



Yarra Ranges Council – 2022 State Election Advocacy Priorities

Notes:

- This document outlines the key initiatives that form Council's advocacy priorities for the 2022 Victorian Election.
- It is provided as an attachment to the report provided for the Council Meeting on Tuesday 13 September.
- **Project scope and costings may change over time to reflect fluctuating costs of materials and labour.** Any external stakeholders with an interest in these initiatives are encouraged to contact Council officers to discuss.

Key:

Yellow shading	Major initiative
**Green asterisk	State-funded and state-delivered, with support/partnership from Council.

Program / Topic	Ask	Strategic links
Economic Development and Investment		
Peri-regional status	Recognise the unique mix of regional and urban attributes of Yarra Ranges and Mornington Peninsula, and help us to better support our rural businesses and populations, with a new status that adds to our metropolitan classification: Peri-Regional .	Council Plan
Ridges and Rivers	<p><u>Warburton Mountain Bike Destination</u></p> <p>\$5 million to enable the full delivery of the WMBD Stage 1, as scoped in existing funding agreements with Commonwealth and Victorian Governments.</p> <p><u>RidgeWalk Stage 2</u></p> <p>\$2 million to enable the delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail from Mt Evelyn Recreation Reserve through Melbourne Water managed land to Parks Victoria managed land boundary • Proposed pedestrian crossings at Childs Road, Kalorama and Belgrave-Hallam Rd, Belgrave • Additional new and upgraded Parks Victoria car parks at trail nodes: at Sherbrooke Forest at Belgrave-Ferny Creek Rd and opposite Kalorama CFA on Range Rd, Olinda 	Council Plan – major initiative
Lilydale Investment Precinct Project	\$300,000 to develop a design framework to achieve a coordinated and integrated development and open space precinct in the heart of Lilydale.	Economic Development and Investment Strategy Lilydale Structure Plan
Wandin North Activity Centre improvements	<p>\$200,000 to deliver the Wandin North Activity Centre Improvements project, including landscaping and shopping strip footpath works, in response to the recommended outcomes of the Draft Wandin North Masterplan and the PJ Mould Landscape Plan.</p> <p>Project cost: \$400,000 (with 50% contributions from State and Council).</p>	Draft Wandin North Masterplan

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Brushy Creek Trail Mooroolbark – Trail Improvements and Lighting	<p>\$200,000 to deliver upgrades to existing trail sections along Brice Avenue, Red Earth Park and connecting the trail from Hull Road to the Hyde Park Walk section of Brushy Creek Trail that is already funded in the 2022/23 Capital Works Program.</p> <p>State funding will enable some additional trail improvements but will focus on path lighting along the 3.5km section of the trail between Maroondah Highway (Green Spine Trail) and Hyde Park Walk.</p> <p>Project cost: \$400,000 (with 50% contributions from State and Council).</p>	Recreation and Open Space Strategy
Morrison's Reserve Lighting Project	<p>\$200,000 to redevelop Morrison's Reserve, including the provision of a snake run, bike jumps, upgraded district play space, circular walking paths and youth social elements.</p> <p>Project cost: \$465,000 (with \$265,000 to be funded by Council, and the remaining \$200,000 to be funded by the State)</p>	Recreation and Open Space Strategy
Phylloxera <i>(Council support of industry-led advocacy)</i>	Funding and support for agribusiness to replant affected and at-risk vineyards in the region with root stock that is resistant to phylloxera.	Economic Development and Investment Strategy
Orphaned Building Permits	That the Minister for Planning and the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning support the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) to appoint a Manager for any Private Building Surveyor (PBS) business if the PBS's registration has been suspended or cancelled.	Economic Development and Investment Strategy
Seasonal worker accommodation <i>(Council support of industry-led advocacy)</i>	<p>That the Victorian Government provide support for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term accommodation in regional townships • Planning Scheme reforms to enable more accommodation approvals 	Economic Development and Investment Strategy

Program / Topic	Ask	Strategic links
Sustainable environment		
Greening the Suburbs	\$9.5 million to plan over 130,000 trees, with a mix of street tree planting and bushland reserve planting across various townships in the urban, valley and hills areas.	Environment Strategy Liveable Climate Plan
Firestick – program expansion	<p>Funding to build Firestick practice capability to enhance local fuel management programs, through two project components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. \$200,000 to build Cultural burning capability and understanding of efficacy of Firestick practices as fuel management tool/asset protection on private, Council or public land. Deliver Cultural burning activities around Monbulk, Healesville & Yarra Junction. Facilitated by a funded Project Officer – Cultural Burning. 2. \$100,000 to deliver a research project to understand and develop Culturally appropriate tools and measures for future Cultural burning activities, that can be shared with fire management and land managers at local, regional and state level. 	Health and Wellbeing Plan Liveable Climate Plan
Biolinks & Regional Pest Animal Program	<p>Funding contribution: \$450,000 to kick-start program, and an additional \$350,000 per annum for 10 years</p> <p>Facilitate strategic cross-tenure program to address pest animal control; deer, foxes, rabbits, feral cats, Indian minors. Include community education and incentive programs. Develop Biolinks Plan to establish important habitat corridors for biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p>	Environment Strategy Nature Plan Liveable Climate Plan

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Energy Transition	<p><u>Community Solar Program</u></p> <p>Funding contribution \$8 million (\$2 million per annum for 4 years)</p> <p>Continuation and expansion of Council's program to retrofit solar, batteries and LED lighting at community facilities. Reducing operating costs for our community groups to enable program expansion and continued community outreach.</p> <p><u>Zero Emissions Vehicles Transition</u></p> <p>Funding contribution \$2 million for charging infrastructure, for all light and heavy vehicles and plant assets. Infrastructure would be used by Council and the public, supporting Council's fleet transition and community uptake of electric vehicles. Townships targeted would be: Monbulk, Yarra Junction, Lilydale and Sassafras or Upwey. (Note: Council has secured funding for public chargers in Healesville, Yarra Glen, Yarra Junction and Belgrave.)</p> <p><u>Climate Resilient Program</u></p> <p>Upgrades to community facilities that service isolated communities that would likely be cut-off in the event of a storm, bushfire or other emergency. Scope of works will include a combination of energy and water efficiency measures, solar, battery, and generator plug-in points and potential for a microgrid / community battery. A Building Climate Vulnerability Assessment will be undertaken to further detail and prioritise works.</p> <p>Project costs: estimated at \$300,000 per site, depending on the extent of works required.</p>	<p>Nature Plan</p> <p>Liveable Climate Plan</p> <p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p>
Integrated Transport		
** Lilydale Railway Line	<p>Commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • building the Cave Hill Railway Station, at Kinley Estate <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lowering of the rail track to achieve the rail standards, which would have to occur if Cave Hill Station is developed. • duplicating the rail line between Mooroolbark and Lilydale • upgrade of the bridge at the Hull Rd/Mooroolbark Rd intersections 	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p> <p>Lilydale Structure Plan (subject to endorsement)</p>

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**Lilydale Bypass	That the Victorian Government work with Council to determine a position on the Lilydale Bypass, including the completion of regional-level traffic study by the Department of Transport, consistent with Actions A16 and A17 of the Lilydale Structure Plan.	Lilydale Structure Plan
Lilydale Railway Station	\$300,000 (minimum) for the upgrading of the Lilydale Railway Station building to a standard that is fit for purpose for community use and meets required DDA access standards.	Lilydale Structure Plan
Paths and Trails connections	<p><u>Trails program</u></p> <p>\$21 million program of trail connections, strengthening connections to major trails and activity centres (tourism angle): Olinda Creek Trail Extension & York Road Trail, Brushy Creek Trail (missing section), Moroolbark to Doongalla Reserve (Glasgow Road), Kilsyth Pipe Track Extension, Green Spine Trail Extension, Black Springs Road Trail, Ringwood Lilydale Rail Trail, Chirnside to Wonga Park Trail, Mt Evelyn to Monbulk Trail, Don Road Trail, Little Yarra Trail, Launching Place River Circuit, LWT extension - Warburton to East Warburton & Redwoods, O'Shannassy Trail Connections (Don Road & Yuonga Road), Big Pats Creek - Walk into History Trail, Steels Creek Trail extension to Old Kinglake Road, Maroondah Aqueduct to Sugarloaf Reserve, Montrose Pipe Track</p> <p><u>Warburton Rail Trail Crossings</u></p> <p>\$1.43 million to upgrade three key road crossings along the Warburton Rail Trail, at intersections along Warburton Highway at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wandin North (\$780,000) • Millgrove (\$150,000) • Yarra Junction (\$500,000) <p><u>Footpaths program, 4-year program</u></p> <p>Funding for the construction of 'missing links' across Yarra Ranges footpath network, 250 projects over 4 years. This will assist in creating 20-minute neighbourhoods through better connections to schools, activity centres, community services, public transport, open space, as well as tourism locations.</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p> <p>Recreation and Open Space Strategy</p>

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<p>**Belgrave Rail line infrastructure works</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upwey station – upgrade to platform shelter, additional parking, sealed parking, pedestrian path improvements Tecoma station – upgrade to platform shelter, sealed parking, improved pedestrian access 	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p>
<p>**Mount Dandenong Flexiride Service</p>	<p>12-month pilot program to trial an On-Demand or FlexiRide bus services to serve the Belgrave, Tecoma, Upwey and Belgrave South communities and across Mt Dandenong by reallocating existing Routes 694, 696, 697 and 699.</p> <p>The proposed FlexiRide service would complement the existing Routes 663 and 688, which run around and across Mount Dandenong. It would serve both residents within the smaller communities and visitors to the various townships and the upcoming Ridgewalk Network.</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p>
<p>**Healesville and Chum Creek Flexiride Service</p>	<p>12-month pilot program to trial an On-Demand or FlexiRide bus service to the Healesville and Chum Creek area to improve coverage, service levels and reduce unnecessary travel kilometres.</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p>
<p>**Lilydale-Warburton, Route 683, increased service frequency</p>	<p>12-month pilot program to trial increased frequency, express services and extended service span for services along Route 683 between Lilydale and Warburton to connect with existing train services.</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p>
<p>**Chirnside Park-Healesville, Route 685, increased frequency and express service</p>	<p>12-month pilot program to trial increased frequency, express services and extended service span for services along Route 685 between from Chirnside Park to Healesville and Warburton during peak periods which connect with existing train services.</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p>
<p>**Canterbury Road upgrade</p>	<p>Commitment from the State Government to fund and deliver the upgrade of Canterbury Rd, across the 500m between Fussell Road and Liverpool Road, including kerb and channel.</p>	<p>Integrated Transport Strategy</p>

Program / Topic	Ask	Strategic links
Connected and healthy communities		
Lilydale Youth Hub <i>(Council advocacy in support of Inspiro and LYH consortia)</i>	<p>Continued funding for the Lilydale Youth Hub (the Hub).</p> <p>The Hub has made a big difference to the lives of hundreds of young people and their parents in the Yarra Ranges, supporting them with their mental health and wellbeing, and connecting them to the services and care that helps them to thrive.</p> <p>The Hub was funded in 2019 for a three-year period, which ends in 2022. This means the Hub will be forced to close its doors in December, unless further funding can be secured.</p>	<p>Council Plan</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Plan</p>
Storm Recovery	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding for recovery initiatives that are not yet funded, or only partly funded including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People, Culture and Wellbeing • Business, Tourism and Economy • Public Infrastructure • Environment and Biodiversity • Planning and Rebuilding • Recovery Directorate • Resident Storm Branch Kerbside Collection <p>Total costs: \$19 million</p> 2. That the Victorian Government commit to supporting all Victorian Councils through a staged 5-year framework for recovery from major disasters to account for extended mental health impacts and support short- and long-term recovery, resilience and community connectedness. This is consistent with the 10 Years Beyond Bushfires report, developed by the University of Melbourne in partnership with the Victorian Government, Emergency Management Victorian, Australian Red Cross, Phoenix Australia and the Social Research Centre. 	<p>Health and Wellbeing Plan</p> <p>Municipal Recovery Plan</p>

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<p>**Telecommunications</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve mobile connectivity in 5 key areas with low or no mobile service quality: Dandenong Ranges, Hoddles Creek, East Warburton, Steels Creek, Fernshaw. 2. Upgrade NBN broadband services from fixed wireless, satellite and FTTN to FTTP in key areas with slow broadband service. 3. Strengthen telecommunications network resilience during power outages and emergencies e.g. increased battery back-up at mobile towers, generator power for NBN nodes. 	<p>Council Plan Economic Development and Investment Strategy Municipal Recovery Plan</p>
<p>**Social and affordable housing <i>(Council advocacy in support of Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance campaign)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commit to regional affordable housing targets by delivering a minimum of 11,700 new social housing dwellings the Melbourne’s Eastern Region by 2032, working in partnership with Councils • Work with the EAHA region to identify pilot inclusionary zoning in appropriate (and stakeholder supported) developments; and • Commit to working with EAHA Councils and relevant housing stakeholders to identify and develop appropriate state-owned land across the region. 	<p>Health and Wellbeing Plan Housing Strategy (Under preparation)</p>
<p>Mental health outreach services <i>(Council advocacy in support of Anchor)</i></p>	<p>Mental health outreach service to reduce homelessness and early school leaving among young people (1 x FTE position, funded at approximately \$130,000 per year, plus vehicle). Potential to support schools to identify young people at risk of homelessness, facilitate referral pathways to services, coordinate responses from health/mental health and family services.</p>	<p>Council Plan Health and Wellbeing Plan</p>

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<p>Maternal Child Health Services</p> <p><i>(Council advocacy with Municipal Association of Victoria, Interface Councils and Eastern Region Group of Councils)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Service resourcing Immediate review of the State Government resourcing of the maternal and child health service and an ongoing commitment to the 50:50 partnership with local government in the provision of this essential universal service 2. Maternal and Child Health Nurse Educator A collaborative approach to design a comprehensive student, clinical placement and job readiness program to support the transition of midwives into the sector. Long-term, this approach will ensure sustainable nurse staffing resources to alleviate MCH nurse shortages and workload pressures. It would also increase the number of clinical placements available each year. 3. KAS 45 Funding to extend the current Key Age and Stage (KAS) visits per child from 6 hours and 45 minutes to 10 visits (ranging from 30 to 60 minutes each), to 7 hours and 45 minutes (45 minutes per visit). This additional time per visit allows the MCH nurse to explore complex family issues further and provide additional referrals and support. 	<p>Health and Wellbeing Plan</p>
<p>Neighbourhood House state funding</p> <p><i>(Council advocacy in support of Neighbourhood Houses Victoria)</i></p>	<p>That the Victorian Government make permanent the additional funding committed to the Neighbourhood Houses Coordination Program (NHCP) in 2018 (\$21.8 million over four years), to ensure Neighbourhood Houses across Victoria, including in Yarra Ranges, can continue to provide key services and community development work.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Plan</p>

Program / Topic	Ask	Strategic links
<p>School Crossing Supervisors</p> <p><i>(Council advocacy in partnership with the Monash School Crossing network)</i></p>	<p>The Victorian Government's financial support for councils to provide the School Crossing Supervisor service has gradually decreased over time. Changing demographics are making it increasingly difficult to attract staff, costs to Councils are increasing each year, and growing numbers of crossing sessions are unstaffed each day across Victoria.</p> <p>The increasing burden on Councils and their local communities is unfair. The failing model is creating inefficiencies, resulting in growing direct and hidden costs to Councils, and funds being diverted away from other community services.</p> <p>The Victorian Government should work with Councils to deliver a more sustainable funding model for the school crossing supervisor service, and to reform the way road safety around schools is managed.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Plan</p>
<p>Community Safety investment // CCTV</p> <p><i>(Council advocacy in support of Yarra Ranges Safety Camera Network)</i></p>	<p>Maintenance and replacement of CCTV systems, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healesville – upgrade and repairs (estimated cost: \$200,000) • Lilydale – system replacement (estimated cost: \$500,000) • Establishment of state programs for community groups to access funding for community safety infrastructure, including ongoing maintenance <p>Ongoing maintenance of the Yarra Ranges CCTV network is estimated to be \$60,000 per annum, for 150 cameras at 15 sites across Yarra Ranges.</p>	<p>Health and Wellbeing Plan</p>

Program / Topic	Ask	Strategic links
Sport and recreation infrastructure	<p>Council has identified a range of sport and recreation infrastructure that requires funding support to construct, renew and redevelop assets used by various community groups.</p> <p>Total costs for by asset type is provided below, and reflects Council's long-term asset program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Facilities / Sporting Pavilions: \$85 million Temporary Change Facilities: \$2.4 million Sportsfields: \$15 million Lighting: \$4 million Sports courts: \$6 million Cricket facilities: \$2.6 million Playspaces: \$14 million Paths and Trails: \$35 million Dirt Jumps and Pump Tracks: \$3 million Off-lead Dog Parks: \$825,000 	Recreation and Open Space Strategy