

## **DRAFT PARKING MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK**

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Report Author: Executive Officer Stormwater, Traffic and Transport  
Responsible Officer: Director Built Environment & Infrastructure  
Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

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

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

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

### **SUMMARY**

Traffic and parking congestion is becoming an increasing issue in some areas of the municipality. In the past, the introduction of time limited restrictions has been able to deliver the level of control necessary to meet the needs of the community. However, with increases in population growth, tourist visitation and economic development, there is a need to create a Parking Management Framework to guide the implementation of various parking restrictions and supporting technology to best manage the parking across the municipality.

The Draft Parking Management Framework has been developed with a vision to community facilities while protecting the natural environment and unique character of its towns and villages.

The Framework outlines all relevant information which would be required when making decisions about parking. These include:

- Hierarchy controls detailing different types of infrastructure which could be considered for parking control management.
- Hierarchy of Parking Allocation to inform the priority given to different user groups for parking when considering the implementation of parking restrictions.
- How parking investigations are undertaken and decisions are made.
- Implementation of Digital Parking Solutions and Paid Parking Schemes.
- Types of different parking zones and available parking permits based on land use and user requirements.
- How and why enforcement is undertaken.

When the need for parking is balanced effectively with other transport options, residents, workers and tourists will continue to be able to access the various areas of Yarra Ranges Council and enjoy the variety of townships and environmental elements that makes this area so unique.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### ***That Council***

- 1. Support the Draft Parking Management Framework to be placed on public exhibition between 14 August 2024 and 8 September 2024.***
- 2. Note that findings from the community feedback and proposed amendments to the Draft Parking Management Framework will be presented at a future Council Meeting.***

## **RELATED COUNCIL DECISIONS**

At its Council meeting on 15 May 2024, a report on Parking Management for Warburton was endorsed. The report outlined that a Parking Management Framework is currently in development, to create a consistent response to parking management.

This report provides an overview of the Draft Parking Management Framework. Although some treatment highlighted in the Draft Parking Management Framework (e.g. use of digital parking solutions, paid parking and trader permits) are to be trialled within Warburton, expansion of these treatments will be dependant on the endorsed Parking Management Framework.

## **DISCUSSION**

### ***Purpose and Background***

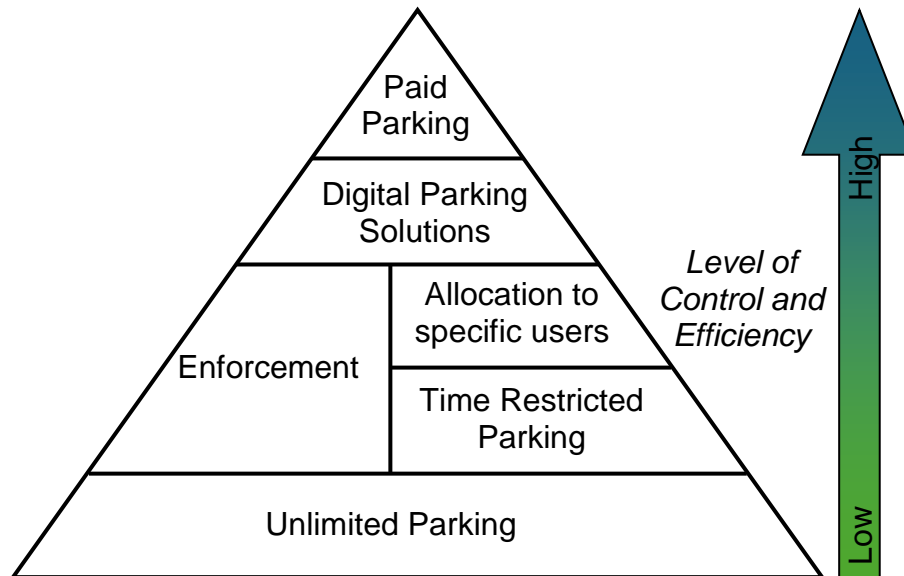
The purpose of the Draft Parking Management Framework is to provide guidance for Yarra Ranges Council when making decisions relating to the management of parking across the municipality. The draft framework sets out the main principles that Council will use to manage parking within the road reserve and public land to enable it to be done in a consistent, equitable and transparent way for the benefit of the residents, business operators, tourists and visitors.

The vision for the Draft Parking Management Framework is that parking in Yarra Ranges is designed and managed to provide efficient access to community facilities while protecting the natural environment and unique character of its towns and villages.

The copy of the full Draft Parking Management Framework is attached to this report.

## Parking Investigations

To ensure that the management of Council managed on and off-street parking areas are consistent with the needs of the community, changes will be based on a hierarchy of different types of parking management as outlined below. A description of each of these measures is described in more detail within the Draft Parking Management Framework attached to this report.



To maximise parking usage a target occupancy of 80% during peak periods is set before increasing restrictions in an area. Where occupancy is below 20% during peak periods, a reduction of restrictions may also be considered.

Generally, all parking areas will start as unrestricted and specific restrictions investigated and implemented as necessary. The investigation process will be managed by Council's Traffic and Transport Team and include:

- Identification of the parking issue and associated background information relating to the existing land-use and enforcement.
- Evaluate parking occupancy and patterns to understand regular parking behaviour.
- Developing a plan outlining the proposed restrictions and present it to relevant stakeholders for feedback. The plan would include the need for resident or trader parking permits.
- Review feedback and make minor adjustments to the plan to best meet the needs of the users.
- Implement Proposal including installing relevant signs and infrastructure.

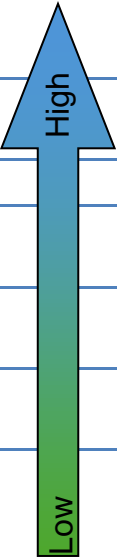
When digital parking solutions or paid parking solutions are recommended, a detailed investigation will be undertaken across various Council departments. When paid parking solutions are being considered, residents and landowners of Yarra

Ranges Council will be exempt from paying for parking however a permit will be required with appropriate conditions. Residents and landowners with an appropriate permit will still be required to adhere to the appropriate restrictions.

*For Example: A resident, with an appropriate permit, would be permitted to park for free in a paid parking area with a 2 hour restriction however, if they overstay, they would be subject to appropriate enforcement.*

### **Parking Allocation based on User Groups and Types of Permits**

When Parking Precinct Plans are developed the safety of people, providing access to properties and facilitating network efficiency and traffic movements will be the greatest priority before parking restrictions are implemented. To consider the needs of different user groups, a Hierarchy of Parking Allocation was developed. This highlights which groups will be given greater priority when conflicting demands are identified.

Level of Priority	User Group	Examples of Restrictions
	Safety of people, access and network efficiency	Restricting parking to facilitate safety, provide access and increase visibility and traffic movements.
	Public Transport Users	Introduction of bus stops in appropriate locations which allow adequate space to enter and exit.
	Accessible Parking Spaces	Dedicated spaces close to amenities and services.
	Customers and Visitors	Providing a range of time restrictions based on the types of business and needs of users.
	Special Use (e.g. Vehicle Charging, Loading)	Dedicated spaces to meet the needs of special users groups.
	Residents and Business Staff	These are spaces to allow longer term parking needs to access the area.
	Park and Ride Commuters	Car parking spaces for commuters would generally be located close to train stations and be provided by the relevant authority.

To support the allocation of parking to different groups a range of permits can be utilised, including:

- Accessible Parking Permit
- Local Resident Parking Permit
- Permit for Free Parking for Residents in Paid Parking Areas
- Trader and Volunteer Parking Permit
- Construction Parking Permit

Details of when these permits are considered appropriate and how they are issued are detailed within the attached Draft Parking Management Framework.

In addition, information on when relevant zones are considered appropriate is described in detail. The various zones included:

- Areas with No Stopping at Any Time
- Bus and Taxi Zones
- Accessible Parking Spaces
- Loading Zones
- Electric Vehicle Charging Zones
- Spaces for Parents with Prams or Seniors Parking
- Car Share Scheme Parking
- Roadside Trader Parking
- Parking on Nature Strips and Verges

In order for parking restrictions to work effectively to provide safety and turnover of vehicles, drivers must adhere to them. It is recognised that at times some drivers do not adhere to the restrictions and therefore enforcement is required. Enforcement of parking restrictions is undertaken by both Yarra Ranges Council Officers and the Police. Yarra Ranges Council Officers undertake parking enforcement using both manual and in-vehicle camera use.

Regular enforcement of parking restrictions is undertaken across the whole municipality. Some areas may have increased enforcement at specific times if unsafe behaviour or parking overstays have been identified.

## **FINANCIAL ANALYSIS**

The cost for the development and consultation of the Draft Parking Management Framework will be funded through Council's current operational budget.

Development of specific investigations and Parking Precinct Plans will generally be undertaken in-house through Council's current operational budget. The introduction of changed parking restrictions can be achieved using Councils existing signage budget.

The introduction of digital parking solutions or paid parking schemes will require addition capital works budget and an application for funding will be made at the relevant time.

## **APPLICABLE PLANS AND POLICIES**

This Draft Parking Management Framework contributes to the following strategic objectives in the Council Plan.

- **Connected and Healthy Communities** A strategic approach to parking management is aimed to ease traffic congestion and facilitate parking for people who need to use private vehicles while encouraging those who can use walking and cycling to do so.
- **Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places** Creating liveable places includes implementing and effective management of the suitable provision of quality on and off-street parking spaces which provides access to town centres and key destinations.
- **Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment** Effective parking management balances the need to protect the natural environment, whilst providing opportunities for residents, tourists and visitors to experience the many unique environmental attractions that the Yarra Ranges has to offer. It also reduces the need for greenhouse gas emissions caused by circulating vehicles.
- **Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism** Successful demand management for parking spaces caters for the needs of customers while maximising vehicle turnover to provide access to commercial and retail businesses. Strategic parking management at tourist attractions, festivals, and events provides a better overall experience for tourists, visitors and patrons.
- **High Performing Organisation** As an organisation, Yarra Ranges Council strives to become a lead Council in implementing and managing innovative solutions to parking issues which meet the needs of residents, visitors, workers and tourists alike which makes the best use of existing assets.

The Draft Parking Management Framework also goes into detail of the stages of the Strategic Framework for Car Parking Actions which is outlined in the Integrated Transport Strategy.

## RELEVANT LAW

The Road Management Act 2004 and the Local Government Act 2020 outlines that Council has the authority, as the Road Authority, to manage the road network. This includes the power to implement and enforce parking restrictions to maximise safety and access while meeting the parking needs of the local community.

A Gender Impact Assessment has been undertaken for this framework and recommendations have been included. The Gender Impact Assessment highlighted that different people have different needs when it comes to parking based on their situation. These could include:

- People with accessibility needs generally require more space to manoeuvre mobility aids or have limited ability to walk long distances to their destination.
- Parents, particularly women with young children, may require additional width and access to look after the needs of the children.

- Women, people with anxiety issues and elderly may consider the perception of safety when parking their vehicle and seek areas which increased lighting and passive surveillance, particularly if they are expected to be travelling at time of low lightening.
- People doing deliveries need access to a ramp and or be located as close as possible to their destination.
- Staff will require unrestricted areas to park for longer with safe access between the parking area and their workplace.
- People who are staying for short periods prefer to park close to the destination to limit travel time.
- People with access issues, including younger children or the elderly would require safe and unobstructed access to parking areas.

When Parking Precinct Plans are developed or reviewed for specific areas, the needs of various members of the community will be considered. This could include providing a range of parking restrictions in various locations around the precinct to facilitate parking options which are tailored to meet the needs of the specific community. Parking reviews will also consider lighting and access between parking areas and destinations as appropriate.

## **SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

### ***Economic Implications***

The economic implications of the Draft Parking Management Framework include:

- **Parking Turnover** Effective parking management enables higher turnover of parking spaces where required. This can benefit local businesses by increasing the availability of parking for customers.
- **Revenue Generation** Where paid parking initiatives are introduced, revenue is generated by visitors which can be directed toward local asset maintenance, projects, and community initiatives.

### ***Social Implications***

The social implications of the Draft Parking Management Framework include:

- **Alternative Transportation** If implemented effectively, parking management can encourage the use of alternative modes of transportation, such as public transport, cycling, or walking, which can have positive social impacts in terms of increased physical activity and community interaction.
- **Parking Proximity** When parking restrictions are implemented, drivers will be required to park in locations to suit their time requirements. This may include

the need to park further away from their destination to access free and/or long term parking spaces.

- **Affordability** The introduction of paid parking initiatives can impact low-income individuals who may have fewer transportation alternatives or less ability to pay for parking. This can raise concerns about equitable access to public spaces and services.

### ***Environmental Implications***

The environmental implications of the Draft Parking Management Framework include:

- **Reduced congestion and idling time** The implementation of parking restrictions and supporting signage seeks to free up parking spaces, encouraging turnover and reduce the circulation of vehicles.
- **Optimizing traffic flow** Use of digital technology directing drivers to available parking spaces further reduces unnecessary vehicle movements and reduce vehicle emissions.
- **Reduced environmental damage** Clarification of rules around parking on verges reduces damage done to vegetation by vehicles parking on nature strips and verges.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Council regularly receives feedback regarding concerns about congestion and the availability and safety of parking spaces, particularly around schools, commercial precincts and in our tourist locations during the summer months.

It is intended that this Draft Parking Management Framework be presented for community engagement for a 4-week period from mid-August before being presented back to ELT and Council for endorsement in early 2025. This will ensure that the needs of the community are considered within the overarching framework for parking management.

Options of parking restrictions within each area will be considered as part of an area wide Parking Precinct Plan or smaller street level investigation. This will consider what restrictions would be suitable in consultation with the abutting landowners and/or occupants. When area wide Parking Precinct Plans are being developed, the relevant Councillors will be made aware of the investigation and invited to provide input, where appropriate, prior to community engagement being undertaken.

Decisions regarding the implementation of parking restrictions will be undertaken by Council Officers. When Digital Parking Solutions and/or Paid Parking measures are proposed, the decision will be presented to Council for endorsement.



## **COLLABORATION, INNOVATION AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**

Various parking policies, frameworks and information available online from other Councils were reviewed in the development of the Draft Parking Management Framework. This has provided a benchmark for best practice in terms of parking investigation process, hierarchy of users and how and where different permit types are used.

The development of this framework has been in conjunction with the proposal for Parking Management in Warburton which has involved input from various internal departments.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The development of a Parking Management Framework reduces the risk that parking investigations are undertaken in an inconsistent manner. It will also enable the community to be informed about how Council will make decisions around parking and enforcement.

Specific risks associated with individual parking investigations and area wide Parking Precinct Plans will need to be detailed at the time of the investigation.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

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

## **ATTACHMENTS TO THE REPORT**

1. Draft Yarra Ranges Council Parking Management Framework 2024