

## Budget 2024-2025 Submission Log

Ref #	Submission Details	Speaking? Y or N	Response	Category
1	As a resident and small business owner in Mount Evelyn, I would like to voice my support for the proposed drainage works on North Avenue, Mount Evelyn. This work is critical to prevent further damage to the property adjacent to the Aqueduct trail. Thank you for your consideration.	N	Thank you for your feedback into our draft Budget 2024/2025. We are glad you are happy with the proposed drainage works for North Avenue, Mount Evelyn in this year's draft budget.	Drainage
	I would like to voice my support for the capital works drainage proposed for North Avenue, Mount Evelyn. Thank you for helping to make our local area safe!	N	Council's drainage team have completed the design to address the water run off issues. The scope of works involves piping flows from the rear of 23 North Ave to the existing system in East Avenue and constructing a detention area with a capacity of approximately 60m3 to provide an extra layer of protection for the properties involved. The project also involves creation of an easement through No. 21 North Avenue.	
2	Objective 1 - to spend 30% of the budget on Arts/Culture and Heritage is clearly unbalanced particularly when it is not highlighted as a Major Initiative for that objective, nor are there any clear Performance Indicators for it either... Storm Reduction Expenditure of \$3.2m due to an "anticipated reduction in events" is clearly just an accounting excuse to reduce the no.. Nobody can honestly believe that emergency events are going to miraculously go away this year, but a budget overrun in this area of course "would be expected" should such events occur.... refer to the snapshots attached..	N	Thank you for your feedback into our draft Budget 2024/2025. Yarra Ranges Council's commitment to arts and cultural development reflects both the community's vision for the current Yarra Ranges Council Plan, where residents told us they value their vibrant culture and their opportunities for creative expression, and also the vast and dispersed nature of our population centres which result in the provision of more cultural and community venues than many other Victorian Councils.  The reduced budget allocation for storm recovery reflects the decrease in storm recovery activities attributed to the June 2021 Storm event together with the cessation of State Government funding.  However, budget allocated to support ongoing recovery focused activities, emergency preparedness, response, relief and recovery work is reflected in the emergency management budget lines and is embedded in business units across the organisation, such as Infrastructure and Planning.  As you've suggested, an emergency management budget may overrun if Council is faced with another significant natural disaster. Rather than anticipate what events may occur and trigger eligibility for State funding, we will instead adjust the revenue and costs during the reporting period and update the forecasted position accordingly.	Budget Priorities - Arts/Culture/Storms
3	I appreciate the detailed planning that has gone into this budget and capital expenditure program, it is not an easy task the balance the varying expenditure needs across a vast geographic area. My submission is regarding the footpath program and roads program of the capital expenditure plan. Please consider bringing forward the planned footpath addition to Alexander Ave in Upwey (Between The Avenue and Rutherford). I am under the understanding this is included in the "new footpath program" item 170. If so, it would at earliest be constructed in 2026 and in my opinion is too late for such a heavily used and high risk road. This section of roadway is heavily used by pedestrians and school children, and traverses all of Upwey Primary, Upwey High school, Upwey Oval, Upwey Tennis and the Upwey-Tecoma bowls club, and as such should be a higher priority. Further the roadway is narrow, winding, and cars drive fast, making it very dangerous for pedestrians. Traffic calming measures should also be considered along the full length of Alexander Ave similar to other category 2 roads that are used as short-cuts through the area to avoid traffic on Burwood Highway. Many of the other similar category roads in the area have traffic calming but this one doesn't. Examples include Old Belgrave Rd, Sandells Rd and Station Street. If at all possible, please consider bringing forward these works. Or at the very least I would appreciate if they could be included as a row item in the program so they can be tracked by residents in the area.	N	Thank you for raising your concern regarding Alexander Avenue, Upwey. Yarra Ranges Council has recently implemented a Footpath Prioritisation Framework to manage and prioritise the many requests for new footpaths which are received every week and provide recommendations of projects to be forwarded for consideration for Council's Capital Expenditure Program.  Currently, we are unable to prioritise construction of a pedestrian connection along Alexander Ave when considered against other footpath projects. Nonetheless, this footpath section you have requested aligns with aspects of the footpath strategy and has been documented for consideration for inclusion in future footpath construction and upgrade programs.  Regarding traffic calming measures along Alexander Avenue, this location has been previously inspected by a Council Engineer with a traffic count also conducted. After reviewing the data, it was found that the location didn't meet requirements for traffic calming measures. Traffic calming measures come at a significant cost and therefore council can only install such treatments where evidence justifies their implementation.	Footpaths / Traffic Management

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4	What about a footpath in Kingswood Drive Chirside Park	N	<p>Thank you for your feedback into our Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges Council has recently implemented a Footpath Prioritisation Framework to manage and prioritise the many requests for new footpaths which are received every week and provide recommendations of projects to be forwarded for consideration for Council's Capital Expenditure Program.</p> <p>Given competing priorities across the municipality, funding consideration for projects depends on the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project ranking - Footpath prioritisation is based on a range of criteria including proximity to public transport, schools, shops and other key facilities. Higher ranked projects are generally prioritised to be delivered.</li> <li>• Delivery efficiencies - If two high priority projects are near each other they will be delivered together. This approach is not only more efficient but also enhances connectivity in the local area.</li> <li>• Adjacent projects – Where other capital works projects or development projects are likely to induce pedestrian demand. Such works will be brought forward to be delivered in conjunction with those projects.</li> <li>• Funding availability – The availability of funding in any financial year may determine the projects that are recommended for delivery.</li> <li>• External funding opportunities – Projects that meet the relevant criteria for external grant fund funding may be elevated in priority for delivery.</li> </ul> <p>Kingswood Drive has been identified as a high priority project and will be scoped further and forwarded for recommendation for inclusion in the capital works program from 2026/27.</p> <p>The list that will be prepared and recommended for inclusion in the capital expenditure program will be reviewed and Councils Draft Budget will be released for community consultation around April – May 2026. When Council adopts the budget the specific footpath projects will be outlined.</p>	Footpaths

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5	<p>I believe that the 10.4 million dollars of proposed spending on renewable energy could be put to better use. I would like to see the financial benefit from this spending. There are many institutions that believe that there is little or no benefit from renewable energy</p>	Y (did not attend)	<p>Thank you for your interest in the \$10.4M investment into the Natural Environment as outlined in the Draft Budget 2024/25.</p> <p>This figure does not just relate to renewable energy, but also includes biodiversity, bushland and sustainability programs.</p> <p>In relation to your query about financial benefits of renewable energy, Council has made various strategic investments in renewable energy since 2016 which have led to a 50% reduction in our electricity expenditure across Council facilities. From an \$2.5M initial investment, these efforts are projected to generate savings exceeding \$20 million over the system's lifespans.</p> <p>The ongoing deployment of renewable energy solutions in Council facilities is not only yielding daily operational savings but also enhancing community resilience. The integration of battery storage systems plays a crucial role in this, safeguarding against power disruptions and ensuring uninterrupted service delivery.</p> <p>In addition to the substantial financial savings, renewable energy systems offer a multitude of other benefits that extend beyond economics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Job Creation: The renewable energy sector is a burgeoning field that fosters local employment opportunities. From installation to maintenance, the industry supports a diverse range of jobs that contribute to the economic vitality of our community.</li> <li>• Public Health Benefits: By transitioning to cleaner energy sources, we significantly reduce air and water pollution. This leads to a marked improvement in public health, with fewer pollution-related illnesses and a healthier population overall.</li> <li>• Stabilised Energy Costs: Renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind, are less susceptible to the price volatility that characterises fossil fuels. This stability translates into more predictable energy costs over time.</li> <li>• Climate Change Mitigation: One of the greatest benefits of renewable energy is in combating climate change. By lowering greenhouse gas emissions, we can mitigate the adverse effects of climate change, ensuring a more sustainable and resilient environment for future generations.</li> </ul> <p>We hope this assures you of the financial benefits associated with continued investment into these systems for Council and more broadly across the community.</p>	Budget Priorities - Renewables
6	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on what must have been a quite challenging budget considering the disasters over the past few years. I would like Yarra Ranges to move towards a Wellbeing Budget as part of a more general Wellbeing Economy to be developed and adopted by Yarra Ranges in this budget, and over the next few years. Here are some resources, you can highlight each one to go to the documents:</p> <p>VicHealth How to create a well-being economy  Wellbeing Economy Policy Design Guide How to design economic policies that put the wellbeing of people and the planet first  iris.who.int World Health Organization Deep dives on the well-being economy showcasing the experiences of Finland, Iceland, Scotland and Wales</p>	N	<p>Thank you for your submission, insights and the economic wellbeing resources.</p> <p>Over the course of the year and in to 2025, Council will be considering a new Municipal Health and Wellbeing Strategy. A key focus of this Strategy will be establishing the health and wellbeing priorities for the community and actions to effect change, that includes highlighting policy levers that contribute to collective wellbeing.</p> <p>I'd encourage you to participate in the Council Plan consultation opportunities and the future Health and Wellbeing Strategy consultation to further contribute to this discussion. Your suggestions are valued and certainly provide an opportunity for economic policy design to contribute to a holistic approach to decision making.</p>	Wellbeing

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7	<p>As a long time Hills resident, it feels very evident when reading the summary of the urban, valley and hills capital expenditure program that the Hills gets little attention. The impact of the 2021 storms is still an issue for many residents, with, for example, walking paths and roads cut up by heavy vehicles etc etc etc. Also, when we had more recent, widespread power outages because of storms, the Olinda footy oval with all its new solar panels was not open for the community in the first, critical, 24 hours. Power, for example, was not available to help the free food program operating in Olinda hall to save its refrigerated and frozen food stock. There is an urgent need to ensure that an emergency resource that we hear much about is actually available to community when it needs it.</p>	N	<p>Thank you for your feedback into our Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>Council is aware of the ongoing impacts of severe weather events over recent years. The impact of storms and power outages have highlighted the need to provide systems and infrastructure which enable connectivity across the municipality.</p> <p>Council is investing in these systems and infrastructure broadly, but specifically through the federal government \$10m Federal Government Preparing Australian Communities funding. This funding is enabling a cross-section of works that collectively will mitigate the impacts of bushfire, flooding and storms. Two key areas of work include Resilient Building and Resilient Energy Precinct projects.</p> <p>Council is investigating and delivering numerous renewable energy resilience systems, one such example is in Monbulk, where a resilience hub is being established where the Monbulk Link and Pavilion are combined to offer diverse resilience options for the hills community, this will be delivered in 2024/2025.</p> <p>The solar and battery system at Olinda unfortunately encountered some hardware challenges during the February storms which prevented it from operating properly. The issue was rectified quickly by the installer however the loss of cell coverage (due to the 4G modem connection) made remote monitoring difficult in the initial 24-hour window. When implementing these new systems, there's typically a learning curve as users adjust to operating and understanding their use. We are working to evolve the processes to incorporate the intricate systems, however adaptation does take time.</p> <p>We are also looking to equip sites with redundancy options, through installation of generator plug in points. A generator plug-in point was installed at the Olinda Hall in 2022 to support the food program in protecting their food resources from losses at that site.</p> <p>Another unique Yarra Ranges initiative is working with 12 interested community groups that are focussed on community emergency preparedness and community mobilisation in times of disasters. As an example community and Council worked together to enhance immediate supports for impacted residents during the power outage in February 2024. This saw several power and shower sites established, that were a blend of local community hosted sites alongside Council hosted sites. Council is committed to continue with this work to support those with the most need during disasters.</p>	Emergency Management

8		<p>On behalf of the Kallista Community, The Kallista Flood Watch Group, seeks to make this submission for the sealing, drainage and infrastructure of Gleghorn Road, Emberson Street and Rivington Avenue. Further we seek to have these three roads classified as "Priority" in the allocation of funding and works to be undertaken. This advocacy is supported by petitions contained in the submission. Refer PDF</p>	Y	<p>Thank you for your submission on the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>Council Officers have been working closely with the Department of Transport and Planning and Melbourne Water to address issues and enhance the infrastructure within the Kallista area in particular Monbulk Road and intersecting streets.</p> <p>In an effort to assist and ease resident's concerns, Councils maintenance team has undertaken some recent remedial works, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sealed pavement extension of Gleghorn Road from intersection of Monbulk Road to Barringa Rd, approx. 130m from the entrance at Monbulk Road to assist with gravel run-off.</li> <li>• Installation of 2 x sediment pits on Gleghorn Rd, opposite Baringa Rd and further up the road.</li> <li>• Intersection improvement and pavement sealing works at Emberson and Baringa Rd, with pit and pipe construction.</li> <li>• Pit construction near the Emberson and Ivy Rd intersection</li> <li>• Drainage erosion repair works at Emberson Street. These works will also assist with traffic flow due to the addition of passing bays.</li> </ul> <p>These works are all aimed to address an immediate service need, whilst making direct improvements to infrastructure.</p> <p>The full construction of Gleghorn Road and surrounding roads, was originally part of the Federal Government Roads for Community Initiative, being delivered over a 10-year program of works. The road sealing initiative would have significantly benefitted the area and assisted greatly with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- resolving unsealed road surfaces issues,</li> <li>- preventing loose material washing across Monbulk Road,</li> <li>- significantly improved drainage, and reduced uncontrolled water run-off.</li> </ul> <p>As part of the Federal Government Roads for Community Grant, Council was able to prioritise and secure funding for the design of Gleghorn Road, Emberson Street and Rivington Avenue, which will be finalised in the 2024/25 financial year.</p> <p>The construction of these roads will then form part of Councils Special Charge Scheme process, where the sealing of roads is undertaken based on landowner support and a mix of financial contributions from both the Landowner and Council. Further information regarding the Special Charge Scheme can be found on Council's website.</p> <p><b>Federal government's funding cut</b></p> <p>The Federal Government cut \$100 million of funding from the roads sealing projects across the municipality.</p> <p>This funding subsidised about 70 to 85% of the works and without this funding Council and residents are unable to cover the commitment and cost of sealing the roads alone.</p> <p>There are approximately 130 kilometres of unsealed roads that stretch across Yarra Ranges that the change in funding has now directly impacted and this provides a significant challenge to deliver on community expectations.</p> <p>The funding cut has necessitated a complete review by Council of how funding for constructing unsealed roads can be sourced and prioritised across the municipality and a consideration of a more strategic approach to future road construction.</p> <p>The strategic approach to prioritising unsealed roads and developing an opportunity list of roads for sealing would include the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Abuttal density (number of properties along the road to be constructed)</li> <li>• Connectivity (road connects townships or to other main roads)</li> <li>• Maintenance issues (high number of maintenance requests on road).</li> </ul> <p>It is acknowledged the Kallista Flood Group has provided a response to each of these items as part of its 2024/25 Budget submission and officers will consider the merit of this submission across the entire unsealed network, noting that Council has over 700 kilometres</p>	Roads/Drainage
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			<p>of unsealed roads with over 14,000 abutting properties. The review is anticipated to be completed in mid-2024.</p> <p>In addition, the financial viability of sealing a road is an important part of any business case for a scheme to be constructed and any review of the program considers broader community benefits that Council evaluate.</p> <p>The Kallista Precinct Rates and Revenue Assumptions and associated costing based on \$1500 per km is noted, however, the reasoning that this results in an opportunity within the budget to fully fund road sealing projects specifically in Kallista is flawed.</p> <p>Rates are a valuation-based tax, not a direct user charge for services received. Councils use property values as the basis for calculating how much each property owner pays in rates. Local Government has a responsibility to provide access to services and infrastructure for the public benefit of all. The choice not to use services or the benefits of Council infrastructure does not remove the legal requirement that all property owners have in paying rates.</p> <p>Currently 73.15% of Council's revenue comes from rates and charges. This money assists in providing a range of services including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aged &amp; Disability Services</li> <li>• Youth services,</li> <li>• Parks and recreation reserves,</li> <li>• Town planning</li> <li>• Economic development,</li> <li>• Road construction and maintenance</li> </ul> <p>The submission outlined a service of Concerns in relation to maintenance of the unsealed network with Kallista area, these requests will be forwarded to Council Road Maintenance team and the contract service provider to address any immediate concerns.</p> <p>Council will continue to advocate for important road projects and for funding to be restored in its entirety, as it's vital for the safety of our community based in the Dandenong Ranges and surrounds and looks forward to ongoing support from active community groups.</p>	
9	<p>I see that the Yarra Ranges Council has strengthened its <b>ADVOCACY</b> for homelessness - whatever that might mean - but dedicated not one single dollar to any emergency measures to <b>IMMEDIATELY</b> address the crisis in people sleeping rough in this region. I assume that you are passing by with face averted because it is "Not a problem for local government."</p> <p>It is a problem for all of us; no neighbourhood can call itself civilized if it ignores amongst us this most basic need for shelter and safety. The Shire has a very poor record of hindering, not helping, initiatives to address this most pressing issue. Is it really less important than another walking trail?</p> <p>Forget advocacy: we need from the Shire urgent, practical, <b>ECONOMIC</b> support for emergency measures - like opening up sporting grounds or unused hall space as overnight homeless accommodation in this region and appropriately-resourced day centres with showers, telephones, onsite support.</p> <p><a href="https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/may/03/nsw-homeless-crisis-car-park-sleep-pilot-program">https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/article/2024/may/03/nsw-homeless-crisis-car-park-sleep-pilot-program</a></p>	N	<p>Thank you for your submission and quite rightly, concern for the rising number of those sleeping rough and homeless within our community. Council believes that everyone has a role to play in supporting those sleeping rough or homeless.</p> <p>While Council does not provide specific services or case management for people experiencing homelessness. Council does have in place numerous partnerships with local emergency relief service providers, including a \$120,000 Community Partnership grant with Anchor that enables Anchor's Rapid Response Project to meet the most immediate needs of people sleeping rough in Yarra Ranges, with food, clothing and in-place health care. Council also recognises the critical role the Yara Ranges Emergency Relief Network plays in supporting those needing immediate assistance. Through Covid Recovery Funding, Council supported the Network to review its operations and establish a way forward to ensure the operational structures of the Network were sustainable and resilient. Further advocacy also reached the attention of the Federal Government who, through the Preparing Australian Communities Fund, has provided additional funding to ensure this work is implemented and platforms the importance of the services and Network with Yarra Ranges. This work is still underway.</p> <p>Council's homelessness protocol ensures respectful and dignified referrals for rough sleepers. However, there remains a gap in critical support service and crisis accommodation throughout Yarra Ranges. Council is working with key partners and local response providers seeking opportunities for improved access, funding, and housing options.</p>	Homelessness / Emergency Management

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10	<p>Dear Yarra Ranges Shire Council</p> <p>I see that, yet again, the Council has decided to comment in this year's budget (as it did last year, and I objected to it) that it refers to the Yarra Ranges having a low level of disadvantage and a high level of advantage. This is utter nonsense, as anyone who is working in homelessness and housing services will attest. This comment is insulting and, as was pointed out to the council last year, was based on census data that covers an area from Brighton through to well past Reefton. It is simply not enough to add an extra line stating that "despite these scores, we are working closely with some parts of the community experiencing levels of disadvantage".</p> <p>It is worth acknowledging that most homeless people and families do not get to complete census forms.</p> <p>The budget also highlights that the Council has undertaken a 2023 review of its Advocacy Agenda, which it states has strengthened its focus on seven key priority areas: Vibrant Towns, Housing and Homelessness, Integrated Transport, Resilience and Sustainability, Health and Well-Being, Housing and Homelessness, and Tourism and Sustainable Economic Growth. Our Cerini Centre Social &amp; Affordable Housing working group would be grateful if the Council could inform us of what actions it has taken under this Advocacy Agenda to deliver on the Housing and Homelessness issues we face in Upper Yarra and precisely what it has done to assist this Cerini Centre Social &amp; Affordable Housing project as we have received very little advocacy support apart from that provided by Cr Jim Child in his capacity as Ward Councillor.</p> <p>The budget identifies under Strategic Objective 1, Seventeen strategic Objectives for connected and Healthy Communities, and not one refers to support systems, programs, funding initiatives, etc., for Homelessness and Housing issues. It talks about objectives that assist with positive Aging services (11), Supporting people with disabilities (12) along with others, focusing on community engagement in arts and heritage, and even programs to assist communities in reducing impact and preparing for climate change (17). All of these programs are of little benefit to a family experiencing homelessness and being forced to live in their cars dotted around a major of sporting ovals every night.</p> <p>As Council officers well know, I have been known to support the council on many issues. Now, for the second year in a row, this Budget receives a NOT SATISFACTORY rating from me, which is most disappointing.</p> <p>Sincerely David Pratt Owner of the Warburton Holiday Park and Warburton Advancement League Vice President</p>	Y	<p>Thank you for your submission to the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>Council understands that people experiencing homelessness aren't always socioeconomically disadvantaged and acknowledge those who currently experience homelessness aren't accurately reflected in the data provided, as they often fall within the data gap and are largely under reported.</p> <p>While Council does not provide specific services or case management for people experiencing homelessness, we do fund homelessness providers and emergency relief services, through our Partnership Program.</p> <p>The Draft Yarra Ranges Housing Strategy, in particular Chapter 10 regarding Affordable Housing, highlights the need for a multi-faceted approach to increase the supply of social and affordable housing. This approach includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy for Council Support – Building economic cases and feasible projects</li> <li>• Advocacy around the impact of Short-Term Rental Accommodation</li> <li>• Exploring policy and planning</li> <li>• Advocacy for further investment for homelessness services</li> </ul> <p>After hearing your submission at the Council Meeting on 28 May 2024 a motion was passed to ensure a commitment by Council to resource advocacy for the Cerini Centre Social &amp; Affordable Housing project.</p>	Homelessness / Housing

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11	<p>This budget submission for FY 2024-2025 for \$566,000 is for Yarra Ranges Council to prioritise and allocate for the local drainage upgrade to BRISTOL CRESCENT Road, Lilydale from number 16 Bristol Crescent to the top of Hereford Road to be heard at Yarra Ranges Council meeting on Tuesday 28 May 2024.</p> <p>I am requesting curb and channel to Bristol crescent Lilydale of \$320,000 plus 30% contingency = \$416,000</p> <p>One side curb and channel on the even numbered side of Bristol Crescent - 110 meters x 4 houses x 2.5 people per house = 10 people.</p> <p>Both sides curb and channel of Bristol Crescent 160 meters x 10 houses x 2.5 people per house = 25 people..</p> <p>Install bigger pipes at the rear of everyone's property easement for eight Bristol Crescent properties.</p> <p>The estimated cost for easement pipe upgrade, and installation is \$150,000 (Cost to be confirmed by Yarra Ranges Council).</p> <p>Pits and drains to be cleared and maintained weekly.</p> <p>I urgently require Yarra Ranges Council to remedial and fix this now, as this has been an ongoing issue for the past 20 years, and has got worse over the last 6 years as a result of council approved overdevelopment of subdivisions resulting in increased volume of stormwater runoff through my property.</p> <p>Refer my petition dated 23 January 2024, photos and my presentation at February 2024 council meeting for more details.</p> <p>The water runs straight down my driveway from the road. The water runs and collects at the front of my house, goes under my house which has flooded many times destroying everything and my house stumps.</p> <p>As a result of inadequate local road drainage and small easement pipes, this has caused flooding under my house which has dropped on one side.</p> <p>The water also runs down my driveway destroying everything in my shed.I have been through my home insurance many times.</p> <p>Council has failed and neglected to fix and maintain and upgrade the roads and drainage that has highly impacted ratepayers and neighbourhood residents on Bristol Crescent.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges Council have already claimed responsibility by putting a hump at the top of my driveway to reduce the water flow which has failed to divert and prevent water running down my driveway. Yarra Ranges Coucil also dug out the top side of my property near the road in an attempt to divert water which has also failed.</p> <p>I have personally spent \$12,000 to improve drainage on my driveway and property to reduce the water flow.</p> <p>I am now forced to sell my property soon, as I will not spend any more money on saving my property from flooding as a result of the council failing to protect my home, as a result of excess storm water run off into my property as a result of over development.</p> <p>What is the impact if Yarra Ranges Council do not prioritise this investment this FY 2024-2025?</p> <p>As I have lived at my property for around 28 years the impact has been huge to myself, family and my property.</p> <p>I have a special needs daughter who has constantly tripped in my driveway and dislocating her knees. I have suffered major financial loss being a single parent for 17 years and spending every cent to save my property from flooding.</p> <p>I also suffer bad depression and anxiety everything it rains or rain is forecast. I am a flood survivor.</p>	N	<p>Thank you for your feedback into our Draft Budget 2024-2025. We acknowledge how much these drainage and flooding issues impact yours and your family's lives.</p> <p>The Draft Budget includes a provision of \$200,000 to install a retarding basin at Carmen Reserve. This project aims to capture flows from upstream and reduce blockages downstream.</p> <p>Furthermore, Council is currently undertaking a flood modelling assessment of the Bristol Crescent catchment. Flood modelling assessment helps to understand how stormwater flows through the catchment, identifies flood depths and velocities, and determines which properties may be impacted by flooding. This process also allows us to test mitigation measures to ensure we do not exacerbate flooding issues elsewhere. Additional mitigation works identified through the flood modelling assessment will inform future budget allocations.</p> <p>Your request for enhanced maintenance has been forwarded to the maintenance team for consideration based on the Council's current service levels.</p> <p>Windermere's Recovery Support Program is available for anyone who needs support following the 2022 and 2024 flood and storm events.</p> <p>Recovery support workers will work with you to help you navigate the various support services that may be available to you.</p> <p>To enquire phone: 1800 560 760 or visit Windermere's website</p>	Drainage



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12	<p>Dear Councillors and Team, Warm and best wishes all, More extreme floods, heat waves and biodiversity losses are coming, 2023 was the hottest year on record, by the biggest increase; and the last 10 months by turn have each been the hottest on record. The prediction around tipping points is that they can abruptly accelerate irretrievably. That's the risk scaring scientists and informed people right now. Nature and biodiversity are being hammered by 'development' faster than conservation efforts are restoring, so we are losing. Eco-grief is a growing thing, and the prescribed remedy is immersion in biodiverse healthy Nature sanctuaries. Hence this large block in the wildlife corridor would benefit more people by being improved as a Nature sanctuary and water ponding facility. Lilydale Development have made a lot of money promoting survival shortening housing, so deserve to be obliged responsible for this habitat restoration. Australian style 'luxury' housing is making things worse; the survival mode we need now is minimalist housing facilitating all willing hands to restore and love Nature. The recent State law to limit housing under 40 Ha is a mistake as more intense labour can grow more of the food and tree crops and tree shelter, the diversity and strength that we need and can help us survive. Infill housing, reducing shade, cooling ventilation, food growing capacity and Nature appreciation will cost lives with deadly heat waves coming at us.</p> <p>THE BUDGET 24/25 No communal nut trees, no fruit trees in the commons again? Despite IPCC and many warnings that cities will be vulnerable to food shortages, and co-operative urban gardens will logically be life-saving, community strengthening. There will be increasing hunger and famine in the world. We need new staff who deliver the best practices and responsiveness you promise and get paid for.</p>	N	<p>Thank you for your heartfelt submission and unwavering passion regarding the critical topics of climate change and habitat restoration. Your commitment to our natural environment and the well-being of our community is commendable.</p> <p>We fully recognise the gravity of climate change and its profound impact on our local ecosystem. The Liveable Climate Plan 2020 and the Nature Plan 2024 serve as our guiding strategies to address these challenges. As stewards of our community, we are committed to tackling the biodiversity losses we're witnessing firsthand. In the 2024/2025 Budget there is Council investment into activities from the Nature Plan, to support these outcomes for community.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges Council takes seriously the consideration of Environmental Sustainable Design (ESD) principles in new developments. We understand that urban heat islands and increased runoff from impermeable surfaces pose significant threats. By prioritising sustainable design, we aim to mitigate these impacts and create resilient spaces for both nature and people. We've demonstrated this by the implementation of a Planning Scheme amendment that came into effect in December 2022 where triggers were introduced into the Yarra Ranges planning process that strengthen the ESD outcomes for community from new developments.</p> <p>The greening of our urban spaces remains a top priority. Canopy trees play a crucial role in enhancing biodiversity and promoting community health and well-being. We are actively working toward increasing tree cover and creating vibrant green spaces accessible to all residents. Council's draft Tree Canopy Strategy guide these activities to minimise the urban heat island effect.</p> <p>Collaboration with our community to address climate change and habitat restoration is essential. Programs like Gardens 4 Wildlife focus on improving biodiversity in urban areas and townships. Additionally, Gardens 4 Harvest and community gardens encourage more people to grow their own food, fostering local resilience and community support. The planting of communal fruit and nut trees as part of a broader community gardens network within the municipality is encouraged, where strong partnerships with local community groups can see these spaces thrive as a shared asset.</p> <p>We appreciate your dedication to these vital causes. We are working in the capacity we have to create a sustainable and thriving community for generations to come.</p>	Climate/Nature / Food security / Housing / Local Employment

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13	Request for rate rebate be applied to all rateable properties within The Heritage Estate, together with supporting documentation from the Owners Corporation Committee Chairs and also the Heritage Golf and Country Club supporting the request	Y	<p>Thank you for your feedback into our Draft Budget 2024-2025.</p> <p>Council, would like to acknowledge that we have received a written application from the owners of The Heritage Estate properties requesting that Council adopt and apply a 50% rate rebate to their properties in the coming financial year.</p> <p>While no formal response has been issued to Whittles as yet, we would like to provide you with a summary of general considerations made, when assessing similar applications.</p> <p>1. General Rates are a charge based on the valuation of a property. A contribution towards the common good of the Yarra Ranges Community, rather than a fee for services received. While it is true that properties within a body corporate may consume less Council services than others, so too do the following owners of properties who contribute at the same rate and would not be considered for any rebate at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vacant Land owners</li> <li>- Retirement Villages</li> <li>- Owners of multiple properties</li> <li>- Properties on the outskirts of suburbs and towns, further from Council services.</li> </ul> <p>2. Body corporate land may sometimes be made accessible to the public, increasing detriment of infrastructure and costs to those paying body corporate fees. However the choice to live in body corporate areas, is the individual decision of the owner who should be made aware of such use, body corporate fee and rates charges at the time of purchase.</p> <p>If the owners of such areas find their body corporate fees are becoming so expensive, that they are affecting property values, they should carefully review the Capital Improved Valuations provided on their Annual Rates and Valuation Notice and consider objecting under the Valuation of Land Act 1960. Objections can be made at no cost, and if successful will lower the Capital Improved Valuations of their property and therefore the rates applied.</p> <p>Please note that the legislation allows 60 days for objections, and any objections lodged would therefore need to be made to 2024/2025 financial year rates and valuation notices.</p> <p>That any Council adopted rebate that is applied to properties within Yarra Ranges would provide both winners and losers. If a Council were to provide a rebate to a specific group of ratepayer then;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Those rebate amounts would not be recoverable from other ratepayers under the Essential Service Commissions "Fair Go" Rating System</li> <li>- That even if they were recoverable, it is unlikely that ratepayers would share the view that a rebate is appropriate.</li> <li>- That lower levels of revenue for Council generally mean a lower of level of service for the community.</li> </ul>	Rates

Ref #	Submission Details	Speaking? Y or N	Response	Category
14	<p>Dear Yarra Ranges Councillors and Executive  Re: 5330,000 Budget Submission 2024-2025 for Chapel St, Lilydale</p> <p>In response to Yarra Ranges Council seeking budget submissions from the community, I am pleased to present my detailed budget submission for <b>\$330,000 for Chapel St Lilvdale</b> to be prioritised for roads and drainage infrastructure upgrades investment to protect our homes, our lives, our properties and Lilydale's community infrastructure.</p> <p>My name is Rosemary Mosley, I am flood survivor of Chapel Street, Lilydale of over 22 years, and on behalf of the residents in Chapel Street and Lilydale community members, the parents of Lilydale Pre-School children, Anglicare staff local business owners in and around Chapel St, Lilydale including the residents of Lilydale Lodge, Lilydale and the many visitors to Melba Park and Lilydale Outdoor pool and surrounding community Yarra Ranges Council community infrastructure I urgently seek your <b>approval to prioritise Chapel Street, Lilvdale to receive \$330,000</b> in capital expenditure to remediate flooding to protect properties, to protect the 279 resident lives, homes, businesses and Yarra Ranges Council community infrastructure.</p> <p>I am seeking Yarra Ranges Council to urgently invest in FY2024-2025 \$330,000 for improvements to local road drainage infrastructure, under road drainage infrastructure, accessible footpath establishment, kerb and channel guttering installation, installation of heritage lighting for Chapel Street, Lilydale and ongoing fortnightly maintenance of pits and drains. I have broken down the investment for Chapel Street, Lilydale as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chapel Street, Lilydale from the corner of Clarke Street, Lilydale to Lilydale Recreation Reserve car park opposite Lilydale Outdoor Pool of approximately 150 metres @\$2m p/km = \$330,000*  *Refer Appendix B - Budget Assumptions</li> </ul> <p>In this submission, I include the below information to support this budget submission:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background to the budget request for \$330,000 investment in drainage and infrastructure upgrade'</li> <li>Rationale for Chapel Street, Lilydale for prioritised budget allocation for 2024-2025.</li> <li>Benefits for the 5l.24m investment in drainage, roads and infrastructure upgrade.</li> <li>Relevant background information</li> <li>Estimated Scope of Works</li> <li>Attachments</li> </ol> <p>Attachment A - Photos of Chapel Street, Lilydale  Attachment B - * Assumptions used for budget calculations  Attachment C - Rosemary Mosley - Petition May 2024  Attachment D - Rosemary Mosley - Petition January 2024  Attachment E - Star Mail Articles - The human costs of flood survival in Chapel Street, Lilydale</p> <p>I look forward to presenting this budget submission of <b>\$330,000</b> to you in person on Tuesday 28 May 2024.</p>	Y	<p>Thank you for your feedback into our Draft Budget 2024/2025. We acknowledge how much these drainage and flooding issues impact your life.</p> <p>The 2024-25 Draft Budget includes a provision for Council to undertake a flood modelling assessment of the Lilydale area catchments. Flood modelling assessment helps us understand how stormwater behaves through the catchment, identify flood depths and velocities, and determine which properties are impacted by flooding. This process also allows us to test mitigation measures to ensure we do not exacerbate flooding issues elsewhere.</p> <p>We are aware that Chapel Street &amp; Clarke Street have been directly impacted by flooding, Council's maintenance team recently completed pit and kerb &amp; channel works to address localised flooding issues.</p> <p>The capital expenditure program has allowed for a total of \$300,000 of works, including \$50,000 investigation and design in 2024-2025 and \$250,000 for construction in 2025-2026.</p> <p>The capital works identified through the concept design process, will reference flood modelling assessment project and the future budget for 2025-2026 may need to be modified based on the design recommended.</p>	Drainage

Ref #	Submission Details	Speaking? Y or N	Response	Category
15	<p>replace old broken pipes, increase pipes, increase number of pits to allow water to drain away from our street, to allow traffic to pass and houses not to be flooded.</p>	Y	<p>Thank you for your feedback into our Draft Budget 2024/2025. We acknowledge how much these drainage and flooding issues impact your life.</p> <p>The 2024/25 Budget includes a provision of \$3.45 M and a total of \$16.2 M over next six years. The Draft Stormwater Management Plan and associated Drainage Asset Management Plan are strategic documents that are being developed and will inform the ongoing renewal upgrade and new new capital works.</p> <p>The Draft Stormwater Management Plan includes a 10-year Implementation Plan consisting of 32 actions to address stormwater management gaps and establish a strategic framework and operational guidance for stormwater-related decision-making within the Council. This implementation plan enables a proactive approach to drainage and flood management in Yarra Ranges.</p> <p>Actions within the Implementation Plan are categorised in to following key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing drainage and flood requests</li> <li>• Improved communication to community</li> <li>• Updates to Development Engineering Guidelines and Planning Permit Processes</li> <li>• Investigation of stormwater offsets</li> <li>• Establishing strategic partnerships</li> <li>• Exploring funding mechanisms</li> <li>• Implementation of a Flood Mapping Program</li> <li>• Integrated Water Management (IWM) and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives to improve waterway health while maintaining flood protection.</li> </ul> <p>Furthermore, Council in partnership with Melbourne Water is currently undertaking a flood modelling assessment of the storm water catchment areas within the municipality. Flood modelling assessment helps us understand how stormwater behaves through the catchment, identify flood depths and velocities, and determine which properties are impacted by flooding.</p> <p>This process also allows us to test mitigation and adaptation measures to ensure we do not exacerbate flooding issues elsewhere. Additional mitigation works identified through the flood modelling assessment will inform future budget allocations.</p>	Drainage
16	<p>Having reviewed the capital works program for the 2025-25 financial year it was disappointing to note that the rectification of Edinburgh Road in Lilydale was not included in the projects therein identified.</p> <p>Our residents group put together a proposal for such works, a copy of which is appended hereto (as is an earlier treatise identifying the road's classification under the Road Management Plan).</p> <p>It is our wish that council officers reexamine this material as if it was a further proposal for inclusion in council's capital works program, preferable in this coming year or, at least, the year thereafter.</p> <p>It will be noted that the actual proposal suggests a 3 stage program so that it could be completed over a greater period of time if that would better suit councils ongoing program. ^</p> <p>The urgency and seriousness of this application is exacerbated by the traffic attending the various schools in the immediate vicinity.</p> <p>Refer full submission</p>	Y	<p>Thank you for your submission to the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>Funding for Edinburgh Road design stage construction is included in the Capital Works pipeline program to be considered for future years budget allocations. The submission has been considered and based on available funding and other priorities within the Budget, the request to bring the project forward to the 2024/25 financial year is not currently supported. Council's maintenance teams will continue to monitor the road which includes repairing edge breaks and drainage works as needed. In addition, the maintenance team have undertaken improvements to line marking and installation of guideposts.</p>	Roads

Ref #	Submission Details	Speaking? Y or N	Response	Category
17	<p>Spending 17.8 MILLION on Playspaces and Sports Fields but only 5.3 Million on roads? Are you kidding me! When will we see the council "REDUCING" expenditure from the past year?</p>	N	<p>Thank you for your comments regarding the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>Your feedback has highlighted an error on our 'Budget at a Glance' website page. We will correct the page to reflect the roads capital expenditure budget of \$18.2m, which is included in the Draft Capital Expenditure Program 2024/25 document. \$10.1m of this is externally funded by State and Federal Governments.</p> <p>The \$17.8m attributed to Playspaces and Sports fields includes delivery of major destination trails including Warburton Mountain Bike Destination, ngurrak barring / RidgeWalk and Yarra Valley Trail. In addition are the construction of major playspaces including Chirnside Urban Park, Morrisons Reserve Playspace and bike park at Mt Evelyn. A significant amount of the Playspace and Sports fields is externally funded by State and Federal Governments (\$7.3m).</p> <p>Capital expenditure is carefully planned and financially managed to respond best to the priorities and needs of the community. Capital expenditure also relies significantly on State and Federal Government funding, and with these sources expected to reduce going forward our capital expenditure program is currently planned to decrease in the future accordingly.</p>	Roads & Recreation, Capex
18	<p>Dear Andrew, I hope this email finds you well, i read with interest the article in the star news re the upcoming budget.</p> <p>I wasn't going to write as it's a waste of time but i think people need to say what they think,</p> <p>as a ratepayer in Yarra Junction it beggars belief that with income of \$253 million the council still needs to borrow money and will run a deficit, It would appear those of us that are not accountants, that the council seems inept and cannot run a business properly,, if council was a business it would be broke,</p> <p>I noticed that council has decided to adopt the maximum rate rise allowed, yet still it runs a deficit and borrows money.</p> <p>the difference between the council and its ratepayers has never been wider, can your executive team not understand one simple principle dont spend more than you make (and by god the council knows how to spend money)</p> <p>Best Regards David LaBastlus</p>	N	<p>Thank you for your feedback into the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>Responsible financial management is of utmost importance to our organisation. As Council continues to navigate a highly dynamic economic environment alongside significant service and infrastructure demand across our growing community, productive borrowings can be one of many effective ways to leverage council's capacity whilst keeping financial health indicators at low-risk levels and well within the parameters of our financial policies.</p>	Budget Financials
19	<p>Application for \$137,500 to fund a Feasibility Study into the creation of a continuous multipurpose Olinda Creek Trail from Lilydale Station to Olinda shops. Refer submission</p>	Y	<p>Thank you for your feedback into the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>As you may be aware, much of the proposed trail is on land managed by Melbourne Water (MW) and Parks Victoria (PV). We continue to advocate to senior officials at both agencies on the merits of this project and other trails in the area. A level of interest and commitment from PV and MW is required prior to any further feasibility work.</p> <p>Planning approvals in the Council section of the Olinda Creek Trail are hoped to progress during the next financial year.</p>	Trails

Ref #	Submission Details	Speaking? Y or N	Response	Category
20	<p>Please can the council upgrade our public toilets in Belgrave, Olinda and Monbulk.</p> <p>The toilets are currently in a shameful condition and my many communications have been falling on deaf ears.</p>	N	<p>Thank you for your feedback into the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>Council is committed to maintaining our public toilets to a high standard with sites being assessed against age, current condition, accessibility, usage, expected cost of works and ongoing maintenance requirements.</p> <p>Based on feedback and recent internal audits, we will be including Belgrave, Olinda and Monbulk public toilet sites in our increased cleaning and maintenance works.</p> <p>Council will also assess these and all public toilet sites for more significant upgrade works, which would be undertaken within our capital works program. In this year's draft budget, \$750,000 has been included in the Capital works budget for new and upgraded public toilets. For this budget those works will be at Sassafra and Wandin North. In addition, to help improve the way that we receive feedback from our facility users we are investigating solutions for our community and visitors to more effectively and efficiently submit feedback in order to achieve better outcomes.</p> <p>Last year Council adopted the Monbulk Urban Design Framework (UDF) which proposes the inclusion of new public toilets as part of the future Village Green development. Regarding the existing public toilets, accessed from Main Road, there are a number of upgrades proposed within the Monbulk UDF to improve access to this location.</p> <p>Belgrave has two primary public toilet locations. The first, at the entry to Puffing Billy Railway, and the second within the main township along the Burwood Highway. Council is commencing an Urban Design Framework for Belgrave this year and will invite community to contribute ideas for improved access to these facilities, as well as improvements for the facilities presentation to the street.</p>	Toilets
21	<p>Can you please put funding into providing more and safer parking and roads around Birmingham Primary School. It's a poorly planned mess in Francis Cres and surrounds.</p> <p>Can you also look at adding a play space in the Lilydale Heights Estate. On Lakeview Drive there is a suitable reserve for a small playspace which is much closer than Lilydale lake.</p>	N	<p>Thank you for your feedback into the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>The Council at it's meeting on 9 April 2024 endorsed a report following a comprehensive investigation into traffic issues around Birmingham Primary School. As a result, we have installed radar speed display signs and zig-zag line markings on the approach to Birmingham Road children's crossing to address the safety concerns raised by the school crossing supervisors.</p> <p>Additionally, the Council's Draft Capital Program includes an allowance for the signalisation of the intersection at Francis Crescent/Birmingham Road. The cost of signalising this intersection is approximately \$500,000. Projects of this magnitude required external funding for successful delivery.</p> <p>We have recently been informed about Road Safety Victoria's funding opportunity through the "Safe Local Roads and Streets Program". Under this program, each Council can receive \$2 million to implement prioritised road safety projects. The Council's Traffic team is scheduled to begin engagement with Road Safety Victoria in June/July 2024. We intend to submit the signalised intersection at Birmingham Road/Francis Crescent for Road Safety Victoria's funding consideration.</p> <p>Lilydale Lake is listed within the Yarra Ranges Playspace Plan 2019-2029 as a Regional Park, which is the highest level of park within the Yarra Ranges.</p> <p>As such, Lilydale Lake includes significant planting and landscape elements, shade and shelter, seating, BBQ, and public toilets. This level of park is also fully accessible to people with a disability, with formed paths, and also includes a large playspace offering the full range of imaginative and educative play for all ages. The open space area you mention, on Lakeview Drive within the Lilydale Heights Estate, is in close proximity to Lilydale Lake (within a 400m walk) and as such is well serviced to meet the playspace demand of the local community.</p>	Roads/Parking/Play space

Ref #	Submission Details	Speaking? Y or N	Response	Category
22	\$400,000 for 20A Nimblefoot Way, Lilydale and under roads drainage at the corner of Delta Close and Nimblefoot Way, Lilydale. Refer submission	Y	<p>Thank you for your feedback into the Draft Budget 2024/2025.</p> <p>We appreciate your suggestions for drainage improvements on to, and under roads drainage at the corner of Delta Close and Nimblefoot Way, Lilydale.</p> <p>Council is currently undertaking a flood modelling assessment across the municipality. Flood modelling assessment helps us understand how stormwater behaves through the catchment, identifies flood depths and velocities, and determines which properties are impacted by flooding. This process also allows us to test mitigation measures to ensure it has the best outcomes.</p> <p>Additional mitigation works identified through the flood modelling assessment will inform future budget allocations. Your suggestions on easement drainage and kerb and channel will be considered as part of this assessment.</p> <p>Currently the 2024-2025 Capital Budget for projects includes a provision of \$150,000 to install a detention system with the reserve at the corner of Nimblefoot and Delta Close. This project includes works within the drainage reserve to manage localised flooding issues, noting that the allocation is subject to approval in the future.</p> <p>Council will continue to work with Melbourne Water to improve the performance of its infrastructure within the area that should significantly improve the flow of stormwater.</p> <p>Your request for enhanced maintenance has been forwarded to the maintenance team for consideration based on the Council's current service levels.</p>	Drainage/Roads