for community members who are financially or physically unable to clean up the extensive volume of storm related green waste on their properties. This work is supported by Council and is undertaken by not-for-profit organisations 'Habitat for Humanity' and 'Treasuring our Trees'.
- Processing the timber debris collected by Council through the storm clean-up and returning it to the public as a resource; providing logs to community groups, returning over 50 hollow bearing logs to and bushland for habitat, milling logs into planting stakes and fencing materials, and 18000 cubic meters of mulch going to the community and Council parks, with 2000 cubic meters of firewood to community.

Public Infrastructure – key recovery activities

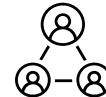
- Works to repair 35 Council facilities, including the extensive works needed at the Monbulk Aquatic Centre, which re –opened in September 2022 and the relocation of the Mount Dandenong Preschool. Both of which caused significant disruption to local communities. Extensive works to restore major and minor Council roads, drainage systems, bridges, and tunnels as well as reinstatement of pavement surfaces.

11. Recovery issues hampering recovery

A number of issues have been identified that are acting to slow the pace of recovery from both the pandemic and the June storm. There are outlined below.



Social Recovery Issues



- ▶ **Insurance issues** – major increases in insurance premiums, significant decreases in coverage and refusal for insurance for some previous policy holders considered to be in high-risk locations
- ▶ **CPI** - Cost of living pressures with the CPI rate at 6.1% as at June 2022**
- ▶ **Mental health** - Ongoing mental health impacts stemming from the pandemic with 15% of the community reporting significant impacts on mental health & 23% reporting trauma/anxiety from the June storm*
- ▶ **Access to services** - Delays in access to mental health services (reported by 40% of YRC community) and physical health services (reported by 24% of YRC community)*
- ▶ **Hardship** - Hardship arising from the pandemic reported by 26% of YRC community*
- ▶ **Daily activities** - Not being confident in returning to daily community activities reported by 22% of YRC community*
- ▶ **Temporary housing** - Insurance funded temporary rentals (residents with storm damaged homes) which expired in Jun 2022 under many insurance policies.
- ▶ **Housing costs** - Housing and rental affordability getting worse due to interest rate rises being passed onto home loans and renters
- ▶ **Power outages** - frequent power outages reported by 33% of YRC community*
- ▶ **Internet outages** - frequent internet outages reported by 35% of YRC community*

*YRC Pandemic & Storm Survey June 2022

**Consumer Price Index Australia June 2022, ABS



Planning and Rebuilding

- ▶ Rebuilding/repairs delayed by ongoing negotiations with insurance companies
- ▶ Decision-making for residents around whether to demolish or not
- ▶ Homeowners rebuild delayed until demolition has occurred
- ▶ Shortage of builders, trades people and building materials further delaying rebuilding
- ▶ Reported delays in being able to engage designers and architects
- ▶ Large tree debris remains on some resident properties hampering private property clean-up



Economic Recovery Issues



- ▶ Tight labour market - Extreme labour market shortages with a record low unemployment rate of 3.1 % for Victoria as at August 2022. This is driven largely by 2 years of very low immigration and a reduction in overseas students
- ▶ Workforce absenteeism - Employee absenteeism due to contracting Covid
- ▶ Operating costs - Business operating costs increasing due inflation and upward pressure on wages
- ▶ Supply chain issues – delays in supply chains are impacting sales of goods and services
- ▶ Insurance - Difficulty getting insurance, particularly businesses located in flood or bushfire prone areas
- ▶ Private finances – The financial situation reported as being worse now than before the pandemic by 30% of the YRC community*

*YRC Pandemic & Storm Survey June 2022

11.1 Climate change impacts by 2030

Bushfire Risk by 2030 - Yarra Ranges LGA level

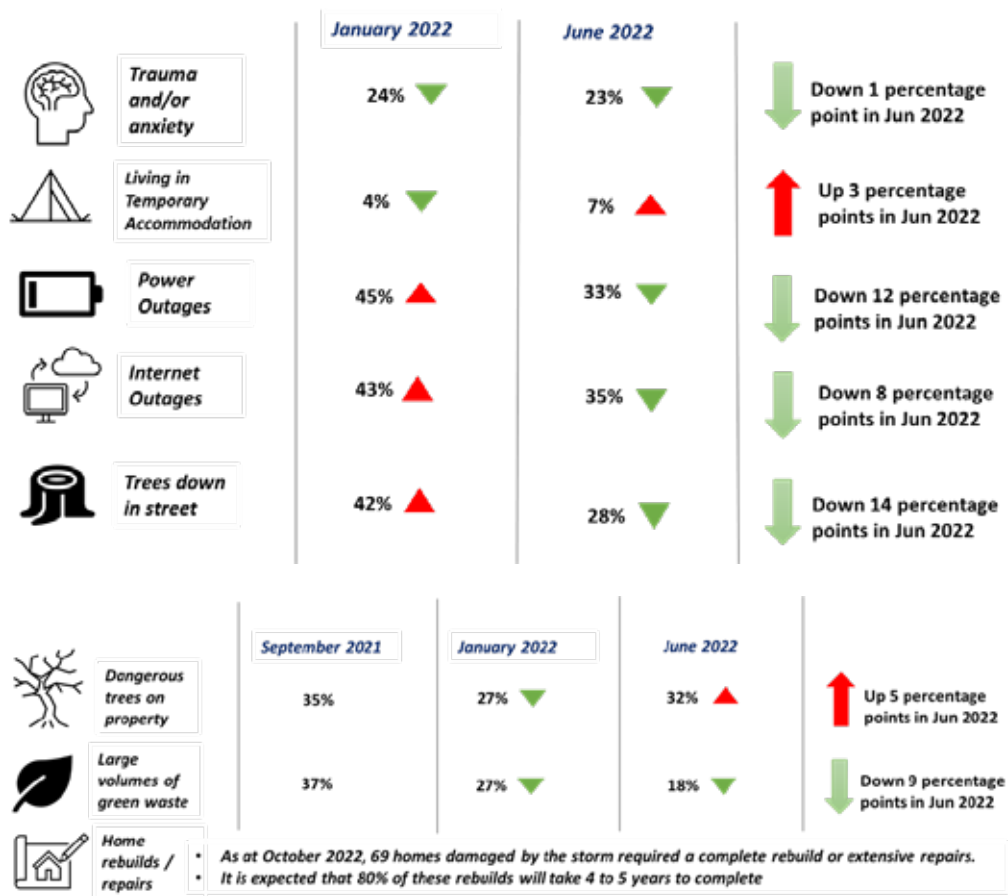
According to analysis by the Climate Council, by 2030 approximately 30% of properties located within the Yarra Ranges local government area will have a medium to high risk of bushfire. The implication of this assessment is that these properties may become uninsurable by 2030.

In comparison, the percentage of properties across Victoria estimated as medium to high risk by 2030 is 2.6%. This places the Yarra Ranges as being one of the most bushfire risk localities in Victoria.

In addition, the Climate Council analysis suggests that 2.9% of Yarra Ranges properties are at a high risk of flooding by 2030. Surprisingly, the assessment by the Climate Council is that no properties in the Yarra Ranges are at high risk of extreme wind by 2030 – which is unexpected given the serious damage caused by extreme winds during the June 2021 storm event.

12. Impact assessment at the end of 2021-22

This section outlines key impacts from the pandemic and storm at the end of the 2021-22 financial year. It draws on data collected through three consecutive community surveys, community engagement undertaken by Regional Community Recovery Committees, outreach activity undertaken in the June quarter of 2022, and economic expenditure data collected through the Spendmapp application.



12.1 Schools survey results

A total of 113 school staff (mainly teachers) from both primary and secondary levels took part in a survey to help Council better understand how the pandemic and storm impacted school aged children. The survey was conducted in September 2022.

Notably, the vast majority of responses were obtained from the urban region (84% of all responses). Therefore these results are heavily skewed towards those living in the urban areas of the Yarra Ranges.

Some of the key findings from the survey are as follows:

- 34% of school staff indicated that ‘most’ of their students experienced impacts on their mental wellbeing stemming from the pandemic

- 77% believe that students and families experiencing hardship are encountering delays trying to access mental health support
- 27% of respondents indicated that staff believe the pandemic has had a 'major' impact on students' social lives and participation in after school activities
- 32% of respondents believing that this will lead to 'most' students being at a disadvantage academically in the longer-term
- 57% of school staff in the Yarra Ranges believe that since pandemic restrictions have eased, the negative impacts felt by students are now improving

These survey results support what was already known anecdotally, which is that the pandemic has had a significant impact on young people. Council has been developing a plan to address some of the worst impacts of the pandemic that specifically affect young people.

Yarra Ranges Council is working closely with the Department of Families, Fairness & Housing to support families, children, and young people directly and indirectly as well as advocating for ongoing support.

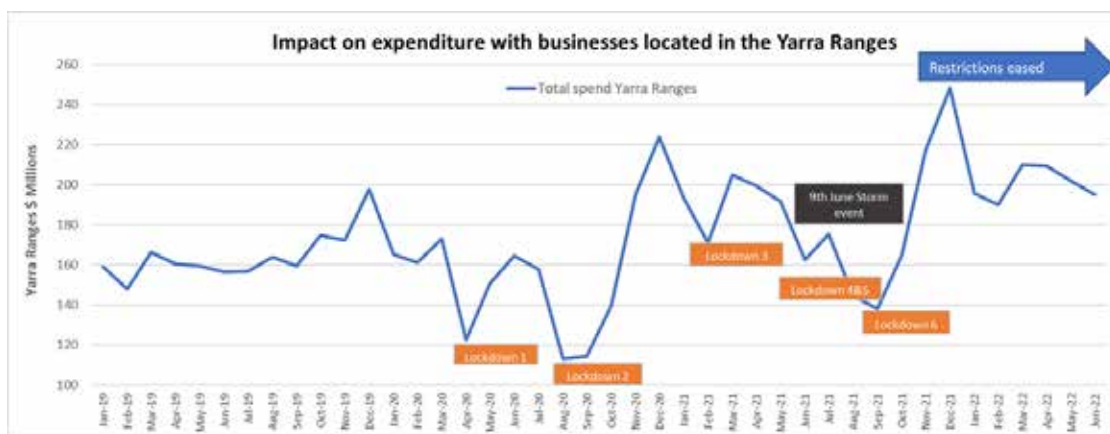
12.2 Expenditure assessment for the Yarra Ranges

There were several downturns in expenditure across Yarra Ranges immediately following each pandemic lockdown. This was further exacerbated by the June 2021 storm (see chart below). However, analysis of expenditure data over the first half of 2022 showed local economies to be remarkably resilient.

Expenditure with businesses located within Yarra Ranges experienced solid growth in the first half of 2022 despite an increased presence of COVID-19 in the community. Key points are:

- Expenditure in the first half of 2022 increased by \$79 million (up 7%) compared with the first half of 2021
- Expenditure in the first half of 2022 increased by \$265 million (up 28%) compared with the first half of 2020

These figures illustrate economic recovery in the Yarra Ranges, when measured in terms of total expenditure with businesses located within the Yarra Ranges, has shown solid growth over the first half of 2022. However going forward, the broader economy will come under increasing pressure due to factors including high rates of inflation, high interest rates, high energy costs and the possibility of recession.



13. Recovery over the medium to long term

13.1 Experience from the 2009 bushfires

The 2021 report produced by Melbourne University titled '10 Years Beyond Bushfires Report' examines the impacts and recovery of the community from the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria. It looks at three timeframes consisting of the short term (less than 3 years), medium term (up to 5 years) and the long term (up to 10 years).

Results and recommendations contained in that report are based on research undertaken with more than 1,000 community members who were affected by the 2009 bushfires. Data was collected through community meetings, surveys conducted at 3, 5, and 10-years after the fires, and in-depth interviews undertaken at 3-4 years after the fires.

Long term recovery

The report makes it clear that while people affected directly by the Black Saturday bushfires have shown a remarkable capacity to adapt and recover over the ten years following the fires, there remains a proportion of the community who are still recovering over the medium to longer term.

The two main themes of ongoing impact for these people were: ¹⁵

- mental health issues or severe distress at both 5 and 10 years after the event
- financial stress was reported by 24 per cent of respondents at 5 years following the bushfires while 17 per cent reported financial stress at the 10 year mark

As such, the primary recommendation is Council establishes a 5-year framework for recovery in areas known to have longer recovery timeframes, and in doing so, support both recovery and community resilience building.

13.2 Recovery Timeline – the next five years

In line with key recommendation coming from the '10 Years Beyond Bushfires Report' that a five- year framework for recovery from major disasters be established, this Municipal Recovery Plan sets out support and actions to enable recovery from the pandemic and storm over the medium to longer term, as indicated in the recovery timeline below.

While support will be required over the medium to longer term, longer-term recovery activities will target a relatively smaller cohort consisting of those most impacted by the June storm. As such, Yarra Ranges Council's Recovery Directorate is being progressively absorbed back into the organisation to raise organisational capacity in responding to impacted communities as part of our sustained business model.

In conclusion, while understanding recovery activities will focus on a smaller cohort in the medium to longer term, Council is well placed in partnership with the State and Federal Government to support the longer-term need of impacted communities in:

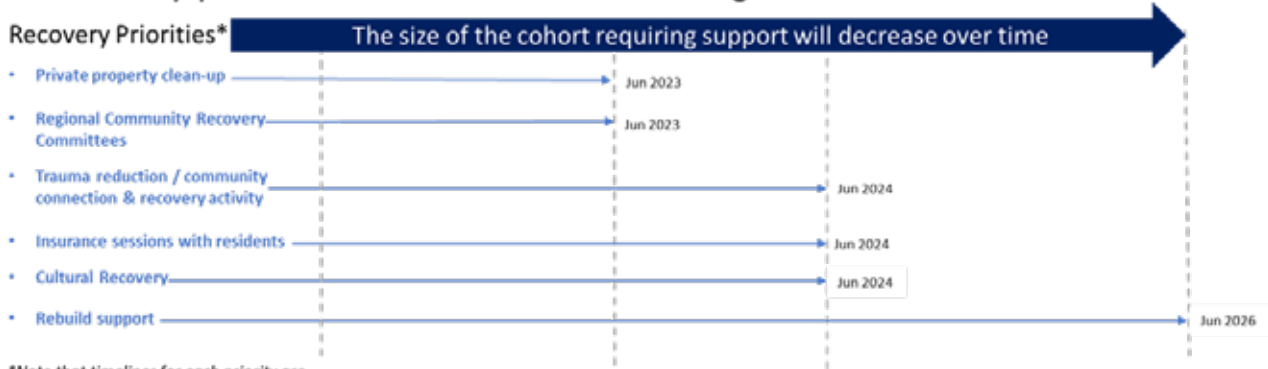
- Rebuild and repair support
- Cross-government collaboration on temporary accommodation options for those rebuilding / repairing
- Ongoing support for residents – with a focus on trauma and private property clean-up



This proposal is supported by current evidence of the pace of our community’s recovery including:

- There are 51 potential planning applications for rebuild or repairs. It is expected that 80% of rebuilds will be completed within the next four to five years. Currently only one planning permit has been applied for and approved for a total rebuild.
- As of August 2022, there are 55 households that remain displaced from their homes awaiting rebuild or repairs. Of these households, the majority are renting or are reliant on family or friends for accommodation, while the situation for some households is not known. For many of these residents, their insurance no longer covers the cost of their rental fees and there is a known market shortage for rental properties across Yarra Ranges
- As at June 2022, 16 (or 23%) of respondents to Council’s storm impact survey reporting ongoing trauma from the storm. In addition, 275 residents were being supported by case managers as at July 2022.
- More broadly, the 2021 Census identified that the Yarra Ranges municipality ranked seventh highest for residents with mental health conditions within metro Melbourne.

Recovery priorities with transition into regular in-house activities



**Note that timelines for each priority are approximations only*

13.3 Advocacy by Yarra Ranges Council

An increasingly important role to be played by Yarra Ranges Council is to advocate for the ongoing recovery needs of the community. This will include advocating with government agencies for ongoing funding in order to support recovery efforts over the medium to longer term.

The Recovery Action Plan located at the back of this document outlines a number of advocacy actions. This includes:

- Advocating with State and Federal Government to provide recovery support for the total time that will be required
- Undertaking advocacy on behalf of residents to address insurance as well as repairing and rebuilding issues
- Advocating for ongoing funding of the Lilydale Youth Hub
- Continuing to advocate for improved essential services, particularly the need for more reliable telecommunications and power supply
- Supporting other agencies as they advocate for resources to support environmental and biodiversity recovery with State and Federal Governments.

13.4 Funding Recovery

Delivering the full outcomes outlined in the Municipal Recovery Action Plan is estimated to cost \$26 million. As at the end of September 2022, Yarra Ranges Council has expended \$18 million on the recovery effort.

To date, there have been several announcements of support in addition to funding, including advances, received under Category A and B of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) that is supported by the Federal and State Governments in partnership.

\$15.2 million has been received across the following areas, significantly easing the pressure on cashflow, and enabling the significant activity that has been summarised above, including:

- \$3.8 million for staffing the Recovery Directorate for 2021-22 – received
- \$8.2 million approved DRFA claims and advances – received
- \$320k from Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning for the Storm Rebuilding Support Service Scheme – received
- \$2.0 million Kerbside Storm Branch Collection – received
- \$161k under the Targeted Recovery Funding Initiative – received
- \$657k from ERV for Property Clean-up – received
- \$2.0 million for staffing the Recovery Directorate for 2022-23 – not yet received

In addition, the first payment of \$2.4 million under the Preparing Australian Communities initiative was received in June.

While the grants and DRFA support is very welcome and does make a difference, Council is still no clearer on the overall level of funding support that will be made available by State and Commonwealth Governments.

13.5 Strategic Links & Risk Mitigation

Council is required under Emergency Management legislation to provide a supporting role to the lead agency in terms of emergency response and coordinate relief and recovery at the local level.

Council's recovery response is consistent with the current Yarra Ranges Council Plan, the Draft Council Plan 2021-25, the Health and Wellbeing Plan, and the Long-Term Financial Plan.

13.6 Recovery risk mitigation

Risk	Description	Mitigation
Bushfire	Frequency and intensity of events is building	Fuel management Community Education & Preparedness
Telecommunications	Unreliable internet and mobile connectivity, particularly following emergency events such as bushfire and severe storms.	Advocacy by YRC with State Government, NBN.Co and mobile carriers seeking to resolve ongoing issues and improve reliability, particularly during emergency events.
Community Health & Wellbeing	Limited access by the community to critical services such as mental health may inhibit recovery by some residents, particularly those that are most vulnerable.	Working with service providers to monitor demand for services and to ensure access is prioritised for vulnerable community members.
Increasing Frequency of Events and Support Levels to Local Government.	Cost shifting and being in a rate capped environment limits Local Government's ability to respond comprehensively	Consistent funding arrangements Building resilience to limit impacts where possible
Cumulative impacts of multiple events	Multiplicity puts pressure onto everything. An example would be drains that are not designed for the scale of a severe storm event.	Continued advocacy
Ageing Infrastructure	Utilities infrastructure including power, gas, and water is ageing and becoming less reliable, particularly during emergency events such as bushfire and severe storms.	Continued advocacy on behalf of the community by Yarra Ranges Council with State Government and utilities companies.



14. RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

Council's recovery journey requires us to start integrating significant events into business as usual, just as the community needs to adapt for higher preparedness to manage the changing reality and climate. The new normal may mean that the community has greater levels of awareness when events are forecast to occur and have firm action plans to respond accordingly.

Council has taken a project management approach to its' delivery of recovery actions, with clear project scopes informed by extensive data collection on event impact, assessment of risks and with actions and timeframes developed to guide timely and effective delivery of services to assist the community.

We will continue to work in partnership with the State Government, particularly Emergency Recovery Victoria and local community services organisations to identify issues of concern and to deliver a coordinated, efficient, and effective recovery from both the pandemic and the storm event.

The development of these actions has been informed by:

- Initial and secondary storm impact assessments
- Pandemic and storm impact surveys
- Evidence from evaluations of previous recovery responses
- Feedback and planning undertaken with relevant council officers
- Feedback/information gathered through community meetings and the Regional Recovery Committees
- ERV Community Recovery Framework
- Council's COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Framework

While this recovery plan has been developed to address the 9 June 2021 weather event, it is extremely relevant this emergency occurred during the global COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the social impacts of the storm event have compounded the impact of the pandemic. This plan incorporates a number of actions that were initially developed in response to the pandemic but will be significant in responding to the impact of the storm or in preparing for future emergency events as well.

14.1 Advocacy Action Plan

This plan has been developed to respond to the following objective:

To inform various government agencies of ongoing recovery themes, challenges, and needs in the community and to advocate for increased funding and support to assist with recovery efforts.

Note that advocacy work is unfunded and is being undertaken as part of Council's BAU activities.

Theme/Issue	Risk / Challenge	Action	Responsibility	Time-frame	Funding Sources
Services and support	Residents have been impacted by the pandemic, June 2021 Storm, and further significant weather events. Significant social, psychological, and economic impact has resulted. Evaluation of previous recovery events indicates that a 5-year recovery timeframe be planned for.	1. Advocate to State and Federal Government to pilot a model with Council that enables and resources recovery for the full expected recovery duration.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2025/2026	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Services and support	Residents have been impacted by the pandemic, June 2021 Storm, and further significant weather events. Significant social, psychological, and economic impact has resulted. Evaluation of previous recovery events indicates that a 5-year recovery timeframe be planned for.	2. Advocate to State Government for relevant services to be adequately and consistently resourced to address the Financial, Legal, and Psychosocial impact on residents of the June 2021 Storm.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2023/2024 (anticipated)	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Services and support	Residents have been impacted by the pandemic, June 2021 Storm, and further significant weather events. Significant social, psychological, and economic impact has resulted. Evaluation of previous recovery events indicates that a 5-year recovery timeframe be planned for.	3. Raise awareness of and undertake advocacy relating to the insurance issues being experienced by residents, businesses, and community organisations.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023, ongoing	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Services and support	Residents with properties requiring significant repair or rebuild are likely to face financial, logistical, administrative and psychological challenges over an extended period of time. Some properties may not be restored for a further 5 years.	4. Advocate to the State Government for financial supports to be made available for residents facing significant repairs/rebuilds (as provided in response to other recent disasters).	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2025/2026 (expected minimum)	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Services and support	Young people have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and there are service gaps for Mental Health services across the Yarra Ranges.	5. Advocate to the State Government for resources to implement a youth focussed recovery plan.	YRC	Quarter 1 to Quarter 2 2022/2023	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Inform the priorities of whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements	Negative impact on economic and community wellbeing.	6. Continue to update and work with key areas and Ministers of the State and Commonwealth Government regarding solutions for the local challenges to business.	YRC	Quarter 2 2021/2022, ongoing	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Manage and mitigate risks to the community	The Yarra Ranges remains at risk from disruption to essential services, particularly telecommunications and power.	7. Advocate for improved essential services, notably improved telecommunications, and power infrastructure.	YRC	Ongoing	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Inform the priorities of whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements	Limited support for assets that are damaged by compounding events.	8. Advocate for State recognition that assets such as drainage systems, that experience compounding events that erode and stress these assets.	YRC	Quarter 2 2021/2022, ongoing	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Services and support	Residents with properties requiring significant repair or rebuild are likely to face financial, logistical, administrative, and psychological challenges over an extended period of time. Some properties may not be restored for a further 5 years.	9. Advocate to the State Government to continue the Rebuilding Support Service past June 2023 and for support in improving the systems and supplies needed by residents as they face the skills, materials, and other construction barriers to their rebuilding needs.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2025/2026 (expected minimum)	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities
Manage and mitigate risks to the natural environment	Ensuring there are resources to support environmental recovery from the loss of biodiversity and habitat	10. Advocate to the State and Federal Governments for resources to enable support for effective environmental and biodiversity recovery. Support to include; biodiversity restoration, habitat and fauna monitoring, targeted weed and pest animal monitoring and control.	YRC	Quarter 1 to Quarter 4 2024/2025	Advocacy work is unfunded and undertaken by Yarra Ranges Council as part of BAU activities



14.2 People, Culture and Wellbeing Action Plan

This plan has been developed to respond to the following objective:

- To ensure people have access to the support, services, and resources they need to address the impacts of the emergency; prevent the escalation of needs; and long-term negative impacts on health and wellbeing.

People, Culture & Wellbeing Committee and Sub-committee representatives:

- Anglicare
- Eastern Community Legal Centre
- EACH
- Red Cross
- Emergency Recovery Victoria
- Windermere
- Inspiro
- Department of Families, Fairness & Housing
- Victorian Council of Churches
- Department of Education & Training

Confirmed and potential implementation partners:

- Youth Service Providers/Youth Support Organisations
- Oonah
- Habitat for Humanity
- Treasuring Our Trees
- Insurance Council for Australia
- Community Enterprise Foundation
- Eastern Volunteers
- Migrant Information Centre
- Eastern Domestic Violence Service
- Boorndawan Willam Aboriginal Healing Service
- Neighbourhood Houses and all community organisations across the Yarra Ranges.

Theme/Issue	Risk / Challenge	Action	Responsibility	Time-frame	Funding Sources
Timely and appropriate information	A number of residents will require support from a range of agencies to address their needs. Services will be most effective when integrated. Impacted residents may not be aware that services are available.	11. Publicize information about available recovery support across impacted communities and provide events for residents to connect with services.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2023/2024	Yarra Ranges Council Council Support Fund (ERV) Recovery Support Program (DFFH)
Manage environmental risks on private land	Some residents lack the means and/or were unable to access support to remove tree debris from their residences	12. Deliver the Community Clean Up Program assisting residents with private property clean-up and support the repurposing of reclaimed timber in community projects.	YRC and community partners	Quarter 1 to Quarter 4 2022/2023 and potentially longer	Council Support Fund (ERV) Kerbside Collection (DELWP) Private Property Clean-up Grant (ERV)
Services and support	Community members will recover at their own pace, and at different times. Evidence indicates that there will be an increase in unhealthy lifestyle behaviour such as alcohol consumption. The evidence base indicates the importance of: • A range of appropriate acknowledgements of significant event anniversaries • Fun-family activities • Community- based low intensity interventions • Building the capacity of existing community organisations The evidence base indicates the value of debriefing and story-telling opportunities.	13. Deliver the Healing In Our Gardens Program to restore resident gardens and promote community connection.	YRC and community partners	Quarter 1 to Quarter 4 2022/2023 and longer depending on identified benefit	Yarra Ranges Council Community Led Recovery Grant - Anticipated (ERV)
Services and support	Research indicates that young people have been significantly impacted by the pandemic and that this will increase. This impact has been compounded in the Storm impacted Area.	14. Develop and implement a youth focussed recovery plan, seeking additional resources from State Government as required.	YRC	Quarter 2 2022/23 to Quarter 4 2024/2025	Unfunded currently
Services and support	A number of residents will require support from a range of agencies to address their needs. Services will be most effective when integrated. Impacted residents may not be aware that services are available.	15. Provide a range of recovery support services (financial, legal, psychosocial) and transition any residents requiring further support to ongoing services as dedicated services cease.	Anglicare, EACH, Eastern Community Legal Centre, Inspiro, Windermere	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 2 2023/2024 but longer may be required for some services	Recovery Support Program (DFFH)
Services and support	A number of residents will face extended rebuilding times. Council will seek to build relations with all residents in this situation and provide information and access to other support.	16. Provide an information and supported referral service for residents experiencing ongoing storm impacts.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2023/2024 but longer may be required	Council Support Fund (ERV)
Services and support	Some residents may require extensive support to resolve insurance issues.	17. Provide information sessions and advocacy support for residents requiring support with insurance matters.	YRC, IAC, ECLC	Quarter 1 to Quarter 4 2022/23	Council Support Fund (ERV)
Services and support	A number of residents will require support from a range of agencies to address their needs. Services will be most effective when integrated. Impacted residents may not be aware that services are available.	18. Facilitate a Community of Practice for agencies supporting storm impacted residents	DFFH (lead), Anglicare, Inspiro, EACH, YRC, Windermere	Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 4 2023/2024	Previously facilitated by DFFH
Enable Community Led Recovery	Community/individual recovery is most effective when community led. A range of opportunities need to be provided for community to participate and influence recovery. There is a strong desire from community to be better prepared for a future emergency which will assist their recovery.	19. Implement four Regional Community Recovery Committees (RCRCs) and support each to fund recovery activities as they determine.	YRC in partnership with Community Enterprise Foundation	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2022/2023 with project delivery up until Quarter 4 2023/2024	Yarra Ranges Council Council Support Fund Community Led Recovery Grant - Anticipated (ERV)

Theme/Issue	Risk / Challenge	Action	Responsibility	Time-frame	Funding Sources
Services and support	Community members will recover at their own pace, and at different times. Evidence indicates that there will be an increase in unhealthy lifestyle behaviour such as alcohol consumption. The evidence base indicates the importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of appropriate acknowledgements of significant event anniversaries • Fun-family activities • Community- based low intensity interventions • Building the capacity of existing community organisations The evidence base indicates the value of debriefing and story-telling opportunities	20. Work with community groups and other relevant stakeholders to develop and deliver recovery programs and activities that promote community connection and wellbeing across the Storm Impacted area.	YRC and community partners	Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 4 2023/2024	Yarra Ranges Council Council Support Fund (ERV) DFFH Targeted Recovery Fund
Services and support	Community members will recover at their own pace, and at different times. Evidence indicates that there will be an increase in unhealthy lifestyle behaviour such as alcohol consumption. The evidence base indicates the importance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of appropriate acknowledgements of significant event anniversaries • Fun-family activities • Community- based low intensity interventions • Building the capacity of existing community organisations The evidence base indicates the value of debriefing and story-telling opportunities.	21. Support community to provide events they consider appropriate at the 24-month mark through a further small grant application round.	YRC	Quarter 4 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2025/26	Yarra Ranges Council
Services and support	The severe weather event and pandemic have had a significant impact on the mental wellbeing of residents	22. Implement Mental Wellbeing Project to strengthen community mental wellbeing and resilience.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 4 2024/25	Yarra Ranges Council
Enable Community Led Recovery	It is recognised that the exploration of Indigenous ways of knowing will enable Council to respond more effectively in future emergencies.	23. Develop a Cultural Recovery Program informed by consultation with relevant Aboriginal Traditional Owner and Community stakeholders.	YRC and Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, Traditional Owner Groups, Indigenous Advisory Committee and Indigenous Advisory Committee	Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 4 2023/2024	Yarra Ranges Council Council Support Fund Community Led Recovery Grant - Anticipated (ERV)
Services and support	The most vulnerable and marginalised residents will require support from emergency relief networks and targeted recovery support engagement.	24. Strengthen provision of emergency relief through implementing the recommendations from the review of Yarra Ranges Emergency Relief Network.	YRC and YERN	Quarter 1 to Quarter 4 2022/2023	Yarra Ranges Council Preparing Australian Communities Fund
Manage and mitigate risks to the community	Evidence indicates that there will be an increase in aggressive behaviour and in family violence in the community.	25. Identify opportunities to prevent the escalation of male violence against women in the most impacted areas.	YRC, Women's Health East & Partners	Quarter 2 to Quarter 4 2022/2023	Yarra Ranges Council



14.3 Business, Tourism and Economy Action Plan

This plan has been developed to respond to the following objective:

- To address the economic impact of an emergency, including impacts on individuals and households, small and large businesses, industries, primary producers, tourism, and the broader economy.

Business, Tourism and Economy Committee and Sub-committee representatives:

- Yarra Range Government Agencies
- ERV
- DJPR
- Small Business, Agriculture Victoria, and Metropolitan Partnerships
- Yarra Ranges Tourism
- Box Hill Institute
- CIRE

Confirmed and potential implementation partners:

- Eastern Regional Libraries
- OELLEN
- Yarra Ranges Business, Industry and Traders Groups
- Neighbourhood Houses
- Yarra Ranges Tech School

Theme/Issue	Risk / Challenge	Action	Responsibility	Time-frame	Funding Sources
Inform the priorities of whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements	Negative impact on economic and community wellbeing	26. Implement a regional program that will (i) address workforce shortages, (ii) reduce barriers for job-seekers, and (iii) increase incentives for employers.	YRC Coordinator, ROC Worker, Coms	Quarter 1 2022/2023 -Quarter 4 2023/2024	Council Support Fund (ERV)
Inform the priorities of whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements	Negative impact on economic and community wellbeing	27. Deliver a small grants program for Business & Traders to activate economic recovery.	YRC, Trader, Coordinator	Quarter 1-Quarter 4 2022/2023	Yarra Ranges Council
Services and support	Negative impact on economic and community wellbeing	28. Produce regular marketing message information sheets for distribution to all businesses to use in their promoting the region.	YRC Eco Recovery Team	Quarter 1-Quarter 4 2022/2023	Council Support Fund (ERV)
Services and support	Limited community awareness and accessibility of available services and programs	29. Collate business support initiatives from various services, banks, Government Agencies and ensure effective dissemination to businesses and their employees	YRC Eco Recovery Team	Quarter 1-Quarter 4 2022/2023	Council Support Fund (ERV)
Services and support	Businesses wish to develop their resilience to future events in addition to recovering economically	30. Facilitate a series of forums or workshops via partnerships relating to economic recovery, resilience, employment and disaster management open to local businesses and industry groups.	YRC Eco Recovery Team	Quarter 1-Quarter 4 2022/2023	Council Support Fund (ERV)
Timely and appropriate information	Inaccurate information on the extent of economic impacts	31. Undertake business engagement to develop evidence-based arguments to state and commonwealth government for adequate business assistance.	YRC Eco Recovery Team	Quarter 1-Quarter 4 2022/2023	Council Support Fund (ERV)
Timely and appropriate information	Inaccurate information on the extent of economic impacts	32. Use the local evidence base to better inform decision making, planning and advocacy.	YRC Eco Recovery Team	Quarter 1-Quarter 2 2022/2023	Council Support Fund (ERV)

14.4 Public Infrastructure Action Plan

This plan has been developed to respond to the following two objectives:

- To inform the priorities of whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements so that affected communities receive timely and appropriate information, services, and support as they relate to the built and natural environment.
- To manage consequences and mitigate risks to the built and natural environment on public and private land

Public infrastructure working group confirmed/proposed members:

- Yarra Ranges Council (YRC)

Theme/Issue	Risk / Challenge	Action	Responsibility	Time-frame	Funding Sources
Manage and mitigate risks to the built environment	Return infrastructure impacted by storm to pre-existing service levels	33. Oversee and coordinate the delivery of the Road Reconstruction Program funded through DRFA category B works for 12 projects.	YRC	Quarter 2 2021/2022 to Quarter 2 2022/23	DRFA

14.5 Environment and Biodiversity Action Plan

This plan has been developed to respond to the following two objectives:

- To inform the priorities of whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements so that affected communities receive timely and appropriate information, services, and support as they relate to the built and natural environment.
- To manage consequences and mitigate risks to the built and natural environment on public and private land.

Environment & Biodiversity working group confirmed/proposed members:

- Yarra Ranges Council (YRC)
- Emergency Recovery Victoria (M)
- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria

Theme/Issue	Risk / Challenge	Action	Responsibility	Time-frame	Funding Sources
Manage and mitigate risks to the natural environment	Lack of uniform environmental outcome considerations in emergency response activity	34. Deliver the Habitat and Hollows pilot program, which will establish new cavities to replace lost habitat suitable for local wildlife across six Council sites.	YRC	Quarter 2 2021/2022 to Quarter 2 2022/23	DRFA
Manage and mitigate risks to the natural environment	Supporting community and environmental volunteer's recovery from the loss of biodiversity and habitat	35. Deliver a program complementary to the Habitat and Hollows pilot for Biodiversity Restoration on 15 private properties impacted by the storms.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/23 to Quarter 4 2022/23	Recovering Our Landscape (DELWP)
Services and support	Supporting the community to reduce fire risk through fuel management	36. Develop third round Storm branch collection for storm impacted suburbs.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 2 2022/2023	Kerbside Collection (DELWP)

14.6 Planning and Rebuilding Action Plan

This plan has been developed to respond to the following two objectives:

- To inform the priorities of whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements so that affected communities receive timely and appropriate information, services, and support as they relate to the built and natural environment.
- To manage consequences and mitigate risks to the built and natural environment on public and private land

Planning and Rebuilding working group confirmed/proposed members:

- Yarra Ranges Council (YRC)
- Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV)
- Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)

Theme/Issue	Risk / Challenge	Action	Responsibility	Time-frame	Funding Sources
Timely and appropriate information Page 148	Incomplete impact data quality of damaged and destroyed private property.	37. Complete the Municipal Building inspections for homes destroyed and / or damaged by 9 June storms and continue to issue, monitor, and enforce emergency and building orders.	YRC	Quarter 2 2021/2022 to ongoing	Yarra Ranges Council
Timely and appropriate information	Incomplete impact data quality of damaged and destroyed private property.	38. Maintain centralised list of damaged private property with associated overlays (bushfire, erosion) size, age, connection to sewer and reticulated water supply.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2025/2026 (expected minimum)	Council Support Fund (ERV)
Services and support	Navigating residents successfully through the complicated planning processes required to rebuild. Evaluation of previous recovery events indicates that a 5-year recovery timeframe be planned for.	39. Continue to provide advice and support through the Planning and Rebuilding teams for storm impacted residents. Including the assessment of planning applications, coordinating with Country Fire Authority to provide advice on pre-application queries and coordinating with public health team on septic and related issues.	YRC	Quarter 1 2022/2023 to Quarter 4 2025/2026 (expected minimum)	Yarra Ranges Council
Services and support	Addressing the cost and accessibility barriers faced by residents engaging in planning processes to rebuild.	40. Continue to provide the Rebuilding Support Service to storm impacted residents including access to planning related experts, providing small group sessions and one on one planning advice in navigating the planning scheme.	YRC	Quarter 2 2021/2022 to Quarter 4 2022/2023	Rebuilding Support Service (DELWP)
Whole-of-government recovery coordination arrangements	Simplifying and streamlining planning and rebuilding processes and systems for storm impacted communities	41. Continue to offer relief options such as fee waiving for storm impacted landowners.	YRC	Quarter 2 2021/2022, ongoing	Yarra Ranges Council
Services and support	Supporting the community to build better social and built form resilience to help reduce the impacts of natural disasters	42. Oversee the research and reporting on the Landslip Risk Assessment	YRC	Quarter 4 2021/2022 to Quarter 3 2022/2023	Council Support Fund (ERV) Preparing Australian Communities Fund

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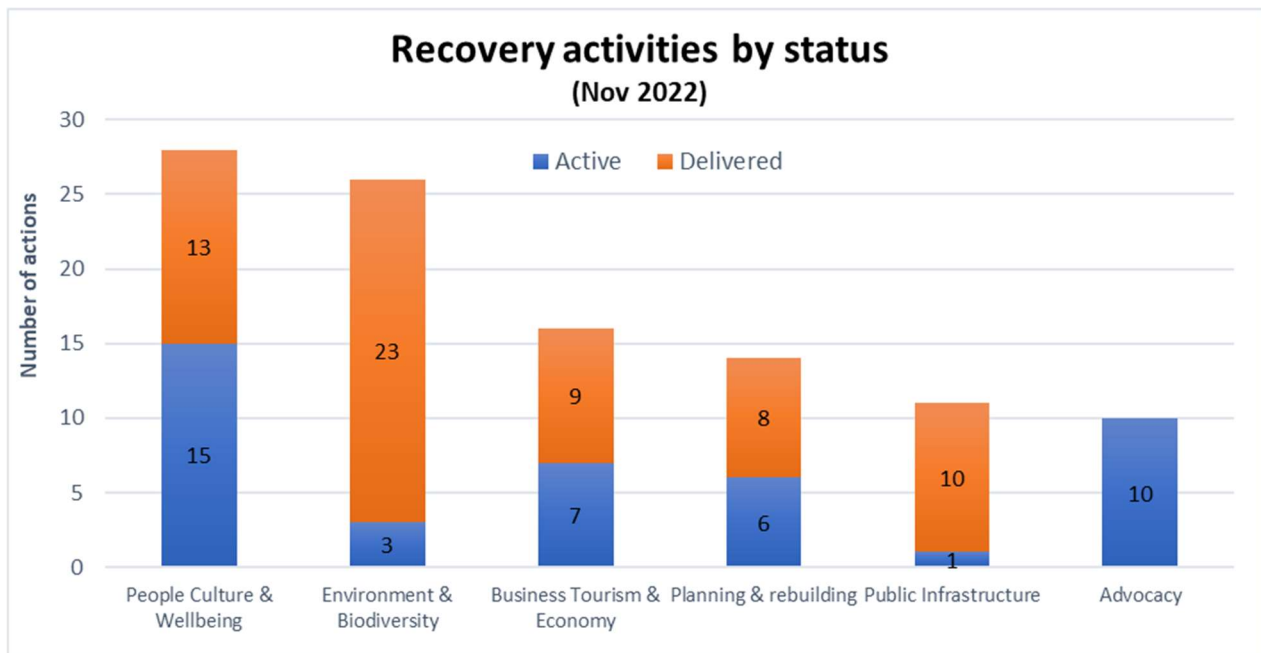
Attachment 2 - Progress Against Recovery Activities

Overview

The chart below provides an overview of progress against recovery activities as of November 2022. It shows a total of 105 activities of which 63 were delivered over 2021-22. As of November 2022 a total of 42 activities are classified as being active.

The largest category falls under People Culture & Wellbeing stream accounting for 27% of all activities followed by Environment and Biodiversity (25%), Business Tourism & the Economy (15%), Planning and Rebuilding (13%), Public Infrastructure (10%) and Advocacy making up the remaining 10%.

Recovery activities by status at November 2022				
Action type	Active	Delivered	Total	% of total
People Culture & Wellbeing	15	13	28	27%
Environment & Biodiversity	3	23	26	25%
Business Tourism & Economy	7	9	16	15%
Planning & rebuilding	6	8	14	13%
Public Infrastructure	1	10	11	10%
Advocacy	10	0	10	10%
Total	42	63	105	100%



Attachment 2 - Progress Against Recovery Activities

Recovery activities by completion date

Active recovery activities by their expected completion date are shown in the table below. It indicates that a high proportion of active recovery activities are expected to be completed by June 2023 (53%) and that by June 2024 it is anticipated that 78% of active activities will be completed.

In the final year of the Municipal Recovery Plan, it is anticipated that there will be only 5 remaining activities to be delivered. In the event that an activity is not fully completed by June 2026, it will be implemented through other existing Council plans.

Active recovery activities by expected completion date							
Activity completion date	Bus Tourism & the Economy	Environment & Biodiversity	People Culture & Wellbeing	Planning & rebuilding	Public Infrastructure	Total	% of total
Dec-22	0	0	0	0	1	1	3%
Jun-23	6	2	6	2	0	16	50%
Jun-24	1	0	7	0	0	8	25%
Jun-25	0	1	1	0	0	2	6%
Jun-26	0	0	1	4	0	5	16%
Total	7	3	15	6	1	32	100%

Source: MRP Recovery Action Plan at November 2022

Note: Advocacy activities have been omitted from this table as there is no confirmed funding for these tasks


Recovery activities delivered over 2021-22


Recovery activities that have been delivered over 2021-22 are listed below with infographics, descriptions and participation statistics provided where appropriate.


Business, Tourism & Economy Recovery Activities Delivered 2021-22


- 
Business outreach engagement – Council officers provided support to local businesses through outreach activities including free gift wrapping and visiting and distributing 'Buy Local' marketing collateral
- 
Buy local campaign – marketing campaign developed to encourage the community to support local business
- 
Have a Yarra Ranges Christmas – marketing campaign developed to encourage the community and visitors to support local business during the Christmas period
- 
Waiving business fees – Council waived business fees over the 2021-22 renewal period to reduce business costs during the pandemic
- 
Facilitating employment in the Yarra Ranges – helping YR youth transition into hospitality careers as well as the creation of the Yarra Ranges Joblink website
- 
Hospitality Training – Through a partnership with training providers including CIRE and Box Hill Institute
- 
Advocacy for improvements to telecommunications network – Direct advocacy with State Government and NBN Co and mobile carriers
- 
Region of choice – Initiative to promote businesses that practise employer of choice qualities
- 
Temporary outdoor dining – Businesses create appealing outdoor dining areas for their patrons using a \$5,000 State grant.


People, Culture & Wellbeing Recovery Activities Delivered 2021-22


- 


Mental health first aid - delivered 10 courses to more than 160 participants
- 


David Younger webinars – Understanding the emotional effects of a severe weather event - weekly webinars held by David Younger (Clinical Psychologist). 1,000+ views of these webinars
- 


Mental health & wellbeing sessions – Delivered by Rob Gordon (Psychologist), 1,000+ views of these sessions.
- 


Online community forums – Held with State Government and other key agencies as requested by the community. Several forums were held and were well attended by up to 50+ participants per session
- 


Storm response community meetings – Council, emergency services and State Government agencies hosted three community meetings to provide in person debriefs on storm recovery. These meetings were held in Olinda, Kalorama and Mount Evelyn and were well attended with up to 100+ residents in attendance per meeting.
- 


Lessons learned sessions – Sessions delivered by Council and partner agencies to share lessons learned on relief response to the June. These sessions were well attended with up to 50+ residents in attendance per meeting.
- 

Pop up recovery hubs – Delivered storm recovery resources and referrals to residents in storm affected areas over the medium to longer term. During the emergency response phase, up to 7 recovery hubs were in operation with total attendance numbers of approximately 15,000 residents. Pop up hubs operating over the recovery phase engaged 500+ residents.
- 

Outreach door knocking program – The aim of this program is to understand the ongoing recovery needs of community members across storm impacted areas in the Yarra Ranges. Outreach conducted over the second quarter of 2022 focused on the Hills region across 8 townships engaging with approximately 200+ residents.
- 


Pandemic and storm impact survey – Measures impacts on the community and enables tracking of recovery. Has been conducted three times in 12 months with approximately 1500 residents responding to the survey.
- 


Regional Community Recovery Committees – Four committees established to support community led recovery. The first round of community led recovery grants have been delivered with a total of \$264,000 having been approved for implementation as at October 2022.
- 


Art Attack program – 35 arts & cultural experiences provided by local artists to enliven retail strips and encourage social connection
- 

Insurance events – Council conducted several insurance events with residents providing free advice on insurance matters. These sessions were well attended including those whose homes were damaged by the June storm.

Planning and Rebuilding Recovery Activities Delivered 2021-22

- 

Reimagining your rebuild – Several in person workshops have been held that offer expert planning and building guidance to storm impacted residents. A maximum of 30 residents per attended session.
- 

Outreach to private property owners – 183 residents who own storm damaged structures have been contacted and had the progress of their planning applications monitored. A total of 132 of these planning applications have now been closed with the remaining 51 potential applications to be finalised.
- 

Private property clean up – Removal of extensive volumes of green waste on properties of residents who are financially or physically unable to do so themselves. Undertaken by two not-for-profit organisations who specialise in disaster recovery. More than 200 resident properties have been registered to receive this service.

Environment & Biodiversity Recovery Activities Delivered 2021-22



Two kerbside branch collections – Council collection of bulky tree branches from resident properties across the Urban, Valley and Hills regions. More than 45,000 cubic metres of branch material collected.



Processing storm timber debris – Timber debris was processed into useful products and returned to the community. This included:

- 250 logs given to community groups for pony club jumps etc
- 50 hollow bearing logs used for bushland habitat
- 8 truck loads of root balls used to create a fish habitat
- Materials provided to Olinda Botanical Garden, Healesville Sanctuary and Coranderrk
- Milling logs returned to Council as 13000 items such as planting stakes, bollards and fencing materials,
- 8000 cubic metres of mulch going to the community and Council parks
- 2000 cubic metres of firewood to community



Removal of Hazardous Trees – Removed on all Council owned land, roadsides, play spaces and reserves

Public Infrastructure Recovery Activities Delivered 2021-22



Repairs to 35 Council facilities – Works to repair 35 Council facilities, including extensive works needed at the Monbulk Aquatic Centre (re –opened in September 2022) and the relocation of the Mount Dandenong Preschool



Repairs to Council roads, paths, drainage systems, bridges – These works included repairs to roads, reinstatement of pavement surfaces, repairs to tunnels and removal of storm debris along roadsides. The total number of storm related requests completed by job type are **Roads: 288, Drainage: 644, Trees: 2,318**



Storm related drainage material – This material was tested, sorted and repurposed where possible or sent for disposal

REGIONAL COMMUNITY RECOVERY COMMITTEES UPDATE

Report Author: Manager Community & Business Recovery

Responsible Officer: Director Recovery

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

In April 2021, Yarra Ranges Council agreed to develop a community-led recovery project, with Council endorsing “*the establishment of four Community Recovery Committees that are empowered to make funding decisions for their communities and have membership based on representativeness and skills to contribute to the recovery phase of the pandemic*”.

The remit for these groups was expanded in September 2021, to also include recovery from the June 2021 Storm. Four Regional Community Recovery Committees (RCRCs) were then formed as Advisory Committees to Council covering the Hills, Valley, Upper Yarra, and Urban regions of the municipality.

This report gives an overview of the work the Regional Community Recovery Committees have achieved since they were formally established in November 2021. Regional Community Recovery Committees have worked tirelessly with their communities to support an understanding of the local recovery issues. To date, Regional Community Recovery Committees in partnership with the Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF) have engaged with community and delivered grant funding totalling close to \$279,000 for 59 community led recovery projects.

The processes undertaken by the RCRCs so far have developed skills and confidence in each of the communities they are supporting.

Regional Community Recovery Committees will continue until 30 June 2023 and will oversee delivery of further Council funding for community-led recovery projects.

The Council support for the Regional Community Recovery Committees will now transfer to Council’s Communities Directorate which requires an update of the delegations associated with the RCRCs to allow for the continued administration.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council

- 1. Note the progress made by the four Regional Community Recovery Committees and its support of the recovery of our communities.**
- 2. Note the first round of Community-Led Recovery Grants with 59 community-led projects receiving \$278,809.95 worth of funding.**
- 3. Endorse the transfer of the delegated authority from Director of Recovery and Manager of Community & Business Recovery to the Director of Communities and Manager Community Wellbeing from the from 31 December 2022, to authorise:**
 - (a) the appointment of members of the community to respective Regional Community Recovery Committees;**
 - (b) the Community Led Recovery Plans; and**
 - (c) funding recommendations of the Regional Community Recovery Committees.**

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

Council supported the initial allocation of funding to Community Recovery Committees in the budget meeting of 11 August 2020. This initiative was also included in a later report on 8 December 2020 which outlined a range of Recovery activities.

At the [13 April 2021 Council meeting](#), Council unanimously endorsed the expenditure of \$1m for the establishment of four Community Recovery Committees under Council's Pandemic Recovery Framework.

At the [14 September 2021 Council meeting](#), Council endorsed the formation of four Regional Community Recovery Committees as Advisory Committees of Council with specific Terms of Reference and extended commitment to The Project to 30 June 2023, with the coordination and administration costs of \$175,000 from the 2022/23 Pandemic/Storm Recovery Commitment.

In addition, Council has also considered the Municipal Recovery Plan at the following meetings:

- Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 14 June 2022;
- Item 7.1 Municipal Recovery Plan Update for noting;
- Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 12 April 2022;
- Item 7.1 Municipal Recovery Plan Update for noting;

- Yarra Ranges Council meeting on 14 December 2021; and
- Item 7.1 Municipal Recovery Plan for endorsement and Storm Recovery Update for noting

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Yarra Ranges Council is committed to encouraging community-led recovery, supporting impacted communities to be self-determining in shaping and driving their recovery from disasters. In response to the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic Council agreed to establish Community Recovery Committees to support community activation.

In November 2021, Council endorsed four Regional Community Recovery Committees (RCRCs), covering the Yarra Ranges regions of the Hills, Urban, Upper Yarra and Valley, in response to the June 2021 Storm and COVID Pandemic. The term for the RCRCs finishes on 30 June 2023.

The intention for RCRCs, was to distribute funding to community organisations (through grant making) and develop local community led recovery plans.

Regional Community Recovery Committee Development and Achievements

RCRC members were selected through an Expression of Interest process that was open to the whole community. Appointed members participated in induction and training activities from November 2021 which took place online due to COVID restrictions. To date the RCRCs have transitioned through several stages of team development and volunteer member have dedicated significant time in the support of their community.

Originally 45 community members were endorsed into their respective RCRCs, currently there are 30 members. There is a strong pattern of attrition with committees of this kind, and the resignation of members has been due to a number of reasons including illness, increasing family and work commitments, COVID vaccination status, members becoming Council employees and one becoming a Councillor.

A significant amount of work has been achieved in less than 12 months, including:

- All RCRCs meeting at least monthly;
- Induction, introductions, planning and goal setting;
- Engagement with communities through implementing surveys, hosting community forums, and having numerous one on one discussions;
- Understanding focus / priority areas, as represented in the funding guidelines for each Grant Round and in Council's Municipal Recovery Plan;

- Liaising with Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF) in the development of Round 1 Grant Guidelines;
- Designing promotional material and hosting information sessions to publicise their grant rounds;
- Awarding the first round of funding to grant applicants (Attachment 1);
- Contributing to an independent evaluation of this initiative and participating in an interim 'health check' of the project; and
- Starting to reflect on the initial grants process in preparation for next rounds.

RCRCs are now planning for the final 7 months of the project.

Consultation with RCRC members on 10th October 2022 has confirmed that RCRCs, in their remaining time together, are considering how to complete their plan to:

- undertake more extensive community engagement;
- implement further grant rounds including the Municipal Wide grants;
- document their experience to assist with potential future iterations of Community Recovery Committees; and
- explore becoming more strategic in their actions.

Whilst the Round 1 grant allocation has been completed, there remains funding (for Round 2 and Municipal-wide funding) to be distributed. Further, Council awaits the outcome of a funding application submitted to Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) to offer additional Community Led Recovery grants that focus on recovery from storm and flood only.

Partnership with Community Enterprise Foundation

To support the work of the RCRCs, Council formed the Yarra Ranges Community Recovery Partnership with the Local Bendigo Community Banks of the Yarra Ranges and the Community Enterprise Foundation (CEF), the philanthropic arm of the Bendigo Bank. The purpose of this partnership was to support the RCRCs to create resilient and connected communities that are empowered to act in response to their own community's need, build capacity and lead positive change for all stakeholders, through the grant process.

Aside from the work they have undertaken administering the grants with the RCRCs, the CEF also play a significant role in supporting grant recipients with managing the implementation of their funded projects through to completion and providing guidance with reporting and acquittal.

The collaboration between Council and the CEF has been beneficial to all parties. The CEF have actively participated in many activities of the RCRC, such as

attending meetings, hosting grants information sessions for community groups and making themselves available to assist with community queries in assisting with grant making.

Community-Led Recovery Grants

Each committee chose to focus initially on a process of grant-making, based on their initial understanding of local recovery needs.

All four Regional Community Recovery Committees have completed their first round of Community-Led Recovery Grants - a summary of the grants awarded is provided in *Attachment 1: Summary of Successful Community-Led Recovery Grants Round 1*.

Round 1 Community-Led Recovery Grants opened in July and each RCRC developed guidelines and engaged with community to promote the opportunity for funding. In total 69 applications for community led recovery projects were submitted, with community groups requesting \$448,779.70.

The members of the RCRCs engaged directly with groups that were operating in their region to identify impacts but also make them aware of the grant opportunities. This resulted in a number of applications from groups that haven't or rarely apply to Council's standard grant rounds.

All four RCRCs have completed their assessments of all applications and have recommended that 59 projects with a total of \$278,809.95 be funded (a further breakdown is included in Table 1: *Community-Led Recovery Grant Round 1 funding allocations*).

Round 1 Community-Led Recovery Grants projects (implementation) are scheduled to be completed by community groups before 30 June 2023.

Table 1: Community-Led Recovery Grant Round 1 funding allocations

Grant round	Applications received	Funding requested	Applications funded	Funding allocated	Funding remaining
Hills CRC	22	\$140,684.90	13	\$54,334.90	\$95,665.10
Upper Yarra CRC	17	\$177,409.00	9	\$42,984.25	\$107,015.75
Urban CRC	13	\$62,028.80	10	\$47,228.80	\$102,771.20
Valley CRC	17	\$68,657.00	13	\$49,134.00	\$100,866.00
Total Round 1	69	\$448,778.70	45	\$193,681.95	\$406,318.05
LGA-wide (via Rd 1)*	0	0	14	\$85,128.00	\$114,872.00
Total	69	\$448,778.70	59	\$278,809.95	\$521,190.05

**Submissions via regional Round 1 application process, however projects have municipal benefit and therefore are proposed to be considered for funding from the municipal-wide funding pool.*

Feedback regarding the grants process has been positive. RCRC members have discussed their appreciation of the opportunity to engage with their community to explore community projects in detail and are proud of the contributions they have made to assisting community with delivering applications.

Community groups have reported their appreciation for the assistance they received from each RCRC and the Community Enterprise Foundation, and the opportunity to deliver projects.

Delegation of Decision-making to Council Officers

To ensure adherence to appropriate governance and legislative requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*, currently the Director Recovery and Manager Community & Business Recovery are delegated under authority of the CEO to make decisions about Community Recovery Committees.

With the longer-term responsibilities for Council's recovery support transferring to the permanent business teams, it is necessary to change delegates from the Director of Recovery and Manager Community & Business Recovery to the Director of Communities and Manager Community Wellbeing.

Such delegation manages risk and increases transparency in the decision-making of RCRC grant allocation and will continue to ensure efficiency in decision-making with respect to RCRC recommendations. The delegation of authority will remain regarding decision making pertaining to RCRC membership, and endorsement of Community Plans will reduce bureaucracy and expedite the actions of the RCRC.

Options considered

The continuation of RCRCs beyond 30 June 2023 was considered however this is not recommended as the project is a time limited model.

Recommended option and justification

It is recommended that Council acknowledges the substantial work that the Regional Community Recovery Committees have achieved in 12 months, including the achievements of the first round of grants, and their proposals to consider further grant rounds and the development of local community recovery plans where achievable within the remaining time of the project.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

No further funding is required to complete the project originally agreed to by Council in September of 2021.

Some of Council’s expected outlay has been offset through the support of the State Government’s Council Support Fund and lower than anticipated set-up and operating costs.

Table 2: Funding allocated to the Community Recovery Committee Project

Funded Items	Endorsed / Supported	Council Budget Allocation	External Funding Allocation
RCRC Grant Allocations	Council April 2021	\$800, 000	
RCRC establishment & administrative costs (incl CEF)	Council April 2021	\$200, 000	
Staff Allocation and operating costs (Pandemic/Storm Recovery Fund)	Council September 2021	\$175,000	
Total of Original Budget		\$1,175,000	
Revised Cost of Project		\$1,118,500	
*Council allocation reduced grant covering staff costs to 30 June 2023 initially	Council Support Fund (Round 1 & 2)		\$ 197,500
Revised Total Council Allocation		\$921,000	

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

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

- Connected and Healthy Communities

This report also contributes strongly to the following strategic objective(s) in the following plans:

- Municipal Recovery Plan
 - Enable Community Led Recovery
 - Implement four Regional Community Recovery Committees (RCRCs) and support each to develop a regional recovery plan with ring-fenced funding.
- Pandemic Recovery Framework
 - Objective 3
 - Community members feel sufficiently safe and secure following the pandemic to engage in social activities and interactions with other members of the community.

- Yarra Ranges Council Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025
 - Respond to public health impacts of emergencies.
 - Communities in Yarra Ranges recover from Covid 19 and other emergencies and restore social connections, mental and physical health and wellbeing, thriving local places and economies, and access to services and resources needed.
- Yarra Range Council Community Engagement Policy 2021

RELEVANT LAW

Local Government Act 2020 - To ensure compliance with appropriate governance and legislative requirements under the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Director Communities and Manager Community Wellbeing, under authority from the CEO will be granted delegation to undertake the duty of decision-making regarding RCRC grant allocation and endorsing Community Recovery Plans. This will manage risk and increase transparency in decision-making while maintaining commitment to active community participation in community led recovery.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

An initial brief analysis of the grants made to date indicates a spread between projects that will support social connection, provide services to the community or support activities that will provide some economic and environmental benefit.

Economic Implications

The economic impacts of the pandemic and the storm are significant. Loss of employment and small business closures are of particular concern in areas of Yarra Ranges. Economic and social impacts are inter-connected with a decline in mental health resulting from loss of economic wellbeing. RCRC grants are already supporting local events that revitalise local communities and inject into the local economy as well as grants that address unemployment or the social issues arising from unemployment.

Social Implications

The social impacts of the pandemic are many and still evolving and further complicated by the emotional and physical damage from the storm. The role of The Project is to understand local priorities emerging from the impacts of emergencies and develop locally appropriate, locally led responses to them where possible.

In doing this the strength of local networks, ingenuity and capability is greatly increased which not only is a significant success from a recovery perspective but also vital for preparedness and resilience.

Environmental Implications

Environmental issues are being indirectly influenced through this project via the applications to the RCRC grant rounds. Already a number of nature-based activities have been proposed for consideration through the first round of grants.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Project is founded on a principle of community driven activity which can only be achieved through effective engagement.

The current RCRCs have engaged with the community in several ways, including surveys, community forums, one-on-one discussion. The outcomes of these activities contributed to the development of the grant guidelines for Round 1 funding and identifying the community priorities for recovery. These are centred around community connection and building resilience which also formed the basis of the objective of funding for grants.

RCRCs, in conjunction with CEF, hosted a number of information sessions to assist with grant applications and CEF have been instrumental in assisting community groups complete their grant applications.

RCRC continue to liaise and engage with community to further their understanding of recovery priorities.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

A range of consultation has been undertaken in the establishment and implementation of the RCRCs. The community information sessions they held provided a strong understanding of community sentiment and evidence of community desire to be involved in recovery activities.

Council continues to work in partnership with the CEF and Local Bendigo Community Banks of the Yarra Ranges in creating strong processes for the establishment and implementation of RCRCs.

There have been two combined RCRC Gatherings where members from all regions have come together to share insights and learnings, an external health check was conducted to identify opportunities to improve the facilitation of the groups, and to consider priorities for their last 7 months as well as celebrating their successes.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Risks related to the RCRC have been considered in some depth.

The granting of authority to RCRC to make decisions regarding funding allocation is not supported by the Local Government Act 2020. The recommendation to delegate decision making to the Director Communities and Manager Community Wellbeing, enables Council to meet legislative requirements about the allocation of public

money. Each RCRC participates by reviewing funding applications and making recommendations based on specified criteria processes.

The group dynamics of the RCRCs are respectful, with clear processes for resolving differences, while also encouraging open and constructive debate and creativity and innovative thinking. Selection of RCRC members and the support given during the establishment phase and the early months of operating was important in establishing a strong foundation for effectiveness of the RCRCs. RCRC induction included council policies such as Code of Conduct.

Reputational risk for Council is present as The Project is ambitious and far reaching. Council and the RCRCs accept that challenges may arise and see them as learning opportunities to be worked through.

These risks have been considered and the proposed model has been developed to minimise these risks and support positive, locally driven, achievement oriented RCRC.

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. Summary of Successful Community-Led Recovery Grants Round 1

Summary of Successful Community-Led Recovery Grants Round 1

Round 1 Community-Led Recovery Grants: Successful Grant Outcomes October 2022				\$278,809.95
	Application Organisation Name	Project Partner Name	Project Title	Amount awarded
Valley	Yarra Glen & District Men's Shed		Brightening Little Lives	\$4,500.00
Valley	Yara Glen Carols By Candlelight		Yarra Glen Carols by Candlelight	\$5,000.00
Valley	Liberty Family Church Inc.		Healesville Community Carols	\$5,000.00
Valley	Healesville Interchurch Community Care Inc		Dinner at Darron's Community Meal	\$5,000.00
Valley	Steels Creek Community Centre		Steels Creek Community Reengagement Project : Womtober in Steels Creek	\$2,735.00
Valley	Yarra Glen Playgroup	Heartland Baptist Church	Yarra Glen Playgroup	\$4,500.00
Valley	Yarra Glen Pre School Association Inc		Nature kinder initiative	\$3,124.00
Valley	Eastern Region Libraries Corporation		Healesville Zinesters	\$5,000.00
Valley	Eastern Region Libraries Corporation		Dine and Shine : Community Meals, Information and Celebrations	\$4,325.00
Valley	Healesville Living and Learning Centre		OpShop 'Til You Drop.	\$2,000.00
Valley	Friends and Relations of the Gulf Station (F.R.O.G.S.)	National Trust of Australia (Victoria)	Lost Trades / Upskilling Project	\$3,000.00
Valley	Dixons Creek Community Group Inc		Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)	\$4,500.00
Valley	Yarra Glen and District Living and Learning Centre		Open and Market Day	\$450.00

Summary of Successful Community-Led Recovery Grants Round 1

	Application Organisation Name	Project Partner Name	Project Title	Amount awarded
Urban	Anchor Inc.		Challenge for Change 'Watch me rise'.	\$4,984.00
Urban	Lilydale Community House	CHAOS	Lilydale FAB group program	\$5,000.00
Urban	Discovery Community Care		Connection Through Cooking Classes	\$4,668.00
Urban	Lilydale Township Action Group (LTAG)		Fun & Films At The Park	\$5,000.00
Urban	Montrose Township Group		Picnics in the park - Concert Series	\$2,655.00
Urban	Mount Evelyn Community Toy Library Association Inc		Kick Start Yarra Ranges Toy Librarues	\$5,000.00
Urban	Big Little Buddies Inc.	Lions Club Croydon-Mooroolbark	Younger and Older making Music and Memories	\$4,991.80
Urban	Mooroolbark Umbrella Group		Community Connect Project	\$5,000.00
Urban	Japara Neighbourhood House		Mental Health Connection Group	\$5,000.00
Urban	Lilydale Community House	CHAOS	Step UP to Tech	\$4,930.00

Upper Yarra	Woori Community House Inc		Walk in Woori	\$2,500.00
Upper Yarra	Over 50s Friendship Group	Warburton Advancement League Inc	Yarra Valley Seniors Connection	\$6,000.00
Upper Yarra	Millgrove Resident's Action Group inc		Family Outdoor Games	\$4,856.25
Upper Yarra	Seville Community House		Seville Socials	\$1,137.00

Summary of Successful Community-Led Recovery Grants Round 1

	Application Organisation Name	Project Partner Name	Project Title	Amount awarded
Upper Yarra	Koha Community Cafe Inc		Koha Gets Technical: Empowering Community with Today's Technology	\$8,050.00
Upper Yarra	The Pottery Studio		Rekindle & Re-Earth Community at the Community Pottery Studio, ECOSS	\$9,261.00
Upper Yarra	Rotary Club of Wandin Inc		Street Libraries for the children / youth of Wandin and Seville	\$1,500.00
Upper Yarra	Cire Services Incorporated		FICE Yarra Junction supporting women in the Upper Yarra	\$2,000.00
Upper Yarra	Cire Services Inc.		Gumboots Playgroup Upper Yarra	\$7,680.00

Hills	The Philanthropic Collective		Halloween on the Green - Community Lead Festival 2022 at Ferny Creek Reserve	\$4,912.00
Hills	Anglican Parish of Mount Dandenong		Free Group Exercise Program for Older Residents	\$3,000.00
Hills	3MDR		Keep 3MDR On Air During An Emergency	\$4,837.90
Hills	U3A Mt Dandenong & District		U3A Community Garden Project	\$2,209.00
Hills	Mount Dandenong Pre School		Well-being Teepee and Healing Garden	\$5,000.00
Hills	Hills Creative Alliance	Olinda Community House	'Community Focus - creating opportunities to volunteer and engage in community activities'	\$5,000.00
Hills	The Kalorama Collective		Monthly Community Dinners	\$5,000.00
Hills	Belgrave food garden		Community connect & grow seasonal celebrations	\$2,500.00
Hills	Anglican Parish of Mount Dandenong		Upgrade St. Michael's Hall to a fully functioning Relief Hub in the case of an Emergency	\$2,700.00

Summary of Successful Community-Led Recovery Grants Round 1

	Application Organisation Name	Project Partner Name	Project Title	Amount awarded
Hills	hillsceneLIVE	D.R. Community Cultural Centre Inc	Singing the Ranges	\$4,308.00
Hills	Selby Community House Inc		Be Prepared, Be Resilient - Local Disaster and Emergency Response and Recovery	\$4,900.00
Hills	Mount Dandenong Primary School	Kalorama Collective	Mt Dandenong PS Rescue Log Sculpture	\$5,000.00
Hills	Friends of Kalorama Park Inc.		Re-connecting our community to our forests	\$4,968.00
LGA-wide	Treasuring Our Trees Inc		Treasuring Our Trees Schools Program - Web Site and Social Media Management	\$4,800.00
LGA-wide	Treasuring Our Trees Inc		Treasuring Our Trees Schools Program - Administration	\$5,000.00
LGA-wide	Treasuring Our Trees Inc		Treasuring Our Trees Inc. Tools and Equipment Funding.	\$9,328.00
LGA-wide	Treasuring Our Trees Inc		Treasuring Our Trees Schools Program - Garden Design	\$5,000.00
LGA-wide	Voices of Women		Reset and Restore 2023 - Hills	\$5,000.00
LGA-wide	Voices of Women		Reset and Restore 2023 - Upper Yarra	\$6,000.00
LGA-wide	Voices of Women		Reset and Restore 2023 - Urban	\$5,000.00
LGA-wide	Voices of Women		Reset and Restore 2023 - Valley	\$5,000.00
LGA-wide	Healesville Toastmasters Club		The Togetherness Effect: Creating Change & Resilience by Building Relationships	\$5,000.00
LGA-wide	Healesville Toastmasters Club		The Togetherness Effect: Creating Change & Resilience by Building Relationships	\$5,000.00

Summary of Successful Community-Led Recovery Grants Round 1

	Application Organisation Name	Project Partner Name	Project Title	Amount awarded
LGA-wide	Cire Services Inc		Level Up for 8 to 14 year-olds in the Upper Yarra	\$10,000.00
LGA-wide	Cire Services Inc.		Level Up Chirnside Park	\$5,000.00
LGA-wide	Cire Services Inc		Level Up for 8 to 14 year-olds in Yarra Glen area	\$5,000.00
LGA-wide	Benwerren		Family Focused Support Worker - rebuilding reserves & encouraging meaningful connections post pandemic.	\$10,000.00

WESBURN PARK MASTER PLAN

Report Author: RAL - Coordinator - Recreation Planning
Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Infrastructure
Ward(s) affected: O'Shannassy;

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

Wesburn Park is currently used by the local community for junior sports, equestrian and social recreation. It also plays a significant regional role for emergency response with a staging area located within the park. In order to ensure this large area functions well, the draft Wesburn Park Master Plan (Attachment 1) was developed.

The Wesburn Park Master Plan (draft Master Plan) provides strategic direction for coordinated and timely improvements to the reserve to maximise its use for social recreation, improve community use and support significant regional projects. The draft Master Plan also provides strategic justification for future grant opportunities to assist Council in delivering the proposed infrastructure upgrades.

In addition to its current roles, Wesburn Park will serve as the primary trail head for stage 1 of the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (WMBD). This space will provide key infrastructure to assist Council to manage visitation and traffic safely, ease pressure on the Warburton Township and spread the economic benefits of the WMBD beyond Warburton itself. The draft Master Plan, including the proposed Community and Recreation Centre, contributes to the customer experience for visitors, supporting Councils commitment to this project, while managing amenity impacts on local communities. Designing for increased use in a safe way is paramount. Failing to plan for the required infrastructure to support large projects can have significant consequences for customer experience and tourism brand, the success of the project in the long term and impact the amenity of local communities.

With the WMBD project now supported following the EES decision of the Minister, it is acknowledged that the draft Master Plan represents significant investment. Given the proposed investment, the project team investigated all avenues to maximise future use of the asset. While it is expected that weekend and holiday periods will be peak use for mountain bike riders, daytime and mid-week use are likely to be quiet. An opportunity for schools to utilise the community pavilion to

conduct their outdoor education courses, aligning with the soon to be delivered pump track, proposed skills park and nearby mountain bike trails was identified. An outdoor education market assessment was undertaken to test revenue potential of charging for access to specific facilities and services that would be provided at Wesburn Park. Council would not be entering into the delivery of education but rather providing the facilities for schools to hire. The outcomes of the market assessment suggested demand for this type of arrangement. It also identified that operating the facility in this manner would offset the ongoing operational cost following the proposed upgrades.

In addition, Wesburn Park, and in particular the Community and Recreation Centre, will be utilised by emergency services as a staging area during an emergency event. The proposed pavilion has been designed to accommodate the existing users, expected tourist visitation and other potential emergency functions as required by relevant authorities.

The draft Master Plan was developed following extensive community consultation with the local sporting clubs, community groups, reserve users, schools and outdoor education providers and included several meetings, on site pop ups and an online campaign. Given the high level of interest and engagement, the project team engaged with the community more than usual for a project of this nature. The draft Master Plan was on public exhibition during March and April 2021 and received 788 comments on the Shaping Yarra Ranges page, as well as elevated levels of community engagement at pop up consultation sessions on site (Attachment 1). Overall, the project team has had over 1,000 comments and touch points with members of the community. While the project elicited mixed reactions, the project team have focused on the safety of all users and optimising the function of this asset in developing the plan. Key amendments to the plan following community consultation included the provision of barrier fencing and clear zoning of uses to reduce risk following expected intensity of use. While some community members are still apprehensive about the proposed changes, the risk-based approach to developing the plan has been supported by the community. Changes made to the draft Master Plan are detailed later in the report.

The draft Master Plan recommends future reserve and infrastructure improvements tailored to the local community needs, which have been prioritised over the next ten years and beyond. This report seeks to inform Council of the outcomes following the exhibition and further community consultation of the draft Wesburn Park Master Plan (draft Master Plan), provides options for levels of support, and seeks Council endorsement of the draft Wesburn Park Master Plan for adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council endorse the draft Wesburn Park Master Plan for adoption.

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 9 February 2021 Council Meeting – Councillors supported the release of the draft Wesburn Park master plan for further community consultation and feedback; and
- 15 November 2022 Council Forum – Councillors approved the draft Wesburn Park master plan to be presented to Council for adoption.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

Wesburn Park is located on the Warburton Highway in Wesburn. The reserve contains 30.135ha of land, of which half is vegetated with high quality bushland located mostly to the Northeast of the two ovals and horse-riding centre.

The reserve is bordered by a Baptist Church, Wesburn Primary School, and rural residential properties to the North, rural residential to the East (heavily forested), Warburton Highway to the East and Old Warburton Road to the South. Residential areas lie to the West of the site across the highway. To the South is a waste transfer station, poultry farm and community sustainability organisation ECOSS. A Melbourne Water pipeline easement enters the site from the South and runs across the site to the East.

Wesburn Park has several existing facilities and opportunities for active and passive recreation. These include:

- Two sports ovals and a pavilion;
- Equestrian arenas and a pavilion;
- A small community hall/building;
- SES unit headquarters, location for major SES and CFA events;
- Bike riding, equestrian and walking trails;
- Dog off-lead area and agility equipment;
- Playspace and disused netball courts; and
- Picnic tables, public toilets, and car parking.

It is also used for community events.

Wesburn Park is well utilised, with both club and other use. The reserve is home to five tenant clubs and other regular user groups:

- Wesburn Junior Football Club (150 members);

- Yarra Junction Cricket Club (60 members);
- Upper Yarra Pony Club (25 members – 90% female);
- Upper Yarra Adult Riding Club (45 members);
- Upper Yarra Gem and Prospecting Club;
- State Emergency Services; and
- Yarra Ranges Mountain Bike Club (302 members).

The 2007 Master Plan for the Wesburn and Millgrove Recreation Reserves aimed to respond to several management issues with both reserves and to “...help ensure sound future management and sustainable use”.

To inform the current draft Master Plan extensive research has been undertaken, including consultation with Wesburn Park tenant groups, key stakeholders, referral bodies (Melbourne Water, DELWP), local community and Council Officers.

Key themes and priorities were developed with key user groups during July and August 2019. These key themes and priorities were tested with the community during initial community consultation in February and March 2020 and received support. The key themes and priorities underpinning the development of the draft Master Plan are shown within the consultation report in Attachment 1: Consultation summary report. Council officers identified an opportunity to maximise mid-week visitation through use of the pavilion by outdoor education groups. It is likely that this would be a ‘hire’ arrangement. This was further explored with several outdoor education providers. An outdoor education market assessment was developed with specific input from seven (7) outdoor education providers to understand revenue that may be generated from this proposal.

Options considered

The draft Master Plan aims to transform the underutilised recreation reserve into a community and recreation hub focused on active recreation. Key features of the draft Master Plan include:

- the Wesburn Community and Recreation Centre:
 - a community meeting, event space and diverse activity centre suitable for a wide range of ages and abilities;
 - a sporting facility (Australian Rules Football and Cricket pavilion redevelopment);
 - a flexible facility able to be adapted to emergency services use / CFA staging area; and
 - flexible outdoor and indoor education spaces.

- minor adjustment to sports fields;
- pedestrian and shared trails;
- missing link in the Little Yarra River Trail;
- minor adjustments to dog off-leash area;
- mountain bike skills and pump track facilities; and
- improved equestrian facilities.

The draft Master Plan was released for public exhibition during March and April 2021 through the Shaping Yarra Ranges page and on-site drop-in sessions. Key concerns raised during consultation have been addressed as detailed below.

Further consultation with all user groups was undertaken in September 2021 to clarify the changes that were made through the community consultation process.

The draft Master Plan includes a summary of key findings, the plan for future development of the site, key activity maps detailing the layout of each activity node and the proposed floor layout for the Wesburn Community and Recreation Centre. The draft Master Plan document is attached (Attachment 1). Additional detailed information regarding background information, consultation and directions can be found in the Wesburn Park Master Plan Background Report in Attachment 2: Wesburn Park Master Plan Background Report.

Key changes to the draft Master Plan following consultation included;

- removal of 'possible gating at night.' This would be reliant on user groups to facilitate this, which was seen to be operationally challenging with no current user group committee at this site;
- removal of the new community building at SES building location. Discussions with the Gem Club identified an opportunity for potential future relocation to another site;
- some amendments to car parking following discussions with Melbourne Water about parking on the easement. This has resulted in the loss of 40 car parking spaces which have been mostly reinstated around the oval;
- a 2-lane cricket net has been added to the plan;
- oval upgrades to the fence and ground to oval 1;
- upgrade to the current No. 1 oval playing surface;
- a post and rail fence around the equestrian leased area has been added to the plan; and
- trails to the north of the equestrian lease area have been removed.

While some people and groups within the community are still apprehensive about the proposed intensity of use, the risk-based approach to support the safe use of the space by existing users as well as managing the additional expected use is supported.

Recommended option and justification

The recommended option is outlined in the revised draft master plan for Wesburn Park following extensive consultation with the community.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The funding model to deliver on the draft Master Plan would be a combination of Public Open Space Funds, Capital Expenditure Block Funding, Asset Renewal and Asset New & Improved allocations. The master plan acknowledges that the existing assets are depreciating in value and will carry a significant maintenance burden to maintain as is and proposes renewing these assets. Council officers will also seek, and many larger projects will be reliant on, club contributions and external funding from State and Federal Government grant programs to assist in the delivery of the draft Master Plan.

State and Federal Government grant programs that may be appropriate for this project include the Growing Suburbs Fund (state), Building Better Regions (or future iterations) program (federal), Local Roads Community Infrastructure Fund (federal), Regional Tourism Infrastructure Fund (federal) and Election Commitments. It is recommended that further investigation occurs to determine if both State and Federal Government grant funding can be secured to offset Council's requirement for co-contribution to projects, as has been the case for the recent funding announcements for Coldstream Pump Track, which was fully funded through State and Federal Government grants.

There has been a significant financial impact on Council resulting from the June 2021 storm event. As a result of this financial impact, several projects within Council's 10 year Capital Expenditure Program across the 2021-22 and 2022-23 financial years have been deferred, which will have flow on impacts to projects listed in further years of the program. Recommendations of this and other Master Plans will therefore be impacted, requiring greater external funding support to be provided in order for some proposals to progress in the medium term. It will be a focus of officers to seek external funding where possible to support the delivery of recommendations in this and other Master Plans to support the needs of the community.

The financial cost to deliver on all the recommendations of the draft Master Plan is approximately \$14.988 million. The below table reflects the implementation priority and capital costs associated with the master plan.

	Years	Years	Years	Probable capital cost	Potential grant
	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10+		
Equestrian					
Install outdoor building lighting on pony club for safe ingress and egress in the dark			√	\$60,000	√
Install stairs to southern access of upper arena to replace washed-out path			√	\$20,000	
Renew pony club storage structure and social rooms with similar structure			√	\$600,000	√
Repair of damaged old racecourse track and resurfacing			√	\$50,000	
Investigate route for a circuit course within a lease area			√	N/A	
Shelter for horse arena spectators			√	\$100,000	
Lighting, landscaping and improved fencing at upper horse arena			√	\$150,000	√
Visual screen for horse and bike separation at circuit track opening near pony club			√	\$10,000	
Pony club renewal holding yards to suit larger horses and to include lower rails for ponies			√	\$40,000	
Investigate the opportunity to establish an equestrian trail in surrounding bushlands with DELWP			√	N/A	
Explore post and rail barrier fence within lease area	√			\$30,000	
Sport					
Community Recreation and Education Centre (for use by local sporting clubs and groups, other community groups, education providers and emergency services)			√	\$ 8,863,000	√
Shade structure between ovals			√	\$100,000	√
Provision for upgrade of playing surface and oval fencing			√	\$800,000	√
2 lane cricket net			√	\$90,000	√
Social recreation					
Perimeter walking/cycling circuit	√			\$200,000	
Improved car parking (including accessible car parking)	√			\$240,000	
Improvements to dog off lead area including retention of existing dog agility equipment and partial fencing	√			\$10,000	
Improvements to dog off lead area including landscaping and security lighting			√	\$15,000	
Improved wayfinding signage in and around Wesburn Park		√		\$30,000	
Connection to Warburton Trail (Little Yarra River Trail)			√	\$ 1,400,000	
Bike, play and education					
Connection to mountain bike trail	√			Included in perimeter trail	
Mountain bike shuttle drop off/pick up			√	\$100,000	
Connecting path around the ovals			√	\$70,000	
Gateway entrance to Warburton Mountain Bike Destination	√			\$15,000	
Pump track (bike education track)	√			\$940,000	√
Lighting for the pump track and multi use area		√		\$150,000	√
Mountain bike skills area		√		\$200,000	√
Bike wash facility	√			\$45,000	
Mountain bike beginner loop			√	\$100,000	√
Multi use play area for ballgames, traffic school and hopscotch		√		\$150,000	√
Outdoor learning spaces and additional bins			√	\$400,000	√
Emergency Services					
Security lighting for SES building			√	\$10,000	
TOTAL PROBABLE COST				\$ 14,988,000	

Potential Operating Model

Council officers have investigated potential operating models that may offset operating costs. With the upcoming Warburton MTBD, a commercial operator has confirmed that commercial operation of the park would be a viable option should this be an attractive management model to Council. The operating model suggested that a café be located on-site which could cater for visitors, sports clubs, and education providers. In addition, suggestions have been made for outdoor education camps and events to be hosted at Wesburn Park. While further investigation is required to determine if an external operating model is the preferred management structure, provision for this to operate has been facilitated through the proposed inclusion of a full commercial kitchen and office space within the Wesburn Community and Recreation Centre. The additional benefit of an external operator is an increased management presence on-site which improves safety and maximises usage.

In order to capitalise on mid-week visitation, investigation of the opportunity for midweek use by outdoor education providers has occurred. An initial meeting with approximately 20 outdoor education providers indicated support for this kind of use. A subsequent outdoor education market assessment report indicated high midweek visitation estimating 80 groups using the facility equating to 1585 visits per month.

The report models that base case revenue for use of all facilities by outdoor education groups could potentially total \$434,850 per annum.

Maintenance schedule

To ensure whole of life asset planning is undertaken, a maintenance schedule has been developed which details the ongoing maintenance cost of the proposed infrastructure upgrades. It has been determined that the additional annual maintenance costs will be in the order of \$32,000 p.a. once the plan is fully realised. Over the first ten years, and considering the staggered nature of project implantation, the total cost of maintenance is estimated to be \$138,600. It is noted that some of the maintenance costs could be offset under an operating model as described above. It should be noted that the proposed infrastructure will not be constructed unless significant external funding is secured.

Wesburn Park Master Plan - Maintenance Schedule							
Maintenance required	Year of implementation	Estimated Annual Cost			Estimated cost over first 10 years of plan		
		Total cost	Council Contribution	Club Operator contribution	Total cost	Council Contribution	Club Operator contribution
Outdoor building lighting for pony club	Year 5	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000		\$ 4,000	\$ 4,000	\$ -
New pony club building and shelter	Year 5	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 500	\$ 12,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000
Additional landscaping	Year 3	\$ 2,300	\$ 2,300	\$ -	\$ 13,800	\$ 13,800	\$ -
Additional path and trail connections	Year 3	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000		\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -
Community Recreation and Education Centre	Year 5	\$ 6,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 24,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 4,000
Shade structure between ovals	Year 5	\$ 500	\$ 500		\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -
Pump track	Year 1	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,000	\$ -
Mountain bike skills area	Year 3	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		\$ 60,000	\$ 60,000	
Bike wash facility	Year 1	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ -
New holding yards for pony club	Year 5	\$ 500		\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Resurfacing of racetrack	Year 5	\$ 500		\$ 500	\$ 2,000		\$ 2,000
Total		\$ 32,800	\$ 30,300	\$ 2,500	\$ 194,800	\$ 184,800	\$ 10,000

Notes:

* The above costs are scheduled maintenance costs. Reactive maintenance will be undertaken as necessary

* For the purpose of developing this maintenance schedule, it has been assumed that short term priorities will be implemented in Year 1, medium term priorities in Year 3, and long term priorities in Year 5

* This schedule does not include operational wages. It is anticipated that the staff time to check additional features on site would be approximately 1 hour per week (\$5,000) per year

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The draft Master Plan contributes to providing high quality infrastructure identified as a strategic objective in the draft Master Plan. This draft Master Plan specifically responds to the major initiatives and strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan 2021 – 2025:

- contributing to the delivery of the Rivers and Ridges project (major initiative);
- constructing community facilities (quality infrastructure and liveable places); and
- contributing to a quality trails network (Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism).
- The draft Master plan responds to the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021-2025 strategic direction by:
 - providing opportunities and encouraging people to participate in physical activity; and
 - including the provision of a more efficient and effective emergency response staging area and the community and recreation centre that can be used to respond to public health and natural disasters.

RELEVANT LAW

Yarra Ranges Council is conducting a Gender Impact Assessment (GIA) for the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination project (the Project), to ensure that everyone has equal access and opportunity to use this new facility and auxiliary infrastructure. Council has completed 3 of the 4 steps in the GIA process to date and are in the final stage of having the report peer reviewed by Women's Health East, GenVic and Councils Gender Equity Business Partner team. The report will be finalised in early November. Wesburn Park and the proposed improvements in the master plan will be considered as part of this GIA.

The Wesburn Park Master plan will support the development and operation of the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination (WMBD). As part of the project an Environmental Effects Statement has been undertaken. In November 2022 an announcement was made by the Minister for Planning supporting the construction of stage 1 of the WMBD project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Increased visitation to the reserve by the community and visitors to the area, especially with the introduction of mountain bike trail connections, would have a flow on effect into the local economy, with providers in a position to benefit.

According to modelling in REMPLAN, based on a \$14.998 million construction cost, this project is likely to generate 25 direct jobs during construction. When all indirect and supply chain effects are considered, a total of 65 jobs are expected to be generated during construction phase. The project will likely take two years to complete.

Given the significant potential for visitor attraction from outside the region, total output based on tourism impacts may rise by an estimated \$16 million resulting in an anticipated increase in long term employment by 70 jobs.

Social Implications

It is anticipated that there would be significant social benefit created by addressing the current safety and security concerns at the reserve and increasing use of the reserve by the community.

The delivery of the Wesburn Community and Recreation Centre will provide a local and regional meeting place for the 12,000 residents of the Upper Yarra Region, with a range of activities suited to residents of local townships of all ages and abilities. The development of this precinct will provide opportunities for local people and people with similar interests to re-engage with each other post Covid-19. In addition, the reserve is the regional emergency staging area and the proposed pavilion has been designed to accommodate the existing users, expected tourist visitation and other potential emergency functions as required by relevant authorities. The inclusion of external facing shower and toilets, small change rooms that can double as family change rooms, solar power, and battery storage as well as a commercial kitchen and community meeting space facilitates use as a community recovery centre.

The project is targeted to address several infrastructure and social disparities in the Upper Yarra region. This redevelopment seeks to do this by providing improved access to community and recreation facilities which provide opportunities for social connection and a sense of belonging for a wide range of community groups. Furthermore, the centre provides the opportunity for emergency service training and more efficient and effective staging areas and facilities for emergency service use.

From a regional perspective, the proposed infrastructure will play a key role in managing day visitation to the Warburton Mountain Bike Destination. There is significant concern within the Upper Yarra community regarding the impact of traffic and increased visitation to Warburton Township following the construction of the Mountain Bike Trails. The draft Master Plan and associated infrastructure allows Council to forward plan to manage this visitation in a safe and sustainable way that shares the economic benefits across the Upper Yarra.

During consultation with user groups concerns were raised around vandalism that occurs at the park. The draft master plan aims to alleviate these concerns attracting more visitors/residents/user groups to the area for different reasons and at different times of the day/evening. Discussions with Victoria Police have indicated that increased activity provides a natural protection to the area by those attending the space and acts as a good deterrent for those attending for the wrong reasons. Victoria police will also continue to monitor and collate and incidents that occur and will also patrol the area regularly.

Environmental Implications

Environmentally Sensitive Design is to be incorporated into the detailed design process including selection of appropriate low toxicity material for construction, solar panels to power the facility, LED lighting to maximise energy efficiency and potentially stormwater reuse for the toilets.

The feasibility of a solar farm that will supply electricity use as renewable energy is also being assessed including the ability to install a battery system to support overnight usage requirements. This would provide a certainty of power supply during area blackouts and provide a clean source of power for facility operations.

Any potentially adverse environmental impacts created by the future development of the reserve would be mitigated to avoid, reduce, or offset the impact.

Liveable Climate Action Plan

Through Council endorsing the Liveable Climate Plan and the soon to be gazetted C148 planning amendment, Council is committed to both leadership and direct action in sustainable design by ensuring this approach is undertaken for Council assets. The Liveable Climate Plan states 'all our assets are designed, built, and managed using a sustainable lifecycle approach. We think long term, globally and locally to ensure our assets have a positive impact before, during and after their useful life.' The design of the proposed pavilion and the focus on community resilience aligns with Council's direction as set out in the plan.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Given the high level of interest and engagement in this project, the project team have engaged with quite extensively with user groups, the community and stakeholders. This level of effort has resulted in high engagement and allowed issues to be carefully considered. Below outlines the consultation undertaken and the consideration of issues raised.

In 2019, Council officers met with current user groups to understand their current and future needs and to determine some key themes and priority areas.

The key priorities for Wesburn Park identified for consideration in the draft Master Plan development included:

- Improving safety and security;
- Improving connectivity;
- Making sports more inclusive; and
- Improving opportunities for community use.

Key user groups included reserve tenants and user groups;

- Upper Yarra Pony Club;
- Adult Riders Association;
- Wesburn Junior Football Club;

- Wesburn Cricket Club;
- Gem Club;
- SES;
- DELWP; and
- Melbourne Water.

The following table provides a summary of key issues presented by user groups during consultation between 2019 to 2022.

Summary of User Group Consultation and Implementation		
User Group	Consultation from User Groups	Implementation of Feedback
Ambulance Victoria	Use site as staging area during emergency events	Ensure access is not impeded Pavilion to be able to support emergency services as a staging area
CFA	Community spaces in pavilion would be utilised for training/events Use site as staging area during emergency events	Ensure any fence installed to separate uses does not impede on access for emergency services Additional community room and office has been included in pavilion plans and will be available for all user groups to access
SES	Existing building meets needs however would be interested in utilising community spaces in pavilion Helipad to remain clear of structures	Ensure pavilion will not intrude into flight path – including undergrounding power
ECOSS	Utilise site for carparking for major events 3 times a year Interested in the pursuit of sustainable design principles	Master plan includes provision for additional parking Ensure partial fencing solution around dog off lead area addresses conflict with ECOSS when gate is opened
Melbourne Water	Melbourne water easement runs throughout reserve Yarra Silvan Conduit Track their main access point	All plantings on easement have been removed from plans Melbourne Water have provided formal advice excluding parking over the easement
Yarra Ranges Social Dog Club	Concerns about reduction in size of dog off lead area and removal of equipment Fencing to reduce conflict between different users	Agility equipment to remain in place Fencing to be installed on 3 sides (along existing road way, new access road and fence line)
Upper Yarra Gem and Prospecting Club Incorporated	Happy with current facilities and would be sufficient for the next 10 years If relocation to occur in the future would need same size space with sufficient equipment currently available to them	Gem Club building to be included on the plan noting it is retained for the short term whilst long term discussions are had around relocating with like facilities
Wesburn Junior Football Club	Require sufficient facilities to increase female participation Current pavilion only services one oval Lack of social spaces and opportunity to	Sufficient change rooms for 4 teams – male and female Pavilion to be located to allow for view of both ovals

	gather	Social and community spaces to be included
Yarra Junction Cricket Club	Have increased female participation Lack of shade between grounds Require practice nets	Pavilion to accommodate for female participation Shade structures between ovals Practice nets included in master plan
Upper Yarra Pony Club and Adult Riding Club	Priorities include: •Security of caged storage area •Lighting around building on sensor for safety at night •Cross country course •Steps down to arena •Upgrade of round yard •Upgrade day yards	Master plan allows for security lighting, fence around licence area, improvements to circuit track, access to area, upgrade of round and day yards.

The key themes and directions were tested with the community via an online survey in February and March 2020, which received 219 responses and comments.

The draft Master Plan was developed using the key themes and priorities and was publicly exhibited for comment in March and April 2021. The online survey through Shaping Yarra Ranges attracted 788 comments. On-site pop-up information sessions were carried out during this time. The total community engagements for the plan totalled over 1,000 comments. This amount of community interest and engagement is very high; a similar Master Planning exercise for Yarra Junction Recreation Reserve attracted approximately 200 comments, of which 139 were online. This suggests the space is important on a regional level for communities within the Upper Yarra Valley. User groups were re-engaged during the community consultation period. During this time, additional user groups were identified and consulted with including;

- Upper Yarra Social Dogs;
- Ambulance Victoria; and
- CFA.

User groups have been re-engaged since the draft Master Plan's amendment following community consultation throughout August, September, and October 2021. While some existing user groups, and members of the Upper Yarra Community are apprehensive about the expected intensity of use, the risk-based approach including clear zoning and barrier fencing is supported.

In addition to the above external consultation, internal consultation has been undertaken with Council's Community Wellbeing and Parks & Bushlands teams as well as Council's Project Reference Group.

The draft Master Plan has been presented to the Disability Advisory Committee for their comment.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Internal collaboration has occurred with Council teams of Design & Place, Parks & Bushlands, Major Projects, Property & Facilities and the Sustainability team.

The draft Master Plan represents a collaborative approach for use of a community facility by several community and sporting groups. The proposed operating model will ensure that each group is welcome in the space.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The draft Master Plan aligns with the Council Plan. It supports the delivery of the Ridges and Rivers project that is identified as a Major Initiative for 2021-2025. Furthermore, it delivers quality recreation trails adding to the network of trails that are being developed in the Upper Yarra which is identified as a project for delivery under Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism.

The financial risk to Council has been mitigated should the project not be successful for grant funding through the long timeframe for project delivery.

With the WMBD project now with Minister approval, not delivering appropriate facilities for the stage 1 Trailhead at Wesburn Park poses an operational and reputational risk to Council given anticipated visitation and the communities expectations on required infrastructure to support a trailhead.

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. Wesburn Park – Master Plan December 2021 (Published Separately)
2. Wesburn Park Master Plan - Final Background Report (Published Separately)
3. Wesburn Community and Recreation Centre Plans (Published Separately)

HARBERTS ROAD (FROM NO.30 TO 100), DON VALLEY VARIATION OF SPECIAL CHARGE

Report Author: Property & Project Officer
 Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Infrastructure
 Ward(s) affected: O'Shannassy;

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

Council at its meeting on 26 July 2022 considered a report relating to the proposed construction of Harberts Road (from no.30 to 100), Don Valley and resolved to declare a special charge in accordance with the provisions of Section 163 of the Local Government Act 1989.

This report recommends the Special Charge allocated to property 24 Williams Road, Don Valley be varied from 1.0 development units to 0.5 development units and that Council fund the reduction in charge.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. ***Council varies the special charge for works associated with the Harberts Road (from no.30 to 100), Don Valley Special Charge Scheme in accordance with the provisions of Section 166 of the Local Government Act 1989, as follows.***
 - (a) ***The development unit allocation to property 24 Williams Road, Don Valley be reduced from 1.0 unit to 0.5 unit; and***
 - (b) ***Council fund the 0.5 benefit unit resulting from the reduction of apportionment to 24 Williams Road, Don Valley, estimated at \$5,266.***
2. ***Council notify those persons liable to pay the varied special charge of the variation to the Special Charge Scheme.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

At its meeting on 24 May 2022, Council advised of its intent to declare a special charge for works associated with the Harberts Road (from no.30 to 100) Don Valley Special Charge Scheme.

This report has been published on Council's website and is available by searching the Agenda for the 24 May 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

At its meeting on 26 July 2022, Council declared a special charge for works associated with the Harberts Road (from no.30 to 100), Don Valley Special Charge Scheme.

This report has been published on Council's website and is available by searching the Agenda for the 26 July 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

DISCUSSION

Purpose and Background

At its meeting on 26 July 2022, Council considered a report recommending that Council declare a special charge for works associated with the Harberts Road (from no.30 to 100), Don Valley Special Charge Scheme. Properties involved in the scheme and charge allocation were detailed in Attachment 3 of that report.

The Special Charge remains in force for the period commencing on 1 July 2023 and concluding on 30 June 2033. The period for making formal submissions to the scheme closed 29 June 2022. The subsequent VCAT submission period ended 29 August 2022. Council was advised by VCAT that one incomplete submission was received (24 Williams Road, Don Valley).

An on-site meeting with the landowner and Council officers to discuss the VCAT submission occurred in September. At this meeting, the landowner outlined due to the steepness of the embankment and heavy vegetation, they cannot access their property via Harberts Road and requested their charge be reviewed.

The landowner also advised they would not complete their VCAT submission. An email on 18 November 2022 from VCAT confirmed 'To date, VCAT has not received a full and complete application regarding the above, therefore there is no open matter before the Tribunal'.

The property 24 Williams Road, Don Valley see attachment 1, comprises of two lots, one with frontage to Williams Road (developed with a house - lot 59 LP 15766) and one with frontage to Harberts Road (undeveloped - lot 64 LP 15766). Lot 64 is included in the Special Charge Scheme and was allocated a charge of 1.0 development units, based on the development potential of the parcel.

Council's Planning department have subsequently advised a planning permit would be required for the 'use and development of a dwelling' on the vacant lot which would need to meet the requirements under the Green Wedge Zone (GWZ) and Bush Fire Management Overlay (BMO). Whether a dwelling could be constructed

would depend on how well the application addressed the vegetation, bushfire and amenity issues. It's possible a permit could be issued but it would not be straight forward.

In recognition of the difficulties for this property to be developed, in comparison to other properties along Harberts Road, it is recommended that the charge allocated from this property be reduced from 1.0 to 0.5 development units.

Had there been an understanding of the possible constraints for development potential, the property at 24 Williams Road, Don Valley (Lot 64) would have only been allocated 0.5 development units in the declaration of the special charge.

Recommended option and justification

It is recommended that Council vary the special charge for works associated with the Harberts Road (from no.30 to 100), Don Valley Special Charge Special Charge Scheme in accordance with the provisions of Section 166 of the Local Government Act 1989, as follows:

- The development unit allocation to property 24 Williams Road, Don Valley be reduced from 1.0 units to 0.5 unit; and
- Council fund the 0.5 benefit unit resulting from the reduction of apportionment to 24 Williams Road, Don Valley, estimated at \$5,266.

It is also recommended that Council notify those persons liable to pay the varied special charge of the variation to the Special Charge Scheme.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Variation of the special charge allocated to property 24 Williams Road, Don Valley from 1.0 development units to 0.5 development unit will require Council to fund the subsequent reduction in allocated charge being \$5,266.

On variation, the landowner component of the Special Charge Scheme will reduce from \$194,817 to \$189,552.

The Council component of the Special Charge Scheme will increase from \$48,704 to \$53,970.

There is a total of \$245,000 set aside for this road construction project in the 2022/23 Capital Expenditure Program. The variation of charge will not require additional funds to be sought.

Attachment 2 - Schedule of Costs per Property, details the varied landowner and Council contributions towards the project.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

The construction of local roads as a Special Charge Scheme meets the Council Plan 2021-2025 strategic objective of Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places. Local road construction also has benefits related to the strategic objective of a Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism.

Council's Special Rate and Charge Policy for Infrastructure Improvements sets out in detail the procedures for managing Special Charge Schemes.

RELEVANT LAW

Section 166 of the Local Government Act 1989 states that Council must ensure that those persons who are liable to pay a special charge which is varied are notified it is varied.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The construction of the road would be undertaken utilising contractors from Council's Road Construction and Associated Works Panel. This panel was established with a majority of local smaller contractors which will help provide economic support to these local businesses.

Social Implications

Special Charge Schemes for road construction require sizeable contributions from abutting landowners. These contributions can lead to social and economic impacts for affected landowners. Council's Special Rate and Charge Policy for Infrastructure Improvements notes that those landowners with a demonstrated financial hardship may apply for assistance in accordance with Council's Rate Recover and Financial Hardship Policy.

Environmental Implications

All works will be completed in compliance with Council's Code of Environmental Practice for Works on Council Managed Land.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This was outlined in the Harberts Road (from no.30 to 100), Don Valley- Intent to Levy Special Charge Council Report. This report was published on Council's website and is available by searching the Agenda for the 24 May 2022 Ordinary Meeting.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Projects constructed under the Roads for Recovery Program have been jointly funded by the Federal Government and participating landowners.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Construction of the road would provide the following benefits/risk reduction to landowners:

- Continued and safer vehicular access to and from properties abutting or gaining primary access via the road;
- Improved stormwater drainage runoff control directed towards the road from abutting properties, and protection of low side properties from stormwater runoff from the road; and
- Enhanced physical and environmental amenity for abutting properties.

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. Aerial Plan 24 Williams Road, Don Valley
2. Revised Schedule of Costs per Property



**Harberts Road, Don Valley
Proposed Variation of Special Charge Scheme**

DESCRIPTION	PROPERTY ADDRESS	ASSESSMENT NO.	DEVELOPMENT / BENEFIT UNIT	CHARGE FOR THE WORKS	ADJUSTED FOR CEILING	FINANCING CHARGE	TOTAL CHARGE	YEARLY CHARGE
Lot 36 LP15766 Ca P	5 Ellen Grove	49216	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 37 LP15766 Ca P	9 Ellen Grove	49217	0.50	\$5,265	\$0	\$789.80	\$6,055.12	\$605.51
Lot 74 LP15766 Ca P	45 Harberts Road	49379	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 73 LP15766 Ca P	51 Harberts Road	49380	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 72 LP15766 Ca P	53 Harberts Road	49381	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 71 LP15766 Ca P	63 Harberts Road	49382	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 70 LP15766 Ca P	65 Harberts Road	49383	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 69 LP15766 Ca P	79 Harberts Road	49384	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 68 LP15766 Ca P	83 Harberts Road	49385	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 67 LP15766 Ca P	87 Harberts Road	49386	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Part Lot 66 LP15766	91 Harberts Road	49387	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 65 LP15766 Ca P	95 Harberts Road	49388	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 1 LP92931 Ca PT	100 Harberts Road	49389	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 2 LP92931 Ca PT	90 Harberts Road	49390	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 32 LP15766 Ca P	80 Harberts Road	49391	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 33 LP15766 Ca P	70 Harberts Road	49392	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 34 LP15766 Ca P	64 Harberts Road	49393	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 35 LP15766 Ca P	60 Harberts Road	49394	1.00	\$10,531	\$0	\$1,579.60	\$12,110.25	\$1,211.02
Lot 59 & 64 LP15766	24 Williams Road	49628	0.50	\$5,265	\$0	\$789.80	\$6,055.12	\$605.51
Totals			18.00	\$189,552	\$0	\$28,433	\$217,984	\$21,798
Notes								
24 Williams Road varied from 1.0 to 0.5 based on submission and planning advice								
The reduction will be funded by Council and is \$5,265.50 approx.								

PROJECT COST SUMMARY:	
Total Project Cost	\$243,522
Less Council Cost only Items	\$0
Total Scheme Cost	\$243,522
Total Council Contribution	\$53,970
Total Landowner Contribution	\$189,552
Financing Costs	\$28,433

COUNCIL COST SUMMARY:	
Council 20% Contribution + 0.5	\$53,970
Total Council Scheme Cost	\$53,970
Council Cost only Items	\$0
Total Council Project Cost	\$53,970

APPORTIONMENT SUMMARY:	
Unit Ratio =	100%
Total Landowner Units =	18.00
Total Council Units =	Nil
\$ / Unit =	\$10,531

PART ROAD DISCONTINUANCE WELLMAN STREET (ABUTTING NO.12), LAUNCHING PLACE

Report Author: Property & Project Officer
 Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Engineering
 Ward(s) affected: O'Shannassy;

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

It is proposed Council use its powers under Section 206 (1) and Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989 to discontinue a small portion (281m²) of unused road reserve abutting 12 Wellman Street, Launching Place shown in Attachment 1.

The portion of road is not constructed or utilised for road purposes. It has not been identified as being reasonably required for public use now or into the future.

Upon removal of the road status, the land will vest in Council. It is proposed the road portion be transferred to the abutting owner subject to purchasing the land based on a land valuation, the reimbursement of Council costs and entering into an agreement to consolidate the land.

The proposal is fully supported by the relevant Council departments.

Consultation with the surrounding property owners was undertaken. There were no objections to the proposal.

Public Notice has been given and no formal submissions were received.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council having given notice of its intention to discontinue the 281m² road portion abutting 12 Wellman Street, Launching Place and having invited public submissions with no public submissions received, and being of the opinion that this road portion is not reasonably required for public use

- 1. Discontinue the portion of road.***
- 2. Direct that notice of the discontinuance be published in the***

Government Gazette.

- 3. Direct that the land from the road portion be transferred to the abutting owner subject to the reimbursement of Council costs, purchasing the land based on a land valuation and entering into an agreement to consolidate the land.**
- 4. Direct that any necessary documentation to give effect to the transfer be signed and sealed.**

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

There are no related Council Decisions for this matter.

DISCUSSION***Purpose and Background***

The proposal was initiated by the owner of 12 Wellman Street, Launching Place seeking to purchase the small portion of unused road reserve. If the proposal is adopted this will enable the applicant to formalise the occupation of the road portion and apply for any relevant permits for their building structure/s which encroach onto the unused road portion.

The portion of road reserve is not part of the constructed roadway. It is maintained by the applicant and appears to form part of their property (see attachment 2). There are two structures partly situated on the unused road portion, one a galvanised iron shed and the other a machinery/igloo shed. There is also part of an above ground pool encroaching onto the road portion.

The road reserve for Wellman Street, Launching Place was created on LP7653 in 1919. It is a 20 metres wide road reserve which is generous, many road reserves are typically 15 metres wide. The proposal at the widest point would reduce the road reserve to approximately 13 metres in width. The remaining road reserve (not forming part of the proposal) would have a minimum 6 metres between the constructed road and the new road reserve boundary.

This report will consider whether the road portion is reasonably required for public use.

Options considered

To discontinue the road portion or not discontinue the road portion.

Recommended option and justification

It is proposed that Council use its powers under Section 206 (1) and Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 1989 to discontinue the unused road portion (281m²) abutting 12 Wellman Street, Launching Place and transfer the land shown in Attachment 1 to the abutting owners.

The option is recommended to formalise the current occupation of the road reserve and enable the applicant to apply for any relevant permits for their building structure/s. The proposal is fully supported (subject to the creation of an easement for Yarra Valley Water- sewerage) and no public submissions were received.

The portion of unused road reserve does not form part of the constructed roadway. The road portion has not been identified as being reasonably required for public use now or into the future.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

There is an existing budget to cover the costs associated with the proposal. The abutting owner has agreed to reimburse the Council costs associated with the proposal and purchase the land based on a land valuation.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

Local Government Best Practice Guidelines for the Sale, Exchange and Transfer of Land, provides the guidelines and principles by which Council should follow when discontinuing roads and selling land.

RELEVANT LAW

Council has powers under Section 206 (1) and Schedule 10 of the Local Government Act 19989 to discontinue roads and transfer the land.

Council, when considering road discontinuances is required to advertise the proposal and invite submissions from the public as prescribed in Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

Economic impacts have been considered. The proposal will generate little economic impacts.

Social Implications

Social impacts have been considered. The proposal will generate little social impacts.

Environmental Implications

Environmental impacts have been considered. In this circumstance there are none that apply.

CONSULTATION

Internal Consultation

The proposal was referred to relevant Council departments for comment. There is no objection to the proposal and the road portion has not been identified as being reasonably required for public use as a road now, or into the future.

Service Providers

Yarra Valley Water assets (sewerage) were identified within the road portion and an easement has been created on the road discontinuance plan (shown as E1 on attachment 1).

Abutting Owners

A letter was mailed to the surrounding property owners outlining the proposal. There was no objection to the proposal.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Pursuant to Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council gave public notice of its intention to discontinue the road portion and invited public submissions as to whether or not the proposal should proceed.

Public notices were published in the Mail newspaper group on 18 October 2022. In addition, the public notice was placed on Council's website for the duration of the 28 day consultation period.

No public submissions were received.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

No collaboration with other Councils, Governments or statutory bodies was sought in relation to Council's proposal to discontinue and transfer the road portion.

RISK ASSESSMENT

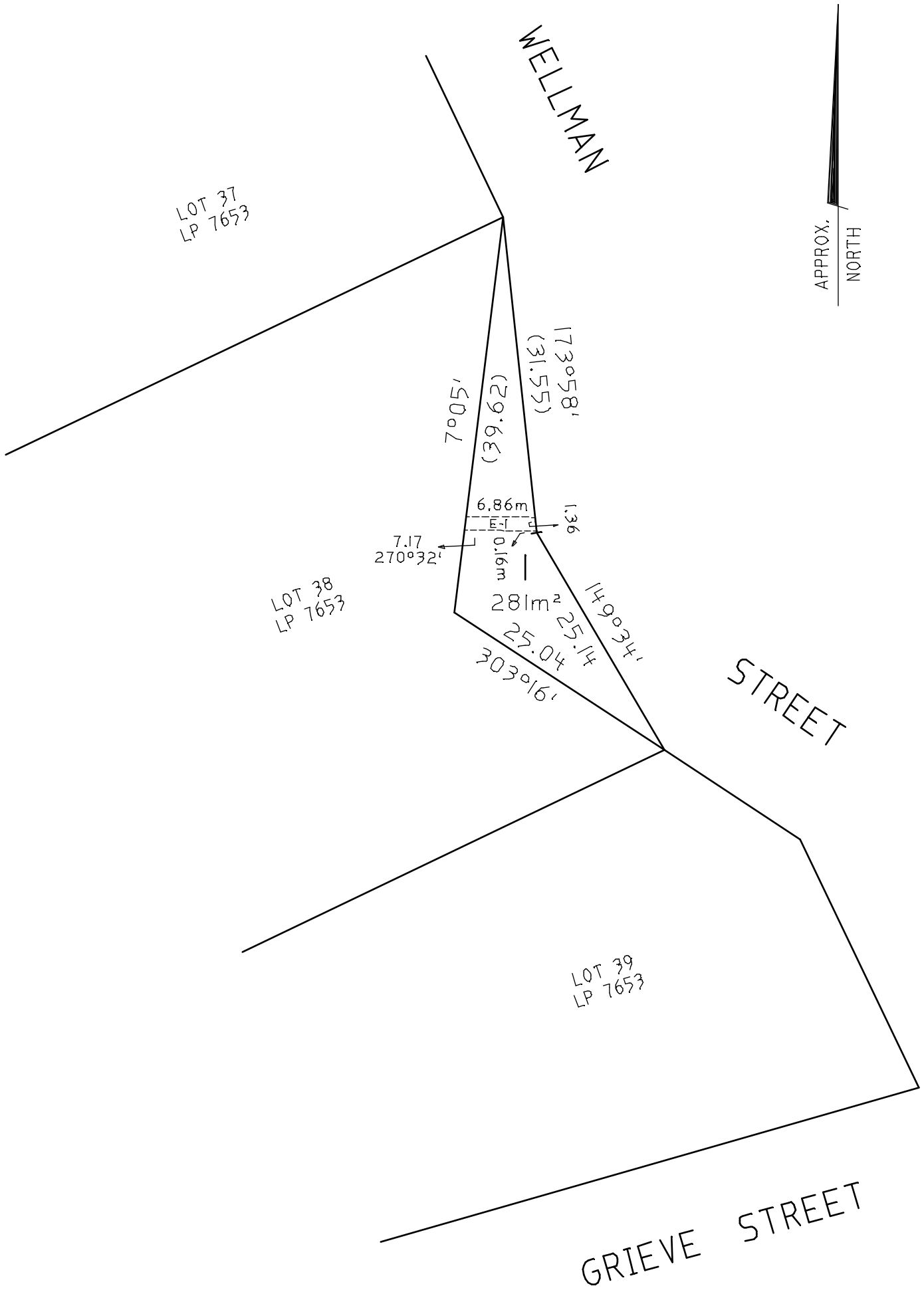
There are no identifiable risks associated with the proposal.

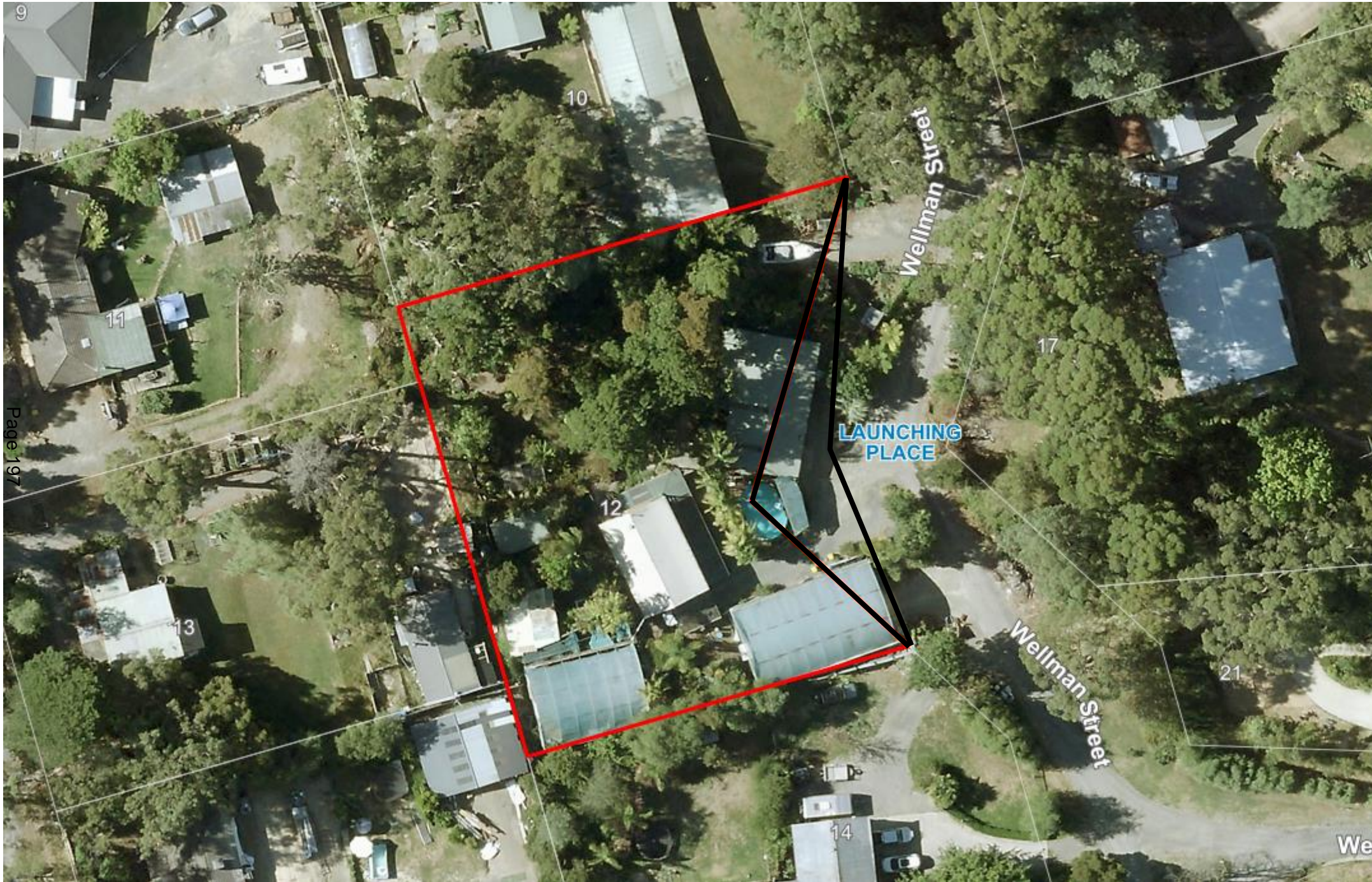
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

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. Title Plan
2. Aerial Plan





Unused road reserve 281 square metres shown by black lines abutting 12 Wellman Street

EOI6105 7127: BELL STREET ROAD GROUP, SEVILLE - ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS (SCS)

Report Author: Executive Officer - Roads for Community Initiative
 Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Infrastructure
 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

The item has been included in the public agenda to facilitate openness and transparency in Council's decision making. Confidential attachments have been included with the report which contain commercially sensitive information that is not to be disclosed whilst the meeting is open to the public.

SUMMARY

This report summarises the quotation evaluation process for the Bell Street Road Group, Seville - Road Improvement Works (SCS) and seeks Council approval to award the contract for construction to TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd.

As part of its 2019 budgetary process, the Federal Government announced a nine-year, \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas. At its meeting on 24 September 2019 Council endorsed a list of roads to be constructed using this funding to be facilitated by means of Special Charge Schemes.

Bell Street, Winifred Street (12-22), Read Road, and Paynes Road (no. 11 to 23), Seville were included on this list of roads and in accordance with Council's Special Charge Scheme Policy, landowner support has been sought and obtained for construction of the road. The project has been listed in Council's 2022/23 Capital Expenditure Program.

The Special Charge Scheme Statutory Process has been successfully completed and the project is ready for construction.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. ***Council accepts the tender from TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd for the total lump sum price of \$1,506,030.63 (GST exclusive), \$1,656,633.69 inclusive of GST and all provisional items as defined in this proposal.***
2. ***Council approves the Director of Environment and Infrastructure be delegated the authority to sign the contract documents.***
3. ***The confidential attachment to this report remains confidential indefinitely as it relates to matters specified under section 3(1) (g)(i), (g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- 24 September 2019 – Council considered a report regarding the Federal Government Road Construction Funding Initiative and endorsed a listing of roads proposed for construction as Special Charge Schemes with landowner contributions fixed at \$7,000 per development unit;
- 25 August 2020 – Council approved the establishment of a panel of pre-qualified Road Construction and Associated Works contractors, to facilitate the efficient delivery of road infrastructure projects;
- 26 April 2022 – Council approved a report on the Intention to Levy a Special Charge Scheme for Bell Street, Winifred Street, Read Road and Paynes Road (from 11 to 23), Seville; and
- 28 June 2022 – Council declared the Special Charge Scheme for Bell Street, Winifred Street, Read Road and Sections of Paynes Road (No.11 to 23), Seville.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

To seek Council approval to award EOI6105 7127 Bell Street Road Group, Seville - Road Improvement Works (SCS).

Background

As part of its 2019 budgetary process, the Federal Government announced a nine-year, \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas.

To support efficient procurement processes, Council sought Expressions of Interest from contractors to establish a panel of twelve (12) pre-qualified Road Construction

and Associated Works contractors to EO16105. From this list Council would seek quotations for road construction and associated works, as and when funding allows.

Under the terms and conditions of the panel arrangement any contracts valued over \$1 million would require a formal declaration report indicating the estimated cost and budget be accepted by Council before the project can proceed to construction.

On 13 October 2022, Council invited five (5) pre-qualified suppliers from the Road Construction and Associated Works Panel to submit their pricing for the Bell Street Road Group, Seville - Road Improvement Works (SCS).

The tender process remained open for 12 business days, closing on 31 October 2022 and four (4) Submissions were received.

Key Issues

This tender process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of Council's Procurement Policy.

Tenderer's submissions were assessed for conformity with the tender documents and no tenders were eliminated from further evaluation as a result of any non-conformances.

The Evaluation Panel scored tenders against pre-established evaluation criteria. A summary of the evaluation criteria follows.

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Price	80%
Resourcing	10%
Timeframes	10%
TOTAL	100%

The requirement of environmentally sustainable outcomes and social benefits forms part of the specifications of works and were aspects of the pre-selection evaluation for suitably qualified panel contractors under EO16105.

Recommended option and justification

Following an extensive evaluation process as detailed in Confidential Attachment 1. The evaluation panel are unanimous in their decision to recommend TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd for the Tender Price inclusive of provisional items as TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd offers the best value outcome.

The evaluation panel request that Council adopts the recommendations within this report.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The total cost of the lump sum contract for the road construction is \$1,506,030.63 (GST exclusive), \$1,656,633.69 Inclusive of GST including all provisional sums.

Funds are allocated to this project from:

The 2019 Federal Government \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas; and

Landowner Contributions as part of a Special Charge Scheme beginning in the 2023/24 financial year. The funding details are provided within the Confidential attachment.

Works are anticipated to commence in early 2023 with works expected to reach practical completion by February 2024.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan: The construction of local roads as a Special Charge Scheme meets the *Council Plan 2021- 2025* strategic objective of Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places. Local road construction also has benefits related to the strategic objective of a Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism.

Council's Special Rate and Charge Policy for Infrastructure Improvements sets out in detail the procedures for managing Special Charge Schemes.

This project is part of the Federal Government's sealing roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas program.

RELEVANT LAW

This report seeks Council approval to award a contract that complies with Section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The construction of these roads would be undertaken utilising contractors from Councils Road Construction and Associated Works Panel. This panel was established with a majority of local smaller contractors which will help provide economic support to these local businesses.

Social Implications

Special Charge Schemes for road construction require sizeable contributions from abutting landowners. These contributions can lead to social and economic impacts

for affected landowners. Council's *Special Rate and Charge Policy for Infrastructure Improvements* notes that those landowners with a demonstrated financial hardship may apply for assistance in accordance with Council's *Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy*.

Environmental Implications

The proposed works will require the removal of 9 native trees and 6 exotic trees.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is not required for the works.

The works will enhance the environmental amenity, through the reduction in dust.

The sealing of local roads will assist in reducing the impacts to the road condition from increased storm events, predicted as a result of climate change. Unsealed roads greatly deteriorate in condition following storm events creating an increased stress on service delivery for the unsealed road network.

Consideration is also given to the rate of flow of water into local creeks and impacts to water quality following the sealing local roads, sustainable treatment is prioritised, where possible within the catchment with measures such as grassy swales implemented as conditions allow.

As part of the construction of local roads, Council officers are continually investigating the increased use of recycled materials. In utilising recycled materials, officers consider the availability and location of materials, the quality of materials and overall cost to the project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Landowners in Bell Street, Winifred Street, Read Road, and Paynes Road, Seville have been consulted in the lead up to and through the statutory process for developing a Special Charge for the construction of their roads.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Projects constructed under the Roads for Community Initiative have been jointly funded by the Federal Government and participating landowners.

The Federal Government funding commitment of \$150 Million over 10 years will have a transformational impact on unmade roads throughout the Dandenongs and urban growth areas of the municipality. The key principles of the program are to construct unmade roads:

Servicing schools, community facilities and sporting facilities;

Within the urban growth boundary and township areas within Yarra Ranges;

That significantly support bushfire risk and emergency situations to allow the community to safely exit areas of high risk;

That support the growth and development of tourism across the municipality; and
Where sections of high-volume rural roads intersect with collector/arterial roads.

In considering a strategic approach for future construction of unsealed roads, the proposed road construction of Bell Street, Winifred Street, Read Road, and Paynes Road, Seville fit within the above criteria.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Construction of the roads would provide the following benefits/risk reduction to landowners:

- Continued and safer vehicular access to and from properties abutting or gaining primary access via the roads;
- Improved stormwater drainage runoff control directed towards the roads from abutting properties, and protection of low side properties from stormwater runoff from the roads; and
- Enhanced physical and environmental amenity for abutting properties.

It is noted that the roads have existed in their current form for many years. If the proposed construction of the roads does not proceed, no unacceptable or unmanageable risk would be experienced by Council.

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. Confidential Attachment for Contract EOI6105 7127 Bell Street Road Group, Seville - Road Improvement Works (SCS).

Confidential Item

**EOI6105 7111: NATION ROAD - SELBY - ROAD IMPROVEMENT WORKS
SPECIAL CHARGE SCHEME**

Report Author: Executive Officer - Roads for Community Initiative
Responsible Officer: Director Environment and Infrastructure
Ward(s) affected: Lyster;

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

The item has been included in the public agenda to facilitate openness and transparency in Council's decision making. Confidential attachments have been included with the report which contain commercially sensitive information that is not to be disclosed whilst the meeting is open to the public.

SUMMARY

This Report summarises the evaluation process for submissions received for the Nation Road, Selby – Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme and seeks Council approval to award the contract for construction to TDM Earthworks Pty. Ltd.

As part of its 2019 budgetary process, the federal government announced a nine-year, \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas. At its meeting on 24 September 2019 Council endorsed a list of roads to be constructed using this funding to be facilitated by means of Special Charge Schemes.

Nation Road, Selby was included on this list of roads and in accordance with Council's Special Charge Scheme Policy, landowner support has been sought and obtained for construction of the road. The project has been listed in Council's 2022/23 Capital Expenditure Program.

The Special Charge Scheme Statutory Process has been successfully completed and the project is ready for construction.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. ***Council accepts the tender from TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd for the total lump sum price of \$1,122,391.17 (GST exclusive), \$1,234,630.29 inclusive of GST and inclusive of all provisional items as defined in this proposal.***
2. ***Approves the Director of Environment and Infrastructure be delegated the authority to sign the contract documents.***
3. ***The confidential attachment to this report remains confidential indefinitely as it relates to matters specified under section 3(1) (g)(i), (g)(ii) of the Local Government Act 2020.***

RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS

- Council meeting 24 September 2019 – Council considered a report regarding the Federal Government Road Construction Funding Initiative and endorsed a listing of roads proposed for construction as Special Charge Schemes with landowner contributions fixed at \$7,000 per development unit;
- Council meeting 25 August 2020 – Council approved the establishment of a panel of pre-qualified Road Construction and Associated Works contractors, to facilitate the efficient delivery of road infrastructure projects;
- Council meeting 26 April 2022 – Council approved a report on the Intention to Levy a Special Charge Scheme for Nation Road, Selby; and
- Council meeting 28 June 2022 – Council declared the Special Charge Scheme for Nation Road, Selby.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

To seek Council approval to award EO161057111 Nation Road Selby - Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme.

Background

As part of its 2019 budgetary process, the Federal Government announced a nine-year, \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas.

To support efficient procurement processes, Council sought Expressions of Interest from contractors to establish a panel of twelve (12) pre-qualified Road Construction

and Associated Works contractors to EO16105. From this list Council would seek quotations for road construction and associated works, as and when funding allows.

Under the terms and conditions of the panel arrangement any contracts valued over \$1 million would require a formal declaration report indicating the estimated cost and budget be accepted by Council before the project can proceed to construction.

On 20 September 2022, Council invited eight (8) pre-qualified suppliers from the Road Construction and Associated Works Panel to submit their pricing for the Nation Road Seville - Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme

The tender process remained open for 18 business days, closing on 18 October 2022 and Five (5) Submissions were received.

Key Issues

This tender process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of Council's Procurement Policy.

Tenderer's submissions were assessed for conformity with the tender documents and no tenders were eliminated from further evaluation as a result of any non-conformances.

The Evaluation Panel scored tenders against pre-established evaluation criteria. A summary of the evaluation criteria follows.

Evaluation Criteria	Weighting
Price	80%
Resourcing	10%
Timeframes	10%
TOTAL	100%

The requirement of environmentally sustainable outcomes and social benefits forms part of the specifications of works and were aspects of the pre-selection evaluation for suitably qualified panel contractors under EO16105.

Recommended option and justification

Following an extensive evaluation process as detailed in Confidential Attachment 1. The evaluation panel are unanimous in their decision to recommend TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd for the Tender Price inclusive of provisional items as detailed in the Confidential Attachment to this report. TDM Earthworks Pty Ltd offers the best value outcome.

The evaluation panel request that Council adopts the recommendations within this report.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

The total cost of the lump sum contract for the road construction is \$1,122,391.17 (GST exclusive), \$1,234,630.29 Inclusive of GST including all provisional sums.

Funds are allocated to this project from:

The 2019 Federal Government \$150 Million funding initiative for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas; and

Landowner Contributions as part of a Special Charge Scheme beginning in the 2023/24 financial year. The funding details are provided within the Confidential attachment.

Works are anticipated to commence in early 2023 with works expected to reach practical completion by August 2023.

APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES

This report contributes to the following strategic objective(s) in the Council Plan: The construction of local roads as a Special Charge Scheme meets the Council Plan 2021- 2025 strategic objective of Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places. Local road construction also has benefits related to the strategic objective of a Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism.

Council's Special Rate and Charge Policy for Infrastructure Improvements sets out in detail the procedures for managing Special Charge Schemes.

This project is part of the Federal Government's sealing roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas program.

RELEVANT LAW

This report seeks Council approval to award a contract that complies with the Section 108 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Economic Implications

The construction of these roads would be undertaken utilising contractors from Councils Road Construction and Associated Works Panel. This panel was established with a majority of local smaller contractors which will help provide economic support to these local businesses.

Social Implications

Special Charge Schemes for road construction require sizeable contributions from abutting landowners. These contributions can lead to social and economic impacts for affected landowners. Council's Special Rate and Charge Policy for Infrastructure Improvements notes that those landowners with a demonstrated financial hardship may apply for assistance in accordance with Council's Rate Recovery and Financial Hardship Policy

Environmental Implications

The proposed works will require the removal of 1 exotic tree.

A Cultural Heritage Management Plan is not required for the works.

The works will enhance the environmental amenity, through the reduction in dust.

The sealing of local roads will assist in reducing the impacts to the road condition from increased storm events, predicted as a result of climate change. Unsealed roads greatly deteriorate in condition following storm events creating an increased stress on service delivery for the unsealed road network.

Consideration is also given to the rate of flow of water into local creeks and impacts to water quality following the sealing local roads, sustainable treatment is prioritised, where possible within the catchment with measures such as grassy swales implemented as conditions allow.

As part of the construction of local roads, Council officers are continually investigating the increased use of recycled materials. In utilising recycled materials, officers consider the availability and location of materials, the quality of materials and overall cost to the project.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Landowners of Nation Road, Selby have been consulted in the lead up to and through the statutory process for developing a Special Charge for the construction of their roads.

COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Projects constructed under the Roads for Community Initiative have been jointly funded by the Federal Government and participating landowners.

The Federal Government funding commitment of \$150 Million over 10 years will have a transformational impact on unmade roads throughout the Dandenongs and urban growth areas of the municipality. The key principles of the program are to construct unmade roads:

Servicing schools, community facilities and sporting facilities;

Within the urban growth boundary and township areas within Yarra Ranges;

That significantly support bushfire risk and emergency situations to allow the community to safely exit areas of high risk;

That support the growth and development of tourism across the municipality; and

Where sections of high-volume rural roads intersect with collector/arterial roads.

In considering a strategic approach for future construction of unsealed roads, the proposed road construction of Nation Road, Selby fit within the above criteria.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Construction of the roads would provide the following benefits/risk reduction to landowners:

- Continued and safer vehicular access to and from properties abutting or gaining primary access via the roads;
- Improved stormwater drainage runoff control directed towards the roads from abutting properties, and protection of low side properties from stormwater runoff from the roads; and
- Enhanced physical and environmental amenity for abutting properties.

It is noted that the roads have existed in their current form for many years. If the proposed construction of the roads does not proceed, no unacceptable or unmanageable risk would be experienced by Council.

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. Confidential Attachment for Contract EOI6105 7111 Nation Road Selby - Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme

Confidential Item

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.

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. 15 November 2022 - Council Forum;
2. 15 November 2022 - Council Briefing;
3. 15 November 2022 - Review of Complex Planning Matters; and
4. 1 December 2022 - Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee.

Informal meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Council Forum	
Date:	15 November 2022	Start Time: 7.00 pm Finish Time: 10.15 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via videoconference	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child, Andrew Fullagar, David Eastham, Len Cox (until 8.05 pm) & Fiona McAllister Cr Tim Heenen, Richard Higgins & Sophie Todorov
	Via Zoom:	Cr Cox (from 8.29pm)
	CEO/Directors:	Tammi Rose, Andrew Hilson, Jane Sinnamon, Jane Price, Damien Closs (Acting Director Planning, Design & Development), & Bill Millard
	Officers:	Nathan Islip, Tim Grace, Adam Berkley, Tracey Varley, Clint Hong, Justin Stephens, Kim O'Conner, Grant McCarthy, Phil Murton, Marco D'Amico, Sarah Brophy, Allison Southwell, Hugh Baulch, Debbie Pulman & Sarah Candeland
	Via Zoom:	Alannah Ford & Amee Morgan
Apologies	Johanna Skelton	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Nil	
Matter/s Discussed:	2.1	Action and Agreement Record – 18 October 2022
	2.2	Councillor Discussion Time Finalise Committee & External Bodies appointments
	2.4	Warburton Urban Design Framework
	2.5	2022-2026 Burrinja Cultural Centre Partnership Agreement
	2.6	2023-24 Budget Discussion
	2.7	Roads For the Community Initiative - 2022 Program Update
	2.8	Wesburn Park Masterplan
	2.9	MAV Regional Groupings Review
	2.10	Kinley Delegations - Verbal Report
	3.1	Structure Plan Review and Action List Update
	3.2	Contract Approvals and Variations October 2022
	3.3	Capital Works Program Quarterly Report - September 2022
	3.4	Organisational Performance Report to Councillors - July to September 2022
	3.5	Indicative Forum & Council Meeting Schedule
	3.6	Mayor & CEO Update

	4	General Business
	5	Late Items and Urgent Business
Completed By:	Sarah Candeland	

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Council Briefing	
Date:	15 November 2022	Start Time: 6.15 pm Finish Time: 6.30 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via videoconference	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child, Andrew Fullagar, David Eastham, Tim Heenan, Sophie Todorov & Len Cox
	CEO/Directors:	Tammi Rose, Andrew Hilson, Jane Sinnamon, Damien Closs (Acting Director Planning, Design & Development), Jane Price & Bill Millard
	Officers:	Hugh Baulch, Allison Southwell, Debbie Pulhman & Sarah Candeland
Apologies	Fiona McAllister, Johanna Skelton & Richard Higgins	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Nil	
Matter/s Discussed:	This briefing covered the following items of business to be considered at the 22 November 2022 Council Meeting	
	10.1	Planning Application - YR-2022/59 - 272 Maroondah Highway Healesville
	10.2	Final Economic Development Strategy for Adoption
	10.3	Part 2 of Amendment C197 - Update to the Heritage Overlay for the Cement Creek Plantation
	10.4	Ministerial Amendment C211 - RESTRUCTURE OVERLAY ANOMALIES
	10.5	Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy
	10.6	Councillor Appointments to Committees & External Bodies
	10.7	MAV Board Regional Grouping Review
	10.8	CT5815 Enterprise Systems Project - Contract Extension
	10.9	Quarterly Finance Report - September 2022
	10.10	Domestic Animal Management Plan 2022-2026 Endorsement
	10.11	Tree Matter Outside 134 Hereford Road, Mt Evelyn
	10.12	CT7078 Construction of Stormwater Harvesting System Monbulk Reserve
	10.13	Henry Street, Yarra Junction Declaration of Special Charge
	10.14	Henry Street, Lester Street and Everard Grove, Woori Yallock Declaration of Special Charge
	10.15	Part Road Discontinuance abutting 37 Frances Avenue, Yarra Glen
	10.16	EOI6105 7108: Benton Road Elamo Road Nagoondie Lane Healesville - Road Improvement Works Special Charge Scheme
Completed By:	Sarah Candeland	

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Review of Complex Planning Items	
Date:	15 November 2022	Start Time: 5.31 pm Finish Time: 6.14 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Anderson Street, Lilydale and via videofonerece	
Attendees:	Councillors:	Jim Child, Andrew Fullagar, Tim Heenan (from 5.37pm), David Eastham, Sohpie Todorov & Len Cox
	Via Zoom:	Nil
	CEO/Directors:	Tammi Rose, Andrew Hilson, Jane Sinnamon, Jane Price, Damien Closs (Acting Director Planning, Design & Development), & Bill Millard
	Officers:	Allison Fowler, Allison Fogharty, Amanda Kern, Nathan, Tim Grace, Schott Spargo, Hugh Baulch, Allison Southwell & Sarah Candeland
	Via Zoom:	Nil
Apologies	Fiona McAllister, Johanna Skelton & Richard Higgins	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Nil	
Matter/s Discussed:	10.1	Planning Application - YR-2022/59 - 272 Maroondah Highway Healesville - Planning Report to Council 22 November 2022
		A Current Affair – Guest Family House Rebuild
	2.3	Monbulk Urban Design Framework – Report to Forum 15 Novmeber 2022
Completed By:	Sarah Candeland	

Informal Meeting of Councillors

Public Record



Meeting Name:	Sustainable Environment Advisory Committee	
Date:	01 12 2022	Start Time: 5.30pm Finish Time: 7.30pm
Venue:	Via teleconference (Zoom) and in-person at Civic Centre	
Attendees:	Councillors: Cr Johanna	
	Other attendees: Graeme George (member), Ron Sawyer (member), Laurence Gaffney (member), Bec Brannigan (member), Lauren Dwyer (member), Peter Martin (member), Lucy Gilchrist (member), Melanie Birchnell (member), Mel Carmody (Melbourne Water)	
	Officers: Jess Rae (YRC), Sarah Bond (YRC), Amanda Smith (YRC), Tom Meek (YRC)	
Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest:	Cr Andrew Fullagar, Julia Kelley (YRC), Suzanne Burville (YRC), Kym Saunders (YRC), Graham Brew (YRC), Jeff Barlow (member), Jonathan Gay (member), Clinton Muller (member), Lucy Southwell-Hambly (member), Joanne Antrobus (Parks Vic), Merryn Kelly (DELWP), Darren Wandin (member)	
	None	
Matter/s Discussed:	1.1	Melbourne Water Update
	1.2	Looking back (at what the committee did this year)
	1.3	Looking forward
	1.4	Council's key priorities 2022-23 – Nature plan finalisation, Circular economy / Waste team transition and Integrated Water Management
Completed By:	Suzanne Burville	

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 31 January 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.*