

Budget 23-24 Community Consultation Submissions & Responses (30 January – 12 March 2023)

Submission	Council response
<p>First and foremost, beautification of the suburbs. Olinda, Sassafras and Mt Dandenong have been sorely neglected. It looks like the council is in planned retreat in these areas. Further, the council value the life of a mountain ash tree over the life of a person.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Council highly values the townships of the Dandenong Ranges, especially the highly popular Olinda, Sassafras and Mt Dandenong. There are a large number of centres needing focus over the coming years, and Olinda has been identified for master planning in the coming 2023-2024 year.</p> <p>A Sassafras masterplan will follow in 2024-2025 along with an Urban Design Framework for Mount Dandenong, which has slightly more complex land uses. Having adopted plans will enable Council to develop improvement projects, informed through community input, and to seek external funds to support delivery of these projects. It will also ensure all projects are coordinated around an agreed plan.</p> <p>Council has also allocated \$36,000 per year for four years for Olinda Community House to support a range of community development activities.</p>
<p>An oversight committee on how, where, when, who is allocating ratepayers dollars. Openness and transparency is important.</p>	<p>Council and its executive leadership team are responsible for developing and monitoring an annual budget for Council's activities including. The budget is developed with significant engagement and input requested and received from community members to ensure we are considering community views. We believe our process of developing the annual budget provides an appropriate level of openness and transparency to our community.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Council needs to go back to basics & to remember the outer regions of the shire. Better & more frequent maintenance schedules of works like roadside maintenance, drain clearing, rubbish bin emptying, public toilet cleaning. Where these works are done by sub-contractors, have a way to verify the completion of works.</p> <p>Faster response times to complaints/queries. Build the region for the locals & the tourist will also benefit. Engage with locals....ask what they see as relevant....not online but in person. Schedule community meetings at a time when all can attend or town store fronts where locals can drop in and raise an issue. Even online surveys such as this disadvantage those that can't/won't/don't have internet access.</p> <p>The ability to easily move around the shire is highly compromised due to the PT issues. Boost that.</p> <p>Housing: Bring into action a stronger set of bylaws to deal with STRs in the area & have them acted upon. If you have a noise complaint at 2am on a Saturday, waiting until the next business day to have it sorted isn't good enough. Calling the police when there are so few in the area isn't feasible. Off street parking requirements, occupancy limits, ability to respond by the owner or their agent within a reasonable time frame. So many ways that improvements could be made. Be more flexible on "granny flat" builds.</p> <p>Many on the outer fringe of the shire feel forgotten, neglected, ignored. Any issue a local resident has, is a council issue. Whether its a VicRoads, DELWP, Parks Vic, Melbourne Water, if it is a concern of a resident, it is also a council concern/issue. As a resident, I shouldn't have to know if that patch of dirt is controlled by council, Vic Roads, Parks etc. Council should be my advocate to deal with all these other government departments.</p>	<p>Council is committed to engaging with the community in a meaningful, authentic and responsive way. This year we embarked on a new approach to face to face engagement with our community engagement roadshows, where we are holding pop-up sessions across the municipality to speak with the community and invite their feedback on a range of council projects. These roadshows are an important complement to the many other ways community members can provide feedback on Council projects. Through the draft budget, \$50,000 has been allocated to boost Council's community engagement efforts so that we can continue to improve the way we involve community in decision making.</p> <p>Dependent Persons Units (or Granny Flats) are regulated under the Planning Scheme, however Council is currently working on an updated Housing Strategy which will consider options to improve access to housing including granny flats.</p> <p>Council is actively advocating to the Victorian Government for improved public transport services, including but not limited to: new pilot Flexiride bus services; increased frequency of existing bus services; upgrades to Upwey and Tecoma railway stations; and duplication of the Lilydale rail line to support better connections into Lilydale and through to regional parts of the municipality.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Exit the UN and stop wasting our funds! Stop property tax - people worked hard and already paid taxes in order to have full ownership.</p>	<p>Thanks for your submission. Yarra Ranges Council is not a member of the United Nations and has not formally adopted the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, as has been suggested by some members of our community. However we do recognise that there are similarities between them and the work that we are responsible for.</p> <p>Everything we do at Council can be linked back to our Council Plan, and the five strategic objectives that underpin it:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connected and Healthy Communities - Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places - Protected & Enhanced Natural Environment - Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism - High Performing Organisation <p>In response to your comment regarding property tax, this tax is collected by the State Government, not Council. Council rates however, are collected each year to help pay for more than 120 services Council provides, including maintenance of local roads, community facilities and public open spaces such as parks and gardens. Nationally, Council rates represent just 3.6 per cent of taxes collected by all levels of government.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Footpaths in Healesville. All schools and early childhood services supported to run the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program Safe youth gathering spaces and activities</p>	<p>Early Childhood services within Yarra Ranges Council are managed by community and private providers who determine the programs and curriculums delivered. Council staff assist early childhood services by identifying and promoting external grant opportunities which may support their choice of programs including opportunities like the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden.</p> <p>Council’s Traffic Engineering team has recently completed an assessment into the missing footpath links across the municipality. The missing links within Healesville have been identified through the assessment.</p> <p>Given competing priorities across the municipality, funding for the projects cannot be confirmed at this stage. Funding consideration for projects depends on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project ranking - Higher ranked projects generally prioritised to be delivered earlier. Footpath prioritisation is based on a range of criteria including proximity to public transport, schools, shops and other key facilities. • Delivery efficiencies - If two high priority projects are near each other they will be delivered together. This will bring delivery efficiencies and enhance connectivity in the local area. • Adjacent projects – Where other capital works projects or development projects are likely to induce pedestrian demand. The projects will be brought forward to be delivered in conjunction with those projects. • Funding availability – The availability of funding in any year may determine the projects that are recommended for delivery in any given financial year. • External funding opportunities – Projects that meet the relevant criteria for external grant fund funding may be elevated in priority for delivery.
<p>I feel Council should be moving away from the direct provision of so many services but to becoming facilitators of services provided by others.</p> <p>It has also lost the meaning of some service provisions, eg meals on wheels, where the intent was to provide good, enjoyable food to those in need rather than balance, nutrition and snap frozen meals. Most older people would love the social contact, a short chat and a good meat pie with vegies.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission. Council receives funding from the State and Federal Governments to deliver meals and this service, and that of all other providers, is guided and assessed under the Victorian Meals on Wheels Best Practice Guidelines. Their principles focus on four areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nutritiously appropriate meals for older people. 2. social connection. 3. welfare monitoring and 4. strengthening community capacity by providing opportunities to volunteer locally, with a particular focus on supporting older volunteers.

Submission	Council response
	<p>Community Aged Care is a Federal funded program. Council receives Federal/State funding of approximately \$820, 000 annually to source and deliver Meals.</p>
<p>Making our townships more pedestrian friendly. I live in Upwey and feel it would be good to limit traffic between the southern roundabout and the pedestrian crossing near the bank. This would allow the road to be repurposed for seating, shade, landscaping, playing, market stalls, etc. It would be nice to have a 'safe place' for young kids in the Hill's where parents can buy food/drinks. A place to just 'hang out' on nice evenings and just chat to whoever we see. More like a European piazza/town square. Upwey is one of the few (only?) Hill's townships that could actually accommodate this without major challenges to road traffic.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Creating people-friendly places is a strong priority for Council and pedestrian experience is central to this. Council had planned commencement of an Upwey Township Masterplan late 2022 however the local community have requested that this be paused until they could prepare a Community Plan. We believe this is now well progressed and we will draw on insights from the Community Plan as part of a Master planning exercise which is intended to be commenced mid-2023. This will explore more pleasant pedestrian and visitor experience and careful traffic management to support local businesses.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>I think Yarra Ranges points of focus should be on improving what makes the residents and visitors frustrated whilst in the the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lilydale Main street, it doesn't look inviting, the parking can be challenging to navigate if you don't live here and we have so many good small businesses on the strip. - The Lilydale train stop is at the end of the line, the station and overhead is an eye sore and could have been planned better. We should have a line from Lilydale to Healesville. - Green waste should be free, the area would have less fuel for fire season if everyone had free green waste pick ups. - Households should have compost bins, one for the kitchen benchtop and one for the garden to reduce waste in the bins. - In general the roads need to be cleaned up regularly, we have a lot of trucks and trades using our main roads, i often have to dodge debris on the roads. - For our street, gravel road, the council did not complete the subdivision of 5 houses properly, almost 30 years ago, we have to share our title of land with our neighbours as an access road for their properties, the least the council could do is grate and clean up the road we have to share. - Lilydale township should be utilised as a gateway to the Yarra Valley and winery region, but the traffic is horrendous, we need wider roads and a bypass for through traffic. - There are still trees down from the storms years ago, it looks messy and adds fuel for fire season. - The roads and pot holes need to be fixed properly, a quick fix here and there is making them worse. - Hull Road at Kinley estate has been re-surfaced twice and the rest of the road is a pot hole nightmare. - The intersection of Hull and Mooroolbark Rd, there are no signs indicating 2 lanes into 1 and there have been accidents. The intersection needs fixing, either a left hand turning lane, 1 	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>You have identified some areas of focus that we agree need some work. In particular we are aware of some of the challenges experienced in Lilydale and last year adopted the Lilydale Structure Plan which paves the way for addressing some of the concerns you have raised, especially regarding a more vibrant and attractive presentation to support the local businesses, and more orderly traffic movement.</p> <p>We are also looking to build the role of Lilydale as a gateway to the Yarra Valley and major tourism destinations as well as increasing its role as a community destination and commercial hub for business. The Structure Plan also reached an agreed position to seek State Government delivery of a bypass to reduce heavy vehicle and freight traffic and alleviate the pressure from passing traffic.</p> <p>Lilydale has also been selected as one of State Government's Suburban Revitalisation centres which has attracted funds to deliver some of these above improvements while enabling promotion of Lilydale to private developers to attract investment in improving the centre.</p> <p>The new station and level crossing removal project were delivered by State Government however Council did advocate strongly throughout that process for good design and better community outcomes. A rail extension is not currently on Council's transport priorities identified in the Integrated Transport Strategy, however improved public transport to both the Healesville and Upper Yarra corridors is a high priority and Council continues to seek improved services for these communities.</p> <p>In terms of waste, all residents will be provided a weekly Food & Garden Organic bin service when Council introduces the State Government's new waste bin system in October this year. This will go towards reducing not only green waste, but food waste which will also be able to be placed in this bin. Council also has a compost rebate program, where if you purchase a compost bin Council will provide a financial rebate towards the cost of the bin.</p>

Submission

Council response

lane straight and 1 right hand turning lane. Or back to 1 straight and 1 right hand turn.

- Hull Road and Reay Rd, the lights for the crossing should be moved to the intersection and allow traffic from Reay Rd to turn right, this will ease traffic congestion on the 5 ways roundabouts, as a lot of cars and the school buses use the roundabout and go back up Hull Road.
- The council should ensure native plants to the area are planted to re-generate the green spaces, and monitor those plants, on our street, plants were planted and the council lawnmowers drove straight over them.
- Better signage around school areas where a set of lights falls within the 40k limit zones

Focus on traditional local government services and make council officers responsible for exceeding their budgets. Fast track paperwork for small projects such as carports, sheds and extensions. Taking 6 months for an application for a simple shed is ridiculous, they should be rubber stamped when supplied by a certified businesses.

Council's Planning Services department is aware of the above average time being taken to assess a permit application. Across Victoria in the local government sector, there continues to be a critical shortage of qualified planners. This, combined with the highly complex planning controls in Yarra Ranges, means our planners are dealing with higher than average numbers of applications and a more detailed assessment path for each assessment. Our planners are highly skilled, as they need to consider a variety of elements when reviewing an application, including drainage, landslip, reducing the impact of development on vegetation, the risk of bushfire, safe access to properties, the viability of our businesses and commercial/industrial areas, and protecting our beautiful vistas and landscapes. We are continuously reviewing our service to streamline our planning processes, with a goal of reducing timeframes and improving the service outcomes for our planning customers.

Submission	Council response
<p>Make a water park thing at the outdoor pool in Healesville for the kids. Keep the big pool there too but for the love of god heat it. It's freezing. This will encourage a lot more people to go there instead of it looking dead 99% of the time.</p>	<p>Council is currently undertaking an Aquatics Strategy which will be used to inform decision making for investment over the coming years. This will include any upgrades or modifications to existing facilities.</p>
<p>I have 3 suggestions:- 1/ Belgrave Pool open for a long window of time given the summer is running longer this year 2/ Funding for upgrades to the Belgrave South shops precinct 3/ Agitate more for reinstatement of the Roads for the Hills program from the federal government</p>	<p>1. Careful consideration is given regarding the season length of Council's outdoor pools and is based on upcoming weather forecasts and recent attendance levels. The decision is always a balance between providing increased community access against the significant costs of opening a pool. Council does have a year round pool at Monbulk Aquatic Centre situated not far from Belgrave.</p> <p>2. There have been recent discussions with a local business interested in improvements to Belgrave South shopping strip, however it will take a few years for this to become a priority given the 65 competing centres throughout Yarra Ranges. The more substantial needs of the main Belgrave centre require urgent attention and will be a focus in the coming 2023-2024 financial year through an Urban Design Framework. This framework will form the basis of advocacy for funds to deliver local projects.</p> <p>3. Yarra Ranges Council in partnership with Cardinia Shire Council have prepared advocacy work for the reinstatement of the Federal Funding as part of the Roads for the Community Initiative. The advocacy work has included preparing a submission for reinstatement of funding in the upcoming Federal Budget. Both Yarra Ranges Council and Cardinia Shire Council met with the Hon. Bridget Mckenzie (Shadow Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development) to discuss the funding cuts. The shadow minister would also be advocating on both Councils behalf to have funding to this program reinstated.</p>
<p>Instead of teams of people sitting in your new ivory tower thinking up lots of wonderful things they would like to spend our money on why don't you form a razor gang to cut out the waste and inefficiency in the council!</p>	<p>Council received more than 600 contributions through its 23-24 budget engagement activities to help inform the draft 23-24 budget. In response to this feedback, funding has been allocated to a number of priority areas identified as important by the community, including drainage, roads, footpaths and trails, sporting facilities, open spaces and reserves, caring for the environment, and facilities and activities to support the community through all stages of life.</p> <p>Council's 23-24 budget also includes funding to enable Council to continue meeting its legislative obligations under the Local Government Act 2020.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Actually fix the roads stop lowering speed limits to prevent an accident because you don't fix the road. People are literally dying in accidents because road safety isn't as important to you then tourists. Try focusing on making the life of residents better who pay your rates and not people who drive through to buy coffee and wine. STOP WASTING OUR MONEY AND FIX THE ROADS!!!</p>	<p>Speed management is critical to road safety, supported by the Movement and Place approach. This includes setting safe and appropriate speed limits, ensuring compliance and setting policies and using vehicle safety technology to alert drivers to their travel speed. Yarra Ranges Council's financial resources allocated for works on roads, pathways, road infrastructure and road-related infrastructure have regard to the overall service delivery priorities of the Council and the outcomes of the Annual Budget Review. The Council has determined the "levels of service" that meet the community's "reasonable" expectations of "day to day" maintenance and ongoing asset performance. relevant to each category of road, pathway, road infrastructure and road-related infrastructure within its Road Management Plan 2021 (version 5).</p>
<p>Fix roads, reduce rates,they are highest in Victoria,stop spending rate payer funds on state government responsibilities.</p>	<p>Yarra Ranges Council's financial resources allocated for works on roads, pathways, road infrastructure and road-related infrastructure have regard to the overall service delivery priorities of the Council and the outcomes of the Annual Budget Review. The Council has determined the "levels of service" that meet the community's "reasonable" expectations of "day to day" maintenance and ongoing asset performance. relevant to each category of road, pathway, road infrastructure and road-related infrastructure within its Road Management Plan 2021 (version 5)</p>
<p>MONBULK AQUATIC CENTRE The centre needs a designated children's creche room redesign. Currently the floor exercise room eg yoga, pilates zumba wonder women ,etc have a pull across folding vinyl screen wall which every day needs to be pulled across halving up the room for reche/fitness. to share. This results in fitness classes being limited in numbers by Management idue to the size of a half room and health/safety issues relating to good movement in the confined space and storage of equipment , steps , weights mats in said room and the actual connected storage room is inadequate so the actual activities room has to cope with the overflow of needed equipment, . also resulting in some patrons unable to access popular classes due to restriction of patron numbers. which are held majority in the mornings when creche hours are predominant. This restricting of numbers due to the above and availability and timetabling of classes sometimes causes friction between paid up members and staff. Added to this conundrum is quite often</p>	<p>Council is currently undertaking an Aquatics Strategy which will be used to inform decision making for investment over the coming years. This will include any upgrades or modifications to existing facilities.</p>

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<p>only 2 children are in the creche but exercises classes are limited in attendees next door behind the floating screen. Obviously parents are requiring a creche be it 2 or 10 children. But the point is a new space for creche needs to be achieved.by Shire who owns the building The current word is council has no plans to extend building to next stage for 10yrs If Council wishes to begin the new infrastructure plan redevelopment for Monbulk Town then the Aquatic Centre dry floor areas need attention now, Current staff at this centre are trying to cope with difficult circumstances to their credit,</p>	

Submission	Council response
<p>Improving urban planning of avail new homes. Insist developers include this in dwelling plans , Single story homes suitable for older/disabled. Wider doorway access to accommodate wheelchairs/walking frames. Bathroom . Open plan shower cubicles.. Older persons demographic is growing in Shire but developers/council is still building 2 story square rendered boxes . Plans for units to be constructed on top of retail in Monbulk, Great idea , but make certain these are user friendly with lifts . Otherwise older persons are restricted to not living in these units and missing out on having the benefit of handy access to shopping/medical close by to meet their needs . Older persons climbing stairs is difficult, 60 plus. Council should stand up and take charge of the mediocre boring building designs submitted by developers who obviously in my opinion will try and construct the cheapest rendered article to save costs and put monies into their pockets , One only has to look overseas to see what imaginative design in housing can be achieved with building costs conquered. Otherwise Shire will be re hashing the old planning design ideas from 1960s era , the old triple fronted brick veneers -1000s constructed in Mooroolbark. We dont want this happening again in Shire with 100s new 2 story boring rended same old cheap easy designs. 2nd Point Access should be included for public transport, buses to park at designated bus tucked back easily accessible hub , not queued up blocking the kerb in Main Rd. MONBULKas currently occurs . More tele buses to collect persons at the top of their streets in Monbulk and Hills/Y,Valley for an extra small fee. As been happening in Mooroolbark for 30 years + If Council wants to expand Monbulk/Mt Evelyn then press Vic Rds to improve the Main access Rds Eg Passing lanes Monbulk , Silvan. Improve Monbulk/Belgrave Rd access, Both Rds thick with Ventura large buses always quarter filled with passengers (Therefore exhibiting the need for smaller commuter buses at certain</p>	<p>Amanda Response - The Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme includes a requirement that in a development of ten or more dwellings, a range of dwelling size and type must be included, including a variety in the numbers of bedrooms, and at least one dwelling which has the kitchen, a bath or shower, and a toilet and wash basin at ground floor level. This is to facilitate a variety of housing typology and choice for people with mobility/access challenges to be provided with opportunity for housing choice.</p> <p>Council allocates funding towards delivery of arts and culture initiatives and programming focussing on it's major cultural venues. In the Hills region this is Burrinja Cultural Centre. In addition, Council encourages community activation via it's grants programs specifically through the Creative Communities grant stream. Dandenong Range Music Council is one such recipient of the grant program.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>periods in the day) Plus Monbulk/Surrounds is the commercial growing flower capital of Aust so In /out Rd access is clogged with large trucks . Previously I resided in Mooroolbark/Chirnside Park. where council has in recent years invested in improving facilities heavily perhaps to the detriment of smaller towns and decisions of State govt As always Money is the problem also due to perhaps the Urban vs Farming /Winery and too large a Shire boundary area situation (aka Jeff Kennett era decision) which does not fare well. POINT 3 . Currently in Monbulk we have a large Council building , plus a Victorian Education Primary School, next door to each other , Totally underutilized for Community activity at Weekends, In the past when Ray Yates was School principal the magnificent school activities building was oped a few times a year Sunday arvo for Classical music concerts A small gold coin entry fee, This was attended by at least 50 +persons , Parents , children g,parents of the town and surrounds Promoting inclusion and goodwill and using the usually empty venue at weekends The same could be said re the Council Hub. Unfortunately when Ray retired , no more concerts were held. To the detriment of all. those interested in the Arts FOOTNOTE Not everyone is interested in Football, cricket . Bowling. so to achieve The Arts experience in Monbulk is not achievable</p>	

Submission	Council response
<p>"Improve the visibility of toilets in Warburton. Would cost virtually nothing Install a decent sign at the Welcome to Warburton entrance that toilets are 200 metres ahead then put a PROPER toilet sign on the building. It is simply not visibly clear to visitors it is a toilet. The building could be anything. 2. Put a sign before the tennis courts encouraging people to turn into Storey Lane to access the toilets as there is never enough parking in the Main Street 3 instal PROPER toilets outside the information centre. The existing toilets there are for the use of their patrons but get used by everyone including the patrons of the coffee shop underneath.</p> <p>The first 2 actions would cost less than \$ 5,000 to implement."</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The recent community consultation of the Draft Warburton Urban Design Framework (UDF) has considered the amenity and location of public toilets throughout Warburton, the location and number of car spaces and explores ways to improve wayfinding throughout the centre. The actions from this project would address several of the concerns raised above. Community consultation for the Draft Warburton UDF is now complete, and findings are being compiled and reviewed to inform any updates. The framework will then be considered by Council for adoption, before funding is sought to deliver these projects.</p>
<p>Lack of safety for pedestrians along Ridge Rd Mt D. which inhibits access to local shops. Access to bus stops are a disgrace and a safety issue particularly for mobility impaired and elderly. These issues have been neglected for years</p>	<p>Council's Traffic engineering team has commenced an investigation into the above mentioned issues. Any infrastructure initiatives will be referred for future budget considerations.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Invest in sporting facilities other than cricket , football or tennis. As an older person i would like to see more improved sporting venues for older ratepayers to access. Croquet court in Lilydale needs refurbishment and extension of another court to prevent having being turned away due to high numbers of members and not enough space to include new members.</p> <p>One toilet and no disabled toilets is very disappointing. Why do the Council focus on younger sports. Needs to be addressed.</p>	<p>Thank you for your enquiry regarding investment in the Lilydale Croquet Club. Council is committed to provide opportunities for older residents to be healthy and connected to their communities of choice, establishing this objective as a key priority in the Healthy and Active Ageing Plan.</p> <p>Council is currently undertaking a review of community infrastructure and facilities across Lilydale, as part of a new project supported by the Lilydale Revitalisation Board. The Community Heart in Lilydale (CHIL) - Precinct Design Framework project is the next step in planning for the delivery of community infrastructure in Lilydale, ensuring this major activity centre can cater for the future needs of community.</p> <p>The Lilydale Croquet Club is one of many stakeholders in the township that will be interviewed in developing the framework, to ensure current and future needs of the club are considered. This will include reflections on current facilities and pressures being experienced by the club.</p> <p>A project page on Council's 'Shaping Yarra Ranges' website outlines the project and provides opportunities for community input. Club representatives can visit the page via the following link next week and register to follow the project as it progresses over the coming year. We would love for you to include your thoughts and feedback during each stage of the engagement process.</p> <p>https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>The trees along Maroondah Highway, between Cave Hill Road and William Street West, look magnificent, however, merging 3 lanes of traffic, coming down the Chirnside Park hill, into 2 lanes, and then into 1 lane as you approach Lilydale, is totally unacceptable. This is Maroondah Highway, not just a small back street. It should have at least 2 continuous lanes in each direction for its entire length. I don't want to see the trees removed, but the Highway somehow has to be widened. I realize that the subject of roads probably lies with the state government, but it's our Lilydale that is suffering because of poor planning by previous authorities. We need a Highway design that is both welcoming and accessible for locals and visitors alike, and I believe that a modern streetscape with a boulevard-like appearance would transform this peak-hour bottleneck into an area that is visually captivating. I guess the only other alternative would be to build a by-pass to allow through traffic to navigate around the Lilydale township completely. But that would be a shame, as Lilydale has so much to offer. So, some tough decisions to be made then. Regards, John D.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>In 2022, following extensive community consultation, Council adopted the Lilydale Structure Plan. The plan outlines how we will manage growth, facilitate change and guide infrastructure delivery within the Lilydale Major Activity Centre over the next 20 years, and is available on Council's website.</p> <p>It includes the preferred future of the Maroondah Hwy / Main Street corridor which includes improved activity especially around the train station precinct, continued protection of the avenue of trees, and seeks to position the Lilydale town centre as its own destination. The Structure Plan also supports a potential future Bypass which would alleviate some of the congestion occurring due to freight and vehicles just passing through.</p> <p>The responsibility for any change or upgrade to the road alignment or width/capacity for Maroondah Highway lies with the Department of Transport and Planning (formerly VicRoads) within the Victorian Government.</p> <p>Further work is needed to ascertain the appropriate improvements for the area you specifically refer to, which will need to take into account the value of the heritage trees to the local community, and the town. This will primarily be in the form of a traffic study of Main Street which will seek to rationalise traffic movements and improve traffic conditions for all transport modes, which Council will advocate to the State Government to carry out (Action A18 of the Structure Plan).</p> <p>Council will also advocate to the State Government for a Bypass to be delivered (Action A16) which will allow Main Street to be reimagined as a vibrant, pedestrian centre, and to serve local traffic rather than regional through traffic in the future.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Planning is a nightmare especially for properties under an overlay with no consideration for an individual case that may not be subjected to the conditions of the overlay. My property has 5 overlays and whilst 4 are appropriate the RO59 should not have applied to this property. It is preceded by the Green Wedge overlay that contradicts the RO59 overlay but council is not at all negotiable or willing to over rule this restriction. In the light that so much land is cleared for housing and my property on 4 titles is already cleared and zoned Rural Residential, it is frustrating that I can't Restructure into 2 titles - I don't even want 4 - as there are already 2 dwellings on separate titles but I can't get a Planning Permit unless I restructure into 1 title.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The Restructure Overlay in this area was first applied in the 1970s and 1980s, and was intended to restrict the amount of residential development and subdivision that can occur in identified areas of environmental significance or risk, or where constraints such as a lack of reticulated sewer connection may restrict the amount of development that can reasonably occur.</p> <p>I note your property is affected by the Bushfire Management Overlay, the Erosion Management Overlay, the Environmental Significance Overlay, the Significant Landscape Overlay, and has no reticulated sewer connection, which indicates that the above circumstances do apply to the site.</p> <p>Hence the application of the Restructure Overlay to your land is correct, and RO59 has applied to the property for many years. The intention of RO59 is to restrict the number of dwellings that can be accommodated on the property to one, and accordingly the four separate title areas would need to be consolidated into one title. Any future development of the site would need to adhere to this intended outcome.</p> <p>The provisions of the Restructure Overlay are separate and distinct from the Green Wedge A Zone. The Green Wedge A Zone does not contain provisions requiring the consolidation of land, as the Restructure Overlay does this. The two planning controls are designed to be read in conjunction with each other. The Restructure Overlay imposes separate and additional requirements to those that would apply if the property was affected by the Green Wedge A Zone only. This is consistent with the intended operation of planning overlays in the Victorian planning system.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>The Philanthropic Collective Free Food Program requires a purpose-built space to further expand our Free Food Programs work and demand for our services. We all understand the need for a facility on the ridge top is key. This leaves few options available to explore without the requirement to access Crownland and added expense. We believe that the Olinda Football Club site offers the best possibility to explore. The site already contains the infrastructure to consider an annex to the site for our requirements. It is also the emergency response site on the ridge top which would allow us to offer further support to the community in real time.</p> <p>Our Federal Member for Casey has agreed to advocate on our behalf across the three tiers of Government to find a workable solution. The first step would be to engage with Council to ascertain the engineering viability to the site followed by suitable funding arrangements within the next budget. We currently run our programs via Olinda Hall servicing up to x 500 community members weekly. The shared community space at Olinda Hall is untenable to continue our community work.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission. We note that this would be a new consideration for Council and will therefore need some further investigation before we can establish whether your proposal is able to be supported.</p> <p>This would include more detailed discussions with yourself to fully understand the needs, as well as discussion with other user groups in the facility including key sporting clubs, an assessment of the current facility features including condition assessment, and specifying what modifications if any would be required. Options should also be explored through some coordination discussions within your network such as Outer East Food Share, to identify how to ensure any works improve the value of the overall facility and make it more accessible to a broad range of community.</p> <p>At this stage Council recommends convening these discussions and investigations prior to seeking further funding to ensure the business case, governance model and facility needs are appropriate and achievable.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>I live on hillview street and the road being sealed keeps getting pushed back and pushed back. My kids struggle with asthma and croup and the dust in the air is insane. They water the road down maybe every few months at best. It's pretty insane that we are driving on roads made for horse and carts in 2023. And our council rates keep going up and up and up and we aren't seeing much value for money thus far. Pretty disgusting if you ask me.</p>	<p>Hill View Street, Yarra Junction is graded 3 times per year and receives a dust control polymer treatment on an annual basis, generally December /January each year.</p> <p>Hill View Street, Yarra Junction was scheduled to be sealed under the Roads for the Community Initiative, however, in January 2023 Council was advised that the Federal Government had cut funding to the program. These funding cuts have had a major impact on Council's ability to deliver all projects planned for the Roads for the Community Initiative, as this Federal funding was subsidising about 75% of the total works in the program.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there is now insufficient funding for the Hill Street Yarra Junction project to proceed.</p> <p>Council appreciates that residents will be disappointed to learn that this important investment in Yarra Ranges' roads is no longer available. We are continuing to advocate strongly to the Federal Government to have this funding reinstated.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Getting value for money when maintaining unsealed roads. Dust suppression completed on Knox council unsealed road lasts 3 + months, dust suppression on YR lasts 3 days, I am not exaggerating. YR you are getting ripped off by contractors. This point was also bought up by the Auditor General. YR ignores this for some reason. YR need to audit work when completed and monitor regularly to ensure work has been completed to standard set out in the Roads Act.</p>	<p>The Dust Suppressant Program at Yarra Ranges Council is an annual treatment applied in the months December / January. The polymer-based product is an environmentally sustainable dust management solution commonly used for mines, unsealed roads, stockpiles, commercial and residential projects. The dust control product stabilises and binds the road and the road base. When the road is graded, the product is mixed through the road material to retain it long-term. When a road is consolidated, it produces less dust. The product minimises the production of dust but does not remove dust generation entirely, particularly when vehicles are not driven to condition or are travelling at excessive speeds.</p> <p>This new polymer product has been trialled through the 2022/23 program. We do however note that some roads haven't responded to the treatment as well as others. This is currently being assessed.</p> <p>The dust suppressant activity aims to reduce, for a limited period, the generation of dust from the unsealed roads so that, following dust suppression, the graded surface only generates acceptable levels of dust. Periodic inspections of roads are undertaken on our entire road network as prescribed by the Road Management Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • twice per annum for collector roads • once per annum for local roads. <p>Unsealed road performance is maintained in accordance with Council's unsealed road grading program, contract audits and the pro-active inspection programs are in place for RMP compliance and condition.</p> <p>Due to the inherent and unstable nature of unsealed roads, there was no proactive inspection program for these classes of road, prior to the VAGO review.</p> <p>Council has recently undertaken a competitive tender process and in late 2022 engaged new services contractor MACA Pty Ltd (subsidiary of the Thiess Group) to maintain its unsealed road network.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Money outside Lilydale, footpaths in Seville east for disabled people to move around get on and off bus stop at Seville east Peter's rd. No paths no disabled access, no safe paths from Joyce rd to douthie rd, crossings over Warburton hwy, safety for kids getting on and off buses. Turning lanes in douthie, sunny side and Peter's/old Warby rd</p>	<p>Council's Traffic Engineering team has recently completed an assessment into the missing footpath links across the municipality. The missing links along Warburton Highway, Stuart Road, Peters Road, Joyce Road and Bridgewater Road have been identified through the assessment. Given competing priorities across the municipality, funding for the projects cannot be confirmed at this stage.</p> <p>Funding consideration for projects depends on the following factors:</p> <p>Project ranking - Higher ranked projects are generally prioritised to be delivered earlier. Footpath prioritisation is based on a range of criteria including proximity to public transport, schools, shops and other key facilities.</p> <p>Delivery efficiencies - If two high priority projects are near each other they will be delivered together. This will bring delivery efficiencies and enhance connectivity in the local area.</p> <p>Adjacent projects – Where other capital works projects or development projects are likely to induce pedestrian demand the projects will be brought forward to be delivered in conjunction with those projects.</p> <p>Funding availability – The availability of funding in any year may determine the projects that are recommended for delivery in any given financial year.</p> <p>External funding opportunities – Projects that meet the relevant criteria for external grant funding may be elevated in priority for delivery.</p> <p>Council's Traffic Engineering Team will undertake an assessment of intersection safety and operation at key local road interfaces with Warburton Hwy (Peters Road, Old Warburton Road, Sunnyside Road and Douthie Road). If the assessment warrants the consideration of turning lanes, the project will be referred to Council's Capital Works Program for funding consideration.</p> <p>The provision of safe crossing facilities across Warburton Highway to access the bus stops near Peters Road/ Old Warburton Road and Douthie Road will be referred to the Department of Transport and Planning (formerly VicRoads) for their consideration as Warburton Highway is managed by the Department of Transport.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Upwey Men's Shed needs the financial support previously approved by Council which we have been notified has now been "reallocated". In 2019 UMS applied for funding to Council, DHHS and Bendigo Bank for funding towards the construction of a Men's Shed in Griffiths Road Upwey following a Council request to consider Griffiths Road as a site for our shed in lieu of Upwey South Reserve. UMS was advised to apply to Council through the Community Grants: Capital Development Grants Program. Funding from DHHS was approved on 14/11/2019 for \$80,000 subject to a contribution of \$50,000 from Council. Funding from Bendigo Bank was approved for a further \$80,000. In 2019 UMS was unsuccessful in receiving a grant through the Council Grants program. On 6 December 2019 and 10 an 2020 UMS wrote to Council advising of the DHHS funding condition and our willingness to meet to discuss how we proceed. In 2020 Council further considered the matter of a lease for Griffiths Road following further community consultation and convened a special committee of Council to consider the public submissions. It later deferred a decision to grant a lease of the Griffiths Road site pending further investigations of the Council depot site on Glenfern Road. During the project working group meetings relating to the Glenfern Road site, UMS received numerous communications from Council that \$50,000 had been committed in the Capital Budget for the Upwey Men's Shed. In particular emails from Mark Varmalis on 26 March 2021 and 6 July 2021 confirmed that these funds were in the Capital Budget. Following the unsuccessful negotiations around the location at the Glenfern Road depot site, Council supported our efforts to pursue a site at the Upwey High School as the most viable site due to sharing of facilities at the CRASH building. Our negotiations have now born fruit as we have entered a licence agreement with the school for a site to locate a temporary storage container. We have also received a</p>	<p>Budget for the Upwey Men's Shed project was reallocated to other council priorities in the 22/23 Capital Expenditure Program, following a number of challenges that prevented construction from commencing in 2022.</p> <p>Council remains committed to support the Upwey Men's Shed project and intends to contribute \$50,000 to construction once confident the project can begin and construction can be completed.</p>

Submission**Council response**

verbal approval from the Principal, Tom Daly, that the school Council have approved a master plan (following the finalisation of the lease to VicTrack for the temporary Carpark) to include a site for UMS. UMS has been advised that we can construct a shed on the site of the existing cricket nets when they are relocated in accordance with the master plan. It is anticipated that the lease of the UHS land with VicTrack will be finalised in the first half of this year and we would like to construct our shed in the second half of 2023. Before we can commence we need to know that Council's financial contribution will be available in 23/24 financial year or this may put our whole project in jeopardy unless we can abide by the conditions of the DHHS funding requiring a \$50,000 contribution from Council (which is 20% of the overall project cost). UMS believes we have met our requirements in sourcing external funding combined with our own fundraising and being a legitimate charitable volunteer organisation. This process has taken four long years and has been frustrated by Council due to not being able to provide a suitable site to locate a Men's Shed in Upwey. We request that Council give urgent consideration of this matter so that we can provide a suitable venue for a Men's Shed in Upwey.

Submission	Council response
<p>Mooroolbark the old Terrace shopping Centre is a total disgrace. It should be torn down and replaced with some real competition to the sole supermarket in the immediate area. I know that there are hurdles that is preventing this from happening but hurdles are made to jump . THINK ABOUT IT PLEASE. Also there is now a need for a change to the car parking arrangement on Winyard Drive Mooroolbark . There is a need for parking on just one side of the road to assist the flow of traffic and increase safety for Emergency vehicles.</p>	<p>Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the old Mooroolbark Terrace Shopping Centre. This shopping centre is privately owned, and Council does not have power to require the land owners to demolish or replace it. However, it is within Council’s role to set out a planning framework for its preferred land use and development in the future.</p> <p>The Mooroolbark Structure Plan, adopted by Council in 2011, identifies the Mooroolbark Terrace Shopping Centre as a Key Development Site, and Structure Plan actions recently updated in December 2022 have actions relating to the future of the site, including:</p> <p>Action 2: Actively encourage the redevelopment of the shopping centre.</p> <p>Action 9: Create a high-level urban design concept for the land to communicate aspirations for its future.</p> <p>A copy of the Structure Plan with further details can be found here:</p> <p>https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Development/Town-and-urban-centre-planning/Mooroolbark-Activity-Centre</p> <p>The Yarra Ranges Planning Scheme contains specific guidance on the Terrace Shopping Centre at Clause 11.03-1L-04 Mooroolbark Activity Centre, with the land identified as a key redevelopment site. Further information on the zone and policies applying to the site can be found here:</p> <p>C1Z: https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Yarra%20Ranges/ordinance/34.01</p> <p>11.03-1L-04: https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Yarra%20Ranges/ordinance/11.03</p> <p>The design of any future development on the site is guided by Design and Development Overlay Schedule 9 in the Planning Scheme:</p> <p>DDO9: https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Yarra%20Ranges/ordinance/43.02-s9</p> <p>Following the recent Level Crossing Removal Project and multi-deck car park construction, Council is also reviewing how the Council-owned vacant lot in Station Street can be best activated. Further, as</p>

Submission	Council response
	<p>part of the Traffic and Transport review, consideration will be made to Winyard Drive and surrounds.</p> <p>In 2019/2020 Council engaged with the property owners for a collective position on the future development of the shopping centre precinct. Unfortunately as with past attempts a collective position of body corporate owners has not been able to be reached.</p>
<p>Aged care ID: AC43087204 - home support nonexistent from council. No home and garden help available. Can't supply and fit safety rails - only help was a referral to physio for lower back pain which turned out to be no help at all.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission. The Community Aged Care services you refer to are managed and funded by the Federal Government.</p> <p>My Aged Care is your starting point to access Australian Government-funded Aged Care services. The phone line and website can help older Australians, their families, and carers to get the help and support they need. You can call the My Aged Care contact centre on 1800 200 422 or visit My Aged Care.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges Council's Healthy Ageing Consultants are also available to help explain how My Aged Care works and can offer information to guide you through the aged care system.</p> <p>This free service will explore the choices with you and may help aid you in making the decision that suits you best. To find out more information on how we can help you with My Aged Care, please contact our Healthy Ageing Consultants on 1300 368 333 or at agewell@yarraranges.vic.gov.au.</p>
<p>listen to your ratepayers, and go that extra yard to help. don't ignore their calls</p>	<p>Council is committed to handling enquiries and requests in a manner that makes it easier for you to access our services and that is understanding of our community's needs.</p> <p>The best way to contact Council for assistance is by first speaking with our Customer Experience team. You can contact them through several channels such as telephone, email, or face to face at our Community Links. Our team will be happy to assist you by connecting you with the relevant Council service or referring you to the appropriate external organisation.</p> <p>If you are dissatisfied with a service you have received from Council, we encourage you to lodge a formal complaint for further investigation as per our Customer Complaint Policy.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>The roads in Healesville and Badger Creek should be widened. It is quite dangerous as people constantly override the unbroken lines and often there is no extension beyond the road edge to seek avoidance. Also Council should take back control of the Aged Care section; it should never have been abandoned.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submissions.</p> <p>In considering requests for road upgrades Council always ensures that drainage is provided, that existing ground conditions and vegetation are considered, that the minimum pavement width is 5.0 metres, and that the risk to human life is reduced.</p> <p>The development of design standards for Yarra Ranges roads balances human safety, amenity and asset life, while at the same time protecting and enhancing the natural environment. The Australian Standards provide guidance on high-speed roads and highways but may not always adequately guide street design at a neighbourhood level. This is apparent in the Yarra Ranges due to the unique region in which we live, where we have high amounts of vegetation near roads.</p> <p>The aged care program is an Australian Government funded program and has been on a path of reform for the past ten years with the aim of establishing a consistent national approach. The program is rapidly changing, in preparation for the new in-home aged care system commencing 1 July 2024.</p> <p>In response to the Federal Governments ongoing aged care reforms, Yarra Ranges Council considered its future role in the new aged care system to ensure the best outcomes for current and future clients and community. Assessment indicated that it is a very difficult environment for Local Government to operate in and more suitable aged care service providers are available.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges Council endorsed a decision to transition some in-home aged care services to alternative providers (domestic assistance, personal and respite care and property maintenance) as of 30 June 2022. Council is currently a provider for Federal/State Government funded programs (Meals, Transport and Social Support services), has established an Aged Care Information Service and continues to strengthen activity to support healthy and active ageing for all older Yarra Ranges residents.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>As a local for 23 years I am not in support of the 20 minute neighbourhoods in the Dandenong Ranges or otherwise. I would also like to mention that the revised rubbish collection to fortnightly, will find an increase in dumping rubbish in our beautiful community.</p>	
<p>The Healesville outdoor pool needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - longer opening hours - set morning lap swimming for the entire season NOT after swimmers having to petition it mid season - the change facilities need updating - having free lockers available for safe storing belongings would be good - great opportunity with the enormous population growth to upgrade pool to be year round heated like the Croydon outdoor pool 	<p>The operating hours of all our seasonal pools are reviewed annually as part of Council's pool operations. This will be occurring for the Healesville Outdoor Pool in the coming months, including an analysis of usage during the morning lap swimming opening and consideration of the best opening hours to maximise community access and visitation. There is a significant expense in opening facilities which must be taken into consideration when assessing opening hours, usage and other facility provision.</p> <p>Council is currently developing an Aquatics Strategy that will look at long-term provision of pools across the shire and include proposed facility upgrades.</p> <p>Croydon Outdoor Pool is a seasonal pool like Healesville. Year-round lap swimming in Healesville is available at the Jack Hort Community Swimming Pool located at Healesville High School, which has recently come under the management of Council's Aquatics contract partner Belgravia Leisure and the opening hours have been extended to enable greater community access.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>YRC, if it yielded to vested interests, would upgrade all unsealed roads - effectively, a massive gift from ratepayers to a small number of landowners. Such owners bought their land at a modest price because of unsealed roads, and now cry that it's not fair! A fair contribution should be obtained from them. Our CIV rating system discourages residents from renovating and landscaping their properties - they're effectively fined for so doing! A SV basis is eminently fairer, being a reflection of the benefits (amenities) provided by government infrastructure, and does not discourage such improvements. And assessments of improvements (dwellings) are not required by SV rating - a desktop assessment can much more easily be performed. With all YRC's publicity about sustainability and environmental values, why is tree planting (esp. on roadside verges) not prioritised, particularly because the cost is relatively modest. We all appreciate a leafy ambience - not question about that! YRC should be particularly vigilant about the influence of property developers on planning officers, whose reports to council can deftly avoid critical issues (without downright untruths). Planning issues are terribly complicated - perhaps a subcommittee of more planning-informed councillors can apply a greater degree of objective scrutiny of planning officers' reports (esp. if such officers have been to closely associated with vested interests who are likely to gain windfall benefits from planning decisions. Bravo to YRC for supporting community houses and local festivals - the benefits derived, though hard to quantify, have huge social consequences. FWIW, don't be pressured by mindless ratepayers who only want the bare minimum of rates - personally, I couldn't imagine a better investment of my hard-earned than an efficient (of course) local government. Of course, I realise that rating caps enforced - but keep rates up to those maximum values. As fare as</p>	<p>All planning of townships starts with an open discussion with the local community and traders to seek the views of any issues, opportunities or hopes of the centre. This local voice is an important platform for the subsequent design stages and projects.</p> <p>With regard to planning decisions, officers are required to declare any conflicts of interest and cannot be involved where they have a connection with a property owner, developer or another vested interest. This extends to the Councillors through the Code of Conduct. With regard to the calibre of decisions, Councillors are supported by a strong team of technical experts who supply all of the information, a thorough assessment and recommendations upon which to make a decision in an open and transparent public forum.</p> <p>Regarding electric vehicles Yarra Ranges Council worked with YarraGlenergy, a local community energy resilience group, to deliver the first 50kw fast charger to Yarra Glen. This public charger is now operational. Council is also working with the state government and Evie Networks under the Destination Charging Across Victoria grant scheme, to deliver another 3 fast chargers across the municipality. These public chargers are expected to be installed in Healesville, Yarra Junction and Belgrave by the end of this financial year. An additional charger is to be installed in front of the Lilydale Civic Centre in the same timeframe.</p> <p>The subject of meat consumption is a little more difficult for council to address. We do have an internal catering policy that guides us for any YRC functions. Where possible this policy directs us towards using social enterprise caterers where disadvantaged community members have employment opportunities, and towards locally sourced produce. Almost all events have a high proportion of vegetarian options although this is not a directive in the policy. We will provide your feedback on this matter to our Operations team for consideration as they update the policy.</p>

Submission**Council response**

possible, engage local township groups to be a part of all-important township strategy plans (to future proof against property developers keen to appeal planning refusals). I'm impressed with Knox Council's plan to revamp bin collection, especially by forcing residents to minimise packaging and waste by reducing general waste collection to a fortnightly basis. Their provision of free kitchen compost containers sends a strong message (with real eventual benefits, I'm sure). On a micro level, almost nothing is being done to encourage cafes to minimise their practice of giving their customers free disposable coffee cups. There are now 3 billion (that's billion with a B) of these cups trashing our environment a year. I'm personally available to volunteer my time to implement a plan to remedy this madness (a bit too complicated to explain here).

I'm not sure if YRC has any power or jurisdiction here, but can it help bring about the establishment of more EV fast chargers? It declared a climate emergency in 2019 - here's where it can be clearly implemented. Further to the climate emergency, the livestock industry contributes around 20% of total greenhouse gases. Leadership in discouraging meat eating is required here. Why not default to vegetarian catering at all YRC functions, while providing attendees the availability of meat meals - but only if they opt in.

Submission	Council response
<p>Suspend all activities except: Collect rubbish from 65,000 homes each week Deliver more than 46,000 meals on wheels each year Look after 1,764km of roads, 826km of drainage pipes, 654km of footpaths 305 bridges and 196km of trails Provide more than 500 community buildings including sporting pavilions and public toilets, 201 reserves and parks, 177 play spaces, 8 swimming pools and 3 water play parks. When these matters are fully dealt with, publish a list of additional matters you believe are important together with costings for each item and with actual costs when each project is completed, Be accountable!</p>	<p>Thanks for your submission.</p> <p>As you have noted, Council does deliver a range of services, including rubbish collection, meals on wheels, and maintenance of roads, drainage, footpaths, bridges and many other buildings and facilities.</p> <p>In addition to this, Council also constructs new facilities and infrastructure to support community needs.</p> <p>Details about these projects, including costs and funding sources, can be found in Council’s Capital Expenditure Program, which is published each year as part of Council’s budget engagement activities, and made available on Council’s website for anyone to view.</p> <p>There are many other services Council delivers in addition to those mentioned above, which are included in Council’s Annual Report as well as annual budget documents.</p>
<p>As a cyclist, walker and runner I would like to see some much needed island with or without traffic lights at the Warburton Trail crossings of Warburton Hwy both at Wandin Nth and further along at Yarra Junction. The Warburton Hwy is very busy and it takes a long wait to get across the Hwy safely at both road crossings. Could these islands/traffic lights please be put on the works program?</p>	<p>The community was recently consulted for the Draft Wandin North Masterplan which proposes a pedestrian crossing on Warburton Highway at the Warburton Rail Trail. This received some strong positive support from community. The Masterplan is being finalised and updated based on this feedback, before being considered by Council for adoption. Once adopted this will provide a strong foundation for Council to advocate to Department of Transport and Planning for funding and delivery of a crossing at this location, offering a safer and more convenient option for trail users.</p> <p>Council hopes to commence early planning stages for Yarra Junction in the next 12 months, with the first step being to seek community views on the issues, opportunities and hopes they have for the centre. The trail connections will be an important part of these discussions.</p> <p>Preliminary design plans have been completed for both these crossings, and Council has been advocating to the Department of Transport for funding, highlighting their importance to the safety of trail users.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>There are a lot of people using Kingswood Drive Chirnside Park and there is no footpath. Council should connect the footpaths along Kingswood Drive between Park Valley Drive and Kingswood Drive. There is a footpath along Park Valley Drive and it ends at Kingswood Drive at both ends. It seems logical that the footpaths should be joined along Kingswood Drive.</p>	<p>Council’s Traffic Engineering team has recently completed an assessment into the missing footpath links across the municipality. The missing links along Kingswood Drive have been identified through the assessment.</p> <p>Given competing priorities across the municipality, funding for the projects cannot be confirmed at this stage. Funding consideration for projects depends on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project ranking - Higher ranked projects generally prioritised to be delivered earlier. Footpath prioritisation is based on a range of criteria including proximity to public transport, schools, shops and other key facilities. • Delivery efficiencies - If two high priority projects are near each other they will be delivered together. This will bring delivery efficiencies and enhance connectivity in the local area. • Adjacent projects – Where other capital works projects or development projects are likely to induce pedestrian demand. The projects will be brought forward to be delivered in conjunction with those projects. • Funding availability – The availability of funding in any year may determine the projects that are recommended for delivery in any given financial year. • External funding opportunities – Projects that meet the relevant criteria for external grant fund funding may be elevated in priority for delivery.

Submission	Council response
<p>“Where should we put our focus into the future?” manipulation of feedback The 5 min activity “Where should we put our focus into the future?” does not allow specificity. It bundles together disparate elements and then gives no way to break them apart of to give more detail on what the voter actually means by their vote. This causes misconceptions between ratepayers and council and is open to manipulation of results. Resident well-being more important than tourists It would be better if council concentrated on areas as homes of residents instead of promoting tourism and tourism developments in areas already suffering from too much tourism. Short stay accommodation in residential houses needs to be restricted as is happening in destinations in many other countries. A stop to all new tourism development in Warburton and surrounds with a damper on advertising of current tourism until numbers are under control. Warburton is in a narrow valley that has Mount Little Joe blocking its entrance. The Warburton Mountain Bike Project is already and will increasingly turn residents out of their homes in preference to short term Airbnb. This is increasing the value of housing in the area that may make the Yarra Ranges Council happy, however, it means residents who do not want this development are not only paying for it, paying \$200,000 a year to maintain it, but have the added slap across the face of having their rates increase because of it. Mine have risen by \$1000 in two years. Emergency Management Money needs to be allocated towards proper emergency management and wise development that will not concentrate people into this highly fireprone bush (like the Warburton Mountain Bike Project that should be scrapped). Our local CFA and Emergency Management Group should have a real say on this and the lives of residents and tourists alike prioritised. The narrow entrance to the town is a traffic choke point and being on the side of Mt. Little Joe – a highly fire prone mountain is</p>	<p>Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Region are renowned as being the playground for Melbourne. With the increase in population particularly across the eastern growth corridor such as Casey and Cardinia, and improved transport links to the region such as North East link, it is anticipated that visitation to the region will continue to increase over coming years. Council is working with Yarra Ranges Tourism to enhance the liveability of the region, lift social licence for tourism and grow the visitor economy in a sustainable manner through the development of a Destination Management Plan for the Region.</p> <p>Council is currently exploring measures that can be used to enable a more balanced approach to short-stay accommodation in Yarra Ranges, and is taking into account what has been effective both nationally and internationally. This is an issue being experienced by many Councils across Australia, and a coordinated approach will be the most effective strategy.</p> <p>During 2022/23 Council contributed \$50k towards a regional Destination Management Plan (DMP) for the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges Tourism Region. The Implementation of the Economic Development Strategy - Towards a regenerative Yarra Ranges for sustainable, purpose-driven growth, balancing environment, social wellbeing and economic needs with key economic decisions are underpinned by Regenerative principles has commenced with a focus on the short terms actions.</p>

Submission

Council response

unsuitable for the high traffic problems it already has. There is no more room for more tourists and the current developments proposed will increase fire danger. Drainage, road maintenance and sealing, footpaths and rubbish collection Resident amenity like drainage, road maintenance and sealing, rubbish collection (tip passes for residents) are basic responsibilities in the budget and should be addressed before others. But time and again Council ignores these very important areas in preference to more “sexy” projects that are of no benefit to locals, despite locals time and again asking for more emphasis on these very important areas. We are told that council’s responsibility is to the wider community not us (residents of Warburton and surrounds). Warburton Waterwheel Gallery Why was the rent increased on a public service like the Warbuton Waterwheel, which houses the information centre, community arts and crafts shop and gallery? Now the gallery will be closing and a new co-tenant brought in. That gallery is a linchpin in the local arts community, a perfect gallery space due to its wall space and lack of windows and you are forcing a repurposing of a facility that is always booked well in advance and also has the Open Studios Warburton Exhibition? And the artists pay for the use of the space while the mountain bikers won’t pay a cent – but the council want more money from us to support this while you take this gallery away from our local arts community. Koha And Koha? Are you not happy with a facility that helps to feed the poor? Disgusting. These have very strong community connection.

Female Sports

One thing you can say about the Yarra Ranges Council – they are really into destroying community cohesiveness especially if it is not sport – male sport as everything the council does is damaging to female dominated sports like walking, bushwalking, horseriding, dog

Submission	Council response
<p>walking and tennis as well as causing the eviction of so many of our vulnerable residents along with driving out residents who do not want to live in a township choked by tourist traffic and streets full of bnb. All for outsiders, mountain bikers (90% male and predominantly ages 30-50). I hear the skate park will be saved also (boys and adolescent males). None of the proposals that council has made to compensate these female sports will result in anything else but and reduction in their amenity and safety. The screening at Wesburn Recreation Reserve to separate horses from mountain bikes doesn't take into account that horses have ears so are disrupted by noise too – many horses by nature are skittish and you are creating an unsafe environment for women and children by having the mountain bikers in such close proximity. Parking for horse events will have to compete with parking for Mountain Biking Events. The dog park will be only two thirds of its original size and will have cars and bikes parking right next to it. Requests for fencing has been denied. Dogs spook too. They run away and hide if they respond by attacking. Bush walkers are already being run off their tracks, a problem that will only increase with increased mountain bike traffic. RailTrail walkers are finding it increasingly uncomfortable to walk with a decrease in use from mothers with young children, the elderly, dog walkers and horses – and yet the council seeks to increase traffic on the trail at Warburton by a factor of three – and that with mountain bikes. Then the tennis club. No, the shift to the Warburton Recreation Reserve is a drawback not an advantage. The loss of the clubhouse that is heavily used by locals for a variety of purposes and houses the Tennis Club Museum is a terrible loss to a community that has fund raised and had working bees to maintain it. It is suggested that it will become a café – another one. You are taking something that is solely for the community and opening its use up for tourists. Playground The trend towards putting pump tracks and skate</p>	

Submission	Council response
<p>parks next to smaller children play areas is not appreciated by many. The pump track in Wesburn Recreation Reserve is to be beside the small children play area and mothers are upset. How do you protect children from running into the path of those bikes? And why are you doing your best to attract young males into dangerous activities into the play space of small children? This is poor planning. The council does not have safety on its radar at all in their development of areas. Volunteering and community cohesion Residents are really seen as a liability, aren't we? Everything is a money-making venture. Volunteerism and community spirit is now old-fashioned. Who would want to volunteer just for their hard work to be handed on a plate to someone else – particularly a money-making venture focussed on tourism? So many people I talk to say they regret their inputs into making Warburton a better place to live because their efforts were for a particular community purpose and now it is “thanks very much but we are taking it now and giving it to outsiders” – or male small niche interests.</p>	
<p>Invest say 2% Budget p.a. in bushfire protection infrastructure: funding for more CFA trucks (mobile not the big ones), water reserves & sprinkler systems in key locations around townships, water security for locals, publicly available design for cheaply built individual household bushfire shelters, a comprehensive strategy for catastrophic bushfire days, re-uptake resigned CFA members for catastrophic bushfire days.</p>	

Submission	Council response
<p>I think it's crazy to have zones where people that have property that can be subdivided are in able to as it's a much cheaper and faster way to achieve more housing in such a crisis time there's a massive amount of property in Mooroolbark alone that are 1000-2000+ sqm that can easily be taken of the zoning list and allowed to subdivide. People need to think of the future of our children and young family's who are the highest tax payers of the community and encourage more investing and infrastructure around our hubs</p>	<p>Council's planning scheme and housing framework guides where housing growth should occur, with housing concentrated in locations with good access to services and transport and where land is not affected by hazard overlays such as bushfire, landslip or flooding. This is being reviewed through the current Housing Strategy Review project, which will seek to increase opportunities for housing in the most appropriate locations while protecting existing Neighbourhood Character in many areas.</p> <p>Land outside the urban growth boundary (UGB) as designated by the State Government, typically in the Green Wedge, needs to be protected for its landscape values and agricultural uses and is therefore also not appropriate for future housing growth.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Specifically, I would like monies allocated to the Memo Healesville: Fixing the airconditioning in the main hall and installation in the foyer. The kitchen needs to be available to community and so items like the stove need to be working. In terms of where the focus for our shire should be, my view is that much more needs to be allocated towards protection and enhancement of our environment, including weed management (particularly in the Dandenongs), restoration of habitat, new plantings and maintenance of, significant tree register protection, compliance with planning permit conditions, climate change mitigation including closure of the Kilsyth Pool due to the high greenhouse gas emissions (inflatable roof), invest in community microgrids, food security projects such as use of unused open space lots for community food growth; strong advocacy for reuse water for agriculture; use and promotion of advanced waste management technologies. Less money spent on tourism - this is not Local Govt responsibility. Love the community activity programs that ERL is facilitating..</p>	<p>Your advocacy around the MEMO in Healesville is welcomed. Council has acknowledged the cultural importance of this building and the need to upgrade its condition to meet modern standards. Two separate grant funded projects have sought to upgrade the sustainability of the MEMO to help maintain its value as a cultural asset for the community.</p> <p>Throughout 2022 funding through Emergency Management Victoria’s Risk and Resilience Grants program enabled a variety of upgrades and enhancements to the building. A generator plug in point was installed to assist the community in response to crisis events. To improve its efficiency, the existing heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system within the main hall was insulated. The building management system was repaired/upgraded to better enable these systems to function. You have requested the installation of an air conditioning unit within the foyer. However, an assessment revealed that the buildings design is for this area to be passively cooled. To enhance this passive cooling process, upgrades and improvements to the ceilings insulation throughout the whole building was completed to reduce heat loss/ingress.</p> <p>The State Government's Growing Suburbs Fund provided matched funding to support climate resilient buildings for our community. These funds are to be used at the Healesville MEMO on Strategic upgrades to ensure the MEMO is “energy resilient, thermally functional and climatically appropriate”. With this funding in 2022 we have installed whirly birds in the roof to regulate ceiling temperature and reduce load on HVAC. In 2023 the lighting & electrics have been upgraded to reduce the energy consumption, and in the next 2 months all of the building's windows will have a LOW E film upgrade (which reduces heat loss/ingress) and the Nan-francis room will get new curtains to reduce heat loss in winter.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the issue you raise regarding the building's oven. Requirements as part of the two grants mentioned above meant that funds could not be allocated towards the oven repair. This has been highlighted to the team within Council that oversees the MEMO’s ongoing management and maintenance and hopefully a workable solution can be found.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges Council has committed to and is in the middle of a tender process with eight other Councils for the establishment of an Advanced Waste Processing solution for material currently landfilled from our kerbside collection services. This solution if implemented will assist in significantly reducing material being sent to landfill. The result and outcome of this tender process will be reported once completed.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the 2023-24 Council Budget, you have offered so many good ways for people to contribute to the process, well done!</p> <p>A few of my ideas have been submitted in "Share a quick thought" under the name "Kerry". I have just a few more comments.</p> <p>Under the heading "Protected and natural environment" add "... and restoration of degraded environments as far as possible to their original indigenous condition"</p> <p>Under the heading "Vibrant economy, agriculture and tourism" add "An economy based on an equitable distribution of wealth, health and wellbeing, while protecting the planet's resources for future generations and other species." (based on information from the Wellbeing Economy Alliance which you can look up easily). When it comes to measuring the impacts of the budget could I suggest you refer to the "United Nations Sustainable Development Guidelines" which were referred to in your long term budget plan, and the "Roadmap to Social Impact: Your step-by-step guide to planning, measuring, and communicating social impact" prepared by The Centre for Social Impact and UNSW (University of New South Wales). Both these are easily found on the internet.</p>	<p>Thankyou for the suggestion this supports the intent of Council's draft Nature Plan, which looks to invest in the restoration and revegetation of our bushland reserves and support biodiversity conservation of private land. The works include weed control across the municipality and particularly around high value conservation sites. Significant education and advocacy is also part of the role of Council, given approx. 70% of the land in the municipality is Crown Land.</p> <p>Council's Economic Development Strategy 2022-2032, 'Towards a Regenerative Yarra Ranges' focuses on sustainable, purpose-driven economic growth, balancing environment, social wellbeing and economic needs.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>I would like to suggest that the single decker buses that run through the small townships are replaced with small electric buses that feed into main routes out of the Yarra Ranges. There is absolutely no need for a 53+ seater bus to drive through Upwey and/or Tecoma for instance. There are never that many people getting on these buses - they are a waste of council resources and they are too large for the narrow winding roads. People who live in these townships would prefer regular smaller buses to take them to the main roads at convenient regular times so they can connect with trains and buses that go further afield.</p>	<p>This is a fantastic idea however the provision of public transport services is undertaken by State Government and not by Council.</p> <p>Council does however consistently advocate for improved bus services, as buses are the primary public transport service available for most residents. This includes increased coverage, frequency, span of hours and days of operation as well as improved infrastructure at bus stops and train stations.</p> <p>In addition to standard route services (which generally use larger buses), there are currently Flexi-Ride services operated by PTV in Lilydale, Mooroolbark, Chirnside Park and parts of Kilsyth. These are generally smaller buses where passengers request a service and travel between a specified hub (eg shopping centre or train station) and any location within a specific zone (eg a home). These were introduced as a trial in late 2021 and involved the removal of a couple of poorly utilised routes in the area. Discussions with Ventura, who run these services, have identified that patronage has increased and is higher than previous usage of the services.</p> <p>Ventura has proposed to PTV to introduce the Flexi-ride model across Mt Dandenong and around Belgrave/ Upwey/ Tecoma areas which would replace some of the poorly utilised services. However it has not received support from PTV and was going to be reviewed following the state election. Council has been advocating to support this idea and expanding it to include a tourism element and involve services over the weekend.</p> <p>Similarly during the recent consultation of bus routes around Healesville/ Yarra Glen/ Coldstream last year, Council advocated to include a flexi-ride service for Healesville/ Badger Creek to replace an existing poorly used service however this was also not supported by PTV.</p> <p>Council was also supporting the Upper Yarra Community Recovery Committee in applying for grant funding last year to introduce a community bus to help provide access for people in the outer area of the Warburton Highway corridor, however they were unsuccessful in receiving the necessary funding. Council continues to support the group to look into alternative options.</p> <p>The State Government has committed to replace all buses by 2050 with electric buses as the fleet requires replacement as part of Victoria's Bus Plan. YVDR of nearly 25% - 80,000 extra</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>Please find attached my submission in relation to Council objectives and funding for protecting our natural environment and wildlife outlined in the Plan and Budget.</p>	<p>The vision of the draft Nature Plan is “Yarra Ranges is a place of healthy, resilient and connected natural living landscapes thriving alongside us. Our community actively care for and feel a deep connection to nature.” The intent of this vision is to acknowledge the unique environment we share across the Yarra Ranges and respectfully highlight its social/cultural, financial and intrinsic values.</p> <p>The draft Nature Plan seeks to provide a framework to prioritise investment in our natural assets, to prevent / reduce impacts from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • climate change and extreme events • habitat loss and fragmentation • invasive species and pathogens <p>This plan aligns with Councils focus towards sustainability and the protection of biodiversity and habitat.</p> <p>Supporting the vision of the draft Nature Plans are a range of existing programs funded through the current Council budget. For example Council's tree planting, Ribbons of Green, and environmental weed reduction. Your comments around the proportion of investment these programs receive are noted. Beyond these core environmental functions the intended approach to Council works are to integrate environmental management and sustainable approaches into our works. While funding of direct environmental programs are budgeted for, there are also a range of additional cultural, environmental and sustainable initiatives embedded within other teams throughout Council. An example these include Councils Indigenous development team and work around Indigenous cultural burns, funding partnership with Melbourne Water, recently established water tanks project along the Monbulk Creek, Biodiversity Offsets Program.</p> <p>Whilst the Yarra Ranges is a large municipality, Council is the land manager of 2% of the total area. In contrast private holdings, including businesses, represent 30% of the management of the municipality, and Crown land 68%. This is one of the reasons Council places a focus on commercial interests associated with the environment, as it is felt we can have a large overall impact given the proportionally greater landscape influenced by these practices.</p> <p>Council is exceptionally fortunate to enjoy the support of a very active environmental friends network. We work closely with and support approximately 85 groups who undertake conservation works on land across the municipality, advocate for environmental initiatives and share resources. These groups represent an incredible asset to our environmental maintenance program. The voices of these groups</p>

Submission	Council response
	<p>make it possible for Council invest in our existing programs and develop the draft Nature Plan. Plan in draft investment under review. Currently \$250,000 of Ribbons of Green, \$1.2M Bushland Reserve Management and associated works.</p>
<p>The IPCC in 2022 warned that we have a brief window to rescue a livable habitat because climate change could accelerate past tipping points which are irreversible, at any time unknown now. It recommends we radically transform industrial agriculture to smallscale, diverse and local, supporting community food systems, because in its current form it contributes 1/3 of Greenhouse gasses, depends on accumulating poisons, and leaves supply lines of food vulnerable to shortages and price spikes everywhere. This leaves cities vulnerable to food shortages in the next few years and with the threat continuing to increase. Increasing food-growing-capacity around homes and communities will therefore have a direct and significant impact on the health and strength of families and communities in the near future, with this shift becoming ever more important. Building up the water and nutrient holding capacity of soil closest to homes and communities, and planting as many strong and diverse food trees to be high-yielding per area will thus be the most life-saving, efficient and logical infrastructure investments for homes and communities. Council has an educational, practical and inspirational responsibility to demonstrate the best techniques for this radical cultural shift. This includes water-infiltration and water-holding techniques like shaping slopes with swales and gutters on contour and frequent soak pits along the gutters for maximum water infiltration, the rehydration of soils and for maximum shade growth and food tree growth. The value of composting and recycling all water and nutrient next to living spaces needs to be understood and demonstrated to be most efficient. Composting-toilets need to be demonstrated, learning from what is learnt and practised in the Permaculture education fields, this will be life-saving.</p>	<p>Yarra Ranges Liveable Climate Plan 2022-2032 Yarra Ranges Council supports the transition you are referring to, however private enterprise is not in our direct field of control. Council aims to advocate, educate and collaborate for a greater focus onto sustainable food systems. Council participates in networks such as Sustain Australia and Yarra Ranges Food Connections. Council also support to Agribusiness Yarra Valley and Yarra Ranges Landcare.</p> <p>Council also runs the Gardens for Harvest Program, with 2000 subscribers educated / engaged and inspired to grow food in their own backyard. The program holds 6 workshops per annum on topics such as composting, fruit tree pruning and understanding soils. Recently Gardens for Harvest engaged David Holmgren to speak at the Cameo Cinema in Belgrave to 130 participants. Gardens for Harvest also releases a monthly newsletter on sustainable food growing.</p> <p>Council has recently developed a Community Garden Network which brings all of the various township gardens together to discuss practice, policy and find synergies for open day events and recruitment drives.</p> <p>Council has also run a series of sustainable land management training sessions in collaboration with Landcare and Melbourne Water. This included farm dam protection, property management plan development and biodiversity on farms sessions. Charles Massy presented on regenerative agriculture techniques. More of these events are planned for 23/24 financial year and it is intended that this will bring landholders a step closer to the type of localised, polyfaced, sustainable food production systems that you are referring to.</p> <p>\$5,000 per annum spent on Gardens for Harvest program</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>First thank you for fixing the pot holes in the industrial section of Beresford Rd Lilydale. It is now safe to use.</p> <p>I am speaking for young families in the district that are under mortgage stress and rental stress and in the news today, another 1% interest rate rise is on the cards. Big increases in rates may be the straw that breaks the camels back, causing people to lose their home or their rental property. Our homelessness numbers are high enough already and the state or federal government does not have the funds to fix it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . We already have a housing shortage problem in Victoria. Anything to speed up the approval process would be great. . The shire must look at all the services the state and federal governments have outsourced to the shires ensuring these governments services are not payed for out of shire funds. On ACA One shire was receiving 90k to mow medium strips but it cost the shire 900k to do this job. . All expenditure must be looked at - asking the question is it warranted or can it be done cheaper. . There have been snakes in the Beresford- Cave Hill road park (and other parks) . I have asked in the past for it to be mowed. We need all parks to be maintained better , giving kids an even chance to avoid snakes. . A parking area would be nice inside the Beresford-Cave Hill Rd park. Parking on those street is not an option. All parks need to be looked at not just the ones near me. . Melba Park - the parking area is full of cars from the medical facility across the road. You got it I don't take the grand kids there any more. We need a 30 or 60 mins parking time limit in the parking area during business times. . We have to took at why people are not shopping in the Main St, Lilydale shopping strip. I go to Chirnside, Eastland, The Market place due to parking. Main St does not help people with a disability. We lost Westpac Bank recently, but people like me may be at fault because I use Chirnside branch 	<p>A priority action noted in the Economic Development Strategy 2022-2032 is the Preparation of an Investment Attraction Plan and associated prospectus. Through the Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation program, Council and members of the community are working together to identify opportunities for locally-led projects to help Lilydale thrive.</p> <p>2023/2024 \$150k has been allocated to finalise an Investment Attraction Plan for Yarra Ranges and its subsequent implementation.</p>

Submission	Council response
<p>because I can never get a park in Lilydale. When I go to Eastland because Lilydale do not have the goods I need , the number of Lilydale people I see there is un real.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> . There are road black spots, were you can't see the cars coming. These need experts to look at. (Clarke St into Main st) . Roundabouts - all vegetation should be removed from roundabouts for safety reason. Seeing car indicators are early as possible is vital. . Football and possibly other sports never catered for female umpires. This needs to be rectified one day. A minimum would be to start with a few grounds and the league could allocate female umpires to those grounds. The football league is very approachable. . Flooding in Lilydale needs to be looked into <p>With the economy the way it is the shire must do anything they can to reduce their spending, not placing pressure on inflation. Not placing pressure on young families under housing stress.</p>	
<p>A roof over Lilydale bowls green then put solar panels on it</p>	<p>This project has been raised a number of times and has merit, however the timing and feasibility of the project is related to the long term plans for Lilydale. This project is captured on our program of future works.</p>
<p>More gym equipment for adult's and night lighting for Elizabeth Bridge Reserve. More off leash family friendly dog area's and more toilets please</p>	<p>Exercise equipment suitable for adults was recently installed as part of Elizabeth Bridge Master plan implementation works. We have installed 17 lights which provides a walking loop from the carpark on Durham Rd and back. There are another 16 lights that are planned to be installed which will extend the loop around the dog park adjacent to Durham Rd as well as a link out to Beatrice Street. Council is developing a "People and Dogs in Parks Plan" to look at the provision of dogs parks across the shire and the level of service of these.</p>