



Yarra Ranges Council

DRAFT Advocacy Priorities 2025-2027



Acknowledgement of Country



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

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Yarra Ranges snapshot

Yarra Ranges Council is situated in metropolitan Melbourne's outer east, 30 to 110 kilometres from the Melbourne Central Business District. Our municipality covers 2,468 square kilometres in area, making it Melbourne's largest metropolitan local government area.



Yarra Ranges Shire

- Land area: 2,468.2 square km
- Largest LGA in Melbourne
- Nine wards, 55 suburbs and localities, plus parts of six other suburbs
- 2% Council land, 30% is in private ownership, and 68% is Crown land



Industries

- \$7.58b GRP (est)
- Health care and social assistance is the largest industry by employment employing 13.8% of all residents



Housing

- \$840,000 median house price (Dec 2023)
- 53% of the population live in the 7.4% of Yarra Ranges that is urban
- 10.9% of households with a mortgage experience mortgage stress
- 31.7% of households renting experience rental stress
- 10,700 new dwellings and greater housing diversity needed by 2040



Tourism

- 4.89m visitors 2023-24, which is expected to double to over 9 million per year in the next decade
- 6,900 people in the Yarra Ranges directly employed by the tourism industry (2,700 full-time; 4,200 part-time)
- 2,300 indirect jobs related to the tourism industry
- \$1.2b visitor spend 2023-24



Population

- 160,137 residents, which is expected to grow to more than 185,000 by 2041
- Yarra Ranges has the highest number of indigenous persons in the Eastern Metropolitan Region
- 17.2% of population is aged over 65, which is expected to grow to 19.8% by 2034



Economic

- 3.1% unemployment rate (Dec 2023)
- 13,993 local businesses
- 55,544 local jobs in 2023-24

Advocacy snapshot

Council's role in advocacy

Raise awareness and show leadership for the interests of local communities, to other decision makers e.g. state and federal governments.

Our aims

- ✓ Increase funding and delivery of local programs, services and infrastructure,
- ✓ Influence state and federal government policy, legislation, standards and guidelines,
- ✓ Seek commitments from local candidates and political parties at elections,
- ✓ Work with other councils and local government sector organisations to achieve sector or community wide outcomes.

Our challenges

- + Balancing growth of resident population and visitor numbers while protecting township character, liveability, biodiversity and sustainability,
- + Increasing extreme weather events and the need to provide leadership in mitigating climate change and adapting to its effect,
- + Council will continue to be impacted by external political contexts and must adapt to changes in relevant budgets, legislation and regulations,
- + Increasing pressure on Council services and financial sustainability from government cost-shifting, reduced grants and community cost-of-living stressors,
- + Need for Council to provide inclusive, safe, age-friendly places and accessible services to meet the needs of our residents at all life-stages.

2025-27 Advocacy priorities

**Safe crossings
to save lives**

**Affordable housing
for a fairer future**

**Birrarung/Yarra River
crossing for trail connections**

**A Greenprint to
restore nature**

**Delivering a modern aquatic
and leisure centre**

**Strengthening support
for young people**

**Sustainable transport for
connected communities**

**Funding fairness for
stronger communities**

Council Plan advocacy priorities

The following outlines key major initiatives from the Council Plan 2025-29 where advocacy is identified as a means to achieve outcomes, forming the basis of our 2025-27 advocacy priorities.

Healthy Connected Communities Communities are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially connected. Quality services are accessible to everyone.	Major Initiative 2	Work with partners to advocate for local priorities.
	Major Initiative 3	Community pavilions – advocate for funding for additional components and projects in other locations.
	Major Initiative 4	Planning for an urban aquatic & leisure facility (targeted advocacy campaign for funding).
Protected & Enhanced Natural Environment Together we care for Country and the environment is healthier for future generations.	Major Initiative 5	Enhance energy & infrastructure resilience for Council and communities before, during and after extreme weather events.
	Major Initiative 8	Provide leadership in pursuit of net zero emissions and developing a resilient local energy supply.
Quality Infrastructure & Liveable Places Facilities and infrastructure meet current and future needs. Places are well planned and are hubs of activity that foster wellbeing and innovation.	Major Initiative 10	Activate Ridges & Rivers – advocate for funding for future stages and enhancements.
	Major Initiative 11	Facilitate diverse housing options – work with partners & industry.
	Major Initiative 12	Improve safety and maintenance of local roads – advocate for further funding opportunities.
Prosperous Community & Vibrant Economy Our economy, tourism and industries support our communities. Strong investment attraction underpins sustainable economic wellbeing and local job creation.	Major Initiative 14	Strengthen tourism destination management across the region – manage impact on community & infrastructure.
	Major Initiative 15	Work with industry, education, Traditional Owners, community and government partners to establish an Agri-Food Futures industry hub and centre of excellence.



Safe crossings to save lives

Our ask: \$4 million for installation of signalised pedestrian crossings at 10 key high-risk locations

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Yarra Ranges Council seeks to partner with the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) to install signalised pedestrian crossings at 10 high-risk, high-traffic locations across the municipality to protect pedestrians, cyclists and road users. A smart investment in prevention, every crossing installed will be a proactive step toward preventing accidents and saving lives. Upgrading this infrastructure will provide a legacy of care and safety.

High priority locations include roads managed by DTP and are in our townships or intersect with popular trail networks with high pedestrian and cyclist activity. Highway locations experience significant visitor numbers on both our roads and trails at weekends and holidays. Collaboration between the Victorian Government and Council to design and deliver these road safety upgrades is essential. Other sites may be identified for consideration.

Community advocacy, data and usage have flagged these sites for urgent upgrades and without intervention, the risk of serious accidents remains high. In these locations, pedestrian operated signalised crossings are the required solution and will deliver safer crossings for pedestrians and cyclists. There will be minimal disruption to traffic flow outside peak times as the signals are only activated when needed.

High priority locations

- Kallista – Monbulk Road near Kallista roundabout
- Lilydale – Swansea Road at Olinda Creek Trail
- Mooroolbark – Pembroke Road at Brushy Creek Trail
- Mount Evelyn – York Road at Mt Evelyn Aqueduct Trail
- Olinda – Mount Dandenong Tourist Road in Olinda township
- Sassafras – Mountain Highway in Sassafras township
- Seville East – Warburton Highway near Peters Rd & Old Warburton Hwy
- Wandin North – Warburton Highway near Alfred Street
- Yarra Glen – Melba Highway near Armstrong Grove
- Yarra Junction – Warburton Highway at the Lilydale-Warburton Rail Trail, near Corduroy Road

Benefits

- Safe pedestrian crossings dramatically reduce risk of accidents, especially for families, children and older residents.
- When people feel safe crossing busy roads, they're more likely to walk or cycle which improves health, reduces traffic congestion and lowers emissions.
- Well-designed crossings send a clear message that pedestrians and cyclists matter and make active travel safer, more convenient and appealing.
- Every additional signalised crossing is a proactive step toward preventing accidents and saving lives.



Affordable housing for a fairer future

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Yarra Ranges Council seeks the ability to specify and deliver housing diversity outcomes to improve the variety and affordability of housing options in Yarra Ranges, to better fit-to community needs.

Access to affordable housing is a foundational determinant to community health and wellbeing. In Yarra Ranges, increasing housing diversity and affordability is essential to meet the needs of our changing population, particularly smaller households, young people and older residents.

Under existing arrangements, affordable housing outcomes are negotiated and their inclusion is often treated as a bonus, not a requirement. Whilst developers maximising return on investment from residential development projects enables more projects to go ahead, it is essential for government and councils to also push to achieve community benefit, especially for our residents desperately trying to gain appropriate housing.

Why is this an issue?

- Current housing stock in Yarra Ranges is 90% detached houses. In our urban areas there is limited medium and high density and smaller dwelling options.
- Yarra Ranges has the second lowest number of rental properties in metropolitan Melbourne, with only 14% of occupied private dwellings being rentals.
- Yarra Ranges' social housing stock stands at 1.2% of all dwellings compared with the state average of 3%.
- In 2023 more than 1600 local applicants were on the Victorian Housing Register.
- Council is not aware of any new social housing projects planned or underway in Yarra Ranges as part of the Big Housing Build.
- Homelessness is growing with local services assisting over 2,000 people in 2021-22. 63.7% were female and nearly 30% were under the age of 15. Family violence is the single largest cited cause.

Benefits

- Economic participation is boosted by enabling key workers, young people, and low-income residents to live closer to jobs, education, transport and services.
- More diverse mix of dwelling types and tenures that reflect changing household needs.
- Improved health and wellbeing outcomes arise from secure, safe and stable living conditions.
- Strengthened community resilience by reducing housing-related disadvantage and promoting inclusive neighbourhoods where people of all ages and incomes can thrive.
- Social connections and participation are improved when people remain in their communities, maintain support networks and engage in civic life.



Birrarung/Yarra River crossing for trail connections

Our ask: \$11 million to fund and deliver the Birrarung/Yarra River crossing as a key stage of the Yarra Valley Trail.

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A bridge crossing the Birrarung/Yarra River and a boardwalk across the floodplain is the key Yarra Valley Trail infrastructure required to complete the 1.2km connection from Yering into Yarra Glen.

The bridge and boardwalk will link the Yarra Valley Trail into the Yarra Glen township and Yarra Glen Railway Station precinct and will facilitate the future connection of the Trail into Healesville.

The first 7.5km of the Yarra Valley Trail project from Lilydale was opened in 2020. Recently opened is a 1.2km section north of Macintyre Lane. The next 1.5km section to the Yarra River will be opened by mid-2026.

A key project of Ridges and Rivers, a major trail-based tourism and recreation network across Yarra Ranges, the Yarra Valley Trail will be an immersive experience connecting locals and visitors with the food, wine, culture and scenery of the iconic Yarra Valley. Local communities will enjoy the improved infrastructure and better accessibility for walking and cycling between townships. For visitors, the Trail will provide linkages to some of Melbourne's best wineries and art and cultural experiences including renowned tourism destinations such as the Yarra Valley Chocolaterie, Healesville Sanctuary and TarraWarra Museum of Art.

Benefits

- There is strong support from the business community in Yarra Glen for the Trail completion to facilitate the link from the Yarra Valley Trail into the town to enable trail users to access the cafes, services and township attractions.
- In its entirety, the Yarra Valley Trail is projected to attract 520,000 users in the first year alone, with an economic influx of \$67.1 million. By year ten that figure is projected to increase to \$81.4 million.
- Once completed, the Yarra Valley Trail will provide a destination and picturesque extension for existing popular trails from inner Melbourne and Melbourne's south including the Main Yarra Trail, Birrarung Valley Walk, Carrum to Warburton Trail and connecting the tourism destinations around Yarra Glen and Healesville into the regional trail network.

Key projects

The entire trail network is being built in stages, with the highest priorities:

- **Yarra River crossing, Yering to Yarra Glen (Stage 1B.3)** - 1.2km trail including Yarra River bridge and boardwalk. Cost \$11m. Construction could commence in late 2026.
- **Yarra Glen Railway Station Visitor Node Trail and Rail carpark** - toilets and other facilities. Cost \$1.1m. Construction could commence in mid-2026.
- **Healesville Sanctuary Trail connection (Stage 3.1)** - 4.9km roadside trail connection railway station to sanctuary. Cost \$1.3m. Construction could commence in mid-2026.
- **TarraWarra to Healesville (Stage 2B)** - 9.8km trail completing connection of Yarra Glen to Healesville. Cost \$10.6m. Construction could commence in 2027.



A Greenprint to restore nature

**Our ask: support and funding for the development and delivery of
a Greenprint for Yarra Ranges**

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Our ask: support and funding for the development and delivery of a Greenprint for Yarra Ranges

Yarra Ranges Council is seeking support and funding to develop a Greenprint, a strategic model to map, prioritise and reconnect fragmented habitats, restore ecological corridors and strengthen resilience. The Greenprint will deliver healthier Country that in turn will support healthier nature and people.

The Greenprint will be co-designed with Traditional Owners, community members and environmental agencies to ensure it reflects local knowledge, cultural values and scientific best practice. Community readiness is already evident through engagement, volunteerism and the proactive support from skilled professionals.

This initiative comes at a critical time, as Victoria faces a biodiversity crisis, with 75% of indicators deteriorating or unclear and extinction rates among the highest globally. Habitat fragmentation, invasive species, land clearing, and climate-driven stressors such as bushfires and drought are placing immense pressure on ecosystems.

Yarra Ranges is home to 188,000 hectares of native vegetation and supports over 2,700 native flora and fauna species. Its waterways, including the upper Yarra River and its tributaries, are vital habitats for platypus, frogs and fish.

The Greenprint represents an urgent and strategic response to protect and enhance these natural assets for future generations and we seek a commitment from government to co-invest in long-term monitoring and implementation.

Project outline

Yarra Ranges Council is seeking \$1.5 million over 4 years to enable:

- Undertake mapping and ecological assessments
- Leveraging of AI technology to create a digital map that seamlessly integrates cultural and natural asset information with disaster risk data
- Foster community connection to biodiversity and cultural values through development and prioritisation phases and on-ground activities
- Progress policy and legislative change to embed habitat connectivity into planning schemes and land management frameworks
- Build partnerships, prioritise biolinks and commence implementation

Benefits

- Reconnect fragmented habitats to allow species movement and adaptation in a changing climate.
- Protect water catchments that supply 70% of Melbourne's drinking water.
- Support Traditional Owner-led land management, including cultural burning and regenerative practices.
- Expand biodiversity extension programs to educate and empower landholders and volunteers.
- Create landscape-scale biolinks, corridors that enhance ecological services like pollination, carbon sequestration, drought resilience and water filtration.
- Partnerships that deliver cross-tenure conservation programs, citizen science initiatives and cultural land management practices.



Delivering a modern aquatic and leisure centre

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Yarra Ranges Council is committed to delivering a state-of-the-art indoor aquatic and leisure facility in our growing urban area. With strong community backing and a clear vision, this project will address critical gaps in access to health, recreation and water safety facilities.

We are seeking \$1 million to develop a robust business and investment case and to complete detailed design work.

Council is currently working to identify a suitable site and to prioritise an investment and operating model that will offer the best outcomes for the community. These are the essential first steps toward a transformative facility that will serve as a hub for health, water safety and play, and community connection.

We call on the Victorian and Australian Governments to partner in this vital initiative, each contributing \$20 million through grants or direct investment.

Proposed facility features

Aquatic & Leisure Centre Features:

- 25m or 50m main pool
- warm water therapy pool
- learn-to-swim pool and facilities
- gym and program spaces
- café and community amenities

Modern and sustainable design features:

- efficient heating, cooling and lighting
- insulation for pool shell and building
- rainwater harvesting
- double and clear glazing and other efficiency measures.
- accessible and inclusive design to enable maximum community participation

Benefits

- Promote health and wellbeing through fitness, rehabilitation, and therapy programs.
- Support water safety with year-round access to Learn to Swim programs for local schools and community.
- Foster inclusion by creating a welcoming space for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities.
- Boost local economy through job creation, increased visitation, and long-term operational roles.
- Strengthen social connection by offering a safe, accessible place for community gathering and engagement.
- Deliver environmental leadership with sustainable infrastructure that reduces emissions and operational costs.



Strengthening services for young people

Our ask: we urgently seek the restoration and prioritisation of funding for programs for young people

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Yarra Ranges Council and regional organisations in our community have been hard-hit due to the rapid loss of long-term grant funding, significantly impacting our young people and their support networks.

Mental health and family cohesion has been declining, magnifying stress caused by frequent natural disasters and Covid pandemic disruptions to schooling and social connections. In our metropolitan-classified municipality there are significant rural and remote areas where limited telecommunications and internet coverage cause ongoing deep impacts to our young people and their families.

We urgently seek the restoration and prioritisation of funding for programs, ensuring the continuation of equitable access, safe spaces and meaningful participation for young people aged 8 –25. This critical life stage is marked by identity formation, mental health vulnerability and pivotal life choices.

Council seeks to work with the State and Federal Governments to ensure that our region's vulnerable young people have access to the services, supports and opportunities they need.

Young people who are supported and empowered can build the resilience, confidence and social connections to ensure a positive impact on their own future and our community.

Strategic actions

- **Expand the Mental Health & Wellbeing Local model to support the mental health needs of children and young people.**
Outreach to Upper Yarra and Valley areas is a priority (Federal/State).
- Work with partners to establish spaces for young people - fostering connection, support and leadership that are also safe, inclusive and trauma-informed. (Council/State/Federal/Community).
- Embed gender equitable and culturally safe pathways for young people from diverse backgrounds to actively participate in shaping policies, programs, and community initiatives – ensuring their voices are genuinely heard and reflected in decisions (Council/State/Federal).
- Develop strategic priorities and actions focusing on the future health and wellbeing of young people in their transition through the middle years (8-12) (State).

Key statistics

- Residents between 15-24 years are 12% of our population (18,344)
- 16% of 15-19 year-olds are not engaged in work and/or education, compared to 13% across Greater Melbourne
- Only 15% of young people attend higher education, compared to 28% across Greater Melbourne but 10% of young people attend vocational education, compared to 5%
- Mental and behavioural conditions were the 2nd highest reason for hospital admission among young people
- Yarra Ranges' statistics for youth suicide are more than 50% higher than our neighbouring councils



Sustainable transport for connected communities

Our ask: prioritise funding and strategic review of key transport infrastructure projects to enhance connectivity, safety and service reliability across the region.

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The Yarra Ranges community expects its Council to advocate strongly improved public transport services and infrastructure across our region.

We know that over 90% of Yarra Ranges residents commute to work by car, compared to 68% in Greater Melbourne and that only 41% of households are located within 400m of public transport, compared to 74%.

This car dependence limits access to jobs, education and essential services, particularly for young people, seniors and low-income households. It also contributes to congestion, emissions and social isolation.

Our urban fringe, including Lilydale, Mooroolbark and Chirnside Park is experiencing significant growth, with an anticipated 20,000 new residents expected by 2041. Without targeted investment, transport disadvantages will worsen.

To improve access to public transport and better connect our communities, Yarra Ranges Council has identified the following projects and calls on the Victorian Government to prioritise this car dependent community's needs.

Bus Services

An urgent review and upgrade of bus services is required including:

- Timetable improvements for connectivity at train stations and interchanges.
- Increased service frequency and span of hours for both bus and train services.
- Expansion of the Flexi-Ride bus service to other areas and operation on Sundays.
- Relocation of poorly used existing bus services to on-demand services to maintain access for the community.

Lilydale Line Duplication

Duplicate the 3.8km of single railway line between Mooroolbark and Lilydale, adding a new station at Cave Hill to serve Kinley Estate and meet growing demand

- Enhances access for expanding residential areas, reducing reliance on cars.

Belgrave Station Upgrades and Flyover

We urge the Department of Transport & Planning (DTP) prioritise construction of the planned flyover linking Burwood Highway to the recently constructed Belgrave Station multi-deck carpark.

We also encourage the substantial upgrade of Belgrave station, including raising and altering the station access to connect with Blacksmiths Way and deliver accessibility upgrades including lifts.

- Removes cars from Belgrave Main Street (Burwood Highway), improves traffic flow and pedestrian safety.
- Better train station connectivity with the town centre, enhancing safety and ease of access.
- Supports nighttime economy and tourism, including Puffing Billy Railway.



Funding fairness for stronger communities

Our ask: restore and expand funding programs to protect local services and support councils and communities.

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Yarra Ranges Council is facing mounting financial pressure due to declining grant availability and stagnant funding programs which are exacerbated by long-term rate capping. These are impacting Council's ability to meet rising service delivery and infrastructure costs, to maintain our extensive asset base and continue to provide the broad range of services our community expect.

There is increasing urgency to secure fair, sustainable and predictable funding solutions. We are seeking to cement the framework that supports the services we provide the community in partnership with the Victorian Government, including Maternal & Child Health, kindergarten infrastructure, youth services, school crossing supervisors and libraries.

Secure, predictable funding allows Council to maintain and renew assets, deliver essential services, plan for future growth and address the need for equitable service delivery across both our rural and urban areas.

Council and our community have worked together to develop a new Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy that have confirmed the needs of community and certainty and sustainable funding will enable to Council to plan responsibly to deliver on our community's vision.

Measures to assist

- Reinstatement or expansion of community infrastructure funding programs such as the **Growing Suburbs Fund** (State).
- Exemption from **Windfall Gains Tax** when Council land is rezoned and sold. This tax is currently acting as a deterrent to identifying surplus land assets and considering them for sale. Council is committed to achieving maximum benefit from any sale to enable maintenance of community assets and infrastructure upgrades (State).
- Extension and indexation of emergency management resourcing to support disaster planning and recovery – **Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program** (State), Disaster Ready Fund (Federal).
- Restoration and indexing of **Financial Assistance Grants** to 1% of GDP to reflect growing community needs (Federal).
- Remove councils' responsibility to collect the **Emergency Services Volunteer Fund levy** on behalf of the Victorian Government and reconsider the levy impact on rural and business ratepayers (State).
- Restoration of funding to complete the **Roads for Community** initiative to seal local roads, with much of the design and planning completed this could be reactivated quickly (Federal).

Strategic advocacy opportunities

Advocacy actions and opportunities identified in strategies and to support Council Plan strategic objectives.

Healthy Connected Communities	
Strategic Advocacy Opportunities	Strategy
Work with partners to advocate for the State and Federal Governments to review and fund aquatics infrastructure and address declining water safety	Council Plan
Advocate for funding to support infrastructure upgrades to create inclusive recreation and sporting facilities	Council Plan
Seek to increase availability of culturally safe and inclusive services and spaces, particularly for women, young people and diverse groups	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Advocate for sustainable funding for Aboriginal community-controlled health services	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Advocate for localised services and programs for young people, to empower and support their independence, wellbeing and social connections	Key Life Stages Plan
Sustainable funding of key partnered services including Maternal & Child Health, immunisation, school crossing supervisors and libraries	Council Plan
Seek funding to support community-led gender equality and violence prevention initiatives	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Seek support for activities that will prevent elder abuse and enhance safety for older residents through community education programs	Key Life Stages Plan
Advocate for measures to meet the increased workforce demands and infrastructure to deliver the Best Start Best Life early years reform	Key Life Stages Plan
Collaborate with Burmese community members and key partners, to foster inclusion, strengthen social cohesion, and provide community support	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Advocate for improved and increased health service availability in the Yarra Valley, including urgent care	Council Plan
Work with strategic partners, including Eastern Region Group of Councils and the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate for secure and increased untied funding streams	Council Plan
Highlight to the Victorian Government the service-level effects of funding and program cuts and Council's inability to continue to meet the shortfall	Council Plan

Protected & Enhanced Natural Environment

Strategic Advocacy Opportunities	Strategy
Seek an increase and indexation of funding for the Municipal Emergency Resourcing Program (Local Government Victoria)	Emergency Management Plan
Advocate for flexibility for councils in applying kerbside glass-only recycling services and support expansion of the Container Deposit Scheme to accept more glass vessel options.	Council Plan
Advocate to improve mobile service connectivity and resilience and to upgrade NBN broadband in low service areas	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Advocacy to support coordinated approaches to improving safety for motorists and wildlife to address increasing animal road-strike	Nature Plan & Integrated Transport Strategy
Advocate for improved essential services and infrastructure, and disaster preparedness and recovery support	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Seek support to expand our firestick cultural burning programs, capability building and research	Nature Plan
Advocate for wastewater and sewerage backlog reforms	Integrated Water Management Plan
Support climate adaptation and net zero transition programs	Council Plan
Support biodiversity and habitat protection: flora/fauna advocacy, feral deer management, Upper Yarra nature-based tourism & biodiversity	Nature Plan
Advocate for opportunities to facilitate the uptake of EVs and the expansion of a network of public charging facilities needed in urban and tourism areas	Liveable Climate Plan
In the aftermath of natural disasters, advocate for agile and responsive planning scheme changes to support social recovery through the provision of housing and accommodation	Housing Strategy

Quality Infrastructure & Liveable Places

Strategic Advocacy Opportunities	Strategy
Work with partners to advocate for a Community Infrastructure Fund and grant stream for councils - \$50M	Council Plan
Seek funding to support a local road sealing program – particularly focusing on roads important to emergency access and egress	Integrated Transport Strategy
Advocate for an increase in the development and provision of social housing to support community need	Housing Strategy
Support the completion of Ridges and Rivers projects through advocacy for funding further stages of Warburton Bike Park and Yarra Valley Trail, and enhancements for ngurrak-barring	Council Plan
Advocate for waterway protection, stormwater and flood management treatments and improvements	Stormwater Management Plan
Advocate for rail infrastructure upgrades - rail duplication between Mooroolbark–Lilydale, new Kinley station, Belgrave Line duplication	Integrated Transport Strategy
Seek bus network review for expanded services (evenings/weekends/tele-bus)	Integrated Transport Strategy
Advocate for improved public transport integration – connectivity of modes and timetables	Integrated Transport Strategy
Advocate for feasibility and planning for the proposed Lilydale Bypass	Integrated Transport Strategy
Seek support to increase safety and inclusion through improved public and community transport service access in outer areas	Council Plan & Integrated Transport Strategy
Seek a formal definition for tiny houses and clarity and guidance on their assessment and regulation	Housing Strategy
Highlight the need for increased funding and provision of homelessness services and outreach, supporting our local service partners	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Advocate for delivery pathways and funding for social and affordable housing when councils contribute suitable land	Housing Strategy
Seek options to register and potentially cap Short Term Rental Accommodation	Housing Strategy
Advocate for opportunities to fund energy efficient upgrades to sports-field lighting and facilities	Council Plan

Prosperous Community & Vibrant Economy

Strategic Advocacy Opportunities	Strategy
Seek funding to extend and improve paths and trails network to encourage and support physical activity	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Seek consideration for planning permit exemptions for rural worker accommodation in the Green Wedge Zone	Housing Strategy
Seek investment for major and transformational projects in townships, such as the Burwood Highway flyover to the Belgrave Station car parking structure	Integrated Transport Strategy
Increased investment in food hub infrastructure (e.g. regional food hubs, community gardens, markets and local agribusinesses)	Health and Wellbeing Strategy
Advocate for funding to support implementation of projects proposed in timber transition communities	Economic Development Strategy
Advocate for infrastructure and township upgrades to encourage night-time economy opportunities, particularly for younger workers	Economic Development Strategy
Support visitor economy infrastructure including an EV charging network and accommodation offerings	Economic Development Strategy
Advocate for ongoing commitments and access to a tourism infrastructure funding stream	Economic Development Strategy
Seek planning and investment solutions to enable workforce accommodation, particularly seasonal	Housing Strategy
Advance our walking economy projects and pipeline	Integrated Transport Strategy



Contact information

Community Links

Civic Centre - Lilydale Community Link
15 Anderson Street

Healesville Community Link
110 River Street

Monbulk Community Link
21 Main Road

Upwey Community Link
40 Main Street

Yarra Junction Community Link
2442–2444 Warburton Highway

National Relay Service

133 677 for callers who have a hearing, speech or communication impairment and for Text Telephone or modem callers

1300 555 727 for callers using Speech to Speech relay

9658 9461 TTY

Translation and Interpreting Service

131 450 Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS) National. An interpreting service is available if required.

Copies and further information

This Advocacy Priorities document is available as a printed document or via our website. To obtain a copy, please contact us on **1300 368 333** or visit **www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au**.

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