



Ordinary Meeting of Council Attachments

Monday 20 April 2020

Council Chamber, Braeside Avenue, Ringwood

ATTACHMENTS

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Publication 16

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Version - text only76



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – PUBLIC RECORD

Assembly Details

Date: Monday 16 March 2020

Time: 6:00pm

Location: Meeting Room 4,
Braeside Avenue, Ringwood

Attendees

Councillors:

Cr Mike Symon (Mayor)

Cr Marijke Graham (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Tony Dib OAM, JP

Cr Samantha Mazzuchelli

Cr Tasa Damante

Cr Rob Steane

Council Officers:

Steve Kozlowski

Marianne Di Giallonardo

Grant Meyer

Adam Todorov

Andrew Fuaux

Tim Cocks

Kirstie Dench

Grant Meyer

Dale Bristow

Cristina Rivero

Kirsten Jenkins

Tony Rocca

Tessa Anderson

Chief Executive Officer

Director Corporate Services

Acting Director Strategy & Community

Director Operations, Assets & Leisure

Director Development & Amenity

Manager Leisure

Sports & Recreation Liaison Officer

Manager Integrated Planning

Team Leader Strategic Planning & Sustainability

Strategic Planner

Manager Health, Local Laws and Emergency

Management

Manager Finance & Governance

Governance Officer

Item 2

Item 2

Items
3 & 6

Item 3

Item 3

Item 4

Item 4

Apologies

Councillors:

Cr Nora Lamont

Cr Paul Macdonald

Cr Kylie Spears

Council Officers:

Phil Turner, Director Strategy & Community

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Councillors:

Nil

Council Officers:

Nil

Items Discussed: ## Confidential

1	Council Meeting Agenda
2	Capital Funding for Community Organisations Program 2020/21
3	Neighbourhood Character Study Review 2019- Recommendations Report: Community consultation feedback
4	Coronavirus COVID-19 update
5	Councillor Conference 2020 Outcomes
6	Climate Change/Sustainability Strategy Update

Record completed by

Council Officer:	Tessa Anderson
Title:	Governance Officer



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – PUBLIC RECORD

Assembly Details

Date: Friday 3 April 2020

Time: 3:00pm

Location: Zoom
Teleconference Meeting

Attendees

Councillors:

Cr Mike Symon (Mayor)

Cr Marijke Graham (Deputy Mayor)

Cr Samantha Mazzuchelli

Cr Tasa Damante

Cr Kylie Spears

Cr Nora Lamont

Cr Rob Steane

Council Officers:

Steve Kozlowski

Marianne Di Giallonardo

Tessa Anderson

Chloe Messerle

Matt Tierney

Kirstyn Anderson

Chief Executive Officer

Director Corporate Services

Governance Officer

Governance Officer

IT Help Desk Officer

Acting Councillor Support Officer

Apologies

Councillors:

Cr Tony Dib OAM JP

Cr Paul Macdonald

Council Officers:

Nil

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Councillors:

Nil

Council Officers:

Nil

Items Discussed

Confidential

1	Communication - Zoom Application Test for Assembly of Councillors briefing Monday 6 April 2020
2	Update - Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Record completed by

Council Officer:

Tessa Anderson

Title:

Governance Officer



ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – PUBLIC RECORD

Assembly Details

Date: Monday 6 April 2020

Time: 6:02pm

Location: Zoom
Teleconference Meeting

Attendees

Councillors:

Cr Mike Symon (Mayor)	Cr Samantha Mazzuchelli	Cr Nora Lamont
Cr Marijke Graham (Deputy Mayor)	Cr Tasa Damante	Cr Rob Steane
Cr Tony Dib OAM, JP	Cr Kylie Spears	

Council Officers:

Steve Kozlowski	Chief Executive Officer	
Marianne Di Giallonardo	Director Corporate Services	
Grant Meyer	Acting Director Strategy & Community	
Adam Todorov	Director Operations, Assets & Leisure	
Andrew Fuaux	Director Development & Amenity	
Debra Styles	Manager Community Services	Items 1 & 2
Adam Cooper	Coordinator Youth and Childrens Services	Item 1
Dale Bristow	Team Leader Strategic Planning & Sustainability	Item 3
Phil Medley	Team Leader Council and Community Planning	Item 4
Tony Rocca	Manager Finance & Governance	Item 5
Elaine Matthews	Waste Contract Advisor	Item 5
Damian Thorp	Coordinator Waste Management	Item 5
Tessa Anderson	Governance Officer	

Apologies

Councillors:

Cr Paul Macdonald

Council Officers:

Phil Turner, Director Strategy & Community

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Councillors:

Nil

Council Officers:

Nil

Items Discussed: ## Confidential

1	Children and Families Strategy
2	Regional Assessment Service Update
3	Coronavirus 19 Update
4	Transport Position Statements
5	Maroondah 2040 Community Vision Refresh
6##	Waste Contracts - Decision Point - Recycling, Glass & Collections Contract
7	Councillor Delegates' Meeting Report

Record completed by

Council Officer:	Tessa Anderson
Title:	Governance Officer



**Maroondah Disability Advisory Committee Meeting
Record of Proceedings**

**Thursday 12 March 2020
9:30am - 11:30 am, Meeting Room 2 & 3**

Attendees: Cr Kylie Spears, Cr Tony Dib, Madeline Bough, Angela Fitzpatrick, Cara Hudson, Judith Lenthall, Ron Major, Jacob Matthew, Jenny Newman, Melinda Spencer

Support: Phil Medley, Fiona Burrridge, Brian Tu

Apologies: Jack Mulholland, Michelle Egan, Amelia Milroy, Cara Patterson

1. Guest speakers:

Item 3	Challenges with building accessibility	John Richardson, <i>Coordinator Assets Projects & Facilities</i>
Item 4	Update on actions from the Disability Policy & Action Plan 2019-2021	Fiona Burrridge, <i>Acting Social Planner & Community Development Officer</i>
Item 5	Disability skills development and work placement pilot program	Chris Zidak <i>Manager Business and Activity Centre Development</i>
Item 6	Update on Disabled Parking Permit Scheme	Nick Doherty <i>Coordinator Customer Service</i>

2. Opening of meeting

Welcome by Cr Kylie Spears

2.1 Apologies

Cr Kylie Spears

Michelle Egan, Amelia Milroy, Cara Patterson

2.2 Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting

Minutes moved by:

Moved: Tony Dib

Seconded: Melinda Spencer

2.3 Conflict of Interest Declaration/Minutes/Business Arising

No conflict of interest or business arising from last committee meeting was declared.

Cr Spears congratulated Melinda Spencer on making the 2020 Victorian Honour Roll of Women Program.

3. Challenges with building accessibility

John Richardson

A Presentation was provided on the successes within Council around the integration of accessibility principles among Council's new and upcoming buildings. It was noted that building accessibility approaches for other facilities could be discussed at a future Committee meeting.

It was expressed that a large part of these successes was due to the valuable feedback provided from the Committee members. A subsequent tour of Council's new multisport complex, Maroondah Nets, enabled Committee members to experience firsthand accessibility features and provide feedback for future building developments. This feedback along with input from previous committee meetings, has assisted Council's Assets team to integrate accessibility principles for Council's new buildings including:

Council's Operations Centre:	The new Operations Centre at Lincoln Road, Croydon is currently being utilised by Council's Operations, Local Laws and Building Maintenance teams. Original plans for this building had included limited accessibility principles. However, due to the valuable feedback from Committee members at Maroondah Nets, it was felt that adjustments needed to be made to cater for people of all abilities.
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Accessibility features now include:

- Accessible ramp towards the entry of the building
- Automatic sliding doors
- Elevator with offset panels on both sides
- Safer exit points from elevators
- Accessible ramp at the back entry/exit point

Council acknowledges the transition to an open office environment may result in concerns with noise levels. As a result, Council has included several quiet rooms with dimmable lights within the office area and acoustic ceiling tiles to help reduce noise levels.

Council's Civic Centre (Realm extension):	The Realm extension will provide office space for most of Council's service areas in an open office environment. The open space layout is currently being piloted at Council's temporary offices in Warrandyte Rd. The new office will also include quiet rooms for use by Council's employees.
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Realm Extension will incorporate a rooftop garden which will provide space for employees to work away from the indoor office environment. The rooftop garden can be accessible through a lift or via stairwells.

HE Parker Sporting Pavilion:	The new HE Parker Sporting Pavilion will also include a quiet viewing space similar to the viewing space at Maroondah Nets. Work is underway to integrate acoustic ceiling tiles into the design.
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Discussion

A question was raised around whether Council are offering employees noise cancelling headphones to address the noise from the open office environment. It was advised that Council's Workplace People and Culture team have been assisting employees around sensory concerns throughout the transition process.

Feedback was also provided that certain Council facilities, such as the Croydon RSL Hall, were not always optimal for user groups. It was advised that a number of facilities have received acoustic treatment such as meeting rooms at Maroondah Federation Estate to mitigate issues.

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4. Update on actions from the Disability Policy & Action Plan 2019-2021 Fiona Burrridge

An update on the 2019 actions from the Disability Policy & Action Plan 2019-2021 was provided to the Committee. This strategic document is a statutory requirement that outlines Council's focus, goals and priorities for 2019-2021. The achievements for each year are reported in Council's Annual Report. The Maroondah Disability Policy and Action Plan 2019-2021 comprises of four focus areas to which the following actions have been reported:

1. Social & Economic Inclusion	Of the 17 actions: - 16 are ongoing - 1 was completed in 2019.
2. Services and Information	Out of 11 actions - 9 are ongoing - 2 are due by the end of 2020 and have commenced
3. Design, Infrastructure & Transport	Of the 7 actions - All are ongoing
4. Advocacy & Leadership	Of the 18 actions - 11 are ongoing - 4 were due in 2019, 2 of which is completed, 1 is being investigated for 2020 and 1 needs further work. - 3 are due by the end of 2020, all of which have commenced.

A matrix table showing which actions had been completed, will be sent to the Committee with the Record of Proceedings.

Action: Fiona to send a table of the Priority Actions with Progress Indicators to the Committee.

Further to the updates on the actions, Fiona shared some of the 2019 achievements resulting from the Disability Policy & Action Plan 2019-2021.

These include:

- Continued support to people with NDIS and My Aged Care
- Council has commenced investigating a resource for those not eligible for either of the NDIS or My Aged Care packages
- Council's online resources are updated regularly and now include an autism specific directory as well as an Access Key directory
- Outer East Opening Doors Leadership program commenced in 2019 with planning, promotion and implementation support provided by Council in partnership with Knox and Yarra Ranges Councils
- Continued implementation of Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) initiatives into development approvals.
- Hosting multiple "Porn is not the norm" workshops to help increase awareness of the risk associated with online pornography for people with disabilities, specifically autism.
- A free community forum, "StressLess and look after your mental wellbeing" was held to raise the awareness of mental wellbeing.

Discussion

Cr Spears shared that Council has placed a lot of emphasis on enhancing footpaths to ensure accessibility for all with full mapping of footpaths now available on Council's website including paths to be developed over the next 5 years.

It was noted that the "Porn is not the norm" initiative may go state-wide due to its local success in raising awareness.

It was highlighted that it is important for Council to raise awareness of issues associated with psychosis and schizophrenia as part of its mental health community education initiatives. In response, it was highlighted that there is strong community interest in mental wellbeing and that Council hosted a range of mental wellbeing programs during 2019 including: "Understanding Mental Health", "Introduction to Mindfulness", "Suicide Prevention training" and a community event in Mental Health Awareness Month.

5. Disability Skills Development and Work Placement pilot

Chris Zidak

A proposed new pilot program was presented to the Committee on "Disability Skills Development and Work Placement". The pilot program will involve a partnership with local businesses and a job service agency in Maroondah. The project aims to respond to the growing community sentiment for the inclusion of people with disability in the workplace. Currently, Council is working with Verso Consulting and Croydon Main Street Traders Association (CMSTA) to discuss the format of the pilot program.

Discussion

A question was raised whether psychosocial disabilities are being considered. In response, psychosocial disability along with other disabilities will be considered as part of this pilot project.

The project was discussed with some concern expressed with the focus being on only the retail and hospitality sectors. As this is a pilot project, the current attention is on retail and hospitality to ensure the success of the project can be measured. This will enable Council to report on the success of the program and provide a rationale for the rollout of the program to other industries in Maroondah and look for possible funding opportunities.

Conversation was held around the potential underlying message that people with disability are undervalued in the workforce. Cr Spears and Cr Dib highlighted that the pilot project will help reduce this perception and demonstrate the value of having people with a disability in the workplace.

Concerns were raised about the perception of some businesses concerning the range of possible costs involved to make modifications to enable employment placements. In response, it was advised that the program will seek to make it as easy as possible for businesses to participate in the program.

6. Update on Disabled Parking Permit Scheme

Nick Doherty

An update on the proposed changes to the Disabled Parking Permit Scheme was provided to the Committee. Maroondah Council, along with the 78 other Council's across Victoria, have been working with VicRoads and the Office for the Minister for Transport on the new scheme. The introduction of the new scheme is still 6-12 months away.

Proposed changes to the scheme are as follows:

- Formerly known as 'Disabled Parking Permit', the scheme will be renamed as 'Accessibility Parking Permit'
- State-wide application form instead of municipal-wide application form
- Changes in eligibility criteria
- Printing and issuing of permits will be centralised rather than at each Council

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- New permits will be more durable than current permits.
- Medical practitioners will adopt a new process for screening for the new permits
- An online system to manage permits will be available

Discussion

A question was asked whether the updated permit will have a different logo to the wheelchair logo as the focus is much wider than mobility issues. Nick responded that he will follow up on this matter, however there has been a lot of valuable feedback that has already been provided to VicRoads.

Existing permit holders do not need to reapply until their permit is due for renewal. Maroondah provides an outbound call to holders as a courtesy reminder when a permit is due to expire.

7. Disability Advisory Committee Achievement Report

Fiona Burridge

The Disability Advisory Committee 2019 Achievement Report was emailed to the Committee with the meeting agenda. Approval was sought from the Committee for the report to be placed on the next Council meeting agenda. The Committee approved the report.

8. News from members

All

As part of members update, it was mentioned that the Committee would like to hear about housing for people with disabilities in Maroondah. This agenda item will be covered in the July meeting as Cr Spears is an apology at the May Committee meeting. Cr Dib will chair the May meeting in Cr Spear's absence.

Close of meeting 11:35am



MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

TO

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

&

DIRECTOR CORPORATE SERVICES

Electoral Services Agreement - Victorian Electoral Commission

1 July 2020 to 30 June 2024

INSTRUMENT OF DELEGATION

In exercise of the power conferred by section 98(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989 (the Act)*, and all other powers enabling it, the Maroondah City Council (**Council**) delegates to the members of Council staff holding, acting in or performing the positions of **Chief Executive Officer** and **Director Corporate Services**, the powers, duties and functions set out in the Schedule to this Instrument of Delegation,

AND declares that

1. this Instrument of Delegation is authorised by a Resolution of Council passed on 20 April 2020;
2. the Delegation
 - 2.1. comes into force immediately the common seal of Council is affixed to this Instrument of Delegation;
 - 2.2. is subject to any conditions and limitations set out in the Schedule;
 - 2.3. must be exercised in accordance with any guidelines or policies which Council from time to time adopts; and
 - 2.4. remains in force until Council resolves to vary or revoke it.

THE COMMON SEAL of MAROONDAH)
CITY COUNCIL was affixed hereto on 20)
April 2020 in accordance with resolution of)
Council made on 20 April 2020 in the)
presence of)

..... Councillor

..... Chief Executive Officer

SCHEDULE

In respect of the Electoral Services Agreement with the Victorian Electoral Commission for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2024 ('the agreement'), the power to jointly:

1. execute the agreement on behalf of Council;
2. execute any documentation related to the agreement on behalf of Council;
3. approve any variations under the agreement that are not inconsistent with the directions of Council and any Budget adopted by Council; and
4. exercise any function or power incidental to such power(s).



Maroondah 2040 Community Vision
Updated April 2020



**Our future
together**







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Maroondah 2040



(L-R) Cr Tony Dib OAM JP; Cr Samantha Mazzuchelli; Cr Paul Macdonald; Cr Nora Lamont; Cr Rob Steane; Cr Tasa Damante; Cr Marijke Graham; Cr Mike Symon; and Cr Kylie Spears

We are very pleased to present the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision.

The Vision provides a blueprint for the future of Maroondah that reflects the aspirations and hopes of our community.

It is now over five years since the adoption of our long-term community vision, *Maroondah 2040 'Our future together'*. The past five years have involved the successful collaboration between Council and the Maroondah community on a broad range of initiatives to support the achievement of the Vision, including:

- strategic work focused on a broad range of issues and population groups including: health and wellbeing; housing; vegetation; arts and culture; healthy ageing; children and families; and youth
- delivery of significant infrastructure projects such as Aquanation, Realm, Maroondah Nets, Croydon Town Square, new community services hubs, playspaces and sporting pavilions
- successful advocacy on behalf of the community resulting in over \$200 million funding from the Victorian and Australian Governments
- enhancement in the more than 120 services delivered to our community
- the commencement of some highly beneficial community partnerships.

Over the past 18 months, Council has undertaken an interim review of the *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision*. This process gives us a chance to consider the progress we have made across the eight outcome areas and the key directions, as well as to check in with our community and recalibrate our vision so it is well placed to continue to guide our efforts into the future.

The interim review has involved:

- reviewing the progress made towards the *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision*
- research into emerging trends and shifts in community issues
- engaging with the broader community to seek their input on future aspirations and priorities
- consulting with our partners on how we can better work together to improve the wellbeing of everyone in Maroondah.

The outcomes of this background research and community engagement has enabled Council to create a revised community vision that reflects emerging needs and future opportunities.

To achieve this shared community vision, we encourage all local businesses, service providers, schools, community groups and individuals to partner together with Council to help shape Maroondah's future. In playing our role, Council has committed to aligning our resources and service delivery activities to the community outcomes and policy directions in this refreshed community vision.

We urge anyone who lives, works or plays in Maroondah to embrace this refreshed community vision and take a proactive role in its implementation, for the benefit of current and future generations. On behalf of Council, we thank all participants for your inspired and passionate involvement in refreshing and aligning our shared vision.

We look forward to working with all members of the Maroondah community as we continue to create our future together.

Councillors, Maroondah City Council, April 2020

Our community vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be a vibrant and diverse city with a healthy and active community, living in green leafy neighbourhoods which are connected to thriving and accessible activity centres contributing to a prosperous economy within a safe, inclusive and sustainable environment.

The *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision* captures the aspirations, desires, dreams, and priorities of the community looking ahead to the year 2040 and beyond.

This long-term vision provides a 'roadmap' for the community, Council and other levels of government to partner together and create a future that enhances Maroondah as a great place to live, work, play and visit.



Our vision for the future

From the community vision engagement process, the vision for each future outcome was refreshed to reflect priorities looking ahead to the year 2040 and beyond.





Safe, healthy and active

In 2040, Maroondah will be a safe, healthy and active community where all people have the opportunity to experience enhanced levels of social, emotional and physical wellbeing.



Accessible and connected

In 2040, Maroondah will be accessible for all ages and abilities with walkable neighbourhoods, sustainable transport options, and a safe integrated transport network.



Prosperous and learning

In 2040, Maroondah will be a thriving regional centre of economic activity and education, where the sustainable growth of local businesses is supported, and diverse lifelong learning opportunities are accessible for all community members.



Attractive, thriving and well built

In 2040, Maroondah will be an attractive, sustainable and well built community with thriving activity centres and a network of neighbourhoods where everyone has the opportunity to live, work and play locally.



Vibrant and culturally rich

In 2040, Maroondah will be a vibrant and creative community recognised for celebration of the arts, cultural expression and diverse entertainment options.



Inclusive and diverse

In 2040, Maroondah will be an inclusive and equitable community where all people are valued, supported and socially connected, and diversity is embraced and celebrated.



Clean, green and sustainable

In 2040, Maroondah will be a resilient community committed to sustainable living, enhancing our natural environment, and providing leadership in responding to climate change.



Well governed and empowered

In 2040, Maroondah will be an empowered community actively engaged in local decision making, led by an innovative community inspired Council that collaborates regionally and proactively champions local needs.

Maroondah today

Our City is well positioned to take advantage of Victoria's future growth. Ringwood is one of just nine Metropolitan Activity Centres across Melbourne. Croydon is also a key activity centre with concentrated retail opportunities.

Our location

The City of Maroondah covers a land area of 61.4 square kilometres in Melbourne's outer east, 22 kilometres from the central business district. The City sits at the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges and on the doorstep of the Yarra Valley wine and produce region.

The first settlers to the area were the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation approximately 40,000 years ago. European settlement commenced in the 1830s with the land used for farming and orchards. In recent years, Maroondah has developed into a thriving regional centre and a great place to live, work, play and visit.

Maroondah has the strategic advantage of being located at the north-eastern junction of the Eastern Freeway - EastLink corridor. There are two train lines and a large number of bus routes linking the City with other regions.

Our City is well positioned to take advantage of Victoria's future growth. Ringwood is one of just nine Metropolitan Activity Centres across Melbourne. Croydon is a major activity centre with concentrated retail opportunities while the Bayswater Business Precinct is home to 5,000 businesses that support more than 30,000 jobs.

The City of Maroondah includes the suburbs of Bayswater North, Croydon, Croydon Hills, Croydon North, Croydon South, Heathmont, Kilsyth South, Ringwood, Ringwood East, Ringwood North and Waranwood.

Our community

The area is a substantially developed municipality, with an estimated population of 118,558 residents and a similar age structure to the State's average. There is a diverse mix of living styles from large acreages to apartment style residential development.

Cultural diversity is increasing with the highest numbers of recent overseas immigrants arriving from China, India, Burma (Myanmar), Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

There is a strong sense of community participation within Maroondah embodied by a large number of committed volunteers. More than two thirds of parents in Maroondah are actively involved in their local schools and one third of Maroondah's residents are active members of organised community groups.

Our economy

Over 9,000 businesses operate within the City, with small business comprising over 96 percent of these organisations. The largest industry employers are the manufacturing, retail and health care sectors. In total, businesses in Maroondah provide employment for over 44,000 people and the municipality has a gross regional product (GRP) of \$6.14 billion. Maroondah also has major retail centres in Croydon and Ringwood, and a further 35 neighbourhood shopping centres throughout the municipality.



Our environment

Maroondah is well known for its leafy streets, open space, bushland reserves, parks and playgrounds.

Maroondah has 42 bushland reserves that offer residents and visitors the enjoyment of wildflowers, wildlife, bush walks and wetlands. The City has 557 parks and reserves with 51 sports ovals. Open space areas include two golf courses, 129 public playgrounds, three skate areas, and five outdoor exercise equipment locations.

Sustainable transport links include on-road cycling paths and 38kms of shared path links to the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail, the EastLink Trail, Taralla Creek Trail and the Dandenong Creek Trail.

Our facilities and services

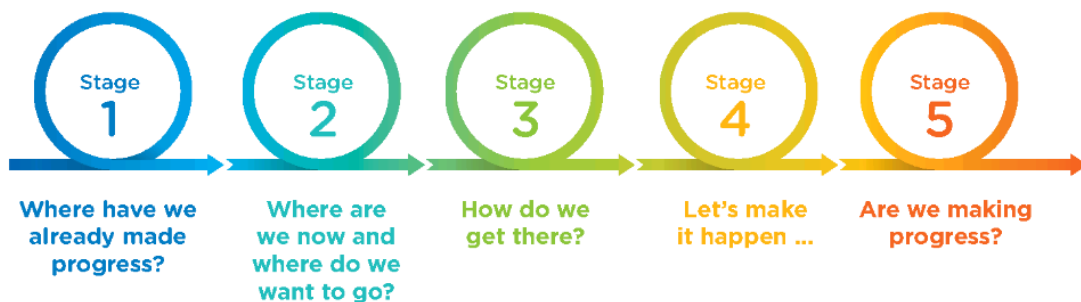
The City hosts a regional health precinct including a major public hospital and a large private hospital, educational facilities that cater from early childhood learning to tertiary level, two libraries, arts and cultural centres, an art gallery and a range of community centres. Maroondah is also home to a range of world-class sporting facilities including Aquanation and Maroondah Nets.



Refreshing a community vision

My vision for Maroondah is...
What issues are affecting our community?
What should our future priorities be?

These were the key questions that we asked the community during 2018 and 2019 as we checked-in with the Maroondah community in reviewing our *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision*.



Stage 1 Where have we already made progress?

In November 2018, we commenced work on this review involving development of the *State of Maroondah 2019* document. This biennial report highlighted where activities had supported achievement of Maroondah 2040 Community Vision outcomes, along with a review of the community indicators of progress.

This work was followed by a research consultancy who examined global and national trends, emerging issues, local population data and implications for Maroondah.

Stage 2 Where are we now and where do we want to go?

A variety of community and stakeholder engagement activities were undertaken aimed at gaining insight on emerging trends within the municipality, including testing findings from the research consultancy. Community engagement during this stage was undertaken from November 2018 to February 2019 via online surveys and face-to-face pop-up activities at various locations across Maroondah.

Stakeholder engagement on the review of Maroondah 2040 commenced at a Community Forum in March 2019 attended by a broad range of community and business leaders. The facilitated discussion explored progress made over the past five years, implications arising from emerging trends, and provided local insights on future priorities.

Other activities included discussions with local community networks and workshops with Council employees and a Leadership Forum with Council managers and team leaders.

Stage 3 How do we get there?

This stage sought to further explore the emerging trends and associated implications for Maroondah in more detail.

Broad community engagement was undertaken during this phase of the project via an online survey and face-to-face pop-up engagement in various locations.

This stage included a Community Forum in November 2019 with community, education, leisure and business leaders which considered collective aspirations, revised policy directions, game-changing priorities and partnership opportunities.

Consultation also involved targeted stakeholder engagement through focus groups with Council's advisory committees who helped to inform and refine policy directions related to their respective areas of expertise and experience.

The result of this process is a refreshed vision that captures the collective aspirations, emerging trends and implications, along with the evolving priorities of the Maroondah community.

Stage 4 Let's make it happen

This stage involves adapting our efforts to pursue the future outcomes and key directions outlined in the refreshed Maroondah 2040 Community Vision. The achievement of this Vision is largely reliant on the commitments and actions of local businesses, service providers, schools, community groups, individuals as well as Council.

Stage 5 Are we making progress?

Developing a shared community vision is only the start of the journey. As we work towards the preferred outcomes and key directions outlined, we will continually monitor and report on progress to ensure that we can celebrate what has been achieved and recognise what is still to be done.



Our progress

Together we have made progress towards the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision.



A safe, healthy and active community

- In 2015, Maroondah's state of the art aquatic and leisure centre opened. **Aquanation** features a 66.5 metre pool, 10m diving tower, warm water pool, learn to swim pool, toddler and children's leisure play pool, gym, child care facilities and café.
- In 2019, the **Maroondah Nets** multi sports complex opened, providing training and competition facilities for netball, volleyball, badminton and table tennis.
- In the past five years **sporting pavilions** at Croydon Park, East Ringwood Reserve, HE Parker Reserve, Mullum Mullum Reserve, Quambee Reserve and Ringwood Athletics (Proclamation Park) have been extensively redeveloped. In addition, **sportfield reconstruction** works have been undertaken at Belmont Park, Jubilee Park, Mullum Mullum Reserve, Quambee Reserve, and Springfield Reserve.
- In 2014, Maroondah was accepted into the World Health Organisation's Global Network of **Age-friendly Cities and Communities**.
- Following extensive community consultation, Ringwood and Croydon Town Squares became **smoke-free** from 1 January 2019.



A prosperous and learning community

- Since it's opening in 2015 the **BizHub Coworking Space**, and its facilities, has been utilised by over 650 businesses. Opportunities for expansion will be realised in mid 2020. BizHub also provides a wide range of services to assist local businesses including hosting of the annual BizWeek event, a week-long festival of over 40 events, workshops and mentoring sessions attend by over 650 members of the Maroondah business community.
- In 2015, Maroondah became home to a first of its kind library, cultural, knowledge and innovation hub - **Realm**. In the heart of Ringwood, across three fully accessible levels, Realm houses a Council Service Centre, library, BizHub, ArtSpace, and café.



A vibrant and culturally rich community

- The **Ringwood Town Square** civic and restaurant precinct opened in 2015, providing a vibrant multi-use public space that acts as the cultural heart of the greater Ringwood community.
- Opened in 2019, **Croydon Town Square** is a new and vibrant open space in the heart of Croydon, physically and visually connecting Main Street to Croydon Station and bus interchange.



- A number of new **public art** pieces have been added to Council's diverse collection over the past five years. These include the award winning *GlowB Cubby* which is now part of the Wyreena Playspace; the sculpture *Mullum Mullum the Owl* by William Eicholtz is keeping watch over the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail near Acacia Court, Ringwood; and a large wattle damaged by lightning in Longview Road, Croydon South has been turned into a sculpture of a pair of yellow tailed black cockatoos by Rob Bast.



A clean, green and sustainable community

- Council has committed to a clean, green and sustainable future for Maroondah through introduction of a **Carbon Neutral Strategy and Action Plan** and **Climate Change Risk and Adaption Strategy**.
- Council has undertaken the **Maroondah Vegetation Review** - an assessment of the biodiversity and tree canopy coverage of Maroondah - to inform the *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy*.
- Between March 2015 and October 2018, 5,390 high-performance and **energy efficient LED streetlights** were installed across Maroondah,



replacing the original Category-P globes with new LED globes. Energy consumption has also been reduced at Aquahub and Realm with **sustainability improvements** completed, including new LED internal lighting and energy efficient boilers at Aquahub; and the installation of solar panels at Realm.

- Maroondah City Council has been part of the **Solar Savers** program. The program supports local low-income households to install solar with no upfront costs, enabling them to save on power bills and stay comfortable in their homes, whilst also growing renewable energy in Maroondah. Phase 1 of the program was fully subscribed, and Phase 2 is currently underway.
- Council partnered with Melbourne Water to **daylight sections of the Dandenong Creek**, transforming it to its natural shape and form; and with Yarra Valley Water to progress design of the **re-naturalisation of Tarralla Creek**.



An accessible and connected community

- The **Ringwood Station and Bus Interchange Upgrade** was completed in 2016. The upgrade provides a modern and integrated station and interchange precinct contributing to Ringwood becoming a safer, more accessible and attractive place for people to live, work and visit.
- Completed in 2017, **Heatherdale Road level crossing** was removed, and the station rebuilt in Maroondah. The works have improved safety, reduced congestion and improved travel time reliability for Maroondah commuters.
- Nearing completion, the 10km **Box Hill to Ringwood shared use path** provides pedestrians and cyclists with a direct and safe connection to public transport, community services and recreational facilities between the Box Hill and Ringwood centres.



Maroondah 2040



An attractive, thriving and well built community

- In the past five years Council has undertaken significant **playground upgrades** at Croydon Park, Wyreena, Dorset Recreation Reserve, and most recently **Ringwood Lake**. The Ringwood Lake play space is accessible for all abilities and features water play, tree canopy trail, flying fox and climbing structures, as well as wooden animal sculptures.
- Council has undertaken extensive **flood mitigation works** in the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre including underground drainage upgrades, Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) elements, rain garden, and landscaping. Flood mitigation works have also been undertaken in the Croydon Civic Precinct and a range of residential areas.
- Council has undertaken strategic work to review planning controls for housing, neighbourhood character, heritage, vegetation, residential zones and structure planning in Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre, Heathmont and Ringwood East.



An inclusive and diverse community

- Over the past five years Council has provided 324 **Community Grants**, totaling over \$650,000, to eligible projects that increase community participation, address a community need, provide advice or support to a group in need, or support the development of arts and cultural content in Maroondah.
- Endorsed in 2019, Maroondah's first **Reconciliation Action Plan** focuses on the areas of relationships, respect and opportunities to promote and work toward greater reconciliation in Maroondah.
- Council has investigated the provision of **female changing facilities** at local sporting facilities. Female friendly changing facilities have been provided at Croydon Park and Maroondah Nets, and are under construction at Quambee,

HE Parker and Silcock Reserves. A further three facilities are in the design or planned construction stages, and grants funding has been received for an additional three facilities.

- To meet the needs of people with severe and profound disabilities, six **Changing Places toilets** have been installed. These toilets have more features and space than standard accessible toilets and are located at Aquanation, Eastland, Realm, Ringwood Lake Park, Croydon Town Square and Maroondah Nets.
- Established hubs for the Australia Chin Community at Hughes Park, and Chin Community Victoria at Ringwood East Recreation Reserve.



A well governed and empowered community

- In 2015, Council launched its **Community Engagement Policy** (and toolkit for employees) to enhance Council's engagement processes and outcomes with the Maroondah community. Council has also introduced various new engagement methods, including **Café Consult**, a one-stop public consultation hub and **Your Say Maroondah**, an online consultation hub.
- Council launched its highly interactive, new look **website** in August 2017, featuring an improved look and layout; an enhanced search function; improved functionality and optimisation for mobile and desktop devices; online consultation hub; and new accessibility features; enabling the Maroondah community to better interact with Council. Council also has 25 **social media channels** across the *Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn* platforms reaching, on average, over 70,000 people each week.
- Council annually reviews its **Long Term Financial Strategy** to demonstrate the long-term financial sustainability of Maroondah, and ensure Council can continue to invest in community facilities and services, and not take on new debt, while operating within the rate cap environment.



External trends

As a community, we will need to plan for and respond to key issues that will impact Maroondah.



Council has a role in helping to plan for and sustain **healthy and active** communities. The global COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the role of Council in educating the community on health risks, as well as promoting **mental wellbeing** and **resilience**. Campaigns and partnerships to reduce **family violence** and poor **mental health** will also be crucial.



The global COVID-19 pandemic has had significant economic impacts. There is a role for Council in identifying **economic and employment opportunities** that will stimulate the local economy and build economic resilience. Council must be sensitive to changing employment trends including the **gig economy, service industries, digital skills, and automation**.



Efforts to mitigate **climate change** impacts and reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** reach into many areas of local public policy including transport choices; urban design; waste; and natural resource management. There is an opportunity for Council to work with the Maroondah community to create a carbon neutral municipality.



Waste management - reduction, reuse, recycling, energy generation and disposal - will require innovative local solutions and societal management. There is an opportunity for Council to provide markets for recycled materials and adopt best practice.



Major **transport choices** are looming. The advent of automated electric cars will impact electricity demand; greenhouse gas emissions; population and housing growth; planning and urban design; and the investment in **roads, public and active transport**.



Growth in Maroondah will need to be managed to deliver beautiful, liveable places with affordable housing, excellent services and sufficient employment opportunities. An emphasis on **20-minute neighbourhood principles** and **community hubs** will be crucial.



Cultural diversity in Maroondah will continue to increase. Celebration of diversity, including **local indigenous culture**, will encourage community resilience and harmony. There is also an opportunity for Council to promote **gender equality** following enactment of the *Gender Equality Act 2020*.



Council will continue to have an important role in the promotion of **social equity**, including community wellbeing, **housing affordability** and provision of community services. The *National Disability Insurance Scheme* and *My Aged Care* reforms will continue to transform Council's role in service delivery to **aged** residents, and those with a **disability**.

What our community said

As a community, we will need to plan for and respond to key issues that will impact Maroondah.



"I love Maroondah's well-maintained parks and outdoor recreational areas."

"It would be great to see more short courses and other educational opportunities in the area."





“I would like to see more tree plantings and shrubs to encourage a diverse range of birds and animal life in a more diverse environment.”

Maroondah 2040



“My wish for Maroondah is to have improved footpaths and bike paths so people can walk to school safely.”

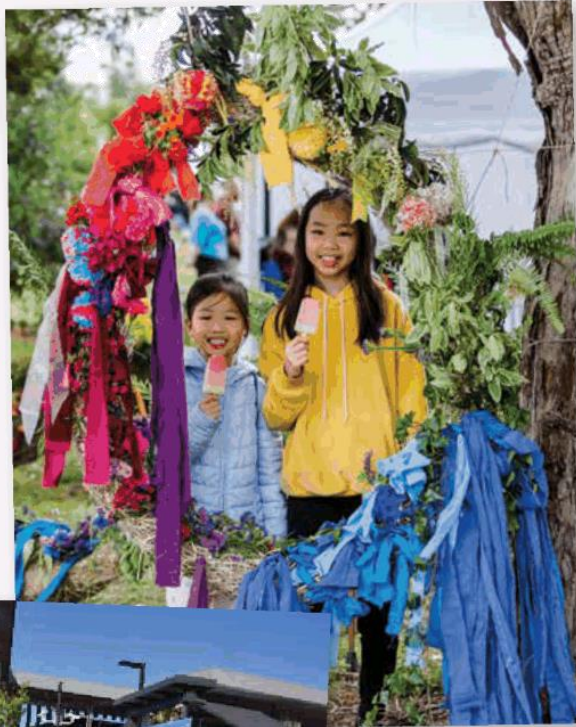


“I like Maroondah for its leafy environment, friendly down-to-earth people and easy access to shops, transport and schools.”



"I love Maroondah for
its community spirit."

"I love the variety of
events that are family
friendly and multicultural."



"I hope that Maroondah continues
to be a welcoming, warm and
inclusive community."

Maroondah 2040



A safe, healthy and active community

Our community values the importance of physical, social and emotional wellbeing. There is greater awareness on mental wellbeing. People would like to see a greater focus on services, programs and resources that promote and build resilience among the community. There is a continued need to proactively address safety issues around violence, gambling, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. It is viewed that addressing these characteristics will strengthen the community atmosphere of Maroondah.

The community highly values the local recreation and leisure facilities and spaces. It was highlighted that continued enhancements to these facilities, and recreation opportunities, will promote greater inclusion for all and enhance overall community wellbeing.



A prosperous and learning community

There is a strong desire to ensure that local employment opportunities remain widely available across Maroondah as the industry profile changes. The community places great value on a mobile and diverse local economy that promotes growth among local businesses and responds to evolving opportunities.

Our community also values the importance of education and learning. It is felt that enhancement to business and activity centres will help strengthen learning opportunities for all ages. There is a strong desire to see more tertiary opportunities in Maroondah and greater connection between education and businesses to ensure that local employment pathways and opportunities are attainable for all.



A vibrant and culturally rich community

Our community places an emphasis on involving the broader community in the arts and the wide-reaching benefits that accessible arts programs can provide for children and families.

Our community values the unique arts and culture of Maroondah. There is a strong desire to see a range of community events, festivals and entertainment options that promote inclusion for all. The community would also like to see a diverse range of arts that express the unique cultures, heritage and characteristics of Maroondah. The community feels that there is untapped potential to enhance and revitalise spaces in Maroondah through the arts.



A clean, green and sustainable community

Our community values the unique leafy natural environment of Maroondah. There is a strong desire to protect and enhance green open space, native vegetation and bushland reserves to ensure that the semi-rural feel is retained.

The community is aware of the impacts of climate change and is keen to create more sustainable choices to manage waste, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate other environmental impacts.





An accessible and connected community

The community values the ability to live in connected neighbourhoods that enable residents to live locally. People want community facilities, events and services to be accessible for everyone.

Sustainable transport modes are highly supported by the community. There is a desire for improved public transport frequency and accessibility to create more viable transport alternatives and reduce congestion on the road. Community members would also like to see footpaths and bike paths that promote walking and cycling. They wish to see enhanced road networks that address congestion and cater for a growing population.



An attractive, thriving and well built community

Our community loves the leafy character of our neighbourhoods, generous open space, parklands and views of the Dandenong Ranges. The geographic location of Maroondah combined with the thriving nature of our shopping, business and health precincts creates an inviting and attractive place to live, work and play.

With increasing population growth, there is a strong desire to ensure the density of Maroondah's urban form is managed sensitively to retain neighbourhood character whilst enhancing the valued characteristics expressed by the community.

There is also a desire for development to be environmentally sustainable and respond to community needs.



An inclusive and diverse community

The friendly and inclusive atmosphere across Maroondah is highly valued. There is a strong desire to ensure that all community members have access to services, facilities and community connection opportunities where everyone can feel valued and empowered. It is expressed that services, pathways and programs should be strengthened to ensure that vulnerable groups are supported to meet their needs and that living in Maroondah remains safe and affordable for all residents.

With increasing diversity of all ages, abilities and backgrounds, there is continued desire to see this diversity celebrated and embraced.



A well governed and empowered community

The community sees Council's role as being an active advocate for community needs and interests, whilst also providing transparent and accountable leadership. The community wants to be more proactively involved in decisions that affect them.

Partnerships and collaboration across a range of organisations is viewed as the key mechanism to enhance Maroondah in the future.

Safe, healthy and active

A safe, healthy and active community





Our vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be a safe, healthy and active community where all people have the opportunity to experience enhanced levels of social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

Our community said

We value the importance of improving physical, social and emotional wellbeing for all people in our community. There needs to be greater focus on promoting and supporting mental wellbeing to build community resilience. We should continue to proactively prevent violence and reduce harms from gambling, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. Local recreation and leisure facilities and spaces remain highly valued.

“I would love to see a greater focus on community wellbeing through the provision of infrastructure and services.”

The path ahead

Council will work in partnership to facilitate access to a range of facilities, services and opportunities that enhance community wellbeing. There will be a focus on a range of evidence informed issues including community safety, mental and physical health, and social harms. Community members will have access to a growing network of integrated community hubs that cater for the needs of all people.

Safe, healthy and active

Key directions

A safe community

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| <p>1.1 Work in partnership to address community safety issues and implement initiatives aimed at improving the actual and perceived safety of the community</p> <p>1.2 Promote and facilitate safer cultures relating to issues of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs</p> | <p>1.3 Advocate and work in partnership on initiatives to minimise gambling related harm</p> <p>1.4 Advocate and support initiatives for the prevention of violence against women, children, seniors, and vulnerable community members</p> |
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A healthy community

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| <p>1.5 Promote the health and wellbeing of the community through accessible and affordable initiatives and services that respond to community needs</p> <p>1.6 Work in partnership to develop integrated health, leisure and community service hubs that support the needs of community members of all ages, abilities and backgrounds</p> <p>1.7 Work in partnership to address and promote awareness of mental health and embrace a prevention focus that builds the resilience of the community</p> <p>1.8 Promote community wellbeing by supporting and empowering local community groups, sporting clubs and special interest groups across Maroondah</p> | <p>1.9 Work in partnership to implement a preventative evidence-based approach to addressing issues of chronic and communicable disease, public health and food safety</p> <p>1.10 Advocate and support the establishment and growth of an integrated regional health precinct with increased provision of primary, allied and specialist treatment services and facilities</p> <p>1.11 Work in partnership with local communities to enhance food security and healthy eating</p> |
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An active community

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| <p>1.12 Promote physical activity by supporting education initiatives and providing a diverse range of accessible active and passive open spaces, state of the art sporting precincts and integrated recreation facilities</p> | <p>1.13 Work in partnership to increase opportunities and create welcoming, supportive and accessible environments for all community members to undertake physical activity</p> |
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Community indicators of progress

Safe	Perceptions of safety	Percent of Maroondah residents who agree that they feel safe when walking alone at night
	Crime	Offence rate per 100,000 population in Maroondah
Healthy	Self reported health	Percent of Maroondah residents reporting their health as very good or excellent
	Subjective wellbeing	Subjective Wellbeing Index for Maroondah residents Maroondah resident satisfaction with life as a whole
Active	Physical activity	Percent of Maroondah residents who are sufficiently physically active



Prosperous and learning

A prosperous and learning community





Our vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be a thriving regional centre of economic activity and education, where the sustainable growth of local businesses is supported and diverse lifelong learning opportunities are accessible for all community members.

Our community said

We value a diverse and mobile local economy that promotes business growth and responds to evolving opportunities. The community want to see support for local businesses and schools, improvements to activity centres and learning opportunities for people of all ages. There is a strong desire to see greater connections between education and businesses to promote employment pathways and opportunities for all.

“My wish for Maroondah is for Council to support job opportunities for the next generation.”

The path ahead

Maroondah will be positioned as a regional economic centre that provides local employment opportunities and responds to the needs of an evolving economy and workforce. Council will seek to leverage the strategic role of our diverse range of activity centres and business precincts, whilst empowering local businesses. As a community, we will focus on strengthening education environments, creating lifelong learning opportunities and generating employment pathways.

Prosperous and learning

Key directions

A prosperous community

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| <p>2.1 Advocate, promote and market key business opportunities and the competitive strengths of Maroondah and the outer eastern region</p> <p>2.2 Work in partnership to promote the diversification and mobilisation of Maroondah's economy to enable local employment opportunities for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds</p> <p>2.3 Promote and leverage the strategic location and unique roles of Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre, Croydon Activity Centre and the Bayswater Business Precinct</p> <p>2.4 Advance business development and support for small and medium business enterprises through facilitating partnerships, collaboration, peer support, mentoring, training, and knowledge sharing</p> <p>2.5 Establish and enhance business resource hubs to empower local business, encourage innovation and support alternative modes of employment</p> | <p>2.6 Embrace a place-based approach to the revitalisation, activation and promotion of neighbourhood activity centres that enhance opportunities for local business, access to services and places for social interaction</p> <p>2.7 Facilitate the enhancement and revitalisation of industrial and commercial precincts across Maroondah</p> <p>2.8 Seek increased business investment in targeted industries, including advanced manufacturing and knowledge economy sectors</p> <p>2.9 Advocate and encourage community and business participation in the digital economy</p> <p>2.10 Broker community to government to business partnerships to promote investment, facilitate regional service delivery and foster corporate social responsibility</p> |
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A learning community

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| <p>2.11 Facilitate and encourage the provision of positive learning environments, life-long learning opportunities and employment pathways for all ages, abilities and backgrounds</p> <p>2.12 Advocate for accessible and affordable education and childcare in Maroondah that responds to local needs and enhances individual wellbeing</p> <p>2.13 Broker community to government to business partnerships to address adaption to the evolving local economy, underemployment and unemployment in targeted communities</p> | <p>2.14 Promote connections between education providers, businesses and the broader community to support employment pathways, intergenerational connections and knowledge transfer</p> <p>2.15 Advocate for and encourage increased access to and participation in tertiary education</p> |
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Community indicators of progress

Prosperous	Employment	Unemployment rate for Maroondah
	Economic output	Economic output for Maroondah
	Business growth	Number of business in Maroondah
	Industry diversity	Herfindahl Index for Maroondah
	Standard of living	Median weekly household income in Maroondah
Learning	Kindergarten participation	Percent of preschool aged children in Maroondah attending a government funded kindergarten service
	School leavers	Maroondah school leavers actively undertaking education, training or employment
	Tertiary attainment	Percent of Maroondah residents with Bachelor or higher degree



Vibrant and culturally rich

A vibrant and culturally rich community





Our vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be a vibrant and creative community recognised for celebration of the arts, cultural expression and diverse entertainment options.

Our community said

We value the ability to participate and engage in a wide variety of community events, festivals and entertainment options that express the diverse cultures of Maroondah. Local arts are highly valued for their celebration of local culture, promotion of reconciliation and contribution to community wellbeing.

“The festivals and events are great for bringing the community together.”

The path ahead

Council will work in partnership to promote participation in arts and cultural expression, providing opportunities for display and engagement. There will be an increased focus on celebrating the diverse cultures, indigenous history and unique characteristics of the Maroondah community. Together we will create vibrant urban spaces and events along with a wide array of accessible entertainment options.

'Roo Girl' photo by Bryony Jackson. 'Roo Girl' is a Giant Puppet of Maroondah created for Ringwood arts precinct by arts company Snuff Puppets together with VCAL students from Swinburne University

Vibrant and culturally rich

Key Directions

A vibrant and culturally rich community

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| <p>3.1 Promote innovative, contemporary and socially engaged arts practice and encourage artistic expression and community participation in the arts</p> <p>3.2 Create opportunities for artists to curate their work, and program a diverse range of art experiences, catering to all ages, abilities and backgrounds</p> <p>3.3 Work in partnership to facilitate pop up events, local art installations and public art that celebrates the unique characteristics of Maroondah to enliven thriving neighbourhoods and vibrant activity centres</p> <p>3.4 Celebrate, promote and recognise indigenous culture through the arts to facilitate enhanced community respect, understanding and reconciliation</p> | <p>3.5 Broker partnerships and relationships to better connect and increase the profile of local artists, local businesses and the broader community</p> <p>3.6 Celebrate the diversity, arts and produce of our community through a range of festivals, events, programs and activities</p> <p>3.7 Facilitate the establishment and enhancement of vibrant dining, entertainment and cultural precincts in activity centres and neighbourhood centres throughout Maroondah</p> |
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Community indicators of progress

Vibrant and culturally rich	Arts and culture visitors	Visitors to the Ringwood arts precinct (ArtSpace at Realm, Maroondah Federation Estate) and Wyreena
	Arts and culture participation	Participants in arts and culture activities in the Ringwood arts precinct and Wyreena
	Artist/arts & cultural group support	Individual Maroondah artists/arts and cultural groups supported to produce and present their work
	Arts network participation	Local artists/community members participating in arts networks and related events



Clean, green and sustainable

A clean, green and sustainable community





Our vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be a resilient community committed to sustainable living, enhancing our natural environment, and providing leadership in responding to climate change.

Our community said

We value our unique leafy environment with a diverse range of vegetation, bushlands, wetlands and wildlife. There is a strong desire to enhance our neighbourhoods and open space areas to ensure that the semi-rural feel of Maroondah is retained. The community want to see leadership in minimising consumption of resources and environmentally sustainable choices in response to the impacts of climate change.

“My wish for Maroondah is to see more community gardens that promote local food production.”

The path ahead

As a community we will continue to enhance and protect the unique natural features of Maroondah's landscape. We will work together to reduce Maroondah's greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change. Everyone will be encouraged to make more sustainable choices, reduce waste and respect our limited natural resources.

Clean, green and sustainable

Key directions

A clean community

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| <p>4.1 Create and foster a culture within our community that is committed to the sustainable use of natural resources</p> <p>4.2 Provide leadership and build community capacity to reuse, recycle and repurpose resources to minimise consumption and waste</p> | <p>4.3 Work in partnership to ensure the long-term protection and renaturalisation of Maroondah's creeks and wetlands to improve water quality, streamflow and adjacent surroundings</p> |
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A green community

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| <p>4.4 Create and foster a culture within our community that is committed to protecting and enhancing the unique features of Maroondah's landscape, including our ridgelines, waterways, canopy vegetation, green open space and bushland reserves</p> | <p>4.5 Enhance Maroondah's parklands, bushlands, gardens and open spaces</p> <p>4.6 Protect and restore biodiversity and habitat corridors for local plants and animals</p> <p>4.7 Plan for increased green spaces within activity centres and major development sites to link the built environment to the natural landscape</p> |
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A sustainable community

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| <p>4.8 Mitigate and adapt to the risk, effects and impacts of climate change and be responsive and adaptive to new environmental opportunities and threats as they occur</p> <p>4.9 Strive to become a carbon neutral Council and build the capacity of our community to make more sustainable choices</p> | <p>4.10 Work in partnership, and with the community, to reduce Maroondah's greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality</p> <p>4.11 Work in partnership with local communities to promote a regionally-sourced healthy food system by encouraging thriving volunteer led community gardens and sustainably grown local produce</p> |
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Examples of priority actions

Clean	Waste	Percent of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins in Maroondah that is diverted from landfill
Green	Tree canopy cover	Maroondah's tree canopy cover
	Natural habitat	Total area of natural habitat in Maroondah
Sustainable	Carbon emissions	Council's greenhouse gas emissions
	Environmental leadership	Community perception of Council's performance in relation to environmental sustainability



Accessible and connected

An accessible and connected community





Our vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be accessible for all ages and abilities with walkable neighbourhoods, sustainable transport options, and a safe integrated transport network.

Our community said

We value living locally with improved access to sustainable and active transport options along with better networks of walking and cycling paths. There is a strong desire to see more efficient and effective public transport and improved road networks that reduce congestion.

“We need to see more public and active transport links that reduce congestion on the roads.”

The path ahead

We will strengthen the accessibility of our local neighbourhoods, activity centres and community facilities. The community will have access to a safer, connected and more efficient integrated transport network. There will be more opportunities to use sustainable and active transport with enhancements to walking and cycling trails. Council will continue to advocate for improved public transport and an effective road network.

Accessible and connected

Key directions

An accessible community

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| <p>5.1 Ensure community infrastructure, services and events are accessible for people of all ages and abilities</p> <p>5.2 Apply universal design principles to create a built environment that strengthens the inclusiveness and accessibility of our local neighbourhoods, activity centres, facilities and services</p> | <p>5.3 Encourage initiatives that raise the awareness of accessibility needs for all ages, abilities and backgrounds</p> <p>5.4 Work in partnership to integrate new technologies into facilities and programs that improve accessibility</p> |
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A connected community

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| <p>5.5 Work in partnership to provide a safe, accessible and efficient integrated transport network that enhances liveability and facilitates living locally within 20-minute neighbourhoods</p> <p>5.6 Work in partnership to facilitate increased use of sustainable and active transport modes within the community</p> <p>5.7 Advocate and work in partnership to enhance Maroondah's road network, including planning for increased automated vehicles and emerging transportation technologies</p> | <p>5.8 Enhance Maroondah's walking and cycling shared path network to promote walkability and strengthen connections with the wider metropolitan Melbourne network</p> <p>5.9 Advocate for an integrated public transport network with improved connectivity, capacity and service frequency</p> |
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Community indicators of progress

Connected	Transport proximity	Percent of Maroondah residents that live within 200 metres of a bicycle facility and/or 400 metres of a bus stop and/or 800 metres of a train station
	Commuting	Daily average commute time of a Maroondah resident Daily number of public transport services operating in Maroondah
	Sustainable transport	Percent of journeys (for all purposes) by Maroondah residents made using sustainable transport (public transport, walking, cycling)
	Active transport	Kilometres of bicycle lanes and shared paths in Maroondah Kilometres of constructed footpath in Maroondah's Principle Pedestrian Network
	Vehicles and roads	Average number of cars owned by Maroondah households Average Maroondah Pavement Condition Index



Attractive, thriving and well built

An attractive, thriving and well built community





Our vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be an attractive, sustainable and well built community with thriving activity centres and a network of neighbourhoods where everyone has the opportunity to live, work and play locally.

Our community said

We value the diversity of activity centres, business precincts, open spaces and other unique features that contribute to the thriving character of Maroondah. Population growth needs to be approached in a way that is responsive to social needs, demographic change and environmental impacts.

“Growing up in Maroondah, I have always enjoyed the rich, leafy aesthetics which I believe characterises the area.”

The path ahead

As a community we will strengthen our network of neighbourhoods so that everyone can live, work and play locally. In partnership, we will pursue high quality urban design that enhances the connection between the built, natural and social environments. Council will seek to proactively manage population growth while retaining the unique environmental characteristics of Maroondah.

Attractive, thriving and well built

Key directions

An attractive community

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| <p>6.1 Work in partnership to deliver high quality urban design and architecture that provides for a healthy, sustainable, attractive and desirable built form</p> | <p>6.2 Work in partnership to pursue environmentally sustainable, water sensitive, and health and wellbeing design principles across all forms of development to enhance the connection between the built, natural and social environments</p> |
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A thriving and well built community

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| <p>6.3 Work towards a network of 20-minute neighbourhoods across Maroondah where everyone can live, work and play locally</p> <p>6.4 Develop and implement an urban environment that enhances the desirable attributes of Maroondah to protect and value neighbourhood character, local history and cultural heritage</p> <p>6.5 Encourage high density development in activity centres where there is access to high quality facilities, services and amenities</p> <p>6.6 Coordinate and advocate for the increased utilisation, longevity and availability of fit for purpose community facilities and spaces that meet local needs and act as key places for neighbourhood connection</p> <p>6.7 Ensure the management of infrastructure and prioritisation of capital works is informed by demographic change, technological advancement, the impacts of climate change, and accessibility for all ages and abilities</p> | <p>6.8 Plan for and support a range of multi-use inclusive community connection hubs that promote social interaction, encourage lifelong learning and provide a wide range of services</p> <p>6.9 Facilitate a vibrant day and night time economy through development of high quality public spaces</p> <p>6.10 Work in partnership with other catchment authorities to ensure effective stormwater management and flood mitigation across Maroondah</p> <p>6.11 Invest in Smart City technologies that improve service delivery to the community and reduces costs associated with delivering services</p> |
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Community indicators of progress

Attractive	Open space	Public open space in Maroondah (hectares)
	Appearance of public areas	Community satisfaction with the appearance of public areas
	Town planning	Community satisfaction with Council's general town planning policy
Thriving	Population density	Maroondah population per hectare
	Population growth	Community satisfaction with planning for population growth (future)
	Liveability	RMIT Index rating (under development)
	Local	Percent of Maroondah residents that work in Maroondah
Well built	Flood mitigation	Percent of residential properties in Maroondah at risk of flooding
	Sustainable council built environment	Council building projects achieve minimum 5 Star certified (\$5M+) or equivalent (\$3M-5M) Green Star - Design & As Built rating



Inclusive and diverse

An inclusive and diverse community





Our vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be an inclusive and equitable community where all people are valued, supported and socially connected, and diversity is embraced and celebrated.

Our community said

We value the diversity of Maroondah and we are proud to be a welcoming and inclusive community. Equity in the community is highly valued and there is a need to ensure that vulnerable groups continue to be supported and empowered. It is important there is a diverse range of safe and affordable housing to meet the needs of all population groups. There is a strong desire to see more volunteering and learning opportunities that promote social inclusion among community members of all ages, abilities and backgrounds.

“My wish for Maroondah is to see more affordable housing so that Maroondah remains a place where people of all backgrounds can live and thrive.”

The path ahead

In partnership, we will promote inclusion for all through creating places, spaces and opportunities that promote social connection. Together we will empower our most vulnerable communities to break cycles of disadvantage. As a community we will celebrate and embrace the diversity of all people, promoting equity, respect and understanding.

Inclusive and diverse

Key directions

An inclusive community

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>7.1 Support people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds to be connected, valued and empowered within their local community through accessible and inclusive services, programming and facilities</p> | <p>7.5 Promote and create opportunities for social interactions, learning, mentoring, skills transfer and volunteering for people from all ages, abilities and backgrounds</p> |
| <p>7.2 Ensure social inclusion principles and the diverse needs of community members from all ages, abilities and backgrounds inform the planning for local services, programs and community infrastructure</p> | <p>7.6 Support community members to age in place, live in accessible neighborhoods and remain socially connected</p> |
| <p>7.3 Work in partnership to break cycles of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage, particularly within marginalised and vulnerable communities</p> | <p>7.7 Advocate for increased support and enhanced services to meet the diverse needs of carers</p> |
| <p>7.4 Advocate and promote the provision of a diversity of safe and affordable housing options in accessible locations to suit a range of lifestyle needs and life-stage requirements</p> | <p>7.8 Work in partnership to facilitate and promote sustainable social enterprises that create community connections, and empower underrepresented and marginalised communities</p> |

A diverse community

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>7.9 Work in partnership to empower the community to respect, understand and embrace diversity</p> | <p>7.12 Acknowledge, recognise, value and support our indigenous heritage, culture and communities</p> |
| <p>7.10 Work in partnership to support the equity and inclusion of culturally and linguistically diverse communities, including refugees, new arrivals and interfaith communities</p> | <p>7.13 Advocate and promote equity, safety and inclusion for all genders, sexualities and sex identities</p> |
| <p>7.11 Support and celebrate the unique cultural diversity, heritage and languages of communities in Maroondah</p> | |

Community indicators of progress

Inclusive	Household stress	Percent of Maroondah households in the lowest 40% of incomes who are paying more than 30% of their usual gross weekly income on housing costs
	Rental affordability	Percent of private rental properties in Maroondah that are affordable to people on statutory incomes
	Social equity	Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage of Maroondah
	Sense of community	Percent of Maroondah residents who agree people are willing to help in their neighbourhood Percent of Maroondah residents who agree they live in a close-knit neighbourhood
	Social connectedness	Percent of Maroondah residents who agree people in their neighbourhood can be trusted
	Volunteerism	Percent of Maroondah residents who actively volunteer
Diversity	Settlements	Number of migrants and refugees settling in Maroondah



Well governed and empowered

A well governed and empowered community





Our vision

In 2040, Maroondah will be an empowered community actively engaged in local decision making, led by an innovative community inspired Council that collaborates regionally and proactively champions local needs.

Our community said

We want to have access to relevant and timely information and be actively involved in decisions that affect us. There is a strong desire for Council to provide accountable leadership along with services that are accessible and responsive. We want to see strengthening of Council collaboration with the community and Council to continue advocating on behalf of local needs.

“I would like to see more awareness around the opportunities to provide community input.”

The path ahead

Council will continue to provide transparent and accountable leadership through delivery of responsive people focused digitally enabled services. Community members will be informed on matters that affect them and encouraged to have their say on Council decisions. Together we will work in partnership and proactively advocate for community needs.

Well governed and empowered

Key directions

A well governed community

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>8.1 Provide community inspired governance that is transparent, accessible, inclusive and accountable</p> <p>8.2 Ensure responsible and sustainable management of Maroondah's resources, assets, infrastructure and natural environment</p> <p>8.3 Nurture a continuous improvement Council culture of being collaborative, strategic, sustainable and employing best practice, that positions Maroondah as a leader in local government</p> <p>8.4 Work in partnership to deliver innovative, accessible and evidence informed services that are people focused, proactive, integrated and responsive</p> | <p>8.5 Foster a workforce that is adaptable, capable, positive and engaged to deliver on our organisational mission, values and community vision</p> <p>8.6 Work in partnership with key agencies and other levels of government to provide leadership in emergency preparedness, response and recovery processes</p> <p>8.7 Embrace emerging technology, the digital economy and opportunities for innovation in the delivery of services, enhancement of assets, and engagement of the community</p> |
|--|--|

An empowered community

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>8.8 Ensure that all community members have access to, and are informed on, matters that affect them, including the provision of tailored information for under-represented and hard-to-reach groups</p> <p>8.9 Undertake inclusive engagement and consultation using accessible and tailored approaches to consider the needs and aspirations of people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds</p> <p>8.10 Create opportunities for shared decision making through active community participation</p> | <p>8.11 Work in partnership to advocate for and champion the needs and aspirations of the community to Victorian and Australian levels of government, service providers and the business sector</p> <p>8.12 Foster local and regional partnerships with individuals, community groups, businesses, service providers, agencies and all levels of government</p> |
|--|---|

Community indicators of progress

Well governed	Community satisfaction	Community satisfaction with Council
	Decision making	Community satisfaction with Council decisions
	Financial sustainability	Net result Liquidity ratio Internal financing Indebtedness Capital replacement ratio Renewal gap ratio
	Customer service	Community satisfaction with Council customer service
	Employees	Employee satisfaction
Empowered	Community engagement	Community satisfaction with consultation and engagement
	Informing the community	Community satisfaction with Council informing the community
	Advocacy	Community satisfaction with Council lobbying on behalf of the community



Making it happen

Partnerships between a wide range of organisations and individuals will continue to be vital in helping to transform the *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision* into a reality.

Council will continue to play a key role in partnering with and supporting the community to achieve the future outcomes identified within the *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision*. This vision will form the driving force behind all of Council's activities and delivery of services.

The *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision* has categorised the community aspirations and priorities for the future into eight broad outcome areas. Under each of these outcome areas, the key directions are high level strategies aimed at guiding the activities of Council and the community in working toward the achievement of the vision.

Council's role in working towards the *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision* is articulated in the four-year *Council Plan*. The *Council Plan* identifies medium-term key directions (strategies), short-term priority actions and associated resourcing to work towards the preferred future outcomes identified by the community and outlined in the Vision.

The *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision* and the *Council Plan* together provide direction for internal Service Delivery Plans that identify services, initiatives and projects to be undertaken by Council to meet community needs and expectations.

Council's Integrated Planning Framework ensures that all of Council's activities and financial resources are aligned in order to meet the aspirations, needs and expectations of the Maroondah community.

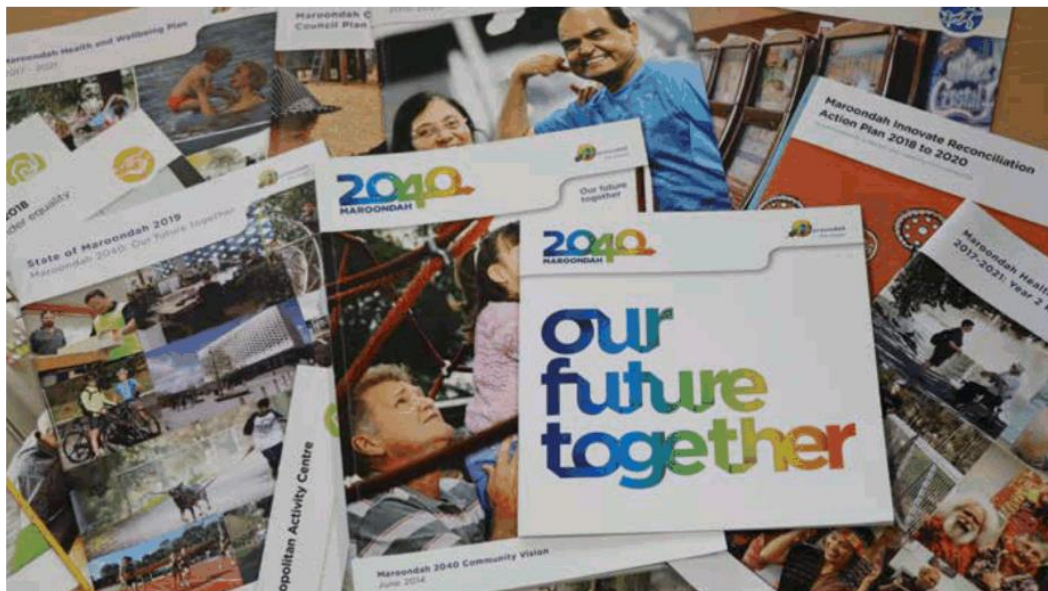
The Framework also includes a range of key strategic planning documents, the *Long Term Financial Strategy* and *Annual Budget*, as well as additional supporting strategies and policies adopted by Council.

Integrated Planning Framework



Measuring our progress

The *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision* highlights a range of strengths valued by the community within Maroondah, whilst also identifying areas for future enhancement.



Significant change often occurs gradually and it is easy to overlook progress unless this is measured.

To measure progress toward achieving the preferred future outcomes outlined in the *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision*, a number of outcome-based community indicators have been selected.

Over time, these indicators will be used to identify how successful the initiatives of Council, businesses, community groups and individuals have been in working towards the future outcomes and key directions outlined in the community vision.

These indicators are not intended to form a definitive list, rather they will be helpful in revealing progress over time.

A *State of Maroondah Report* will continue to be prepared periodically over the life of the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision to celebrate achievements, recognise efforts, monitor trends and identify areas for future improvement.

Glossary

The Maroondah 2040 Community Vision includes a range of terms that are explained below.

Active transport

Transport that is human-powered, such as walking or cycling.

Activity centres

Suburban centres that provide a focus for services, employment, housing, transport and social interaction.

Advanced manufacturing

Any manufacturing process that takes advantage of high-technology or knowledge-intensive inputs as an integral part of its manufacturing process.

Age in place

A person living in the residence of their choice as they age for as long as they are able, incorporating responsive and flexible care in line with their changing needs.

Affordable housing

Housing where the cost (whether of mortgage repayments or rent) is no more than 30 per cent of the household's income.

Bayswater Business Precinct

Business precinct within the suburbs of Bayswater, Bayswater North, Croydon South, Boronia, Kilsyth and Kilsyth South which is home to over 5,000 businesses that support more than 30,000 jobs.

Bicycle facility

Infrastructure intended to be used by cyclists, such as bicycle lanes, shared user pathways, trails (where permitted), bicycle parking, repair stations, wayfinding signage.

Canopy vegetation

Mature trees that are at a height where the foliage covers a broad area.

Capital replacement ratio

Compares the rate of spending on infrastructure, property, plant and equipment, and intangibles with its depreciation and amortisation. A ratio less than 1.0 means the spending on capital works has not kept pace with consumption of assets.

Carbon neutral

When an organisation or product's net greenhouse gas emissions are zero. This is achieved by measuring and reducing emissions and then buying offsets equivalent to the remaining emissions.

Climate change

Change of weather patterns which are attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alter the composition of the global atmosphere and are in addition to natural variability observed over time.

Community engagement

Council working with residents, businesses and community groups to address issues and make decisions that impact on wellbeing.

Corporate social responsibility

An organisations responsibility for not only the economic consequences of their activities, but also the social and environmental implications.

Demographic change

The shift in the characteristics of statistical information on the population.

Digital economy

Use of the internet that provides a new and changing way of interacting and doing business.

Eastern region (Melbourne)

Includes the municipalities of Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges.

Fit for purpose

Appropriate and well designed for the intended use.

Greenhouse gas emissions

The seven major greenhouse gases emitted from burning fossil fuels such as coal and natural gas are water vapour; carbon dioxide (CO₂); methane (CH₄); nitrous oxide (N₂O); hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs); per fluorocarbons (PFCs); and sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆).

Health and wellbeing

The absence of illness and the combination of a person's physical, mental, emotional and social health factors.

Herfindahl Index

Measure of industry diversity based on share of jobs by industry in Maroondah relative to that of the Victorian economy.

Hub

A conveniently located one-stop destination where the local community can access a wide range of community activities, programs, services and events.

Indebtedness

Ability to pay the principal and interest on borrowings, as and when they fall due, from the funds generated (own-sourced revenue). The lower the ratio, the less revenue required to repay total debt.

Integrated transport network

A multi-modal transport system where all transportation is efficiently linked to maximise ease and efficiency for the user in terms of time, cost, comfort, safety, accessibility and convenience.

Internal financing

Ability to finance capital works using cash generated by operating cash flows. The higher the percentage, the greater the ability to finance capital works from own funds.

Knowledge economy

An economy in which the production of goods and services is based primarily upon knowledge-intensive activities rather than physical inputs or natural resources.

Lifelong learning

Ongoing, voluntary, and self-motivated pursuit of knowledge for either personal or professional reasons.

Liveability

An assessment of what a place is like to live in, considering areas like diversity, health, inclusiveness, learning, safety, and sustainability.

Liquidity ratio

Ability to pay existing liabilities in the next 12 months. A ratio greater than 1.0 means there are more cash and liquid assets than short-term liabilities.

Major activity centre

A place that provides a suburban focal point for services, employment, housing, public transport and social interaction. Plan Melbourne identifies 121 existing and future Major Activity Centres across Melbourne.

Marginalised, disadvantaged and vulnerable population groups

Individuals or groups of people who do not have access to the same opportunities, rights, tools and/or resources that are available to the majority of people in society.

Maroondah 2040 Community Vision

The long term community and Council vision for the City of Maroondah that identifies the preferred future outcome areas and key directions looking ahead to the year 2040.

Metropolitan activity centre

A higher-order centre intended to provide a diverse range of jobs, activities and housing for regional catchments that are well served by public transport. The centre plays a major service delivery role, including government, health, justice and education services, as well as retail and commercial opportunities. Plan Melbourne identifies nine existing and two future Metropolitan Activity Centres across Melbourne.

Neighbourhood centres

Lower order centres that provide a variety of housing options and commercial activities whilst ensuring an appropriate 'fit' within the existing local context.

Net result

How much of each dollar collected as revenue translates to net result. A positive result indicates a surplus, and the larger the percentage, the stronger the result.

Open space (active and passive)

Land reserved for natural landscape, parklands, recreation and active sports, as well as waterways and bays. Active open space provides for organised, structured activities that may involve membership. Passive open space allows unstructured activity which may be undertaken either individually or with others.

Outer eastern region (Melbourne)

Includes the municipalities of Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges.

Pavement condition index

A number derived by Council's SMEC pavement management system taking into account a road's use, condition and performance. Condition scores range between zero and ten, with a higher score representing a better condition road.

Principle pedestrian network

A designated network of existing and planned routes in a given area that provides pedestrian facilities which support walking trips into and around key destinations, such as activity centres, schools and transport nodes.

Maroondah 2040

Public transport

Operation of a fleet of vehicles that provides a public passenger service on a regular and continuing basis. Examples include trains, buses, trams and ferries. Services might also include shuttle buses and a range of privately operated but publicly accessible transport types.

Renewal gap ratio

Compares the rate of spending on existing assets through renewing, restoring, and replacing existing assets with depreciation. Ratios higher than 1.0 indicate that spending on existing assets is faster than the depreciation rate.

Ringwood Arts Precinct

ArtSpace at Realm and Maroondah Federation Estate

Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre

A higher order activity centre with diverse employment options, services and high density housing, supported by good transport connections.

Shared path

An area open to the public which is protected from motor vehicles and is designated for use by pedestrians and people on bicycles.

Small and medium enterprises

Companies typically employing less than 20 staff members.

Smart City

A city that uses data and technology to enhance service delivery, reduce costs and resource consumption, and to engage more effectively and actively with the community.

Social enterprise

An enterprise that is led by an economic, social, cultural or environmental mission consistent with a public or community benefit. The enterprise derives a substantial portion of their income from trade and reinvests the majority of their profit / surplus in the fulfilment of their mission.

Social inclusion

The principle that ensures all people feel valued, their differences are respected, and their basic needs are met so they can live in dignity and have the opportunity to participate fully in society.

Socio-economic status

Social and economic position of a given individual, or group of individuals, within the larger society.

Sustainable transport

Modes of transport that have limited or no environmental impact.

Underemployment

An employed person who wants, and is available for, more hours of work than they currently have.

Unemployment

A person who, during a specified reference period, is not employed for one hour or more, is actively seeking work, and is currently available for work.

Universal design principles

Design of products, environments, programs and services to be usable by all people of different ages and abilities, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialised design.

Walkable neighbourhoods

Those which provide access to services and functions within a distance where the option to walk is desirable and outweighs the benefits of driving.

Water sensitive approach

This approach involves a coordinated approach to water cycle management in urban areas and valuing the role that water plays in our lives.

20-minute neighbourhood

This principle is based on the idea that all residents should have access to the places, services and facilities they use daily within a 20-minute journey from home. This includes local shops, schools, parks, jobs, recreation facilities, and a range of community services.





To contact Council

- phone 1300 88 22 33 or (03) 9298 4598
- SMS 0480 020 200
- visit our website at www.maroondah.vic.gov.au
- email maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au

Translating and Interpreter Service

13 14 50

National Relay Service (NRS)

13 36 77

-  [MaroondahCityCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/MaroondahCityCouncil)
-  [@CityofMaroondah](https://twitter.com/CityofMaroondah)
-  [CityofMaroondah](https://www.youtube.com/CityofMaroondah)
-  [Maroondah City Council](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Maroondah-City-Council)



Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020

Activities Report

Introduction

Maroondah City Council is pleased to present the *Maroondah Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020 Activities Report* to the Maroondah community. It tracks the progress, and describes actions undertaken by Maroondah City Council and the community and our partners to improve social, economic and environmental sustainability in Maroondah. This report covers the full four year period of the *Maroondah Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020*, combining key outcomes from the *Sustainability Activities Report Years 1 & 2 (Financial Years - 2016/17 & 2017/18)* and updates on Council's progress over years 3 & 4 (financial years 2018/19 and 2019/20).

The *Maroondah Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020* is one of Council's key strategic documents and plays a key role in delivering on sustainability outcomes identified in the *Maroondah 2040: Our future together*, providing a strong foundation to deliver a more liveable and sustainable environment in Maroondah.

Some of Council's implementation highlights of the *Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020* have included:

- Collaborated on the joint Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) Energy Performance Contract project that saw energy efficiency upgrades to Aquahub, Aquanation, Federation, Realm and The Rings
- Changing the Globe street light energy efficiency project saw over 6,000 inefficient mercury vapour and high-pressure sodium lights changed to efficient LEDs saving electricity, greenhouse gas emissions and money
- Developed Council's first *Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19 - 2021/22* which outlines how Council and partners will work together towards a more climate adapted future
- Participated in a joint regional procurement process to establish a long-term contract for processing of garden organics
- Offered a range of community resources and programs to redirect demand on private vehicle transport by redistributing journeys to other modes, retiming or avoiding travelling altogether, including Bike It!, Walk to School and Ride to Work Day
- Developed and adopted the *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030* which guides Council and the community's vision for protecting, enhancing, restoring, and creating vegetation in Maroondah's natural and urbanised areas
- Partnered with the water industry whose key aim is to sustainably secure water for our liveability in a water-challenged future. This included partnering with Melbourne Water, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Yarra Valley Water to naturalise and enhance a section of Tarralla Creek in Croydon and surrounds
- Commenced the process of preparing a planning scheme amendment to introduce a Local ESD Policy into the planning scheme
- Implemented the pilot 20-minute neighbourhoods project in Croydon South in collaboration with the Heart Foundation, Victoria Walks, funded through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- Hosted the "Living Maroondah: a future for our plants animals and us" symposium bringing together the community and a range of expert speakers to discuss the value of vegetation.

Council is pleased have been able to partner with a broad range of stakeholders during the implementation of the Strategy. Council sincerely thanks all community members for their invaluable contributions. Specifically, the Maroondah Environmental Advisory Committee has been instrumental in providing input and guidance to Council on environmental and sustainability issues and improving the environment in Maroondah. Council looks forward to continuing this work with partners into the future, including in the development of a new Strategy in 2020/21.

For more information on the *Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020*, please call the Sustainability team on 1300 88 22 33.

Table 1: Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020 priority action status overview

Priority Action	Status
Focus Area 1 - Climate Change, Energy Efficiency, and Transport	
Continue Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) membership.	Ongoing
Implement the Carbon Neutral Strategy	Ongoing
Complete a Climate Change Adaptation Strategy	Completed 2018
Continue to rollout the installation of energy efficient street lights across Maroondah	Phase 1 completed 2015-2018 Phase 2 commenced 2019
Participate in a joint regional procurement process to establish a long-term contract for processing of garden organics	Completed 2016
Continue Eastern Transport Coalition membership	Ongoing
Accelerate the footpath construction improvement program	Ongoing
Encourage the use of sustainable transport through events, activities, and programs	Ongoing
Continue to construct walking and cycling connections that connect community facilities such as schools, shops, parks and transport hubs	Ongoing
Focus Area 2 - Green Assets and Water	
Commence a municipal wide vegetation review	Completed 2020
Develop a Green Infrastructure approach which implements objectives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Water Sensitive City Strategy The Maroondah Housing Strategy The Open Space Strategy The State Government's Strategy, Protecting Victoria's Environment - Biodiversity 2036 	Commenced 2019
Focus Area 3 - Engagement, Partnerships, and Communication	
Continue to work with the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee	Ongoing
Continue support for regional sustainability partnerships such as EAGA and EASL	Ongoing
Apply Council's Community Engagement Policy	Ongoing
Investigate opportunities to work with community volunteers, social enterprises, and businesses on sustainability initiatives	Ongoing
Focus Area 4 - Governance, Evaluation, and Improvement	
Adopt Sustainable design guidelines for council buildings and facilities	Completed 2017
Strengthen the sustainable design assessment within the planning process by providing ecological sustainable design and sustainability assessment tools and training, and investigate membership of the Council alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE)	Ongoing
Investigate the use of the Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) to improve sustainability outcome in future residential development	Completed 2016
Work with the State Government to prepare a planning scheme amendment to introduce an environmentally sustainable development (ESD) policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme	In progress
Focus Area 5 - Funding, Resourcing, and Opportunities	
Continue to support EAGA projects that broker partnerships to achieve economies of scale	Ongoing
Continue to support the Carbon Neutral Revolving Energy Fund	Ongoing
Continue to pursue external funding opportunities for sustainability projects	Ongoing
Develop triple-bottom-line criteria for a Council pilot project	Not achieved
Continue to use Council's procurement policy to pursue sustainability opportunities	Ongoing

Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020

The *Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020* contributes to 'A Clean, Green and Sustainable Community' direction embraced by residents, business and visitors in *Maroondah 2040: Our future together*. This outcome strives to make Maroondah a leafy green community with high levels of waste diversion and sustainable approaches to infrastructure development, urban design and management of natural resources. Our community is resilient and has the knowledge, capacity and resources to make sustainable lifestyle choices.

The *Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020* was adopted by Council in July 2016 and set the agenda for Council's service delivery over the four years of the Strategy. It was developed through extensive research and engagement activities including community feedback received through the development of the Maroondah 2040 Community Vision, at council events, and from advice of the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee. It aimed to:

- Further embed sustainability in Council's service delivery to the community, and continue to lead by example,
- Build on and promote the sustainability efforts of many Maroondah residents and organisations,
- Pursue partnerships to advance sustainability, and
- Help the community to lead a more sustainable lifestyle.

The actions contained within the *Sustainability Strategy 2016 to 2020* were captured across five focus areas:

1. Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Transport
2. Green Assets and Water
3. Engagement, Partnerships and Communication
4. Governance, Evaluation and Improvement
5. Funding, Resourcing and Opportunities.

Through the implementation of the strategy, Council strives to ensure that its decisions are for the long-term benefit of Maroondah's current and future communities and intended to inspire action and leadership on sustainability from all parties.

Focus Area 1 – Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Transport

Lead by example in addressing Council's operational impacts in areas including more sustainable transport, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and resilience to climate change.

Achievement against targets

TARGET: Reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 2010/11 levels by 2020/21 (excluding Aquanation)

In 2018/19 Council's greenhouse gas emissions were 26% lower than the 2010/11 baseline level.

TARGET: 2.5km of new sealed footpaths constructed by Council

More than 9km new sealed footpaths have been constructed

Our priority action highlights

We continued our Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) membership and hosting

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a formal collaboration of eight Councils in Melbourne's east, working together on joint programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and facilitate climate change adaptation across the region. A number of key projects were delivered over the last four years which has seen a reduction in Council's greenhouse gas emissions, and are outlined below.

As a joint EAGA project, Maroondah Council partnered with Boroondara, Knox and Yarra Ranges Councils to initiate the first joint Energy Performance Contract program in Australia's local government sector. A lead service provider was appointed to design, install, optimise and manage energy upgrades in an integrated model. In this model, project outcomes and energy savings are guaranteed by the energy services company. In 2017/18, \$1.8M in works were contracted to Maroondah facilities, with projected savings of \$190,000 annually. Further projects to \$2M in value were implemented in 2018/19. Works included solar PV, heating/cooling system upgrades, LED lighting, building management systems, efficient boilers, pool blankets and voltage reduction units. Works have been completed at Aquahub, Aquanation, Federation Estate, Realm and The Rings.

The Scaling Up Solar of Council Facilities project developed a business case for scaling up and refining a new procurement approach for behind the meter solar on council facilities, specifically those leased facilities. The project assessed and prioritised sites, compared technology and contracting models, and developed coordinated implementation and procurement plans. Since the project, Council installed a 10kW solar PV system on the roof of the Kerrabee Centre. The Centre runs a social inclusion and wellbeing program and has significant daytime usage as a result, meaning that it is expected that Centre's electricity consumption will reduce by almost 40% as a result of the project.

In 2017/18, Council participated in the Solar Savers pilot program driven by EAGA. This project aimed to deliver solar PV installations for low income households to assist in reducing energy bills, future-proofing against increasing energy costs, and access to cooling during heat waves. 23 Councils participated in the pilot Solar Savers project, with the project effectively continuing into 2019/20 and beyond. A rates recovery mechanism, whereby Council directly funds the installation of the solar PV systems for low income households, and recover the costs through the Special Charges mechanism was trialed. This mechanism aimed to reduce the barriers of access to affordable loans by low income households, and overcoming the need for households to provide up-front capital. In Maroondah, 15 households participated in Solar Savers program using this mechanism. A further 2 systems were installed via a low interest bank loan process. Evaluation of the pilot across the 23 participating Councils showed that each participating household had an average saving of \$254 net annually for those on a council rates loan (after loan repayments).

Participating households used an average of 35% less electricity year-on-year, and almost two-thirds (68%) noted that they may not, or were unlikely to have, installed solar without the Solar Savers project.

We continued to implement the Carbon Neutral Strategy

The *Carbon Neutral Strategy and Action Plan 2014/15 - 2020/21* seeks to achieve planned, systematic and supported approach to carbon management by fostering collaboration and ownership of its principles and actions across Council departments, mapping a path to carbon neutrality. Projects delivered over the last four years have reduced Council's operational greenhouse gas emissions by more than 4,000 T CO₂°. Some of the highlights have included:

- Delivery of energy efficient street light program and mapping of decorative and outdoor lighting assets to identify future energy efficiency opportunities
- Commitment to make the Realm Extension building 5-star Green Star Certified
- Delivery of the EcoDriver Program for fleet vehicle owners across the organization
- Development of *Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy for Council Buildings* and *Environmentally Sustainable Design Policy Guidelines for Council Buildings* to guide the sustainable development of council assets
- Development of a Carbon Neutral Offset Policy to guide Council's commitment to become carbon neutral
- Delivery of the Energy Performance Contract to reduce energy consumption and demand at Aquahub, Aquanation, Federation Estate, Realm and The Rings
- Installation of almost 1 GWh of solar PV on Council facilities
- Implementation of a Revolving Energy Fund to drive the delivery of Council sustainability projects

We completed the Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy

Following community consultation, the *Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19 - 2021/22* was endorsed in July 2018. It outlines how Council and partners will work together towards a more climate adapted future, with three strategic outcomes; People, Places and Embed Adaptation. There are 26 key directions and has four overarching objectives, which are:

- Plan for and manage the risks of climate change, in particular, drainage and extreme weather events,
- Seek opportunities for partnerships and collaboration with stakeholders and the community that support climate change adaptation,
- Use the natural environment to build our adaptive capacity, and
- Encourage future proofing design - foster places capable of adapting to change and responding to current and future risks.

We continued the rollout of the installation of energy efficient streetlights across Maroondah

The 'Changing the Globe Maroondah Street Light Energy Efficiency Project' for residential street lighting was implemented between March 2015 and October 2018. During this time, 5,390 high-performance and energy efficient LED street lights were installed on residential roads, replacing inefficient mercury vapour and high-pressure sodium lights. The outcomes of this program include reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced energy and maintenance costs and more consistent light levels across Maroondah. Around 98 percent of the old light bulbs removed by the program are recycled. The project will reduce energy consumption and associated costs by around 77% and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by around 15,411 tonnes over 20 years. This is equivalent to removing 339 cars from the road each year for the next 20 years.

During 2019/20 this project was expanded to target Major Road Lights (Category V lights). 930 high-pressure sodium and mercury vapour lights were replaced in 2020, saving approx. 500 T Co2-e annually in greenhouse gas emissions, and over a 60% reduction in energy consumption and associated maintenance costs.

We participated in a joint regional procurement process to establish a long term contract for processing of garden organics

Council joined, in partnership with the Metropolitan Waste and Resource Recovery Group, in a regional procurement process. Through a tender process, preferred contractors were identified. The MWRRG was established in 2014 as a

Victorian Government Statutory Body responsible for coordinating and facilitating the delivery of waste management and resource recovery across metropolitan Melbourne. This includes solid waste, construction and demolition waste and commercial and industrial waste.

We continued Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) membership

Council participates in the ETC whose main role is to advocate to Government to obtain better public transport options for the Eastern region. Advocacy over the last four years has focused on the establishment of a comprehensive review of bus services throughout eastern Melbourne, articulated by a Bus Network Issues and Opportunity Report, submissions on expanding Melbourne's free tram zone, and collaborating with stakeholders to inform strategic responses and collaboration on major transport projects.

A regular social media campaign, Commuters Count, has built the ETC profile by providing regular updates to commuters on key public transport news and topics. It is a platform for people to show support for key transport projects for the region.

We accelerated the Footpath Construction Improvement Program

Maroondah's Principal Pedestrian Network identifies a comprehensive network of streets that require new footpaths to be built, based on the routes that pedestrians use more often on their journeys. Council uses this to proactively plan for their construction. Works are prioritised by the pedestrian demand, the type of road, location relative to various facilities in the community, and proximity to public transport. Over the last four years, Council has made significant improvements in the network, and continues to allocate funding to support the delivery of the program.

We encouraged the use of sustainable transport through events, activities and programs

Council offers a range of community resources and programs to redirect demand on transport by redistributing journeys to other modes, other than the private vehicles, retiming or avoiding travelling altogether. The programs give easy access to accurate Maroondah specific information on public and active transportation, including:

- Maroondah Digital Map is an online platform showing the complete transportation networks for the City of Maroondah. Accessible by all device types, it helps the people to plan, travel, explore and experience the services, sites and opportunities in the City of Maroondah. Since the 2017 launch, the map now attracts, on average 76 daily visitations.
- Our early years and primary school active travel initiatives include, road safety incursions, Walk to School Month, National Ride2School Day and Bike It! Competition. Council partners with VicHealth, Road Safe Eastern Metro, Bicycle Network and neighbouring Councils to deliver the initiatives annually. Over the last four years the average school participation for National Ride2School was 11, Walk to School was 14, road safety was 6 and Bike It! was 3.
- In 2019, Council piloted a public transport education sessions at Mullum Mullum Primary School. The program was delivered in partnership with Metro Trains and PTV. The program pilot was successful with the school very supportive of the initiative and the outcomes. It will continue to be offered to select schools based on assessed need.
- Council has given direct support to Great Ryrie and Heathmont East Primary Schools to develop Active Travel Plans.
- Council has been a committed supporter of National Ride2Work Day. Breakfast are served to cyclists of all ages and abilities in the Ringwood and Croydon Town Squares. Council supplies businesses with vouchers and resources to host their own breakfasts. The event's greatest attendance was in 2017 when 190 cyclists participated. Cyclists are consulted on key current and future cycling projects at the event. The feedback supplied informs planning of the cycling network, infrastructure and facilities.

We continued to construct walking and cycling connections

Council has continued to construct walking and cycling connections that connect community facilities such as schools, shops, parks and transport hubs. These include the Box Hill to Ringwood Bicycle Trail constructed in

Ringwood, Carrum to Warburton Trail works underway in Croydon, land acquisition and upgrades to Tarralla Creek Trail, and Stage 1 upgrades to Heathmont Trail that have been completed.

Seven councils of Eastern Melbourne developed the Eastern Region Trail Strategy. Endorsed in 2019, the Strategy and action plan gives a coherent and aligned framework to deliver high quality, connected and distinctive trails across the region. The priority pipeline project for the City of Maroondah is the Ringwood to Croydon Trail link that connects the Box Hill to Ringwood Trail to the Carrum to Warburton Trail. A concept plan for the cycling link was developed in 2020.

Council's 20-Minute Neighbourhoods project conducted in 2018 identified opportunities to improve walkability to the Eastfield Shopping Centre. Council is pursuing discussions with key road, water and infrastructure authorities to implement the recommendations. The intention is to expand the 20-minute neighbourhoods project to other neighbourhood activity centres throughout the City of Maroondah.

Focus Area 2 – Green Assets and Water

Lead by example in protecting and enhancing the natural systems, features and water resources that are vital to the sustainability of our local environment.

Achievement against targets

TARGET: Maintain the average area of natural or semi-natural area across the City of Maroondah (metres squared - c.f 2011)

This target is difficult to measure without further quantification of the baseline values and methodology (which are not available). The targets and indicators that have been included in the *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030* will provide more appropriate measurement of 'green assets' into the future.

TARGET: Reduce Council's annual use of potable water by 5% by 2025 (from 2015 data)

Council's potable water consumption increased by 29% from 2015/16 baseline.

The review of the Water Sensitive City Strategy in 2019/20 will provide an opportunity to review and drive further action towards achieving this target by 2025.

Our priority action highlights

We completed the Maroondah Vegetation Review

Council has completed the Maroondah Vegetation Review, culminating in the adoption of the *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030* in March 2020. The strategy establishes Council and the community's vision for protecting, enhancing, restoring, and creating vegetation in Maroondah's natural and urbanised areas. Three key outcome areas direct action to help create a greener and leafier Maroondah for health, wellbeing, childhood development, community resilience, ecosystem services, amenity, and biodiversity. These outcomes are:

Outcome 1: A more liveable Maroondah

Outcome 2: More nature throughout Maroondah

Outcome 3: Council support

Through these outcomes Council aims to provide more tree canopy cover and other vegetation that is healthy, long-lived, and is the right vegetation in the places it is needed most for reducing heat vulnerability, alleviating stress, mitigating flooding, encouraging outdoor activity, optimising habitats for indigenous flora and fauna and providing new opportunities for people to connect to nature.

Implementation of this strategy is now under way, with a mix of actions to improve the protection and condition of existing vegetation, and addition of new vegetation in key locations. Several of these involve amendments to the Maroondah Planning Scheme. Others involve identifying where the best opportunities are for improving habitat connectivity to encourage more nature throughout Maroondah, and for greening and cooling our suburbs to make Maroondah even more liveable.

We are working on developing a blue-green infrastructure approach for the Croydon Structure Plan

Blue-green infrastructure is an emerging response to help deal with the challenges of population growth, resource constraints, and community wellbeing needs. In this approach, urban vegetation is not just used for beautification but also for its ability to reduce damage from stormwater flows, conserve energy in nearby buildings, improve air quality, increase biodiversity and minimise the urban heat island effect. Council has commenced a review of the 2006 Croydon Town Structure Plan and will be considering the role of blue-green infrastructure for this area. A

background paper that identifies issues and opportunities to apply a blue-green infrastructure approach in the Croydon Major Activity Centre area is currently being prepared, and has the following related objectives:

- Create an understanding of characteristics of blue-green Infrastructure and its benefits at the neighbourhood and municipal level,
- Identify issues in Croydon Major Activity Centre area that could be addressed by applying blue-green infrastructure principles and guidelines, and
- Identify a range of high-level opportunities for incorporating blue-green infrastructure through land use planning and capital improvement projects in Croydon Major Activity Centre.

Focus Area 3 – Engagement, Partnerships and Communication

Encourage community participation and partnerships with key stakeholders for greater involvement in sustainability issues and promote the adoption of more sustainable lifestyles.

Achievement against targets

TARGET: Improve the community's satisfaction with Council's performance in relation to consultation and engagement

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results show that community satisfaction in consultation and engagement has remained stable at 58 out of a possible 100 over the life of the strategy.

Our priority action highlights

We worked with the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee

The Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee (MEAC) was established to inform and advise Council on environmental and sustainability issues and Council's role in improving the environment in Maroondah. Council renewed the Terms of Reference for MEAC and a new committee was appointed in 2019 for a four-year term.

The committee goals include:

- Advancing the environmental sustainability 'key directions' of Maroondah 2040,
- Advising Council on the implementation and review of key strategic documents and actions, including the Sustainability Strategy, Waste Strategy and Vegetation Review,
- Involving others in the community in sustainability initiatives.

Over the last four years, MEAC have been an important link between Council and the community providing guidance and technical expertise in the development of key policy directions, in the development of strategic Council documents and in advocating for sustainability projects within the community. Some of these actions have included:

- Development of the *Council Plan 2017-2021*, *Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19-2021/22*, and *Carbon Neutral Strategy & Action Plan 2014/15-2020/21*,
- Provided input into the preparation of a draft Waste Strategy,
- Assisted in the preparation of flagship projects for the *Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030*,
- Provided technical expertise on topics such as neighbourhood character, weed management, heritage, and biodiversity,
- Provided advice and direction on the development of ESD in Council Buildings Policy, Greening the Greyfields project and the design phase of the Re-imaging Tarralla Creek Project.

We continued support for regional sustainability partnerships such as the Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) and Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning (EASL)

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) is a formal collaboration of eight Councils in Melbourne's east. EAGA is committed to responding to the challenges of climate change through the delivery of programs that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the region, and provide support for regional adaptation to climate change impacts.

EAGA consists of the following member Councils:

- City of Boroondara
- City of Glen Eira
- Knox City Council
- Maroondah City Council
- Monash City Council
- City of Stonnington

- Whitehorse City Council
- Yarra Ranges Council

A Memorandum of Understanding between the Councils provides a framework to guide collaborative work, defines the roles and obligations of the host and member councils, and establishes an agreed membership funding commitment. Maroondah City Council currently hosts the Executive Officer, the Solar Savers Program Leader and Program Officer.

The Eastern Alliance for Sustainable Learning (EASL) is a collaboration of five member councils (Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges) who work with schools and early year providers to promote lifelong learning and action that improves the health, wellbeing and environmental sustainability of local communities.

The following program initiatives summaries highlight that EASL has demonstrable value in communicating sustainability knowledge to the education sector across the five council areas:

- The biennial Learning for Sustainability Conference is a valuable information and networking forum. The February 2020 conference was sold out with attendees appreciating the access to high profile key note speakers and experts in thematic workshops
- Teacher and educator professional development and networking events are the most valuable activity for incorporating sustainability in schools. Since 2016, on average 22 teachers and educators have attended the personal development sessions. Teachers and educators from the City of Maroondah constitute 18% of the total attendance.
- Establishment of a Reference Group in 2019 to serve as an advisory body on EASL activities and events.

We are applying Council's Community Engagement Policy

Council's Community Engagement Policy was adopted in August 2015 and is a formal expression of Council's commitment to engaging the community through the use of appropriate, effective and inclusive practices. Our Community Engagement Toolkit is being used in conjunction with our Community Engagement Policy. Council has also put a number of staff through the comprehensive International Association for Public Participation community engagement training to further improve Council's capacity to undertake high quality community engagement. Over the last four years, the development of a number of key projects and strategic documents were informed by extensive community consultation. Some of these are discussed below.

Key engagement activities for the *Climate Change Risk and Adaptation Strategy 2018/19-2021/22* included development of a discussion paper and supplementary materials, internal steering committee, survey, engagement activities at Maroondah Festival, and feedback through the Maroondah Environment Advisory Committee. The engagement program aimed to:

- Cultivate positivity and gain stories and narratives: localising and personalising climate change information, in effect reducing psychological distance
- Make visible actions being undertaken by the community, to foster social diffusion
- Act as a vehicle for public consultation and invite comment on the discussion paper.

Respondents to the engagement identified that climate change is an important issue, and that Council should be leading by example, working collaboratively and sharing lessons to adapt to the challenges of climate change. Outcomes of the engagement informed the development of the strategy and key directions.

During the development of the *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020-2030* an Issues and Options Paper was prepared which built on the community's views collected in 2017 at the Maroondah Festival, and input from key staff through a series of focus groups. This document was released for public comment at the free community symposium "Living Maroondah: a future for our plants, animals and us" in February 2019. This event attracted 130 people to hear from a range of expert speakers that brought many of the issues into focus. Feedback on the Issues and Options Paper helped Council better understand which vegetation issues were most important for our community, and their preferred options for Council to pursue. This feedback then informed the directions and

actions set out in the *Draft Maroondah Vegetation Strategy* released for public comment in August 2019. The feedback received confirmed support for the directions proposed, and helped refine and improve the suite of priority actions identified.

For the Greening the Greyfields pilot project, a number of engagement methods were used to both inform the community about the project, and to consult to obtain feedback on public aspirations, specifically in relation to the future of neighbourhoods. One unique aspect of the engagement process was the use of participatory place audits in the pilot precincts. Drop-in sessions were used to understand the key issues facing the neighbourhood and to provide an overview of the project, and assess interest of residents and landowners to participate in future stages of the project.

A creative arts engagement program, Tarralla Flow, delivered hands on community events that captured community values and experiences along Tarralla Creek as part of Council's community engagement for the Re-imagining Tarralla Creek Project. These events were delivered in partnership with key community groups, such as Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, and strengthened Council's understanding of the community's vision for the Tarralla Creek, which directly influenced final design. The Changing Nature of Tarralla Creek project, funded through the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning, Caring for Our Local Environment Grant program, seeks to bring together community to learn more about the natural environment in and around Tarralla Creek in Croydon, and enable them to apply citizen science techniques to monitor changes in nature as the creek undergoes its significant physical transformation under the "Re-imagining Tarralla Creek" project.

The 20 Minute Neighbourhoods Pilot Program involved an extensive community consultation program run from July to November 2018. This consultation involved:

- Face-to-face community engagement sessions to gather data through a holistic liveability survey highlighted key community-perceived liveability gaps for Croydon South
- Development of a CrowdSpot tool to augment the liveability survey and provide place-specific feedback on the neighbourhood. Through this interactive online tool, participants were asked to identify their favourite spots, issue spots and idea spots within the precinct
- Delivery of a Croydon South Community Day
 - Held on 8 September 2018 at the Eastfield Shops and featured stalls supplied by Council, Melbourne Water, local community groups, school and kindergartens, the local cricket club and four local businesses.
 - The event was attended by approximately 300 people with activities including placemaking activities, project consultation, children's rides, tractors, balloon art, seed potting, science experiments, music performances and craft activities.

We work with community volunteers, social enterprises and businesses on sustainability initiatives

Council has investigated several opportunities to engage the community on sustainability initiatives, including:

- Environmental Upgrade Finance - Council resolved to offer Maroondah businesses access to an environmental upgrade program to assist businesses improve their economic and environmental performance. Council is undertaking steps to commence the project. It involves a three-way agreement between the business owner, council, and lender, called an Environmental Upgrade Agreement. A lender provides upfront capital for commercial property owners to improve their building's environmental performance, which the business then repays quarterly through the council rates system. Council then forwards the repayments to the lender. It provides an incentive for building owners to upgrade their infrastructure and improve the value of their property. If the property is leased the building owner can share the repayments with their tenants, allowing tenants to benefit from reduced operating costs, and owners to improve the value of their asset.
- Sustainable House Day - Annually, council supports Maroondah residents with highly sustainable homes through participation in Sustainable House Day. This aims to promote these homes to the wider community and share learnings of how others can embrace more sustainable practises in their homes.

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MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL – SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2016 TO 2020 ACTIVITIES REPORT

- Natural environment community groups - Several environmental community groups are active in the Maroondah municipality. These groups are mostly volunteers who contribute many hours to preserve and maintain the local natural environment. They are supported by a fulltime position within Council's Bushland Team to provide support and advice to volunteers from 'Friends' groups, schools, and residents contributing to the protection, creation, enhancement and care of patches of natural vegetation in Maroondah.
- Earth Hour - Council continues community education and awareness raising during Earth Hour events. To celebrate the 10-year anniversary of Earth Hour in 2017, Council hosted a series of free community workshops and displays at Realm and Ringwood Town Square. This included workshops and displays on sustainable gardening, transport and home initiatives.

Focus Area 4 – Governance, Evaluation and Improvement

Establish key indicators and monitoring processes to raise staff awareness of their roles in, and benefits of, sustainability. Strategically promote performance of greater sustainability within Council and the community through sustainable design in the built environment.

Achievement against targets

TARGET: Increase in community perception of Council's performance in relation to environmental sustainability

Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey results show that community satisfaction with Council's performance in relation to environmental sustainability has remained stable at 65 out of a possible 100 over the life of the Strategy.

Our priority action highlights

Council is strengthening sustainability in the planning process

Council uses the Sustainable Design Assessment in the Planning Process (SDAPP) and Built Environment Sustainability Scorecard (BESS) to assess the sustainability of planning applications. The SDAPP program refers to the inclusion of key environmental performance considerations into the planning permit approvals process in order to achieve more sustainable building outcomes for the long-term benefit of the wider-community.

Council subscribes to use the BESS Tool to support ESD outcomes in the planning scheme. Planning applicants can use BESS to demonstrate how a proposed development will incorporate environmentally sustainable design.

To enable the use of these tools, SDAPP Fact Sheets and guidance is available on the Council's website to assist planning applicants, and BESS and Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) training sessions have been delivered to Council's Statutory Planning team. In addition, a part-time ESD Officer role (0.4 FTE) was resourced in 2019 to support this process. This is in addition to existing statutory ESD requirements for the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre in the Maroondah Planning Scheme, and current efforts to develop a Local ESD Policy in the Maroondah Planning Scheme for the municipality.

Council has been a member of the Council Alliance for a Sustainable Built Environment (CASBE) since August 2016. CASBE is an association of Victorian councils committed to the creation of a sustainable built environment within and beyond their municipalities. Benefits of membership include leveraging group knowledge, technical skills, and access to resources, training and local government advocacy.

We have commenced work to prepare a planning scheme amendment to introduce a Local ESD Policy into the Maroondah Planning Scheme

Council is committed to creating an environmentally sustainable city and has commenced progressing an ESD Local Policy that will encourage environmentally sustainable development throughout the municipality. In 2019, Council commenced the process of preparing a planning scheme amendment to introduce a Local ESD Policy into the planning scheme. A background report is currently being finalised that justifies the need for a Local ESD Policy and recommends the criteria for applications to meet ESD requirements. It is expected that the Council will seek authorisation for public exhibition of the amendment from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning in mid-2020. From here, community members can make submissions on the Amendment before being considered for gazettal under the Planning and Environment Act. It is anticipated that the Local ESD Policy will be formally part of Maroondah's planning scheme in 2020/21.

Focus Area 5 – Funding, Resourcing and Opportunities

Optimise available resources for sustainability projects and seek external opportunities to complement Council resources.

Our priority action highlights

We continued to support EAGA projects that broker partnerships to achieve economies of scale

The Eastern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (EAGA) implements joint initiatives that provide economies of scale and enable projects typically beyond the reach of individual Councils. The effectiveness of this collaborative partnership is demonstrated in approximately \$2.30 return through project-based savings for every \$1 invested.

Highlighted projects delivered by EAGA over the last four years include:

- **Solar Savers** - In June 2016, the EAGA and its partners secured a \$0.76M Victorian Government grant through the New Energy Jobs Fund to deliver the Solar Savers project. The grant assisted in supporting the operational costs of delivering the shared service on behalf of 24 participating councils within four greenhouse alliance regions. The pilot project supported the installation of 434 solar systems to low income and vulnerable households across the participating municipalities between October 2016 and June 2019. These systems will produce approximately 1.6 MWh of power and save 1749 t of CO₂-e emissions annually. Program evaluation showed that participants' main reasons for installing through Solar Savers were financial, including the value of the systems and the lack of upfront costs, and trust in the offer because it was a program run by Council. The aim of the pilot project was to demonstrate that:
 - Solar can provide low cost energy throughout the day meaning that householders could cool their homes during heatwaves without fear of 'price shock',
 - Councils can facilitate private-sector investment within a community segment traditionally viewed as high risk to investors by establishing partnership finance models with the banking sector, and
 - A shared services approach to project implementation enabled access to dedicated capability and thereby reduce resource requirements and risks to councils.
- **Scaling Up Solar on Council Facilities** - In December 2017 EAGA secured \$63,000 funding through Local Government Victoria's Collaborative Council Sustainability Fund Partnership Program to implement a project to develop a business case for scaling-up and refining a new procurement approach for behind the meter solar on council facilities. The project assessed 50 sites across 5 LG areas, compared technology and contracting models, and developed coordinated implementation and procurement plans.
- **Energy Performance Contracting (EPC)** - Since 2016, EAGA has been delivering a joint EPC program – the first of its kind in the Australian Local Government sector. The program aims to reduce energy consumption and operational costs by approx. 30% in council owned buildings and facilities. Under the EAGA model, councils benefit from a joint procurement approach, with the project facilitated by a shared staff resource, hosted at one of the participating councils. Maroondah was part of Tranche 1, along with the City of Boroondara and Yarra Ranges Council, with each Council now each capturing approx. \$200,000 annually in savings and 1,500 tonnes of abatement from energy conservation measures implemented in the project. Collectively, the Councils invested almost \$6.4M in energy efficiency upgrades across 28 of the region's most emission intensive facilities.
- **Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement** - The Victorian Greenhouse Alliances have established a Local Government Electricity Contract Working Group to help Victorian councils save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through their electricity contracting. The Working Group is developing a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for Victorian councils to procure low cost renewable energy from 2020/21, at the conclusion of their current retail contracts.

We continued to support the Carbon Neutral Revolving Energy Fund

The Carbon Neutral Revolving Energy Fund continues to help Council drive sustainability initiatives to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, assisting in reaching our carbon neutral target. Administered by a cross-functional internal working group, the financial savings from energy efficiency programs are reinvested in additional sustainability projects. Since 2015/16, the fund has been reinvested into LED street lighting efficiency replacement and Energy Performance Contract projects such as solar PV, LED lighting, and heating/cooling system upgrades to a total of \$1.5M by end 2019/20. The cumulative effect of these projects is estimated to be a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over 4,000 TCO₂e annually.

We continue to pursue external funding opportunities for sustainability projects

Key partnerships and external funding sources have been established over the last four years enabling a number of significant projects to get off the ground, which might otherwise have been beyond Council's resources. Some of these are highlighted below:

In 2017, Council, in partnership with Swinburne University and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, received funding through the Australian Government's Smart Cities and Suburbs Program. The funding supported delivery of innovative smart city projects that improve the liveability, productivity and sustainability of cities and towns across Australia. Council's project, Greening the Greyfields, was implemented during 2018/19 and 2019/20, to support renewal of residential areas in the middle suburbs in a sustainable way. Two pilot sites in Maroondah were considered in this project, with key outputs from the project being a statutory framework aimed at promoting collaborative redevelopment of precincts where landowners work together, and with the local government, to design better housing outcomes for their land, and the publication of handbooks for local government practitioners, developers and landowners providing a step-by-step approach to participate in Greening the Greyfield project.

Council partnered with Melbourne Water, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Yarra Valley Water to naturalise and enhance a section of Tarralla Creek in Croydon and surrounds. The project is a trial site for Melbourne Water's new program of works 'Re-imagining Your Creek'. The multi-staged project involves re-naturalising and enhancing approximately two kilometres of Tarralla Creek in Croydon and surrounds. Detailed design for creek naturalisation, wetland improvement and stormwater harvesting was undertaken during 2018/19. It is anticipated that Stage 1 (wetland improvement) will start late in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Council was successful in obtaining a \$62,000 Caring for Our Local Environments Grant from the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning. This funding has allowed for the establishment of "The Changing Nature of Tarralla Creek" project, which seeks to bring together community to learn more about the natural environment in and around Tarralla Creek in Croydon, and enable them to apply citizen science techniques to monitor changes in nature as the creek undergoes its significant physical transformation under the "Re-imagining Tarralla Creek" project. Through this project Council has:

- Employed a part-time Community Engagement Officer
- Delivered community engagement and capacity building activities, including a litter action program, various nature monitoring activities, and educational events to promote local community action in citizen science
- Established a community stakeholder group with local members committed to planning and carrying out long-term action along Tarralla Creek as it undergoes change
- Engaged with local indigenous elders and the community at Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place to enhance social connections across existing community groups and share the importance of cultural connections to nature and waterways

Active transport projects continue to be delivered through the assistance of grant funding, including the Walk to School with annual funding of \$10,000 from VicHealth supporting primary schools to be involved in the Walk to School program, which makes walking to school easy, safe and convenient, the VicRoads Community Road Safety Grant Program, and the Transport Accident Commission Local Government Grant Program and Safe Travel in Local

Streets has been accessed to develop plans and complement investment in the construction of pedestrian and cyclist facilities.

Through the Victorian Government's Our Catchments, Our Communities initiative, a range of Living Links partners banded together to help transform the Dandenong Creek corridor into a world-class urban 'Living Link'. With \$100,000 allocated to revegetation projects along Dandenong Creek in Maroondah to assist with revegetation and weed control. It was delivered in partnership with the Port Phillip and Westernport Catchment Management Authority, Melbourne Water, Maroondah Council, Knox Council, Greater Dandenong Council, City of Casey, Parks Victoria and local community groups.

Council was successful in applying to take part in the Victorian Government's 20-minute neighbourhoods pilot program. 20-minute neighbourhoods are identified in the Victorian Government's metropolitan planning strategy (*Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*) as a key concept that can help guide sustainable growth and create healthy, liveable neighbourhoods. In a 20-minute neighbourhood people will have the choice to live locally, with the ability to meet most of their everyday needs within a 20-minute walk, cycle or public transport trip from their homes. Stage 1 of the pilot program provided real-life demonstrations and lessons to support the broader implementation of 20-minute neighbourhoods across Melbourne. A focus of the pilot is the delivery of innovative and best-practice community partnership approaches to engage communities and the private sector in strategic planning and place-making. Council has maintained an on-going partnership with the Department of Environment, Land, Water, and Planning to scale up this neighbourhood planning approach, and pursue holistic neighbourhood outcomes on the ground through the development of a neighbourhood planning framework for Maroondah and a concept design for the pilot site in Croydon South.



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