



# **Ordinary Meeting of Council Attachments**

**Monday 22 July 2024**

**Council Chamber**

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## COUNCILLOR BRIEFING – PUBLIC RECORD

### Briefing Details:

Date: Monday 24 June 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Meeting Rooms 1  
& 2, Realm*All items discussed at a Councillor Briefing are considered confidential in nature.*

### Attendees:

<b>Councillors</b>		
Cr Kylie Spears (Mayor)	Cr Mike Symon	Cr Linda Hancock
Cr Chris Jones	Cr Suzy Stojanovic	Cr Rob Steane OAM
Cr Tony Dib OAM, JP	Cr Tasa Damante	
<b>Council Officers:</b>		
Steve Kozlowski	Chief Executive Officer	
Tony Rocca	Director/Chief Financial Officer	
Adam Todorov	Director Assets & Leisure	
Marianne Di Giallonardo	Director People & Places	
Andrew Fuaux	Director Strategy & Development	
Emma Hills	Governance Officer	<b>Item</b>
Chris Zidak	Manager Business & Precincts	2
Jackie Paul	Business Support & Programs Officer	2
Nina Pirruccio	Acting Manager Governance & Performance	3

### Apologies:

Councillors:	Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)
Council Officers:	Nil

### Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil

### Items Discussed:

1	Council Meeting Agenda
2	BizMonth 24
3	Election Period Policy 2020 - 2024 administrative changes
4	Community Assistance Fund
5	Advocacy Breakfast Update
6	Items of a General Nature Raised by Councillors

**Record completed by:**

Council Officer  
Title

Emma Hills
Governance Officer



## COUNCILLOR BRIEFING – PUBLIC RECORD

### Briefing Details:

Date: Monday 8 July 2024

Time: 6:00 PM

Location: Meeting Rooms 1  
& 2, Realm

*All items discussed at a Councillor Briefing are considered confidential in nature.*

### Attendees:

<b>Councillors</b>		
Cr Kylie Spears (Mayor)	Cr Tony Dib OAM, JP	Cr Tasa Damante
Cr Chris Jones	Cr Mike Symon (virtual)	Cr Linda Hancock
	Cr Suzy Stojanovic	Cr Rob Steane OAM
<b>Council Officers:</b>		
Steve Kozlowski	Chief Executive Officer	
Tony Rocca	Director/Chief Financial Officer	
Adam Todorov	Director Assets & Leisure	
Marianne Di Giallonardo	Director People & Places	
Andrew Taylor	Acting Director Strategy & Development	
Emma Hills	Governance Officer	<b>Item</b>
Tim Cocks	Manager Leisure & Major Facilities	1 & 2
Kirstie Dench	Team Leader Sport & Recreation	1
Heidi Grave	Sport & Recreation Project Officer	1
Jeremy Cutajar	Manager Maroondah Golf Courses & Sportsfields	2
Vincent King	Manager Operations	3
Christopher Howells	Team Leader Tree Maintenance	3
Phil Medley	Manager Governance & Performance	4 & 5
Debbie Seddon	Coordinator Corporate Planning, Risk & Information	5
Kate Klep	Integrated Planning Advisor	5
Isabelle Cancino	Manager Finance & Commercial	6
Shaye Wilson	Coordinator Property, Revenue & Valuation Services	6
Daniel Van Leuverden	Team Leader Property & Valuations	6

### Apologies:

Councillors:

Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)

Council Officers:

Andrew Fuaux, Director Strategy &amp; Development

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:**

Councillors:

Cr Tasa Damante: Item 1 - Capital Funding for Community Organisations Program 2024/25 <i>Reason: Casual staff member at Arrabri Community House Occasional Care</i>
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Council Officers:

Nil
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**Items Discussed:**

1	Capital Funding for Community Organisations Program 2024/25
2	North Ringwood Reserve Oval Reconstruction
3	Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 21069 Tree Data Capture Services
4	Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey Results 2024
5	Maroondah 2050 Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029 - Project Update
6	Land Exchange - Part Palmerston Road West Ringwood
7	Councillor Delegates' Meeting Report
8	Items of a General Nature Raised by Councillors

**Record completed by:**Council Officer  
Title

Emma Hills
Governance Officer



**Attachment A**

## EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Hosted by: Online

### Attendees:

#### Councillors

- Cr Tina Liu, City of Whitehorse
- Cr Anna Chen, Manningham City Council

#### Officers

- Yingnan Wang, Knox City Council
- Winchelle Chuson, Knox City Council
- Shane Hardingham, Knox City Council
- Matthew Hanrahan, Knox City Council
- Emma Steele, Manningham City Council
- Michael Blowfield, Maroondah City Council
- Terry Tillotson, City of Monash
- Sandra Worsnop, City of Monash
- Karen O’Gorman, Yarra Ranges Council
- Chris Hui, City of Whitehorse

#### Secretariat

- James McGarvey, The Agenda Group

#### Apologies

- Cr Stuart James, City of Monash (Chair)
- Cr Susan Laukens, Knox City Council
- Cr Andrew Fullager, Yarra Ranges Council
- Cr Tony Dib, Maroondah City Council
- Cr Rhonda Garad, City of Greater Dandenong
- Christopher Marshall, City of Greater Dandenong
- Frank Vassilacos, Manningham City Council
- Kim O’Connor, Yarra Ranges Council

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

As Crs James (Chair) and Laukens (Deputy Chair) were apologies, Cr Liu assumed the Chair and welcomed the attendees.

**2. Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. Passing of Lucas Sikiotis**

The acting Chair, Cr Liu acknowledged the sad news of the recent and unexpected passing of our colleague, Lucas Sikiotis from the City of Greater Dandenong.

Cr Liu and group members praised Lucas for his contributions to the ETC over many years and expressed warm regard for his collegiality and friendship as a highly respected colleague.

Lucas' family have expressed a preference for a donation to a nominated charity in lieu of flowers, and the Secretariat will consult with the Chair and Deputy Chair to arrange a suitable donation from the ETC.

**4. ETC Finance Report**

The finance report for the ETC for April 2024 – May 2024 is as follows:

Opening Balance for April 2024	\$37,970.91
March Invoice from TAG	\$7,500.00
Income	\$0.00
<b>Closing Balance for May 2024</b>	<b>\$30,470.91</b>

*In Lieu of a quorum, the financial report was not formally approved.*

**ETC Budget**

The Secretariat is seeking any thoughts from ETC Councils and their communications/IT teams on the ETC website, and their feedback will contribute to an updated budget to be considered at the next ETC meeting.

## **5. Ratify Previous Draft Minutes and Actions Arising**

Minutes of the April ETC meeting:

*In Lieu of a quorum, the April Minutes were not formally approved.*

In response to a query from Cr Chen, Mr McGarvey clarified that in preparing ETC meeting minutes, it has not been policy or felt necessary to record times at which ETC Councillors or members join or leave the monthly meetings. In general discussion it was agreed that this should remain the approach to recording ETC minutes.

## **6. 2024 ETC Advocacy Workplan**

### **Contact with Minister's Office**

Mr McGarvey reported that he would pursue an introductory meeting with the public transport adviser from Minister Gabrielle Williams' office now that the busy period for Government of Budget delivery and subsequent Public Accounts and Estimates Committee hearings have been finalised. For those interested, Minister Williams will be appearing before the Committee at 9.45am on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May, and the proceedings can be viewed live via the State Parliament website.

### **Eastern Region Trails Strategy (ERTS)**

Michael Blowfield, Maroondah City Council advised the group that the ERTS working group had met today (May 16<sup>th</sup>) and had the opportunity to look at the draft campaign plan and its budget.

The ERTS working group supports the proposal, with some changes. The major change is the budget – to move the household surveys into the indicative budget and have it costed up.

Other government departments have been identified as target stakeholders for the advocacy campaign, and this advice has been forwarded to the ETC Secretariat.

Mr McGarvey advised the The Agenda Group has recruited a campaigns specialist to join its team, and she will be available to work on the next phase of detailed development of the trails campaign plan and budget in coming months.

### **State and Federal Budgets**

Mr McGarvey reported that the Federal government has established a \$100 million fund for active transport projects. No further detail is currently available as to how the fund will work or projects be decided, but early concerns have been raised by ALGA that local government may not be considered a key partner or participant with the Federal government in the delivery of this project.

A roads funding package of \$400 million was announced, including reference to projects in Melbourne's south-east, which may be of interest to the City of Greater Dandenong, but likely cover areas further out including the Casey/Cardinia areas.

The federal budget has \$1 billion in a line item 'decisions taken, but not yet announced' which enables the Federal government to make funded announcements in the lead up to the next federal election due by May 2025.

There was no funding announcement of any type for the Caulfield – Rowville TRT project in either state or federal budgets. The current advice from those associated with the project is that the business case should be completed in the first quarter of 2025 which could potentially allow for a federal funding announcement in either of the next federal budget or as an election policy commitment.

There was some good news regarding bus services in the state budget, with funding provided for an improvement of services on the 800 bus route, which covers the Monash and Greater Dandenong local government areas. A major campaign had been run by Peter Parker with support from community and Councils.

Chris Marshall from the City of Greater Dandenong advised that the Stud Road pedestrian crossing project was funded through the state budget, receiving about \$12.7m of the \$16.7m package sought over the next 3 years. Greater Dandenong will be continuing to advocate for the construction to be completed as soon as possible.

### **State Parliamentary Inquiry into the impact of road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users**

Chris Hui, City of Whitehorse advised the group that on May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Victorian parliament released its report on the impact of road safety behaviours on vulnerable road users.

The Inquiry was looking at changes in road safety behaviour before and after the Covid pandemic.

Recommendations of interest to the ETC addressed road safety hierarchy, the need for further investment in public transport, streamlining the speed change process and speed limits in school precincts.

Recommendation 27 will be of particular interest to the ETC as it calls for reviewing the location of pedestrian crossings on arterial roads to ensure there are regular crossings linked to public transport stops, activity centres and schools.

This is in line with the key justifications for the ETC's priority crossings package and the Parliamentary Committee's recommendation can be cited to support our advocacy on this issue.

Of note for future advocacy considerations, one of the Parliamentary Committee members is from the ETC region – John Mullahy MP, the Member for Glen Waverley.

Mr McGarvey further explained that this is a Parliamentary Committee report – not a government report – and as such the recommendations are not automatically adopted. The Government will have a period of time to consider the recommendation and will prepare a report back to the Committee on their response to each of the recommendations. This allows some opportunity to lobby the State Government on how it responds to the recommendations.

Mr McGarvey asked ETC Councils to consider each of the relevant recommendations and provide advice back to the Secretariat on items that could be considered for advocacy to government by the ETC.

Cr Chen questioned the best approach to advocacy in a fiscally constrained environment. Mr McGarvey and Mr Hui suggested that the changes recommended by the Parliamentary Committee in many cases are around regulatory or policy settings and actions, and won't necessarily require significant new funding commitments.

## 7. General Business

Cr Liu reported that the key directions for structure planning for SRL east stations have been released, looking at how the stations support the local economy and businesses and industry niches, land use issues and environmental sustainability. This now open for public consultation and the City of Whitehorse will be making a formal submission in response. Terry Tillotson indicated that the City of Monash will also be considering a response.

## 8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be hosted at the City of Monash and online, and will commence at 6.30pm (6.00pm for diner) on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024

### Action Summary

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline
1. Prepare an updated draft ETC budget	Secretariat	June2024
2. ETC Secretariat to arrange an introductory meeting with Minister William's adviser	Secretariat	June 2024
3. ETC Councils to consider each of the relevant recommendations and provide advice back to the Secretariat on items that could be considered for advocacy to government by the ETC	Council officers	June/July 2024

Attachment B



VICTORIAN TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

Email: [info@victransport.com.au](mailto:info@victransport.com.au)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/victoriantransportactiongroup](https://www.facebook.com/victoriantransportactiongroup)

Eastern Transport Coalition

23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024.

By email to: [info@etc.org.au](mailto:info@etc.org.au)

Dear Councillors,

**Re: VTAG Response to Melbourne's Tram Plan**

Please find attached a copy of the Victorian Transport Action Group's paper *Melbourne's Tram Plan, Filling the Gaps*. Given your organisation's ongoing interest and involvement in public transport issues, we thought you would be interested in VTAG's views expressed in this paper.

The Melbourne Tram Plan was welcomed enthusiastically by the Victorian Transport Action Group (VTAG) when it was published by the Victorian Government last year. VTAG saw it as an important statement by Government, acknowledging how vital trams are to Melbourne's mobility and culture. It had the potential to kick off an overdue discussion about what is needed to bring our tired tram network back to a world leader among light-rail systems.

On perusal of the plan however, VTAG formed a view that the Tram Plan offers only a limited assessment of the current state of Melbourne's tram system and fails to provide updated details or status of the many previous initiatives announced by the Victorian Government over the past five years. We believe there is a need for clearer direction and action.

Accordingly, VTAG members have put together a response to the Tram Plan for consideration by Government, Yarra Trams and other key stakeholders like your group. It is our hope that our paper will lead to further discussion with all parties on the steps required for transforming the tram system into a modern light rail service that is accessible, efficient and attracts growing numbers of passengers to more sustainable public transport.

Please let us know if you would like an opportunity to discuss the views expressed in the paper with members of VTAG.

For further information or to discuss the views expressed in the paper, please contact VTAG's spokesperson for this topic: **Eric Keys on 0414 354 240**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Glenyys Romanes'.

Glenyys Romanes AM

Chair, Victorian Transport Action Group

**Attachment: VTAG Response to Melbourne's Tram Plan - Filling the Gaps**

# VTAG

VICTORIAN TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

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## Melbourne's Tram Plan Response

# Filling the Gaps

May 2024

## Summary

Melbourne's Tram Plan (the Plan) is a welcome document as the Government acknowledges the importance of trams to our city. Many other cities abandoned trams, much to their regret. Melbourne not only retained but expanded its tram network. The Plan is an essential start to an overdue discussion on ensuring we realise the network's full potential.

Yet the Plan fails to meet the basic requirements the Victorian Transport Action Group (VTAG) would expect. It offers a limited assessment of the substandard state of the tram system, including the lack of level access stops, the ageing tram fleet, deteriorating infrastructure and the lack of on-road priority. The Plan also needs to provide details of the many initiatives previously announced by the Government. The Plan's lack of detail undermines the Government's stated intent to transform our tram legacy into a modern light rail service.

Following our review, VTAG recommends that the Government embrace a few modest initiatives to provide tangible evidence of its commitment to an improved tram service, including:

- 1. Confirm its commitment to previously announced projects (listed in Table 1) and provide indicative timeframes for completion.**
- 2. Redirect routes 3, 5 and 12 (detailed in Table 2) with the opening of MM1 to improve the distribution of tram services through the central area.**
- 3. Direct Infrastructure Victoria to undertake the specific planning process as part of the next state infrastructure plan to canvas a range of possible network enhancements.**
- 4. Revise the selection of stops for upgrade to level access to include the practical considerations of technical feasibility and constructability to ensure that as many stops as possible are delivered as a priority.**
- 5. Expand the corridor-based approach being applied to upgrade stops to include the implementation of traffic priority along the selected corridors.**
- 6. Adopt a 15mins, or at least 20 mins, as the maximum headway for all Melbourne tram routes.**

VTAG has embraced the Plan as an invitation to engage with the Government and Department on the next steps to transform the system into an accessible and efficient service. A service that will further encourage urban consolidation and provide an attractive alternative to less efficient and less sustainable forms of travel.

**VTAG will seek regular meetings with the Department to ensure every effort is made to create a Melbourne Tram Plan worthy of the name.**

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This submission is made by the Victorian Transport Action Group (VTAG), an independent forum focused on solutions to Victoria’s transport challenges.

Members of VTAG have expertise across passenger and freight transport, urban and regional planning, State and Local Government, I.T. and the environment, engineering, architecture, and urban design.

Australia is facing a climate crisis. VTAG advocates for policies and projects that demonstrate meaningful reductions in emissions and prepares Victoria for a low-carbon future.

## Introduction

VTAG has prepared this submission in response to *Melbourne's Tram Plan* (the Plan) published by the Victorian Government in August 2023. VTAG commends the release of a plan for Melbourne's iconic tram network.

The current network is a valuable legacy and must be maintained as an essential asset. It is the responsibility of this generation to build on this legacy and ensure the tram network is fit for purpose for future generations. The Plan is a start, but a more detailed and action-oriented plan is needed if our trams are to deliver their full potential.

The Plan, as outlined in Horizon 1 – Current Actions, is modest in the extreme. Previously announced projects and policies have been omitted, causing confusion and concern over the government's intent. It is unclear whether the Government remains committed to these previously announced initiatives.

The Plan's initial actions include:

- Action 1 – Plan and deliver improved tram accessibility.
- Action 2 – Prepare for the arrival of Next Generation Trams.
- Action 3 – Plan for network reform.
- Action 4 – Prepare for change.
- Action 5 – Plan, test and then implement systems and technology.
- Action 6 – Plan, test and implement measures to improve reliability and performance of the tram network.

The Plan omits tangible actions beyond the welcomed purchase of the Next Generation Trams. The critical actions proposed for the first stage foreshadow more planning than action – more than two decades after the state's metropolitan strategy, *Melbourne 2030*, announced a tram plan would be prepared.

Melbourne can claim credit for retaining trams while other cities discarded their networks, yet we are now victims of this history. The cities reintroducing trams demonstrate best-practice applications of modern light rail technology, equipping their cities with attractive and sustainable transport. Melbourne must move beyond its legacy to expand and modernise this vital asset to encourage the urban consolidation needed to address the triple challenges of greenhouse gas emissions, housing affordability, and better public health.

VTAG's purpose in preparing this submission is to highlight and accelerate the discussion of crucial interventions needed to upgrade the existing tram network. The primary role of Melbourne's trams is to support an urban environment rapidly consolidating into a higher-density urban form. The transformation of inner and middle Melbourne requires shifting

from the current accommodation of cars towards more appropriate forms of travel, including walking, cycling and public transport. This will, in turn, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector, reduce urban sprawl, and encourage the construction of new housing. In this context, trams play an essential role.

Our response to the Plan has been to document the pragmatic and specific interventions from previous State plans and policies. In this submission, VTAG is not proposing much that is new but reminding the state of prior commitments that have been omitted from the current plan. If trams are to play a role in meeting the State's goal of zero emissions by 2045, these previous plans and policies warrant attention within the plan's first Horizon 5. We expect the Government to clarify whether it remains committed to these projects and, if so, provide a timeframe for implementation.

The following section further outlines the shortcomings of the Plan. The balance of our submission follows the structure of the Plan. Initiatives are organised according to these themes:

- Tram network.
- Tram stops.
- An energy efficient network.
- Renewing fleet and infrastructure.
- Improving tram performance.
- Improving customer experience.

## Filling the Gaps of the Government's Strategic Response



VTAG commends the Government for the \$3.9 billion investment into the tram network, including the \$1.85 billion for 100 next-generation trams. Yet Melbourne's Tram Plan provides little detail of how the balance of these resources (\$2 billion) will be deployed and what further investment will be needed to bring the network up to the standard of the other Australian light

rail systems. The Plan, as it stands, fails to articulate the gap between today's tram services and the modern, attractive service needed to encourage and support a consolidating city and provide an alternative to more energy-intensive and space-hungry forms of travel.

Melbourne urgently needs a plan that outlines the government's priorities for expanding and modernising the tram network. Integrated planning requires a plan that goes beyond strategic objectives and provides specific details of how the tram service will be transformed over the coming decades. A robust plan would build upon the previous announcements, existing structure plans and initiatives found in the multiplicity of the state's transport and land-use plans. Melbourne needs a plan that provides the detail necessary to ensure that the future tram network is integrated with other transport and land-use projects across the metropolitan area.

The Government has stated that it intends to make "Good decisions, made faster". Yet this intention is not evident. Decisions to provide the tram infrastructure needed to support urban development, such as light rail to Fishermans Bend, have, at worst, been abandoned or, at best, delayed to some unknowable timeframe.

**VTAG is seeking an action plan with tangible outcomes.** The strategic positioning of the Plan is too limited, and the outcomes too vague to provide a meaningful basis to hold anyone accountable if the promised outcomes fail to materialise.

This document is not a comprehensive critique of Melbourne's Tram Plan. There are many opportunities where the network can be extended and improved to great effect – most of these proposals are not canvassed in this response. The scope of this response is limited to those initiatives previously supported by the government and to highlight those that should be prioritised for immediate action for reasons that will be addressed in the following sections.

## Tram network

Melbourne has undergone significant change since 1981, when urban consolidation first became an objective of Melbourne's planning scheme 1. Over the last two decades (2001-2021), the inner city's population has grown by 160%, significantly outpacing metropolitan Melbourne's overall growth of 46%. Yet, beyond the introduction of larger trams, there has been little change to the level of service or extent of the tram network during this period<sup>1</sup>.

Urban consolidation is occurring broadly throughout the area defined by the tram network, but more rapid development is needed. The government has recognised Victoria is experiencing a housing crisis with latent demand exceeding supply. The Victorian Housing Statement<sup>2</sup> expresses the challenge in these terms:

*The status quo isn't an option. If we don't act now, Victoria will end up falling short – by more than 25,000 homes each year over the next ten years. That means more house prices skyrocketing, more families priced out of the market, and more competition for rental properties.*

*It all comes back to supply. It's a simple reality: as a country, we need to do more to build enough houses for all of the people who need them. Because it's only when there are enough homes to go around that more people will be able to afford them.*

Part of the solution to this crisis is encouraging development in designated urban renewal areas, such as Fishermans Bend and Arden. These brownfield areas allow development to proceed without the usual objections from a pre-existing population. By necessity, this development must be transit-oriented – there is little demand for higher-density housing without access to good public transport. Yet the Government has failed to provide the expected public transport infrastructure for these priority development areas on the CBD periphery.

The following sections discuss the tram projects needed to accelerate urban consolidation and improve accessibility throughout the inner and central city areas. The first section details projects previously announced but are not documented in the current plan. The second section discusses the network changes that should occur when Melbourne Metro 1 (MM1) opens. The third section discusses other changes that warrant detailed examination and, if appropriate, endorsement as a guide for other city plans.

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<sup>1</sup> A detailed analysis of the land use and transit changes associated with urban consolidation can be found here: Tracking the Development of High-Density Housing Against Transit Service Provision: 19-Year Longitudinal Analysis in Melbourne, Australia, C. De Gruyter; S. Pemberton; E. Keys. TRB 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Victoria's Housing Statement, The Decade Ahead. 2024-2024. State of Victoria, Department of Premier and Cabinet. **VTAG Melbourne's Tram Plan Response (May 2024)**

### A. Acknowledging Existing Commitments

The Plan acknowledges the interconnection between urban renewal and tram network improvements. Yet, it fails to acknowledge existing commitments made by this government (Table 1). At best, this is an oversight that should be quickly corrected. At worst, this is an announcement by omission that these previously proposed projects have been abandoned. There may be good reasons for abandoning some or even all these previous proposals, but abandoning these projects without justification raises questions about whether any weight should be placed on the Plan beyond being an exercise in being seen to be doing something.

**1. VTAG recommends that the Government confirms its commitment to the projects listed in Table 1 and provides indicative timeframes for completion.**

**Table 1: Current Tram Proposals**

Proposal	Reference
Turner St, Fishermans Bend (Northern Link)	Fishermans Bend Framework 2018, Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051 Victoria's Infrastructure Plan 2021
Plummer St, Fishermans Bend (Southern Link)	Fishermans Bend Framework 2018, Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051 Victoria's Infrastructure Plan 2021
Spencer St Extension to Arden	West Melbourne Structure Plan 2018, Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051
Dynon Rd extension to Footscray	West Melbourne Structure Plan 2018, Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051
Toorak Rd/Domain Rd realignment	Melbourne Metro Business Case 2016
Caulfield to Rowville	Premier of Victoria, Media Release, 10 April 2018
Diversion of Swanston St routes to William St	Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051
Extend trams into the former Maribyrnong defence site	Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy 2021-2051

The development of **Fishermans Bend and Arden depends on providing new tram routes**. The planning for each area is premised on the availability of new tram services to integrate these new communities with the surrounding urban area, including access to employment opportunities within the CBD. The omission of these previous proposals for **new tram routes** undermines investor confidence that the infrastructure needed to support new residential development will be provided. The rapid roll-out of these tram projects is one way for the Government to meet its objective of creating "800,000 homes in Victoria over the next decade"<sup>3</sup>. The plans for Arden and Fishermans Bend alone can deliver homes for 100,000 people.

<sup>3</sup> Victoria Housing Strategy, The Decade Ahead 2024-2034.

The proposed **tram line along Spencer St and Dynon Roads**, connecting Footscray to West Melbourne and Melbourne has new significance with the construction of the new tram depot at Maidstone (concern of Williamson and Hamstead Roads). The extension of Route 82 into the city would create additional benefits from the state's investment in New Generation trams and further encourage residential development in and around Footscray and West Melbourne, including the former defence site at Maribyrnong.

The **extension of trams into the Maribyrnong former Defence Site** was recommended as part of Victoria's Infrastructure Strategy. Yet, this proposal doesn't appear in any endorsed plans for this urban renewal site. This is an example of an existing proposal where the new plan could provide some greater clarity over its status. The site has enormous potential, but without a high-capacity, frequent public transport service, this potential cannot be realised since there is no physical capacity to serve it via the road network.

The government announced in 2018 that they would proceed with a new **light rail route from Caulfield Station to Rowville**. This project complements the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL), but the location of the new Monash station raises questions about the proposed route. VTAG notes the SRL has made no provision for this new route. Yet, the need for improved transit for the people living in the Caulfield/Rowville corridor remains unchanged, notwithstanding the SRL. Again, the plan should clarify whether this previous commitment is still current and, if so, how it has been modified in light of the SRL.

The plan's lack of detail further fuels uncertainty over whether the Route 58 route change from Domain Rd to Toorak will be made permanent<sup>4</sup>. The government originally proposed this network change as part of the scope of work for MM1, yet media reports indicate that the Government is now reconsidering it. Any change will have implications for other tram network changes that might be contemplated as part of the MM1 project, discussed below.

## **B. Melbourne Metro Changes**

The Plan highlights the critical nexus between the MM1 and the tram network. The MM1 project creates the opportunity to redistribute tram services through the inner city better to align with the city's development that has occurred since the opening of the underground rail loop in the 1980s. MM1 is due to open in 2025, leaving little time to plan and implement these network changes. VTAG is concerned that if the government fails to progress these changes, including several new track connections, the nexus between the MM1 project and these network changes and the associated benefits will be lost.

- 2. VTAG recommends redirection of routes 3, 5 and 12 (as shown in Table 2) for introduction with the opening of MM1 to improve the distribution of tram services through the central area.**

**Table 2: Melbourne Metro Complementary Tram Changes**

Route	Proposal
Route 3	Re-route to William St
Route 5	Re-route to Spencer St (requires Park St connection)
Route 12	Operate permanently via Latrobe and Spencer St

### C. Other Changes and Extensions

VTAG welcomes the recent announcement<sup>4</sup> of new tram infrastructure along Victoria St, which will provide a new east/west service along the northern boundary of the CBD. Yet this announcement further highlights the Plan's shortcomings as it does not mention this project or the network changes that are to follow.

VTAG notes that these new works will enable at least two network enhancements, as detailed in Table 3.

**Table 3: Other CBD and Inner Area Tram Route Enhancements**

Route	Proposal
Route 67	Re-route to Victoria and Abbotsford Streets. (requires Victoria St direct connection at Victoria Market and Abbotsford St direct connection to Royal Childrens Hospital turnback.)
Route 78	Extend from North Richmond to Arden Station via Victoria and Abbotsford Streets. (Requires completion of tram "missing link" in Victoria St between Latrobe and Swanston Streets).

The above changes will provide significant passenger benefits. Route 67 diversion (presently terminates at Melbourne University in Swanston St) to Victoria St at the City Baths provides a direct connection from Swanston St and St Kilda Rd routes to North Melbourne and Royal Childrens Hospital.

Route 78 extension from its present North Richmond terminus provides a direct linkage from the job-rich areas of Cremorne, Victoria Parade and St Vincents Plaza medical precinct across the north side of the CBD to Queen Victoria Market, North Melbourne and Arden Station.

Over the years, there have been calls for other tram extensions and network changes. VTAG is aware, for example, of the Rail Futures Institute's study of the tram network and the numerous proposals arising in local government and other area-based plans. These proposals broadly fall into three main categories for improvement:

<sup>4</sup> Swanston and Victoria streets precinct upgrade. February 2024. Public Transport Victoria.

1. Enhanced network integration. There are many examples where tram routes terminate short of existing railway stations. A program of short network extensions would greatly enhance the connectivity between the light and heavy rail systems.
2. Supporting urban renewal. Numerous urban renewal opportunities exist that, if combined with a tram extension, could proceed as transit-oriented developments.
3. Network enhancement. Numerous proposals exist to better align the tram network with urban development over the last fifty years.

Each proposal requires assessing the network change within the context of the urban development outcomes sought in each case consistent with planning integration principles and the Transport Integration Act 2010. Following an initial assessment, projects deemed appropriate for Melbourne's needs should then be formalised in an appropriate planning instrument (for example, a structure plan or through an amendment to the PPTN) as a future tram route. This would allow other parties to plan other developments and projects in an integrated way.

The Plan states that network extensions should support strategic planning policies including the seven national employment and innovation clusters (NEICs) identified in Plan Melbourne. The Parkville NEIC is currently served by trams and will directly benefit from the opening of MM1. New tram routes have been proposed to support the Fishermans Bend and Monash NEICs as discussed. The remaining four NEICs are not served by the current tram network, nor are there current plans for this to change.

The suburban NEICs (Werribee, Sunshine, La Trobe and Dandenong) and their associated rail stations, bus interchanges and key destinations are therefore opportunities to develop new catchments for LRT-style services, using existing technology or new technology such as the trackless trams which have been trailed in Perth and elsewhere. New networks designed to serve these suburban NEICs could draw on the patterns of connectivity evident in the CBD and inner suburbs of Melbourne in terms of their service intensity and distribution, rather than focusing on connecting suburban centres together.

- 3. VTAG recommends that Infrastructure Victoria undertake the specific planning process as part of the next state infrastructure plan to canvas a range of possible tram network enhancements.**

## Tram Stops



VTAG is concerned that the rollout of universally accessible, level access stops has effectively stalled. Currently, only 28% of stops meet accessibility standards. The Department had a legal requirement under the Disability Discrimination Act (1992) for all stops to be fully accessible by the end of 2022. The Auditor General reported in 2020 that the Department was unlikely to meet this requirement by 2023 and that, based on the current upgrade rate, the network is unlikely to be fully accessible until 2066 – over 70 years after the accessibility

standards became a mandated requirement.

Progress is being made in upgrading the tram fleet to modern, accessible vehicles. The first low-floor trams were introduced in 2001 – more than 20 years ago. Today, low-floor trams comprise approximately 38% of the fleet, increasing to 75% following delivery of the 100 Next Generation Trams. An additional 145 vehicles are required for the whole fleet (excluding heritage trams) to meet the current accessibility requirements. In VTAG's estimation, the Government will be forced to replace the balance of the older vehicles with modern equivalents as a direct follow-on from the delivery of the 100 G class trams. These older, non-conforming vehicles will be increasingly difficult to maintain and fail to meet community expectations. The absence of a comprehensive fleet strategy is yet another shortcoming of the Plan.

While progress is being made to renew the fleet, there has yet to be a plan to upgrade tram stops. The Department recently reported<sup>5</sup> that there are currently 460 level access stops – the same number reported in 2020 as part of the Auditor General's review. There has been no material increase in the number of accessible stops over the last four years, nor is there any current plan to roll out new stops.

Today, 20 years after the first low-floor tram entered service, only Route 96 is nearly fully accessible (there is one stop without level access). PTV advises that Routes 11, 19 and 109 usually operate with low-floor trams, but less than half the stops along these allow access. Other tram routes (such as Routes 5, 6, 16, 48, 58, 72 and 86) operate with a mixture of newer and older trams, with only 25% of the stops allowing access.

Based on current trends, Melbourne is on track to have a fleet of modern, accessible vehicles within the foreseeable future. Yet, given the lack of progress, there is no

<sup>5</sup> Email from the department 23/1/2024.

confidence that these vehicles will be paired with the level access stops needed to create an accessible service.

The Plan has proposed an innovative approach to upgrading stops. Previously, funding was for level access stops at key locations and implemented stop-by-stop. This scheme has been replaced by a corridor approach, where groups of about sixteen stops will be upgraded together.

VTAG understands that the Department of Transport and Planning is now planning to build new accessible stops in Footscray/Maribyrnong, Thornbury/Northcote, Fitzroy/Collingwood, and around the CBD. There is no program for the remainder of the network.

### Off track: the struggle for people with disabilities on Melbourne's tram network

Disability advocate says there is 'no political will' to make accessibility upgrades as Brunswick residents plan rally

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- Get our [morning and afternoon news emails](#), [free app](#) or [daily news podcast](#)



📍 Brunswick resident Christian Astourian on Sydney Road. He has helped organise a rally to mark the start of transport equity week and call for accessible tram stops in the area. Photograph: Nadir Kinani/The Guardian

The lack of political will to modernise tram stops has seen the upgrade of stops stalled leaving many people without access to tram services.  
(Source: The Guardian 15 Sept 2023)

Given the urgent need to accelerate the roll-out of stop upgrades, **VTAG urges the Government to revise the assessment for selection of stops to be upgraded to level access to include the practical considerations of technical feasibility and constructability to ensure that as many stops as possible are delivered as a matter of priority.**

VTAG notes that Melbourne's network has a much higher density of stops than is found on comparable networks, and therefore, some rationalisation of stops is appropriate. Furthermore, the rationalisation of stops, together with the construction of level access platforms, provides the opportunity for additional on-road priority measures as discussed later in this submission.

## An Energy Efficient Network

VTAG commends the Government for powering the existing tram network with 100% renewable energy.



We encourage the Government to recognise that trams, and public transport more generally, are more energy-efficient than private and shared motor vehicles. Therefore, the energy efficiency of the transport sector is improved by encouraging a shift in travel to public transport away from personal and shared cars. Making the tram service as attractive and accessible as possible is, therefore, an important task.

A key aspect of achieving mode shift is to ensure the integration of tram stop rationalisation with stop design and adjacent streetscape design, co-ordinated with the work of local authority urban design work to upgrade the walkable catchments around tram stops.

## Renewing Our Fleet and Infrastructure



The Plan needs to provide a clear path for modernising the tram fleet. The next tranche of vehicles that will replace the oldest vehicles in the fleet is mentioned, but details need to be provided about how and when all older Z-Class and A-Class trams will be replaced.

The Next Generation Tram project will introduce 100 G-Class trams into service starting in 2025. The Plan notes that these new vehicles will replace “some” aging high-floor trams. Assuming these new trams will replace old trams on a one-for-one basis, by 2029, the fleet will comprise 300 low-floor trams, 213 high-floor trams (Z-Class, A-Class, and B-Class), and

13 heritage (W-Class) trams. By 2029, most high-floor trams will be over 35 years old and not meet current accessibility standards.

The Auditor General has previously reported<sup>6</sup> on the department's failure to meet its legal obligation to ensure all tram stops meet accessibility standards by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. The Plan, as it stands, will also see the Department miss the 2032 legal requirement to ensure a fully accessible tram service. There is an urgent need to plan to replace the remaining Z-Class, A-Class and B-Class trams. By 2029, all these vehicles will be operating beyond their design life, and none meet current disability standards.

**Table 4 - Melbourne's Tram Fleet (Current and Planned)**

Class	Capacity	Low Floor	Introduced	Quantity
G	150	Yes	2025 (Planned)	100
E	210	Yes	2013	100
D2	140	Yes	2004	21
D1	90	Yes	2002	38
C2	180	Yes	2005	5
C1	120	Yes	2001	36
B2	110	No	1988	130
A	65	No	1984	69
Z3	70	No	1975	114
W8	75	No	1951	13
			Total Fleet	526
			Total Low Floor Fleet	300

Source: <https://yarratrams.com.au/our-fleet-today>, Melbourne's Tram Plan

<sup>6</sup> Victorian Auditor-General's Office, Accessibility of Tram Services, October 2020  
**VTAG Melbourne's Tram Plan Response (May 2024)**

## Improving Tram Performance

VTAG welcomes Melbourne's Tram Plan objective to "improve journey times and deliver faster, more reliable tram travel for passengers". Yet, in a serious omission, the Plan provides no detail of what will be done and when.

A passenger's journey time from point A to B comprises five key elements:

- Access time – the time needed to access the entry tram stop from the journey origin, Point A.
- Wait time – the time spent waiting for the tram to arrive at the stop.
- In-vehicle time – the time spent on the vehicle between entry and exit.
- Egress time – the time needed to access the final destination, Point B, from the exit stop.
- Transfer time – the time spent transferring between stops and the additional wait time.

Pragmatically, there are limited opportunities for significant change in access and egress times. These times are governed by physical geography, the interplay between established land uses and the tram network. VTAG recognises the rationalisation of stops as platform stops are rolled out, which may increase access and egress time. This can be offset, to some extent, by tram and platform design and a reduction of in-vehicle time due to less frequent stops. Overall, if the rationalisation is well planned, the accessibility will improve, and overall performance will also improve.

Melbourne's Tram Plan focuses on giving tram services "more green light time" to speed the trams to reduce in-vehicle time, and to deliver more reliable tram services, reducing unexpected wait time. Currently, Melbourne's tram network, the world's largest, is one of the slowest in the world, notwithstanding the introduction of modern trams. Yet the Plan lacks any specifics of how this problem will be tackled.

**VTAG recommends expanding the corridor-based approach for stop upgrades to include a corridor-wide implementation of traffic priority.** Coordinating the introduction of new level access stops with the introduction of separation kerbs and priority traffic signals would increase efficiency. At minimum, a dedicated program is needed to materially improve trams' on-road performance and reduce the in-vehicle time component of the overall journey time.

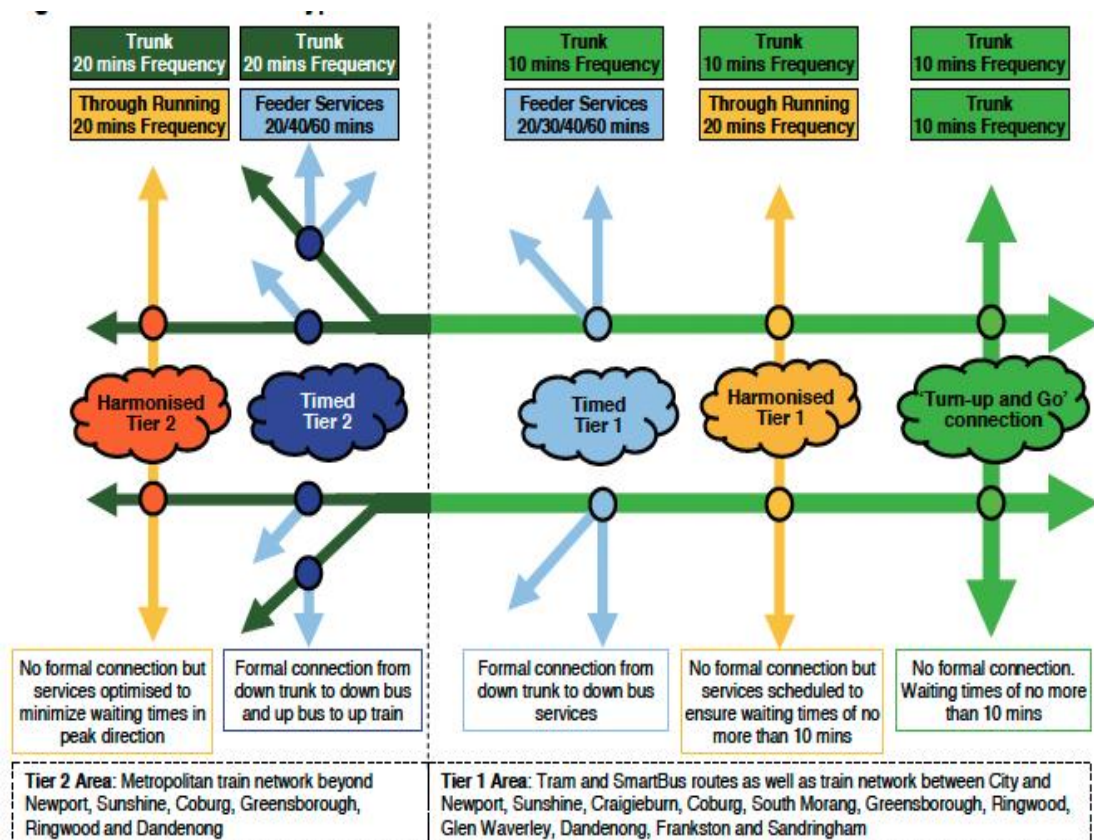
**The greatest opportunity to improve tram performance quickly and cheaply is to increase service frequency to reduce wait time.** Furthermore, the harmonisation of tram, train and bus service frequencies offers great potential to further reduce journey times for two or more public transport trips in one journey. The Plan does not mention multimodal integration as part of an overall strategy for improving public transport performance.

Public transport modal coordination is not a new concept. The Department's own Network Development Plan (NDP) prepared in 2012 gave detailed consideration "to protecting and enhancing multi-modal service options and recognising the interrelationships between all public transport modes" (p. 26). VTAG notes that in a regressive step, such considerations have been omitted from the recently released bus and tram plans. It is worth re-iterating some of the key points from the earlier train plan.

Approximately a quarter of tram journey journeys involve another public transport trip. Train/tram accounts for 18% of tram trips, tram/tram 10% and tram/bus another 6%. These proportions must grow as Melbourne intensifies and overall public transport mode share increases consistent with the ambitions of Plan Melbourne.

The NDP proposed an "integrated service planning and coordination framework" as the most efficient way to improve service levels across a dispersed travel market. In essence, this framework proposed a harmonised set of service frequencies to ensure timetable coordination across all modes. The integrated service is shown in Figure 1 taken from the NDP published in 2012.

**Figure 1: Connection types (taken from Network Development Plan, p. 32)**



Melbourne’s tram network fails to meet the service level required to ensure modal coordination for many periods of the day. Most routes only meet Tier 1 service levels during peak hours.

Furthermore, Melbourne tram service levels compare poorly with the service levels provided on new light rail systems now operating throughout Australia, as shown in Table 5. Most of these new systems provide a maximum headway of 15 mins compared to 30 mins for Melbourne. Adelaide, the second worst example, provides a maximum headway of 20 mins.

**Table 5 – Maximum Headways Across Australian Light Rail Systems**

City	Route	Maximum Headway (mins)
Melbourne	Route 96	30
Adelaide	Glenelg	20
Sydney	L1 (Dulwich Hill)	15
Newcastle	NLR	15
Canberra		15
Gold Coast		15

**VTAG urges the Government to adopt 15mins, or at least 20 mins, as the maximum headway for all Melbourne tram routes.** This will align Melbourne with service levels in other Australian cities and regional centres.

## Improving Passenger Experience



Melbourne's Tram Plan offers no specific initiatives to improve tram customer experience. This further demonstrates the weakness of this document.

VTAG notes that trams are part of an integrated public transport service. Much of the customer experience is determined by system-wide functions such as trip planning, passenger information, wayfinding, fares and ticketing, and the

provision of a safe and secure environment.

Aspects of service that are mode-specific, include facilities provided at stops and on-board vehicles. The most urgent matters facing customers are barriers associated with the lack of level access, discussed earlier in this document. The provision of real-time information, next-stop information has been greatly improved with the introduction of upgraded stops and new vehicles. Yet there are still many opportunities for low-cost improvements that are commonly found in world best transport systems including:

- Better stop facilities:
  - Locality maps (showing key local destinations and other public transport services within a 400 or 800m walk; multi-modal public transport network maps that enable customers to make network-based route choices – good examples of these are the maps used at London bus stops)
  - Assistance/emergency buttons
  - Wi-fi
  - Charging ports
  - Seating
  - Weather protection
  - Good night-time lighting
  - Payment facilities
- On-board facilities
  - Assistance/emergency buttons
  - Wi-fi

VTAG reiterates concern with the free tram zone. This initiative works against many of the aims of Melbourne's Tram Plan. We share Infrastructure Victoria's concern that "expanding the free tram zone will lower network performance and reduce equity"<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> Inquiry into Expanding Melbourne's Free Tram Zone - Infrastructure Victoria Submission, December 2019  
**VTAG Melbourne's Tram Plan Response (May 2024)**

## Conclusion

Melbourne's Tram Plan is a welcome document and an acknowledgment by the government of the importance of Melbourne's trams to our city. Many cities once abandoned Trams, much to those cities' regret. Melbourne not only retained its tram network but expanded it. As an acknowledgement, the Plan is an essential start to an overdue discussion.

Yet the Plan fails to meet the basic requirements VTAG would expect to see in a plan intended as a road map to drive significant improvement needed. The Plan offers a limited assessment of the current situation, such as the lack of level access stops, the aging tram fleet, deteriorating infrastructure and the need for on-road priority. This compromises the credibility of the more aspirational elements of the plan about the longer-term and broader scale potential of trams for accessibility transformations of Melbourne's central, inner, and critical middle suburban employment clusters. More particularly, the Plan is silent on many of the previous initiatives announced by the Government, raising more questions than it answers.

The plan nods to what might be found in modern tram systems, as seen in Sydney, Canberra, Adelaide, and the Gold Coast. These new systems demonstrate the qualities of modern light rail. Melbourne's trams may be iconic, but the system is old, tired, slow, and inaccessible despite recent investment in new vehicles.

VTAG embraces the Plan as an invitation to engage with the Department on the next steps for transforming the system into an accessible and efficient service. A service that will further encourage urban consolidation and provide an attractive alternative to less efficient and less sustainable forms of travel.

**VTAG will seek regular meetings with the Department to ensure every effort is made to create a plan worthy of the name.**

### Victorian Transport Action Group

This submission is made by the Victorian Transport Action Group (VTAG), an independent forum focused on solutions to Victoria's transport challenges.

Members of VTAG have expertise across passenger and freight transport, urban and regional planning, State and Local Government, I.T. and the environment, engineering, architecture, and urban design.

Australia is facing a climate crisis. VTAG advocates for policies and projects that demonstrate meaningful reductions in emissions and prepares Victoria for a low-carbon future.



## Maroondah Arts Advisory Committee – Minutes

### Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday 5 June 2024

Optional pre-meet:  
Tour of ArtSpace, Realm  
Committee Meeting

Time: 6:30pm - 7:00pm

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

Location: ArtSpace,  
Realm  
Location: Meeting Rooms  
1 & 2

### Attendees:

#### **Councillors**

Cr Mike Symon (Chair)  
Cr Suzy Stojanovic

#### **Council Officers:**

Marianne Di Giallonardo, Director People & Places  
Chris Zidak, Manager Business & Precincts  
Elissa Bates, Manager Creative Places  
Brit Josephs, Theatre Programs and Events Coordinator  
Phil Medley, Manager Governance and Performance  
Brian Tu, Corporate and Community Planning Facilitator  
Andrew Duong, Curatorial Program Officer

#### **Community and Creative Industries Representatives:**

David Billimoria - Musical Director, Croydon Wind Symphony, and Manager Wellbeing Workforces and Child Safety, Department of Education  
James Andrews - Founder and Managing Director, YourDNA Creative Arts  
Maryanne Leavey - Theatre and Events Manager, Aquinas College  
Wendy Catling - Independent Artist  
Sharyn Mullens Taylor OAM - Executive Director, Fresh Theatre for Social Change and Head of Arts, Luther College (via Teams)  
Zya Kane - Independent Performer, Director and Producer

### Apologies:

Councillors:

Council Officers:

Community and Creative  
Industries Representatives:

Cr Paul Macdonald (Deputy Mayor)

Emma Hills, Governance Officer

Elise Murphy, Coordinator Arts and Culture

Kali Michailidis - Manager External Relations,  
TarraWarra Museum of Art

Katie Stackhouse - Independent Artist and Art  
Educator

Grace Kop - Independent Curator, and Customer  
Service and Administration Officer, National Gallery of  
Victoria

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:**

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil
Community and Creative Industries Representatives:	Nil

**Items Discussed**

## 1. OPENING OF MEETING (Acknowledgement of Country)

Maroondah City Council, in the spirit of Reconciliation, acknowledges the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as traditional custodians of the land on which we are gathered today, where Indigenous Australians have performed age-old ceremonies. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

## 2. WELCOME

Cr Symon welcomed all present and noted the evacuation process.

## CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, 6 MARCH 2024

ITEM 3

Cr Stojanovic moved the minutes and Cr Symon seconded. The minutes were moved by consensus.

## 4. ITEMS

## REALM PRECINCT ACTIVATION

ITEM 4.1

Chris Zidak introduced the topic and explained the context and additional history.

- Realm project received 1200-1400 responses from community engagement process
- Realm is intended to be the "third place" for community
- Collaboration between libraries, customer service, Arts Space etc. Intended to be collaborative, engaging, active, thriving
- Provided detailed insight into the types of activities delivered in the space in past years

Elissa outlined the stakeholders, shared vision, program aspirations and site considerations for further activation of Town Square and ground floor Realm with the potential for future expansion also noted.

Q: What local arts and culture activations would you like to see happening in the precinct?

- Christmas tree lighting was a large event that attracted thousands of people
- Key social inclusion focused activations in line with annual state government recognised dates (eg International Day of People with Disabilities)
- Complimentary workshops/interactive activations
- Use of same event structure across multiple dates
- Federation square stage activation as inspiration
- Consistent community engagement
- Screening sporting events and movies
- Ice skating rink was impressive, however was a very resource-heavy activation, Elissa noted the move to more accessible, locally focused programming is of interest to Council and Eastland

- Winter festival and an Arts festival including live painting, arts market, solstice lantern parade from MFE or Ringwood Lake to Town Square
- Arts activations, drawing inspiration from Rising Festival, Melbourne Writers Festival, Comedy Festival
- Fashion week activations extending from Eastland to Art Space, integrating the spaces through the shared program focus is ideal
- Needs a simple stage with power. Open applications for use of stage. Offer multiple time slots each day free of charge. With the purpose to attract community groups and audiences benefiting traders. Could be administrated by a community group also. Bands would appreciate a performance space, eg "Band Stand" events
- Events free to both organisers and audiences are important during cost-of-living crisis.
- 10 minute theatre festival, requires some staging ideally
- VCE Top Acts, Top Arts working with local schools for public presentation.
- Short Film Festival using the large screens, film screenings and more use of the screen for entertainment
- Cultural Festivals: Cosy, candles, wine, chocolate, poetry readings
- Eat Street style event, involve town square restaurants
- Halloween – dress-up event, safer than children doorknocking. Town "Square Scare". Craft activities, parade, after school time, before dinner into dusk. Complimentary to Wyreena program, consider audience demographics so as to not compete

#### 2025 KARRALYKA THEATRE PROGRAM PLANNING

#### ITEM 4.2

Brit provided an overview of the current 2024 program.

Brit provided an overview of the types of shows anticipated for the 2025 program, including council led programs, community theatre hire shows, and commercial touring producer hire shows. Focus on audience retention and development, arts development.

What new programs in 2025 sought, what new audiences to develop?

- Circus – funding available currently, Brit applying for this presently
- VCE English – theatre productions of the novels for VCE, tapping into the schools list of the books and plays they are reading
- Arts Centre has allowed small theatre, school productions to present short shows that are topical (eg gender equity, consent)
- Schools 'Respectful Relationships' program could provide some programming and partnership advice

What timeline do you need to produce for VCE partnerships? Brit explained can be booked anytime providing the space is free, and they don't require publication in the brochure if there is a schools partnership approach - target audience can stand alone without the external promotions.

For most community theatre it's too expensive to hire the venue, Council could introduce community slots into the program, and to an EOI for local theatre to access the 'in between' gaps in the program i.e. for one night only/perhaps a couple of times per year. Some issues need to be addressed around how to fund this, given it still calls for staffing, ticketing etc. Perhaps multiple groups on one night would enable some shared cost covering, billed at a lesser rate.

Discussion surrounded the possibility of a sub-section of the Arts and Culture grants which could gear towards community theatre shows at Karralyka with ideas of partnerships to help cover the build cost of these strategies which may subsidise the cost of these shows. Further

options were discussed such as how to build workshops within Karralyka as part of the larger program – eg State Ballet also offer workshops, Musical Groups Q&A – deepen the level of engagement.

It was also noted that the function rooms are highly utilised for local activations, catering through the kitchen facilities and the new foyer expansion, all which will bring new opportunities.

What does new audience development look like to Karralyka? What is the diversity of programming look like? Brit advised of the variety of programs that attract age cohorts; also some production companies tour to areas where there is high cultural groups, eg Persian works.

It was discussed about how Council sources new material and how it tends to be all the same as nearby venues. The discussion surrounded that there may not be very much innovative or explorative work. Brit advised material was sought through APAX and Showcase, supplemented with seeking out emerging and independent producers, noting that Showcase is moving towards presenting the more innovative works now also, as well as the bigger production companies which is a good industry improvement.

Whilst it was agreed that the Spiegel tent show was impressive and Karralyka should trial some more adventurous works like this within the theatre, it was also noted that these types of activations are very costly. It was also noted that there is a need to primarily program for the local and loyal audiences, whilst also introducing some more contemporary, risk-taking new works to attract new audiences. These types of shows may not fill the theatre, but it will test the appetite for new contemporary works and hopefully expand audience demographics. It was discussed that it is important to meet the local audience needs, but also to take some risks and trial some new works, may take some time to test what works.

Discussion surrounded the trialling of more cultural and contemporary works. There is not enough cultural diversity in the program which means it is not relatable to Maroondah's diverse community. There is a need to be more culturally representative within the main program. It was noted that many cultural groups hire the venue for their own programs.

The Karralyka brochure was discussed noting that it doesn't really promote local theatre groups beyond those that are performing in the venue. There is interest in a section in the program dedicated to advertising local theatre groups in the brochure, particularly since local groups have minimal or no advertising budget.

#### VICHEALTH FUNDED YOUTH ART PROJECT UPDATE

ITEM 4.3

Andrew and Holly: introduced themselves and provided a background of the program and the outcomes achieved, including youth leadership, skills and networking. Provided insights gained from those youth creatives involved in the program, and the next steps for year two roll out.

Q. How can we improve Arts Activators?

- Keep programs close to public transport in future
- New public transport hubs at Croydon and Ringwood East are a prime location to activate
- Use empty shop fronts in Croydon Main St
- The program methodology is great, keep moving ahead with this approach, it's a very positive program for young people in Maroondah

MAROONDAH 2050

ITEM 4.4

Brian Tu introduced himself and talked through the project timeline. Gave update on ways community has been engaged, and their findings.

Phil Medley introduced the Council Plan including policy areas relating to Arts & Culture. Provided insight into the types of detail required for further feedback, specific to creative industries.

Survey will be circulated to committee. Other ideas can be sent to [2050@maroondah.vic.gov.au](mailto:2050@maroondah.vic.gov.au)

Marianne noted that suggestions raised in previous committee meetings have already been considered.

CREATIVE INDUSTRY SECTOR INSIGHTS

ITEM 4.5

Due to timing this item was not discussed.

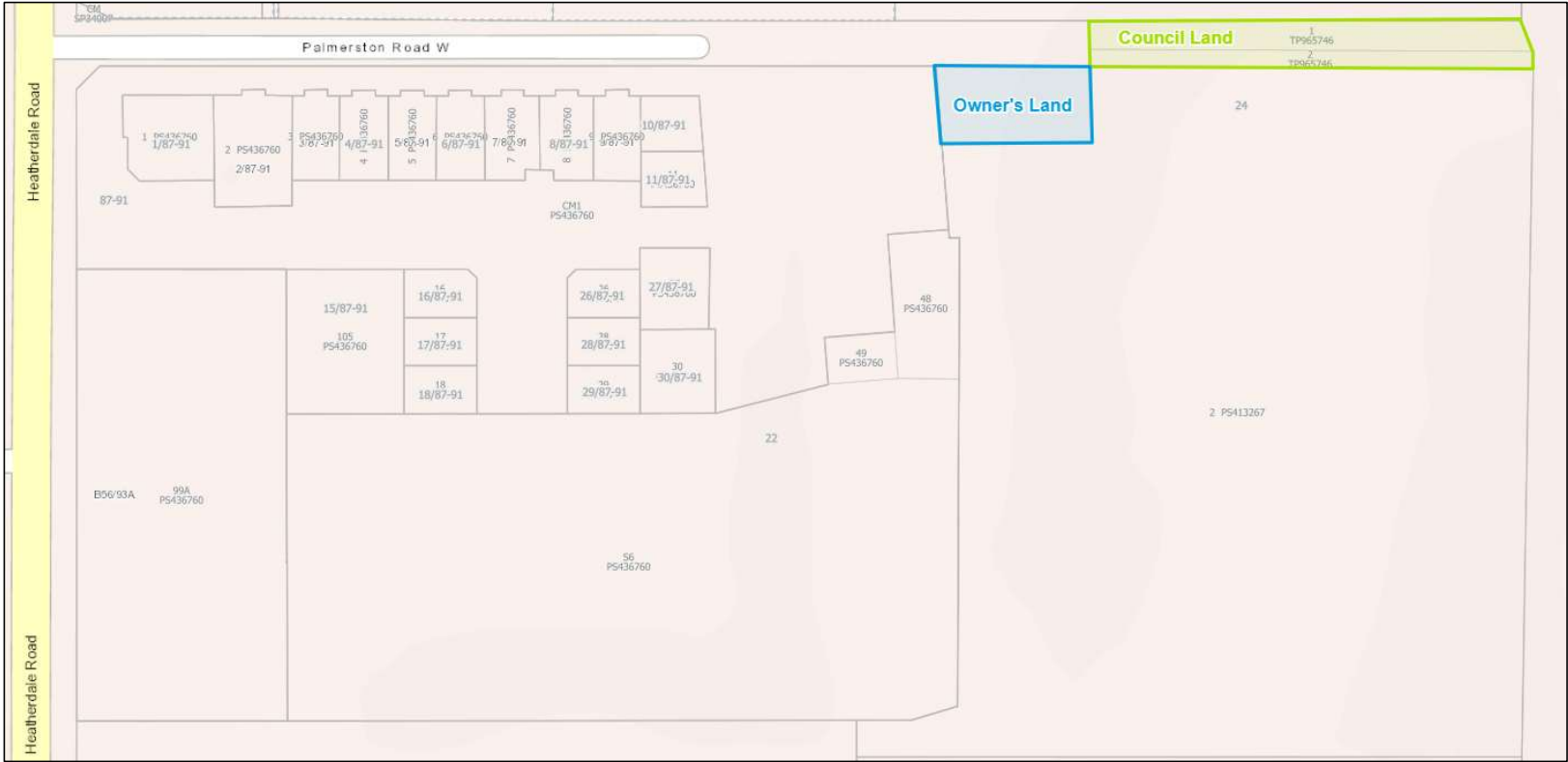
MEETING CLOSE - NEXT MEETING: 28 AUGUST 2024

ITEM 4.6

Cr Symon thanked all for attending and closed the meeting, noting the date for the last meeting of the year.

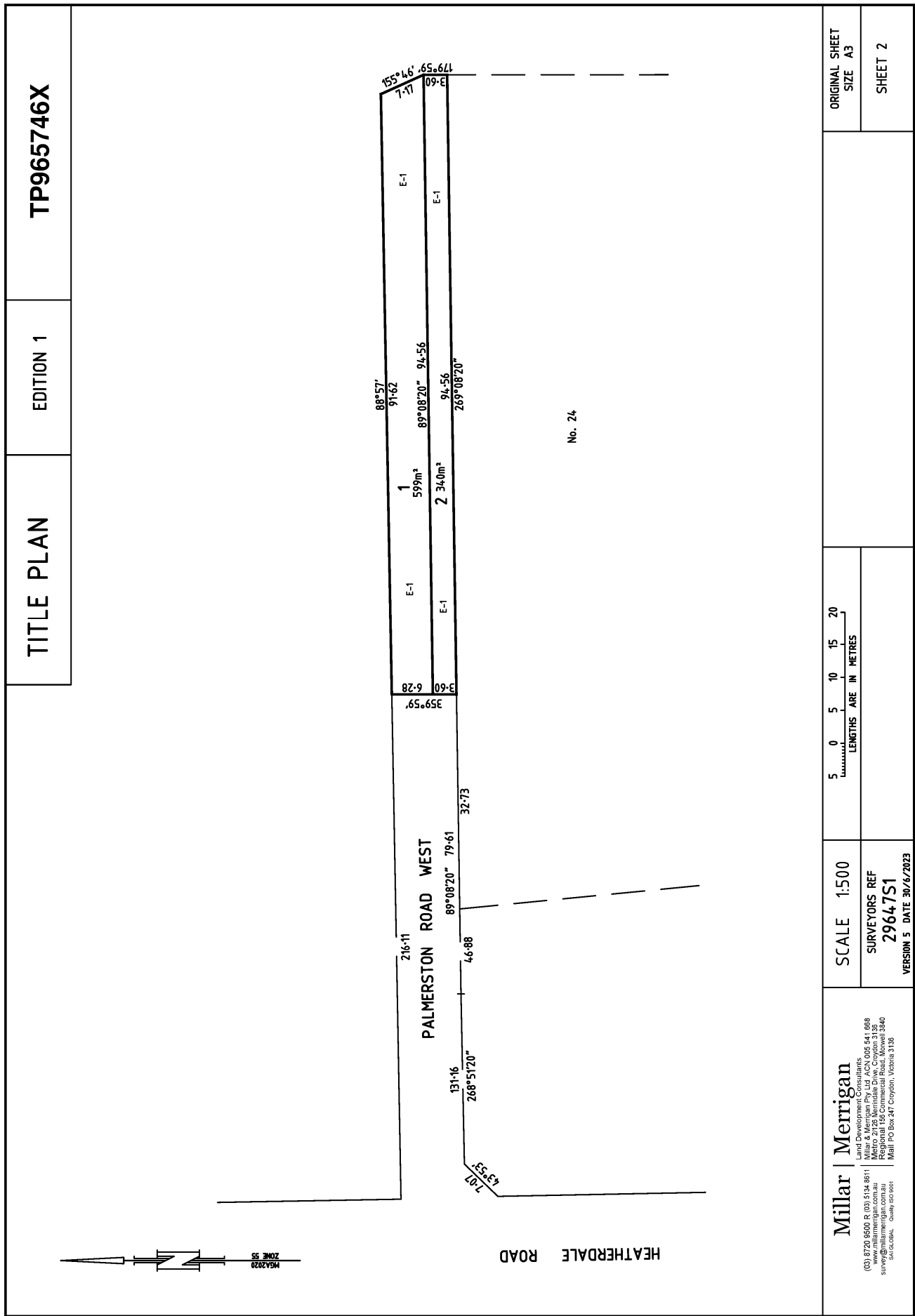
The Meeting concluded at 8:36pm.

Schedule 1 - Locality Plan



TITLE PLAN			EDITION 1		TP965746X			
<div>LOCATION OF LAND</div> <div>PARISH: RINGWOOD</div> <div>TOWNSHIP: _____</div> <div>SECTION: _____</div> <div>CROWN ALLOTMENT: _____</div> <div>CROWN PORTION: 2 &amp; 3 (PARTS)</div> <div>TITLE REFERENCE: C/G 49849/1858 VOL. 10474 FOL. 742</div> <div>LAST PLAN REFERENCE: PS413267F, ROAD R1</div> <div>DEPTH LIMITATION: DOES NOT APPLY.</div>			<div>WARNING: THIS PLAN REPRESENTS AN EXPECTED DIVISION OF LAND. ANY ONE LOT MAY NOT HAVE BEEN CREATED. CHECK THE LOT/PLAN INDEX FOR CURRENT INFORMATION.</div> <div>NOTATIONS</div>					
EASEMENT INFORMATION					THIS PLAN HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR LAND VICTORIA TITLE DIAGRAM PURPOSES.  Date: 30/08/2023 CG26 Assistant Registrar of Titles			
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<div>Millar   Merrigan</div> <div>(03) 8720 9500 R (03) 5134 8611 www.millarmerrigan.com.au survey@millarmerrigan.com.au SAT GLOBAL Quality ISO 9001</div> <div>Land Development Consultants Millar &amp; Merrigan Pty Ltd ACN 005 541 868 Metro 2/126 Merindale Drive, Croydon 3136 Regional 156 Commercial Road, Morwell 3840 Mail PO Box 247 Croydon, Victoria 3136</div>					ORIGINAL SHEET SIZE A3		GOVERNMENT GAZETTE No: G 28 13 July 2023 Page 1209	
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# Draft Physical Activity Strategy 2024-2029

Working towards a safe, healthy and active community





## Acknowledgment of Country

*We, in the spirit of Reconciliation, acknowledge the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Custodians of the land now known as the City of Maroondah, where Indigenous Australians have performed age old ceremonies. We acknowledge and respect their unique ability to care for Country and their deep spiritual connection to it. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.*

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

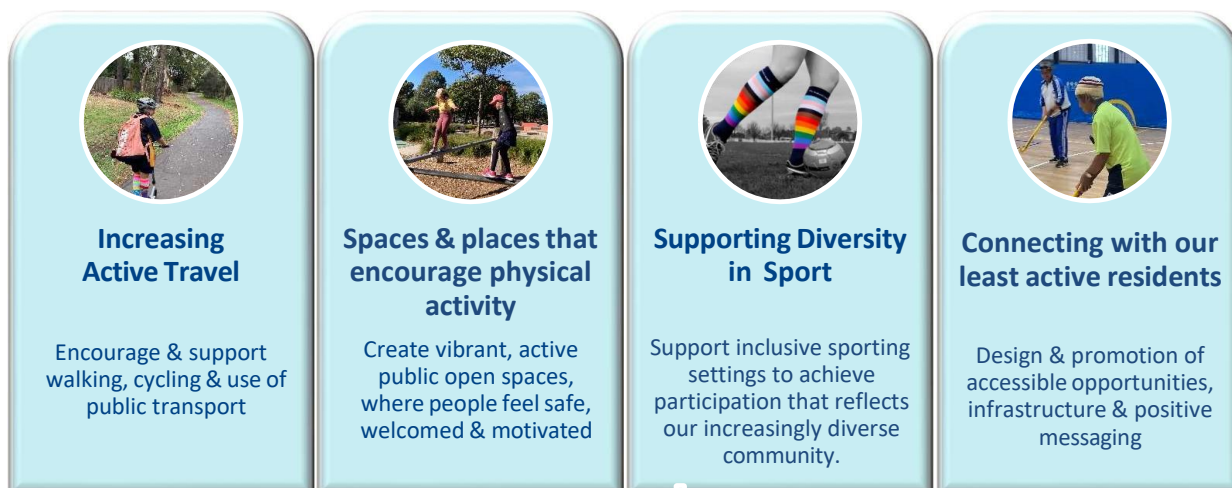
### The majority of Maroondah residents do not undertake enough physical activity.

Based on the latest available ABS data, 35% adults aged 18–64 are insufficiently physically active. More women (39%) than men (32%) did not do the recommended amount of physical activity (ABS 2022b). Increasing the level of physical activity in the Maroondah Community is likely to have a major impact on public health and therefore Maroondah City Council will prioritise the development and/or improvement of environments to support physical activity and **Active Lifestyles**.

The Physical Activity Strategy 2024 - 2029 builds on the recommendations of Maroondah's Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy and input from the Maroondah 2050 Vision and sets actions for the next five years to address levels of inactivity.

A perceived **lack of time** is reported as a primary reason Maroondah residents do not undertake enough regular physical activity. This reasoning indicates the need to ensure that there is an extensive range of accessible spaces, places and opportunities to make it easier to move, more often. Furthermore, information and education are essential to reframing the message that achieving the daily 30 minutes can be incremental movement and may be of greater health benefit, regardless of intensity, when used to break up long periods of inactivity. The top five activities undertaken by Maroondah residents were reported as walking, fitness class/gym, running/jogging, cycling and yoga/pilates, acknowledging the preference for physical activity pursuits that are non-competitive, informal or unstructured, and/or can be undertaken in one's own time.

There are different factors that affect the physical activity levels of specific populations and therefore different strategies are required to overcome these. The Physical Activity Strategy highlights the challenges and opportunities being experienced by the general community and identifies seven (7) low participatory cohorts to target, with actions that will have a positive impact on participation. To address the highlighted challenges, and make physical activity an easier option, the strategy focuses on **four (4) key outcome areas** which highlight opportunities for Council action.



**Consultation**

In preparation for the development of Council's Physical Activity Strategy, a range of consultation methods were undertaken to establish a clear picture of Maroondah's current participation levels, reasons for non-participation and community needs. There was also a wide range of recent data and extensive community feedback obtained for the Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy and in preparation for the Maroondah Play and Gathering Places Strategy and the Maroondah 2050 visioning project.

**Action**

In order to address levels of inactivity, Council must consider the barriers and opportunities outlined in this strategy and undertake measurable actions over the next 5 years.

The key directions and priority actions will guide the development of new policies, infrastructure improvements, programs and collaborative initiatives which will improve practices, respond to demonstrated need, increase access and encourage residents to prioritise physical activity in their daily routine.

Priority actions will be led by a wide range of Council service areas. The implementation will be the responsibility of each lead area with support from relevant service areas detailed in the plan. Reporting will be undertaken annually under the facilitation of Council's Sport and Recreation Team.

## Why is increasing physical activity levels important?



Physical activity is important at any age for good physical and mental health and wellbeing. All forms of physical activity can provide health benefits if undertaken regularly. Physical inactivity and sedentary behaviours are a risk factor for a variety of mental illnesses including depression, anxiety, and age-related cognitive decline.<sup>3</sup>

As well as the health gains by regular movement in preventing chronic disease and promoting mental wellbeing, other benefits include making social connections, increasing productivity, and positive changes to the environments, such as reduced traffic congestion and safer neighbourhoods<sup>1</sup>.

Active living is incorporating regular physical activity into daily routine. It includes active travel, play, gardening, incidental exercise as well as participating in sport or an active pursuit for pleasure and fitness. Prioritising physical activity as an individual, an organisation and as a community has multiple benefits to overall health, social, economic and environmental benefits.

Increasing the level of physical activity in the Maroondah Community is likely to have a major impact on public health and therefore Council will prioritise the provision of supportive environments for physical activity to assist residents to adopt an active living lifestyle.

Maroondah residents self-report that the key reason that their level of regular physical activity is impeded, is 'lack of time'.<sup>ii</sup> This reasoning indicates the need to shift the mindset in those that are least active to view increasing activity levels as **moving more often**, even if in small increments.

**Research has highlighted that any increased movement is beneficial and that incorporating greater movement throughout the day, which breaks up periods of sitting, may in fact be more valuable than extended periods of sitting followed by a large block of moderate to intensive activity.**

Council must continue to provide and enhance environments for physical activity in public open space and recognise that while sport and organised recreation is a key component, informal recreation and incidental exercise is of primary importance to increasing overall activity levels as only 17.39% of Maroondah residents engage in organised sport<sup>iii</sup>. Council should support the provision of a wide range of accessible opportunities to make moving more often, easier to achieve. Furthermore, accessible information and education are essential to ensure that residents understand what options are available and to support inclusion within these environments.

## Background

The 2015 -2020 Physical Activity Strategy has been of great benefit for Council, both in terms of a strong rationale for investment in sports and recreation infrastructure and for creating greater opportunities for physical activity. The strategy has been an integral component to the success of many State and Federal grant submissions providing evidence to support requests for investment in sport & recreation.

Within the 5 year timeframe of the strategy, all three levels of government have placed greater importance on supporting increased physical activity levels for social, physical and mental benefit. There has been a significant increase in policy and financial investment to support new initiatives which has been prompted by the greater awareness of the impacts of physical activity on health & wellbeing and the relationship between women and girls' inclusion in traditionally male dominated sport as a primary intervention in the prevention of violence against women.



## Notable achievements of the 2015 - 2020 Physical Activity Strategy



## Strategic Context

To fully understand the context for the strategy as it relates to Maroondah City Council, the document must highlight the relevant links between current Council policies and the provision of planning, design, infrastructure, programs & services and information that support **active living**. Fundamental to the implementation of Council's roles and responsibilities, is Maroondah's Integrated Planning Framework. The framework sets out the relationship and priority order of Council's strategic documents that will guide the development and implementation of the Physical Activity Strategy. The primary documents include:



A number of other relevant Council plans and strategies were referenced in the development of this document and are linked below for reference:

- [Disability Policy and Action Plan](#)
- [Children and Families Strategy](#)
- [Active and Healthy Ageing Initiative](#)
- [Melbourne East Regional Sport and Recreation Strategy](#)
- [Open Space Strategy](#)
- [Youth Strategy](#)
- [Equally Active Policy and Strategy](#)
- [Maroondah Extreme Sports Strategy](#)

The Strategy must ensure that the recommended future direction correlates and complements these linking documents and above all reflects Maroondah's vision, *Maroondah 2040*. (New 2050 Vision under development)

From the Maroondah 2040 community vision engagement process, 8 preferred future outcomes have been identified as community priorities looking ahead to the year 2040 and beyond. These future outcomes will drive the 2040 vision. The most relevant future outcome to this strategy is:

### A safe, healthy and active community

In 2040, Maroondah will be a safe, healthy and active community with local opportunities provided for people of all ages and abilities to have high levels of social, emotional and physical wellbeing.

## Maroondah- A Snapshot of active Opportunities

Maroondah is located in Melbourne's eastern suburbs, approximately 25km from Melbourne CBD with a population forecast of 155,043.<sup>4</sup>.

Maroondah is home to approximately **135** active recreation organisations and **140** sporting clubs. There are 430 designated reserves including 61 sporting ovals; 121 playgrounds; 34km of walking tracks & shared pathways; 3 bowling clubs; 3 community gardens; 3 skate areas, 2 athletics tracks, a croquet club; 84 tennis courts and 6 multiuse indoor halls. Maroondah City Council owns and manages 2 golf courses, *Ringwood Golf* and *Dorset Golf*; a multiuse stadium, *The Rings*; an outdoor 50 metre pool, *Croydon Memorial Pool*; a combined aquatic and fitness centre, *Aquahub* a Regional diving, fitness and aquatic facility, *Aquanation*, an indoor/outdoor multisport complex, *Marondah Nets* and a new Regional indoor cricket training centre, *Maroondah Edge*.

Maroondah is also home to five (5) Neighbourhood Houses and boasts a comprehensive listing of community organisations offering varied physically active opportunities for differing interests, ages and abilities. Maroondah has a significant number of active organisations for retirees and in recent years has seen an increase in churches offering a range of social and leisure programs to extend their reach within the community. Schools play a large role in offering physical activity opportunities to children and young people through school curriculum, interschool sports and out of school hours programming. Maroondah also has a range of private recreation providers offering health and fitness programs, organised sports and other physically active pursuits.



## Council's role in influencing physical activity levels

Maroondah City Council plays an integral role in the provision and facilitation of physical activity opportunities through both the provision of services and infrastructure and the strategic planning and development of environments that support Active Living.

There are **eight** (8) Council Departments which have been identified as having a direct impact on Maroondah Community's ability to participate in physical activity. The internal key stakeholders and their role in relation to impacting physical activity levels are as follows:

<p><b>Leisure and Major Facilities</b></p> <p><i>The Rings, Maroondah Nets, Maroondah Edge, Aquahub, Aquanation, Croydon Memorial Pool, Ringwood Golf, Dorset Golf, Sportsfield management and Maintenance</i></p> <p>Direct provision of fitness and lifestyle programs and management of spaces</p> <p><i>Maroondah Sport and Recreation</i></p> <p>Planning and provision of programs and events. Provision of funding, training and other support for community providers.</p>	<p><b>City Futures</b></p> <p><i>Strategic Planning and Sustainability, Community Wellbeing</i></p> <p>Manage the Maroondah Planning Scheme that supports and encourages active living through urban design, landscapes, buildings and land uses.</p> <p>Oversee the planning and advocacy for an integrated public and active transport network and the delivery of initiatives that encourage the utilisation of active transport.</p> <p>Undertake Health and Wellbeing planning, advocacy and support for marginalised and disadvantaged communities, and strengthening and building the capacity of the community.</p>
<p><b>Projects and Asset Management</b></p> <p><i>Asset Planning, Asset Management, Building Projects, Building Maintenance</i></p> <p>Management of Council's community assets, to facilitate safety, longevity, and continued provision of services for the community. Advice &amp; management of Capital Works Projects and strategic planning relating to the ongoing lifecycle management of Council assets.</p>	<p><b>Engineering &amp; Building Services</b></p> <p><i>Engineering Services, Building Services</i></p> <p>Provision of engineering technical expertise in areas of traffic and transportation planning, engineering development approvals, and project management for the development and / or enhancement of assets such as roads, footpaths, bicycle paths, and buildings.</p>
<p><b>Communications &amp; Citizen Experience</b></p> <p>Assist in the promotion of infrastructure, programs and events and targeted health promotion campaign and support the engagement of residents in infrastructure planning and strategy design.</p>	<p><b>Operations</b></p> <p><i>Bushland Management, Built Environment, Tree Maintenance, Parks and Open Space</i></p> <p>Responsible for the ongoing audits and maintenance of playgrounds, parks and bushland reserves as well as the footpath and trail network.</p>
<p><b>Community Services</b></p> <p><i>Aged &amp; Disability Services, Youth &amp; Children's Services, Maternal &amp; Child Health</i></p> <p>Provision of targeted support and initiatives; facilitation of health promotion initiatives and community partnerships to enhance the wellbeing of Maroondah residents aged 0- 11 years, 12- 25 years, 65+ years and persons with a disability.</p>	<p><b>Community Safety</b></p> <p><i>Community Health, Local Laws</i></p> <p>Facilitate health promotion initiatives for residents and food premises.</p> <p>Promote responsible pet ownership - dogs on leash, encourage regular dog walking.</p>

## State and Federal Priorities

### Federal Government - Sports 2030 - National Sports Plan

In June 2011 the Federal Government developed the National Sport and Active Recreation Framework which guided the development of policy and resource allocation across the sport and active recreation sector until 2021. This plan has since been replaced by the **Sports 2030 - National Sports Plan** which guides the Federal Government's vision to ensure Australia as *"the world's most active and healthy nation, known for our integrity and sporting success"*. Sport 2030 has four key priority areas which are indeed sport focussed however priority one addresses increasing the physical activity levels of all Australians:



1. **Build a more active Australia** — More Australians, more active, more often;
2. **Achieving sporting excellence** — National pride, inspiration through international sporting success;
3. **Safeguarding the integrity of sport** — A fair, safe and strong sport sector free from corruption;
4. **Strengthening Australia's sport industry** — A thriving Australian sport and recreation industry.

**As part of the Plan, the Australian Government has committed to reducing inactivity amongst Australians by 15 per cent by 2030.**

### State Government - Active Victoria 2022-2026

*The Victorian Government strategic framework for sport and active recreation in Victoria* outlines three objectives and 12 key directions to guide activities and investment in sport and active recreation



#### Connecting communities

**Sustained participation**  
More Victorians participate equitably in sport and active recreation

**Infrastructure**  
Victoria has inclusive, accessible, and respectful places and spaces for sport and active recreation

#### Building value

**Sector capability**  
The sport and active recreation workforce is highly skilled and leads a strong, sustainable industry

**Good governance**  
Sport and active recreation is a safe, inclusive, and resilient sector

#### Enduring legacy

**High performance**  
Victorians can achieve success at the highest level

**Events**  
Victoria maintains a strong pipeline of sporting events within the Victorian events calendar

### The Office for Women in Sport & Recreation Change our Game Initiative

In 2015, the Victorian Government released a report from the independent Inquiry into Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation. The report highlighted the degree of gender inequality in Victorian sports and recreation and outlined nine key recommendations to help change and improve sport and recreation for all involved.



The overwhelming finding was that women are under-represented in leadership roles in the sport and active recreation sector. As a mechanism to implement the report recommendations, the Office for Women in Sport & Recreation was formed. The Office has been instrumental in leading initiatives to increase the number of women and girls participating in sport and active recreation.

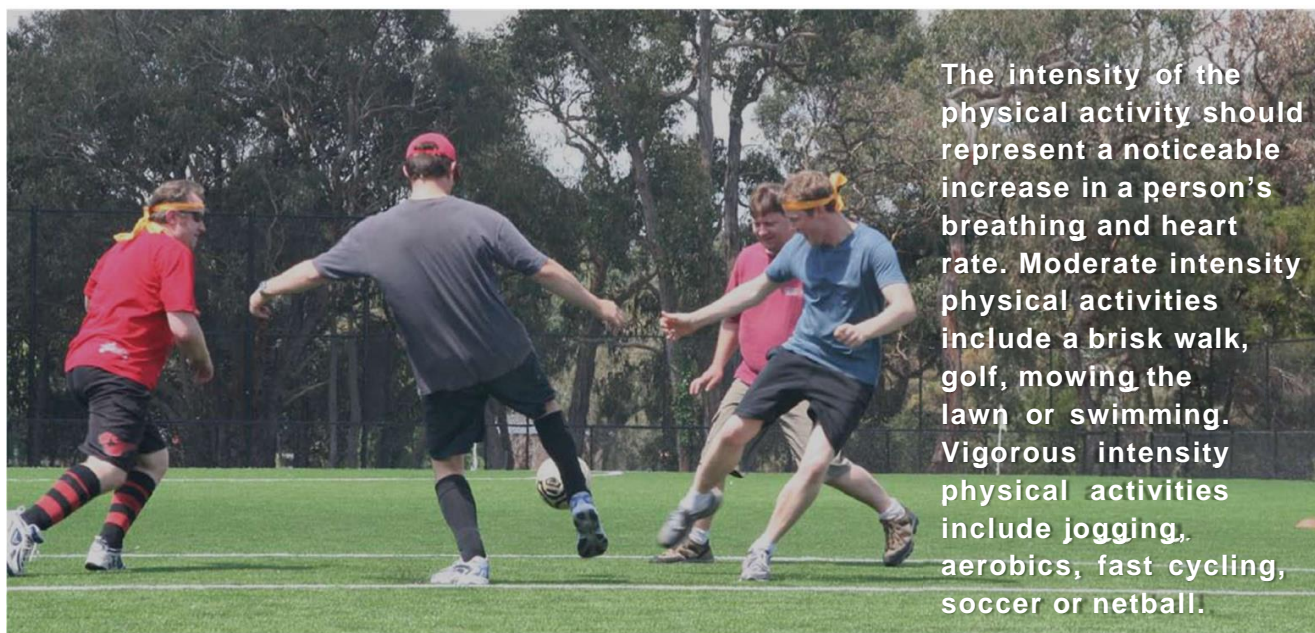
## How Much Is Enough Activity?

It is widely accepted that regular physical activity is essential in improving health and wellbeing, but how much physical activity is enough to maintain a healthy lifestyle?

The Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing have developed an evidence based set of National Physical Activity Guidelines for children, adults and older Australians. The most recent update, released in 2014, added Sedentary Behaviour (sitting time) to the guidelines as well as muscle strengthening activities.

## National Physical Activity & Sedentary Behaviour Guidelines<sup>5</sup>

0-5 years	5-17 years	18-64 years	65+
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Babies should take part in physical activity from birth, particularly supervised floor-based play in safe environments.</li> <li>Toddlers and pre-schoolers should be physically active every day for at least three hours, spread throughout the day.</li> <li>Children 3-5 yrs should be active for at least 3 hours per day including 1 hour of energetic play. Limit time sitting or lying except when sleeping.</li> <li>Less than 2 years -no screen time,</li> <li>2-5 years limit to less than one hour screen time per day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children and young people aged 5 - 17 years should take part in a combination of moderate and vigorous activities for at least 60 minutes a day.</li> <li>Engage in activities that strengthen their muscles and bones on at least three days per week.</li> <li>Limit use of electronic media for entertainment to no more than two hours a day</li> <li>Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible</li> <li>Children aged 5 to 13 years get 9 - 11 hrs of uninterrupted sleep</li> <li>Young people aged 14 to 17 years get 8 - 10 hrs of uninterrupted sleep.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each week adults 18-64 years of age should do either: 2.5 to 5 hours of moderate intensity physical activity or 1.25 to 2.5 hours of vigorous intensity physical activity or a combination of both</li> <li>Muscle strengthening activities should also occur on at least two days each week.</li> <li>Minimise the amount of time spent in prolonged sitting.</li> <li>Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Older adults should accumulate at least 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on most, preferably all, days of the week.</li> <li>Activities should include activities to improve balance, flexibility and strength to improve overall benefit</li> <li>Minimise the amount of time spent in prolonged sitting.</li> <li>Break up long periods of sitting as often as possible</li> </ul>



## What has changed since the 2015 Strategy?

### Improved Access to Maroondah Facilities

Council's 2017 Sport Demand Analysis paper reported that *78% of existing facilities at Council's sporting grounds do not adequately cater for female participation*. Since this time, Council has been highly successful in partnering with the State and Federal governments to support a **\$77,685,000 investment** to improve sporting infrastructure access and amenities. Improvements have included female friendly amenities and pavilion design, additional change facilities, and upgrades to sportsfield surfaces and lighting to increase capacity. These improvements have reduced the deficit figure from 78% to 20%, with planning underway to address the remaining five facilities that do not adequately cater for women and girls. Furthermore, all upgrades have been undertaken according to universal design principles ensuring all abilities access and unisex amenities to accommodate gender diversity.

Since 2015, Council has supported increased walking throughout Maroondah by investing in **53,434 metres of new footpaths, 20,297 metres of shared paths and 191 new public street lights and reserve floodlighting** improving access, safety and active transport options.

### Greater Diversity

Maroondah is becoming a much more diverse population. Latest Census data reports that 29,094 people who were living in City of Maroondah in 2021 were born overseas, and 15% arrived in Australia within 5 years prior to 2021. In 2021, China had the highest proportion of recent overseas arrivals, followed by people from Myanmar who represented 16.2% of new arrivals to Maroondah in comparison to the newly arrived figure for Greater Melbourne which is 1%.<sup>6</sup>

Additionally, Maroondah has experienced an increase in the identification and recognition of gender diversity. This is evidenced by the large increase in demand for services to support gender diverse people and their families.

### COVID Pandemic Impacts

During the Covid pandemic and in the months post covid, reports indicated an increase in walking and cycling in some groups, however, there was a definitive decrease in overall mobility, physical fitness and health and mental health. Restrictions, health fears and illness had adverse effects on activity, social engagement and income. Compared to pre-pandemic, fewer Australians are relying solely on sporting clubs or organised venues for exercise. Families reported a greater awareness of time-poor lifestyles and have since become more selective in extracurricular activities and voluntary roles. This has affected both participation and the number of volunteers within the sport and recreation sector, with research by the Australian Sports Commission reporting around 61% of volunteers had resumed their usual volunteering roles<sup>7</sup>.

### Decline in mental health

Mental health is a key component of overall health and wellbeing (WHO 2021). The proportion of Victorian adults who experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress increased from 18.1% in 2019 to 23.4% in 2020. This was significantly higher in the younger age groups—35.0% of adults aged 18-24 years and 27.8% of adults aged 25-34 years.<sup>8</sup> The National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing conducted in 2021 found that an estimated 1 in 5 (21%) Australians aged 16–85 experienced a mental disorder in the previous 12 months (ABS 2022a)<sup>9</sup> This rise may well be attributed to the global pandemic however in the absence of updated data, anecdotally these rates have not subsided post covid.

### New Sports and new ways of delivery

The previous Physical Activity Strategy and Sports Demand Analysis highlighted a need to deliver sport differently to increase participation. Limitations of infrastructure capacity, time and a 7 day work week was impacting the traditional weekend sport format. Significant investment in sportsfield lighting has supported meeting this need, with traditionally weekend sports all introducing or expanding their night offerings in Maroondah. Council has also supported the introduction of sports since 2015. Walking formats of cricket, netball and soccer have all been successfully established as has Volleyball, all abilities volleyball, footsal and pickleball, which has seen a dramatic growth in its short time in Maroondah. The recent Maroondah Tennis Strategy has also highlighted the success of Book a Court, casual tennis play and an opportunity to further expand social tennis in Maroondah venues.

### Greater opportunities for women & girls

Data collated to inform the 2022 Melbourne East Regional Sports & Recreation Strategy highlighted that Maroondah has 38% female sports participation across 16 key sports. Growth has been spurred on by the successful introduction and promotion of the AFLW and Football Victoria's W League, WBBL and Australia's success in the 2020 Women's T20 Cricket World Cup, and 2023 Women's Football World Cup. In Maroondah, Women and girls' AFL participation was 5% in 2016 and has increased to 23% in 2023. Additionally increased funding and support for the inclusion of netball as part of senior AFL clubs has led to the EFL rebranding to become the Eastern Football Netball League with 80% of league clubs now fielding netball teams. Cricket Victoria has also seen female participation gains of 12.8% in the year to 2022 and Football Victoria (soccer) has pledged a target of 50:50 gender split by 2027.

## What has not changed since 2015?

### Lower participation rates amongst marginalised groups

Research highlights that people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with disabilities and their carers, and people who identify as LGBTQIA+ are often impeded by physical, systemic, environmental barriers and personal circumstance and may experience further disadvantage due to diversity within their diversity (Intersectionality).<sup>10</sup> These barriers lead to fewer opportunities to access safe, affordable and appropriate programmes and places in which to be physically active.

### The prevalence and impacts of devices.

Prevalent device and screen use is continuing to foster sedentary behaviours. Studies have found that the average Australian adult spends 5.67 hours a day on their phone<sup>11</sup> and an average of 7 hours watching paid TV/ movie streaming services per week<sup>12</sup>

Most Australian children spend more time on screens than is recommended. Estimates from research suggest only 17–23% of preschoolers and 15% of 5–12 year olds meet screen-time guidelines.<sup>13</sup> Guidelines state no screen time for children under two years, up to one hour - aged 2–5 years and no more than two hours of sedentary recreational screen time per day for children and young people aged 5–17 years (not including schoolwork).



### Environmental impacts

The Impacts of climate change are continuing to increase, placing pressure on infrastructure and escalating the need to utilise renewable resources. Pressure on open space is growing with increasing population and multi storey dwellings. Opportunities for new open space in Maroondah is continuing to diminish. Additionally, there has been a marked rise in the instances of extreme weather events. Flash flooding, extreme wind and periods of extreme heat are impacting participation, infrastructure integrity and tree health within Maroondah's open space.



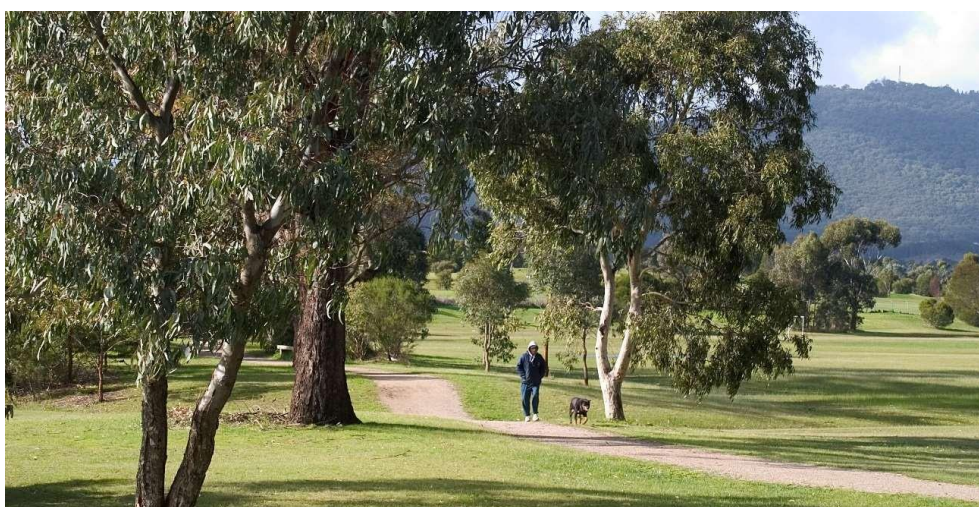
## Community Engagement Summary

Methodology	Dates	Engagements
Walking Sports Expo Participant Survey	May 2022 & 2023	49 Contributors
Maroondah Festival Café Consult Activity	Nov 2022	589 Contributors
Maroondah Sports Club Online Survey	January 2023	28 Contributors
Australia Day Citizenship Participants Surveys	January 2023	34 CALD Participants
Your Say Platform via Council's Website	July/Aug 2023	149 Contributors
Library Pop Ups	July 2023	Croydon 12 Ringwood 21
Council Community Advisory Groups x 4	July /Aug 2023	MYWA 10, Liveability 12, Disability 6, Inclusion 16
Migrant Information Centre - Community Leaders Network	December 2023	10 Contributors

## MAROONDAH LIVEABILITY WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE STRATEGY 2021 - 2031

### Community Feedback

Engagement with the community, post the Covid pandemic, has highlighted that our community values exercise, healthy eating, access to health services and good mental wellbeing. The community has an understanding that healthy lifestyles lead to improved wellbeing and reduced illness. Our community highlighted the relationship between physical and mental health and the opportunities to facilitate and support social connection. Opportunities to connect with nature were highly valued and seen to provide benefits to mental wellbeing, physical health and social connection. The community would also appreciate more affordable facilities, free outdoor recreation options as well as active and passive activities that promote health and wellbeing for all. Health and wellbeing facilities, spaces, services, programs and events provided by Council, and its partners, are highly regarded. It was highlighted that Council has an opportunity to further raise awareness of what is on offer within the Maroondah community to enhance resident health and wellbeing.<sup>14</sup>



## Maroondah Sporting Clubs

In February 2023, in preparation for the update of Council's Physical Activity Strategy, Maroondah Sports Clubs were provided with the opportunity to provide feedback to Council highlighting their current greatest challenges. 27 clubs representing a wide range of sports highlighted volunteer and committee recruitment and retention as a key challenge to local sporting clubs, as depicted below:



The impacts of reduced volunteerism in sports will need to be regularly monitored. Ongoing communication and collaboration with leagues and peak sporting bodies will be required to ensure that sports continue to review the effectiveness of promotions, scheduling, and program design, to adapt to the diverse and changing needs of our community. Council will also continue to plan for the enhancement of the quality and accessibility of our community sports and recreation infrastructure.



# How active are we?

## General Physical Activity

Based on the latest available data, it is estimated that 75% of Australian adults aged 18–64 **did not** meet both the physical activity component and the muscle-strengthening component of the National Physical Activity Guidelines. This proportion was higher in women (78%) than men (73%) (ABS 2022b).<sup>15</sup>



**35%** of Australian adults were completely physically inactive (that is, undertook 0 days of physical activity in the last week (census) – this was similar for both men (36%) and women (35%))

More than one in three (35.7%) people aged 15 years and over undertook moderate exercise, while 17.7% engaged in vigorous exercise.

One in three (32.5%) people 15 years and over reported completing strength or toning exercises and 46.0% reported walking for transport.<sup>16</sup>

Nearly half (49.4%) of employed people aged 18-64 years described their day at work as mostly sitting<sup>17</sup>

## Organised Sport

2021 research highlights organised sport participation rates (across all ages) are higher for males (17%) than females (9%) in Victoria.<sup>18</sup> These figures demonstrate a gender disparity in sport participation which requires further localised exploration and targeted initiatives to address contributing factors.

## Children & Young People

The National Physical Activity Guidelines recommend that young people aged 15-17 years complete at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous intensity physical activity every day. The guidelines also recommend that young people include strength or toning activities on at least three days per week. Furthermore, young people should not sit or lie for long periods of recreational time. Recommendations for children and young people suggest no more than 2 hours of sedentary recreational time per day.

Under 18s spend their time across a range of activities including education and training, paid work, socialising, playing sport, learning how to drive and other pastimes outside school including volunteering.

Less than one in ten (8.9%) young people met the physical activity guidelines. Walking for transport plays a significant role in young people's physical activity. For 18-24 year-olds, walking for transport alone (excluding walking for fitness) comprises about half of the total time spent on physical activity (ABS, 2021).

The Student Resilience Survey was developed in collaboration with the University of South Australia and have surveyed 1000's of primary and secondary school children across Australia. The recent Resilient Youth Australia Student Resilience Survey<sup>19</sup> in which Maroondah school students participated, highlighted the following finding for the Maroondah Wellbeing Cluster: [On the topic of Healthy Bodies, 87% of students from Grades 6, self-reported being physically active for one hour per day.](#)

## Children Youth & Families Consultation 2022-2023 - Community Engagement Report

During 2022/23, Council undertook an extensive community consultation with children, young people, families, and stakeholders, via online surveys, consultation groups, events and a Maroondah Student Voice Forum to inform the development of the next two-year Action Plans for Council's Children and Families Strategy and the Youth Strategy. The Community Engagement Report gives emphasis to the provision of more local places for children, young people and families to be physically active.

Key findings of the engagement with Maroondah children, young people, parent/carers and community organisations included:

### WHAT'S GOING WELL - TOP 5

Children 0 - 12yrs	Young People 10 - 25yrs
Parks / playgrounds / outdoors	Schools / education
Schools / education	Sports
Events	Events
Friendship / socialisation	Friendship / socialisation
	Youth facilities / programs / services

- **KEY ISSUES AND CHALLENGES** Financial constraints, cost of living and affordability
- Mental Health - Key challenge High prevalence of disorders: anxiety, depression, and disordered eating.
- Covid - still impacting ability to connect back into community, social anxiety

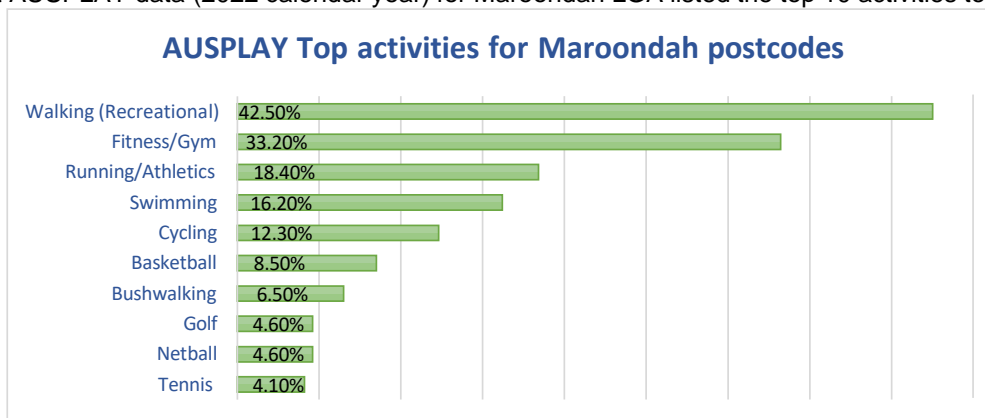
### WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED?

- Walkability - more quality footpaths & bike paths and greater connectivity.
- Improved Parks, playgrounds and outdoor social spaces.
- Communications and Engagement - Promote the value of "outdoors", physical activities/play to the community Consultation with disadvantaged young people to really hear their voice.

## Adults 15+

In 2020-21, half (50.9%) of Australians aged 15 years and over went walking for exercise, recreation or sport (excluding workplace activity) in the week prior to the survey. Females were more likely than males to walk for exercise (52.7% and 49.0% respectively).<sup>20</sup>

The latest AUSPLAY data (2022 calendar year) for Maroondah LGA listed the top 10 activities to be:



Maroondah's online Your Say Survey of 149 residents reflected similar results however with the addition of Yoga / pilates within the top 5 and swimming at #6.

## What motivates us to be active?

*Physical health and fitness is the strongest motivator for Australians 15+ to participate in sport and physical activity however participating in sport and physical activity for social, psychological, and mental health reasons has increased over the past 5 years<sup>21</sup>.*

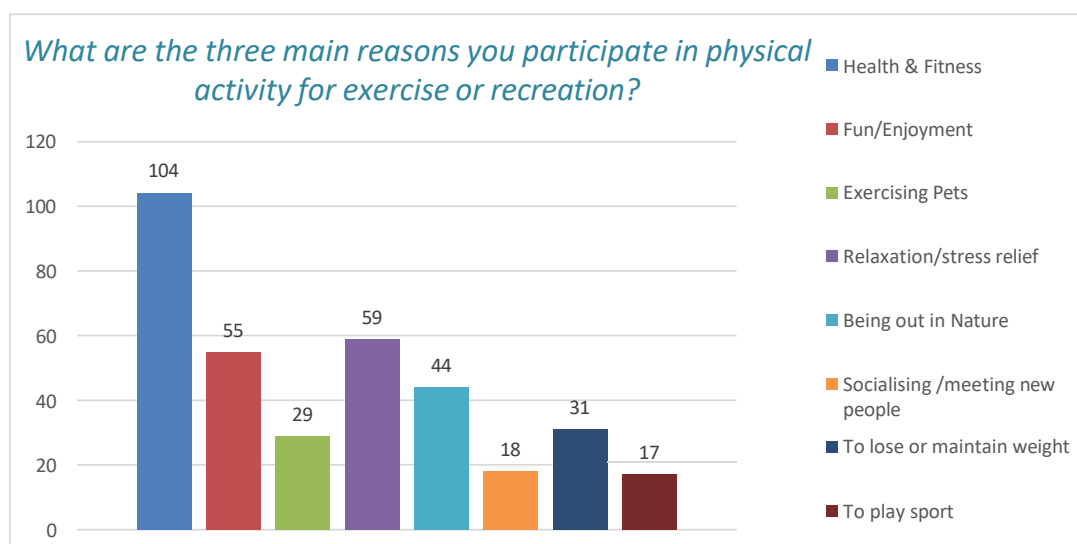
Understanding the reasons people undertake regular physical activity can assist with the design of programs and infrastructure.

In 2019, the top motivators for participating in physical activity among young people aged 15–17 and 18–24 differed:

- Among 15–17 year olds, the top motivator was fun/enjoyment (71%), followed by physical health or fitness (64%). The third motivator was social reasons (38%) followed by performance or competition (14%).
- Among 18–24 year olds, the top motivator was Physical health or fitness (75%) followed by fun/enjoyment (53%). The third motivator was social reasons (35%) followed by psychological/mental health therapy (21%) (ASC 2020).



Recent (2023) Your Say online engagement with Maroondah residents has revealed that **health & fitness** is the primary motivator for undertaking regular physical activity. This is depicted below.



## Challenges affecting Physical Activity levels.

**To plan strategies to encourage active living and increase the physical activity levels of Maroondah residents we need to understand the inhibitors.**

There are different factors that affect the physical activity levels of specific populations and therefore different strategies required to overcome these. This document highlights the challenges and opportunities for the general community and then focuses on seven (7) different specific population groups in order to target specific actions which will have a positive impact on participation. These specific populations were identified through the results of community engagement and through the **Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy**.

### GENERAL COMMUNITY

#### Common Challenges

A key challenge for engaging the general Maroondah community is the perception of, or a real issue of **not enough time**. While many people are indeed time poor, with work, home, caring and community commitments, time constraints are not the whole explanation. For many it is a vicious cycle of a lack of motivation fuelled by poor diet, sedentary behaviour, and possibly poor sleeping habits which leads to feeling low on energy.

The continued increase in dwelling density is reducing residential green spaces, placing another constraint on the activity levels of Maroondah residents.

Guilt and self-blame are also expressed factors impacting individuals' exercise levels. Feelings of guilt stem from differing circumstances; insufficient or no exercise, not meeting perceived expectations of how to look or how to exercise, or viewing exercise as sacrificing family time or work commitments.

#### Opportunity for Council to increase Maroondah's level of physical activity

It is important to convey the message that physical activity can be accumulative and need not be undertaken in one block of time. Building opportunities for physical activity into everyday routines can be achievable but requires a change in mindset to recognise that being physically active does not require a gym or sports membership or even activewear. Conveying positive messaging to empower individuals to feel good about small segments of active movement will motivate progression to a more active every day. The provision of safe, easy to access, active travel opportunities and inclusive play and gathering places will also assist more residents to incorporate daily physical activity.

## CULTURALLY & LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE (CALD) COMMUNITIES

Physical activity opportunities and communications should be planned and developed in ways that are responsive to our Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities.

### Common Challenges<sup>22</sup>

- Language barriers and / or complex registration processes
- Lack of time
- Education and work priorities
- Family & traditional community commitments
- Scheduling conflicts with religious responsibilities
- Settlement constraints
- Financial constraints especially for newly arrived residents
- Lack of transport
- Inflexible dress codes

### Opportunities for Council to increase levels of physical activity

- Ensure messages use simple words and pictures
- Messages to convey how activity can help them achieve other priorities e.g. enhance studies
- Seek to understand and demonstrate respect for cultural differences and beliefs<sup>23</sup>
- Utilise community leaders and health professionals to support information dissemination
- Low cost opportunities and support for clubs to source grants to offset costs
- Encourage clubs to provide social, non-competitive opportunities for participation
- Promote public open space areas where informal sport can be played
- Support the provision of activities which families can undertake together
- Involve culturally diverse communities in the planning of new facilities and activities.

In the previous strategy, it was highlighted that Council should develop strategies to address the concerns of the Myanmar (Burmese) community specifically relating to their desire to play soccer in Maroondah. Since this time, Council has developed three (3) multipurpose facilities at Hughes Park, East Ringwood Reserve and Dorset Recreation Reserve to support the Chin and Karen communities, with dedicated active recreation and community meeting spaces. Council will continue to support these communities to maximise use of these facilities for all ages and genders and foster partnerships and integration with other local sporting organisations.



## FIRST PEOPLES

To decrease the gap in health inequalities experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, targeted promotion and/or programs should be considered to increase regular physical activity rates. Research states that 12% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults in non-remote areas met the physical activity guidelines in 2018-2019. The rates of sufficient activity were slightly higher for Indigenous males than for Indigenous females (13% compared with 10%). Around one in five (20%)<sup>24</sup>

A 2012 study also found that family was identified to be at the forefront of Indigenous youth's motivation in the type of sport they decide to play and how they connect with family members. In Indigenous culture, the females have a large responsibility to family.<sup>25</sup>

### Common Challenges<sup>26</sup>

- Safety
- Affordability
- Social environment
- Lack of transport and logistical difficulty
- Competing work, family or cultural commitments
- Lack of time
- Lack of self-motivation
- Lack of confidence to try something new.

### Opportunities for Council to increase levels of physical activity

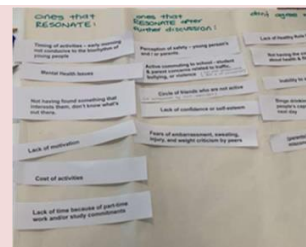
- Consider culturally specific programs that take into account the unique historical context and health experiences of Indigenous Australians in future approaches to targeting inactivity.<sup>27</sup>
- A 2018 research paper into the perceptions of physical activity among Indigenous Australians highlighted that *"The Western concept of individual exercise programs would appear not to be the best approach when promoting physical activities in this population. Group, community, or family activities are all approved forms of physical activity. High importance is attached to the type of environment in which exercise is undertaken, with the natural land remaining influential in Indigenous culture"*<sup>28</sup>
- Utilise Council's Wurundjeri Community Consultative Workshops to understand local issues and gauge effectiveness of current communications
- Ensure Council planning and programming is in alignment with Council's Reconciliation Plan

## YOUNG PEOPLE

This group is defined as young people aged between 12 – 26 years, who make up approximately 17% of the Maroondah population. <sup>29</sup> Common challenges highlighted in the previous strategy were reviewed and amended by Maroondah's 2023 Youth Wellbeing Advisory Group during a workshop session in July 2023.

### Common Challenges

- Cost of activities, high casual usage fees or long term commitment
- Lack of motivation
- Lack of confidence or self-esteem
- No companion or other people to participate with
- Circle of friends who are not active
- Inability to access childcare
- Not having the correct knowledge about health & fitness
- Body image perceptions
- Not having found something that interests them, don't know what they enjoy or what's out there.
- Timing of activities – early morning activities often not conducive to the biorhythm of young people
- Lack of healthy role models (parents)– healthy versus skinny misconception
- Not having the rest/restorative sleep they need to meet the demands of daily life
- Mental health issues
- Identity stereotyping e.g. 'I'm not a sporty person', 'Exercise isn't my thing'
- Safety concerns – young person's and / or parents, including injury, general safety in public, peer-to-peer violence, gender-based violence and harassment, sexual violence and harassment, and child abuse and grooming.
- Lack of time due to homework and /or part-time work, issues of work/life balance
- Perception- *Is exercise self-care or a chore?*
- Fear of running into acquaintances/peers who may judge
- Environment - quality of paths, lighting
- Public transport easier than active travel, lack of motivation to prepare for and undertake cycling
- Competition focus of sport deters continued involvement beyond childhood. *"What's the point?"*
- Perception that physical activity must be sport or gym



### Opportunities for Council to increase youth levels of physical activity

- The social opportunities presented by sport should be as important as the competitive aspect.
- Rethinking how organised sport is promoted & delivered, including more flexible options for involvement
- Health promotion initiatives aimed at both young people and /or parents to dispel misconceptions and promote the healthy mind and body benefits of physical activity.
- Improved infrastructure to support Active Travel to school and places of work or play.
- Provision of low cost, casual commitment opportunities
- Provide different FUN, feel good, social options - "with great music"
- Provide online, tours, basic gym etiquette and usage information to lessen anxiety for new participants
- *Simply providing information to youth about benefits, frequency, and duration of physical activity is not sufficient for enhancing physical activity behaviour. Subtle changes in framing physical activities can have a dramatic influence on youths' physical activity motivation and behaviours. Adults should encourage youth to participate in activities they find enjoyable, feel competent doing, have chosen to do, and that include positive social support—these conditions optimize their motivation for sustaining physical activity and thus the physical, social, and psychological health benefits afforded from such participation.*<sup>30</sup>

## OLDER PEOPLE

Latest Census data highlights that approximately 27.6% of the Maroondah population is aged over 55 years.<sup>31</sup> To support the needs of our older residents, Maroondah City Council is a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities Network. This network focuses on taking action at the local level to promote active and healthy ageing.

Council has also made a further commitment through the endorsement of a Positive Ageing Framework and Action Plan 2021-2025. The Plan addresses the current challenges faced by an ageing population and plans ways to optimize opportunities for health, participation and security in order to maintain independence and enhance quality of life as people age.



### Common Challenges

- Physical constraints: Discomfort and pain are common barriers to exercise as well as illness, chronic health conditions and obesity.
- Fear of injury: Injury is a very legitimate concern for older people however a lack of exercise can amplify general functional decline and balance issues.
- Fixed income: Gym, swimming and personal training can be expensive for older persons on a fixed income.
- Cognitive decline: Those who are experiencing memory loss or cognitive decline may face barriers to engaging in physical activity
- Isolation: Lack of connection may limit knowledge of activities opportunities and limit motivation. Lack of transport may also contribute to isolation
- Financial insecurity: Older people face a unique set of potential financial stresses as they enter retirement, which can impact on their ability to access to healthy food, physical activity and recreation, and services.<sup>32</sup>

### Opportunities for Council to increase levels of physical activity

- Provision of green spaces, adequate seating and safe, pedestrian friendly, walkways
- Well-designed roads to assist the egress of pedestrians and their mobility aids.
- Safe & accessible public buildings and toilets
- Events and activities, that are planned and promoted with consideration of the needs of older adults
- Fostering community integration through encouraging multigenerational spaces and activities
- Promotion imagery includes older people, depicting them positively and without stereotypes.
- Regular and reliable distribution of information through accessible community platforms and media

## WOMEN AND GIRLS

According to the 2021 Census, 51.6% or 56,351 of Maroondah residents identified as female.

Maroondah has an increasing proportion of carers providing regular unpaid care with 8,066 women aged 15+ providing assistance to a person with a disability, long term illness or old age. Furthermore, 15,876 women aged 15+ reported that they undertake unpaid childcare as their primary role and of this 4,448 indicated that this included care for children other than their own.

Evidence highlights that there is no one approach to addressing the gender disparity in physical activity participation among Maroondah residents. Different female population cohorts within Maroondah experience different challenges to being as active as they should be, or would like to be, to maintain optimal health and wellbeing.<sup>33</sup> To understand the needs of women and girls, in 2019 Council developed the Equally Active, active participation strategy to develop targeted strategies to address low participation in specific population cohorts and to increase and sustain women and girls' participation in traditionally male dominated sports.



### Common Challenges

- Time poor
- Caregiving responsibilities leading to time & scheduling constraints, guilt and lack of energy
- Sensitivity to body image
- Girls are more likely to report barriers such as embarrassment, sweating, fear of injury, and weight criticism by peers and family members compared with boys<sup>34</sup>
- A systemic fear of judgment of appearance, ability and/ or priorities
- Gender inequality in recreation and sporting settings
- Safety concerns, including gender-based harassment and violence
- Cultural Differences
- Financial priorities
- Newly arrived young women can experience additional settlement challenges including increased family responsibilities and duties, negotiation of different cultural expectations about gender roles, economic disadvantage, social isolation, lack of experience and knowledge about services and lack of confidence to engage with services.

### Opportunities for Council to increase levels of physical activity

- Engagement with women and girls to ensure suitably scheduled, accessible activities
- Availability of activities popular with women
- Women only teams/program options
- Family friendly policies/ places
- Design sensitive to perceptions of security
- Provide and promote relatable active role models
- Representation of women in community sport, coaching & decision making roles
- Actively targeting and marketing participation to women and girls and those most vulnerable
- Incorporate specific design features to support women's participation
- Support equitable access to facilities and resources through education and policy
- Support the provision of safe, non-judgemental spaces for independent exercise
- Support the provision of fun, social and non-competitive options
- Assist traditionally male-dominated sports clubs to undertake change initiatives to create and sustain inclusive, welcoming environments

## LGBTIQA+

The LGBTIQA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer/Questioning, Asexual) community make up an estimated 10% of Maroondah's population. Research shows LGBTIQA+ people have some of the lowest rates of participation in sport, recreation and physical activity out of any community in society.

Avoidance of participation in sport is often linked to poor experiences due to discrimination or harassment. An international study by Australian researchers<sup>35</sup> found that:

- Over 80% of people have either witnessed or experienced homophobia in sport
- Sport is considered hostile and unwelcoming to young people with diverse sexualities and genders

### Common Challenges

- Lack of understanding the difference between gender and sex
- Lack of understanding of what is transgender
- Transphobia or homophobia or perceived transphobia or homophobia
- Verbal abuse and /or inappropriate sledging from players, officials, coaches, spectators
- Strict sport rules on gender and sex (leaving transgender people without a competition to play in)
- Some medically prescribed drugs transgender people require are on banned substance lists
- Mental health issues
- Physical abuse (from team-mates and rougher play on field)
- Lack of role models
- Change rooms can create feelings of angst and discomfort
- Negative past experiences
- Perception that physical activity must be sport or going to the gym

### Opportunities for Council to increase levels of physical activity

- Education within sport and recreation clubs and promotion of support resources
- Facilitate discussions with sport leagues about updating gender and sex rules and uniform requirements
- Private spaces (cubicles) within change rooms and non-gendered options
- Encourage and support the development of policy for players, officials and spectators
- Support initiatives to celebrate and demonstrate support for LGBTIQA+ inclusion
- Messaging that physical activity may be accumulative segments of short activity including active travel



## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Participation rates for people with disability are significantly lower than the general population. In 2021, 6,847 people (or 6.0% of the population) in the City of Maroondah reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability.<sup>36</sup> Furthermore over 30,000 people live with some form of disability in Maroondah which is an estimated 29% of the population. Disability is defined as “an umbrella term, covering impairments, activity limitations and participation restrictions”.<sup>37</sup>

The latest ABS release on Physical Activity (2020/21 financial year) highlighted that Australians aged 18 years and over with disability were twice as likely as those without disability to have completed zero (0) minutes of physical activity in the last week (20.5% compared with 9.9%).

### Common Challenges

- *Cost was identified as a major factor due to limited disposable income. Costs included transport, equipment, registration fees, support to participate and other additional costs associated with disability*<sup>38</sup>
- Attitudinal barriers are those that discriminate against people with disabilities or are perceived as unwelcoming.
- Physical barriers are features of buildings, play space or open spaces that impede access or participation by people with disabilities.
- Information or communications barriers happen when a person cannot easily access or understand information.
- Access to opportunities There are a limited number of activities for children with disability. Sometimes available activities run at inconvenient times, or have long waiting lists.<sup>39</sup>

A person with a disability is more likely to face several challenges and barriers which require understanding as part of investigating practical solutions. For example:

- A person with a disability may have a particular medical condition that affects the body's metabolism.
- Reduced mobility and lack of regular exercise.
- Reduced muscle tone.
- Medication that may increase appetite.
- Eating habits that may be affected by depression, anxiety, boredom or frustration.
- Dependence on family members or carers to provide nutrition, transport and activity support.

### Opportunities for Council to increase levels of physical activity

- Raise awareness within the community of access and inclusion barriers, rights and inclusive practices
- Promote participation in Council recreation, arts, leisure and cultural activities and events ensuring all communication tools are accessible and DDA compliant
- Ensure access for people with disabilities is considered in the planning and design of play spaces and open spaces.
- Continue to deliver disability awareness training to Council staff particularly those involved program development, infrastructure planning and direct service delivery.

## A strategy for a more active future

There are different factors that affect the physical activity levels of specific populations and therefore different strategies are required to overcome these. In the previous section the strategy has highlighted many of the common challenges inhibiting activity levels and opportunities which may have a positive impact on participation. To address the highlighted challenges and to make physical activity an easier option, the strategy focuses on four (4) key priority areas which highlight opportunities for Council action.

### Increasing Active Travel

Despite the many benefits of active transport, physical and attitudinal barriers prevent people from extensively using active travel modes.

There are a range of improvement opportunities that Council can undertake to enhance the pedestrian and cycle network. These will include completion of the gaps, to facilitate greater continuity and connectivity, remove physical barriers, more pedestrian crossings, expansion of long and short stay bicycle parking and installing wayfinding signage.

### Spaces and places that encourage physical activity

Public Open Space is of high importance to Maroondah residents. This level of regard may be a key factor in promoting active living and providing opportunities for people to be more active.

The creation of vibrant, activated parks & reserves will generate greater volumes of users, assisting people to feel safer and be motivated to exercise, by the energy of others.

Maroondah  
Moving  
More Often

### Supporting Diversity in Sport

The demographic of Maroondah is becoming increasingly diverse. Our culturally, linguistically and gender diverse communities, women and girls and people with disabilities are looking for sporting options that are welcoming and inclusive.

It is Council's intention to support inclusive sporting settings to achieve participation that reflects our diverse community.

### Connecting with our least active residents

Council has invested significant resources to improving the quality, access and safety of Maroondah's open spaces, sports facilities, footpaths and trails.

This information needs to be widely disseminated using multiple targeted avenues along with reframed positive messaging to increase daily activity levels.

# Increasing Active Travel

## Outcome description

Council will continue to work with other partners to improve our streets, trails and spaces to be great places for people to walk, run, ride and play and choose active travel as a regular part of their daily life.

## What the evidence tells us

People that walk, run, ride, scoot or skate as part of their everyday activities, participate in active modes of travel. Inherent in active travel modes is some level of physical activity. Active travel can be an important source of physical activity and contribute to reaching the necessary daily physical activity levels to stay fit and healthy. For example, public transport users in Melbourne achieve over 40 minutes of exercise a day, compared with less than 10 minutes for a car user.<sup>40</sup>

The health and wellbeing benefits of physical activity that stems from active travel are well established and understood. Public health research shows that people that regularly walk, ride or wheel tend to be healthier, fitter, have better mental wellbeing and are a connected community.<sup>41</sup>

The co-benefits from greater physical activity are associated with reduced obesity, increased aerobic fitness, cognitive function and social inclusion. Importantly, the health benefits of walking or riding a bicycle outweigh the health risk associated with potential injury.

The active travel modes are low cost, low impact and zero emission transportation that in certain circumstances, over short distances, can be quicker than motorised travel. Due to the low cost and time flexibility, certain community groups that are less likely to participate in organised active pursuits, will walk for leisure and active travel. Therefore, active travel contributes to a reduction in health, mobility and society inequalities.

The active travel modes enable equity, connection and inclusion in our society and at places. It allows people of any age or ability the means to be independent and choose where they want to go. Active travel, aided through assisted mobility, is fundamental to preserve the mobility and independence of an aging community, people with disability and people that don't drive. Likewise, active travel is also important to children and young people to take steps towards independent lives. In Outer Melbourne about a third (33.68%) of all journeys to education use active transport for at least part of the way (VISTA).

Active travel is done on its own or in combination with public transport. When done on its own, nearly all trips are walked over a short distance to reach local places for social, recreation, personal business, work and shopping purposes (VISTA). The average walking distance is 1.1 km and average time spent walking is 15 minutes. People will walk for longer distance and time for purposes of education, recreation, personal business reasons.

Participation in cycling is extremely low, constituting less than 1% of proportion of active travel trips. On average distance covered by a bike ride is 6.8 km and an takes 27.5 minutes. Cycling is most undertaken for social, recreation and work purposes.

Nearly every trip involving public transport made in Maroondah will include some active travel at either, the origin, transition between modes or destination. For 88.4% of Maroondah households buses are the closest public transport<sup>42</sup>. In Melbourne, 94% of trips to the bus stop are walked<sup>43</sup>. The median walk to a bus stop is 390 meters. PTV station access data shows that walking is also important for accessing stations. In 2014, 63% of passenger's walk to Heathmont Station, 46.1% to Ringwood East, 32.3% to Croydon and 25.8% to Ringwood<sup>44</sup>. Cycling to stations across all stations is lower than 1.6% of passengers.

Overall, in 2020, more trips originating in the municipality were made by active transport (11.9%) than public transport (6.7%) (VISTA). A significant majority of active transport trips are walked (11.46%).

The online Strava Heat Map reveals the locations with the extensive walking and cycling volumes are along the trails, pathways and major roads. It highlights the importance of trails, pathways and footpaths to influences and facilitate participation in active modes of transport.

Many people living in Maroondah struggle to choose active travel modes for short trips to reach local destinations, services and activities. Known barriers that influence the likelihood and amount of participation in active travel are, where people live, their level of income, job and education access, the fabric of neighbourhoods, the street environment, personal safety concerns and the quality of public transport.

There is considerable potential to boost population levels of physical activity through the encouragement of active travel. For the potential to be realised the conditions of our streets and neighbourhoods must be walkable, bicycle friendly and safe for everyone. Enhancement of community connections and access to local shops, education, medical and community services so active travel can be a mode of choice and the delivery of education to develop people's skills to safely walk or ride a bike, scooter or skateboard.



## What the community has told us

Communities across Maroondah have expressed views, expectations and attitudes towards active travel across several community engagements undertaken for a range of projects.

Strong community support for walkability neighbourhoods and better active travel options was a prominent and collective view. Requests included more footpaths, better connectivity and separation of bike and walking paths and public open space to be made safer after dark to support active travel and recreation. In particular, the community highlighted the need to provide opportunities to build active travel confidence, promote free public facilities and active transport networks which will support greater participation in all types of walking and bike riding. These calls encapsulate the community expectation for Council to provide more and quality active transport infrastructure, events and programs.

Good transport services and facilities were identified as the highest priority for current and future housing by the Housing Strategy Engagement Report. Most respondents would like a shared pathway, trails, footpath and bus stops to be within 5 minutes of their home. Over half of respondents were willing to travel either 10 or 20 minutes to a train station. The feedback is an acknowledgement of the high importance the community places on good access to sustainable transport in choosing a home.

The My Neighbourhood Café consultation highlighted the community's varied experience of walking and bike riding across the 12 local centres. Respondents were asked to rate the quality of safe walking and cycling networks. The centres identified as having a low or medium quality active travel networks were Burnt Bridge, McAdam Square, Ringwood North and Ringwood East. The community gave 59 suggested enhancements to improve the network. The improvements can be categorised into four types: lighting, footpaths, bicycle paths and safe streets/spaces. The community values such facilities and wants the implementation to occur quicker than at the current rate. The consultation findings also called for more pedestrian and bike facilities which is consistent with the request letters received by Council. In 2022, Council receives 60 requests for new footpaths and 50 requests for lighting.

While there is strong support for active and public transport in the community it is by no means a consensus. It is acknowledged that the community contains diverse views, expectations and attitudes and some compete with active travel outcomes at the local level. The competition for space and accommodating community expectations is complex and will have to be balanced to be acceptable.

## Priority Actions

Key Direction	Priority Actions	Lead Responsibility	Timeframe
1.1 Deliver behaviour change programs to increase confidence to walk and ride for short trips	1.1.1 Link Council's walking routes information to the Victoria Walks web platform and create a communication plan.	City Futures Leisure	2024/2025
	1.1.2 Partner with schools to organise cycling and pedestrian safety education programs and events.	City Futures	2023/Onward
	1.1.3 Partner with community organisations including Victoria Police to offer a bike education initiative focusing on bike etiquette and safety.	City Futures Leisure	2024/2025
1.2 Advocacy to other tiers of government for arterial road improvements for pedestrian access and safety.	1.2.1 Review the Principal Pedestrian Network to reprioritise the provision of walking pathway and footpaths to improve access within activity centres.	City Futures	2024/2025
	1.2.2 Review the Maroondah Bicycle Network Plan to guide cycling infrastructure investment within five priority local neighbourhoods.	City Futures	2023/2024
1.3 Deliver safer, direct and connected on road and off-road cycling ways.	1.3.1 Lobby the Victorian Government for funding to facilitate the delivery of the Greenwood Avenue Shared User Pathway.	City Futures	2023/Onward
	1.3.2 Develop and implement a real-time pedestrian and cyclist counter network to supply continuous and robust data.	City Futures	2025/25 Onwards
	1.3.3 Continue the implementation of Council's capital works footpath construction and street light enhancement programs	Engineering & Building Services	Ongoing
	1.3.4 Continue the implementation of Council's capital works program for accessibility improvements for all abilities.	Engineering & Building Services	Ongoing
1.4 Prioritise the provision of safe pedestrian and cycling facilities within 800 metres of stations and bus interchanges to realise the greatest outcomes from active transport.	1.4.1 Complement the principal pedestrian network with well-placed crossings, street furniture, tree planting and optimize wayfinding signage.	Engineering & Building Services	Ongoing

## Indicators of progress

Outcome	Indicators	Data Source	Base Metric	Frequency Reported
Increase in the percentage of trips made by people walking and riding a bike.	Mode share by number of trips (%)	Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity	11.95% (2020)	Biennial
Increase in community's perception that streets are walkable.	The community score for level of satisfaction with streets and footpaths.	Community Satisfaction Survey	65	Annual
Increase in the percentage of trips made by students walking or riding a bike to school.	Mode share by trip purpose split by number of trips (%)	Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity	12.51% (2020)	Biennial
Increase in the number of trips per a day that are walked for social and recreational walks and the average distance and time taken.	Number of trips per a day	Victorian Integrated Survey of Travel and Activity	14,778 (2020)	Biennial
	Weighted average (km)		1.1km (2020)	
	Weighted average (mins)		16.4 mins (2020)	

# Spaces and places that encourage physical activity

## Outcome description

Maroondah will have a network of high quality inclusive play and gathering places that cater for all cohorts within our community and are designed and maintained to maximise participation and to support good mental and physical health.



## What the evidence tells us

Physical activity levels can be strongly influenced by the places and spaces within the community. Open spaces include green space, parks, playgrounds, walking/bicycle trails, reserves, golf courses and public sporting/recreation areas. Vegetation and nature are important for wellbeing. Visual and physical contact with nature helps reduce stress, anxiety, blood pressure and muscle tension, improves self-esteem, encourages positive feelings, and helps us recover from mental illness. A network of safe walking and cycling routes that provide access to green spaces in an urban environment also encourages physical activity.

*Residents living in neighbourhoods with good access to public open space are more likely to use such spaces and gain the associated physical activity, and mental and physical health benefits. There is considerable evidence that living within walking distance of parks and in neighbourhoods with more green public open space is linked to greater use of these areas and positive health outcomes.<sup>45</sup>*

72% of Maroondah dwellings are estimated to be within 400 metres of public open space, which is higher than both Knox (69%) and Yarra Ranges (53%).<sup>46</sup>

## What the community has told us

Within the Maroondah Liveability, Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy, our community highlighted the relationship between physical and mental health and the opportunities to facilitate and support social connection. Opportunities to connect with nature were highly valued and seen to provide benefits to mental wellbeing, physical health and social connection. The community would also appreciate more affordable facilities, free outdoor recreation options as well as active and passive activities that promote health and wellbeing for all.<sup>47</sup> A quote from a female Ringwood resident stated “We should all feel safe to go about our business, regardless of the hour of the day or day of the week. We should be able to walk the streets at night or early morning without fear or trepidation.”

### Play and Gathering Places Strategy Engagement

In 2023, to help inform the inaugural Play and Gathering Places Strategy, Council undertook extensive community consultation. The community were asked to provide feedback on where, why, and how they play and gather in Maroondah. The “Connection Matters” campaign ran for 10 weeks from January to April 2023. During the campaign, 1.5k people visited Council’s Your Say page with 719 people completing the online survey.

A summary of key findings included:

**Our community are invested in and want to connect to these places more** 35% respondents used places daily, 53% weekly

**Our community want to be stewards of these places** 66% respondents seeking community connections and 27% seeking stewardship

**Maroondah’s Open Spaces are vital to the wellbeing of our communities** 53% of respondents rated these extremely important

**Our community value as a priority, a well-connected, planned and serviced Open Space network** 87% respondents walk to these places

Key Direction	Priority Actions	Lead Responsibility	Timeframe
<b>2.1</b> Provide activated, highly utilised spaces that are multiuse to maximise natural surveillance and community safety.	<b>2.1.1</b> In accordance with Council's public lighting policy, support the installation, or upgrade to the quality of, sustainable lighting for improved safety and to support increased evening activity.	Projects and Asset Management	Ongoing
<b>2.2</b> Design spaces which consider the feedback and lived experience of a wide range of ages, backgrounds and abilities to ensure equitable access with a priority being to reduce inequalities	<b>2.2.1</b> Develop targeted engagement activations that will gain feedback representing the widest range of community perspectives	Service Areas	Ongoing
	<b>2.2.2</b> Undertake internal training to understand intersectionality and how to utilise this lens to guide future planning.	Equal Opportunity Committee	2025/2026
<b>2.3</b> Advocate for improved Maroondah sporting facility construction to cater for people of all abilities to provide a welcoming/inclusive environment.	<b>2.3.1</b> Continue to advocate for improved community facilities, that have flexible spaces to accommodate the diverse needs of the community	Sport & Recreation Community Services,	2024-2029

## Indicators of progress

Victorian Child Health and Wellbeing Survey (VCHWS) - Proportion of Young People and proportion of children living in neighbourhoods with good parks, playgrounds and play spaces.

Development of and /or increased usage of open space feedback mechanisms

Collation and interpretation of usage data

Incorporate cultural and/or heritage aspects in all new Council facility developments or enhancements.

Where applicable, Gender Impact Assessments are undertaken, and findings actioned.

# Supporting Diversity in Sport

## Outcome description

Sports settings will be welcoming and inclusive of all genders, cultures and abilities by providing accessible facilities, safe, inclusive club environments and participation opportunities, to ensure that no one is excluded or fearful of discrimination.



## What the evidence tells us

While Victoria's current physical activity profile highlights that the majority of Maroondah residents, roughly 70%, do not currently participate in organised sport and may not hold a desire to do so, sport still plays an important role in the community, for health and fitness, social interaction and social cohesion. Sport teaches important values and involvement can provide a rewarding opportunity to interact with others as a participant, volunteer, leader, or supporter.

Sports organisations need however, to consider that they may not be accessible to all and that there is a need to embrace new ways of delivering sport to a diverse range of cultures, genders and abilities who want to be involved. Council in partnership with sporting leagues and associations, and industry experts, need to provide education and resources to support club committees, existing participants, officials and coaches to foster cultural change.

Maroondah is home to a diverse range of communities including, but not limited to, people with disability, cultural and linguistic diverse (CALD) communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, people from a range of faiths, and community members with different gender and sexual identities.<sup>48</sup> These communities may experience barriers to their participation in physically active endeavours. When different parts of a person's identity or circumstances – such as age, race, culture, disability, gender, socioeconomic status or religion intersect it can further impede a person's ability to access or feel welcome in activities such as community sport. Sporting organisations need to be aware of this concept of intersectionality and understand that while addressing one barrier, there still maybe other factors impeding an individual's participation. Programs should be co-designed with people with lived experience of a range of different aspects of diversity to ensure intersectionality is considered. Co-design is different to consultation as it is a process whereby relevant stakeholder views contribute not only to the thinking but also the making of decisions.<sup>49</sup>

With a growing preference for active pursuits without the commitment of training and competition, supporting the expansion of social or informal sport options into a wider variety of sport settings will support increased participation. Social sport can provide a non-gendered, non-competitive or less competitive environment, where participants can enjoy exercise and social interaction with less structure, or no structure and less administration and officiating resources required.

## What the community has told us

In the recent 2022/2023 Change Our Game - State of Play<sup>50</sup> survey of 670 Victorian respondents, 29% of respondents identified Racism in sport and 32% identified Fair and Equal participation opportunities for women and men as key current issues. **90% of women vs 66% of men said gender inequality is still an issue in sport that needs to be fixed.**

Youth Sense, Year 13 & Visa Inc. conducted a nationwide survey in April 2023 with 1250, 13-23 year olds. Overall, 43% of teenage girls and young women were found to not play sport. Of the top 10 reasons they gave for not playing, I'm not good enough (34%), body insecurities (31%), I don't like the competitive side of sport (30%), I feel inadequate compared to the top players and athletes (29%), my physical fitness wasn't adequate (28%), and too much pressure (26%) 51 all were key factors. These factors aligned with feedback from a workshop held with the Maroondah Youth Wellbeing Advocates Group.

Proud to Play, inclusivity in sport advocacy organisation states that *"Many LGBTQI+ people are disengaged from sport and recreation, as these environments have not kept up with societal change"*.

Key Direction	Priority Actions	Lead Responsibility	Timeframe
3.1 Support the expansion of social sport opportunities	3.1.1 Encourage and support local clubs to apply for funding to pilot social sport initiatives	Sport & Recreation	Ongoing
	3.1.2 Promote open space areas available for informal sport	Sport & Recreation	Ongoing
3.2 Provision of safe, accessible and welcoming spaces and community facilities	3.2.1 Incorporate best practice access and inclusion design principles in the upgrade and enhancement of community facilities, to ensure safe, accessible, and welcoming spaces	Projects and Asset Management	Ongoing
	3.2.2 Partner with inclusion advocacy organisations to provide awareness training on inclusion and provision of culturally safe spaces	Leisure City Futures	June 2025
	3.2.3 Partner with Tennis Victoria to develop an Access & Inclusion strategy for Tennis in Maroondah	Sport & Recreation	July 2025
3.3 Fair allocation of sporting facilities for all genders	3.3.1 In partnership with the Melbourne East Regional Sport & Recreation network of Local Government organisations, develop a Fair Access Policy to guide and measure the gender equitable allocation of sporting infrastructure.	Melbourne East Region Sport and Recreation Strategy Network (MERSRS)	June 2024
	3.3.2 Utilise Council's Community Facilities booking and reporting processes to capture usage data by gender.	Sport & Recreation	Ongoing
3.4 LGBTQIA+ inclusion education and advocacy for gender diverse and transgender sports participation	3.4.1 Work with local leagues and associations to support local clubs to understand the needs of gender diverse and transgender participants and promote initiatives to improve/grow inclusion.	Sport & Recreation	2025/2026
3.5 Support promotional opportunities that encourage people of all abilities to be active.	3.5.1 Support community awareness of existing accessible sporting and recreational programs and accessible infrastructure.	Leisure Community Services, Communications and Citizen Experience	Ongoing

## Indicators of progress

Increased demographic information collection for Maroondah Leisure memberships  
Peak sporting body participation data  
Comparison to Sports Demand analysis 2017 gender baseline data  
Creating a Place for Women in Sport - Post Completion Survey data

# Connecting with our least active residents

## Outcome description

Council will disseminate information highlighting the value of incremental movement and the range of local active opportunities, using a range of accessible formats. Council will seek to, and support others to, engage with low participatory cohorts when designing programs and/ or communications.

## What the evidence tells us

Communities are not homogenous, and to reach as many individuals as possible, it is important to consider how different cohorts of the community will receive and process messaging.

The diverse range of needs in our community must be considered when planning, and activating public spaces and places, including accessible communications and wayfinding. When developing communication for events, programs or facilities thought should be given to who will want to use the space or place and take into consideration all needs; people with vision, hearing, mobility, cognitive and psychosocial disability as well as carers, parents with prams and people for whom English is a second language.<sup>52</sup> Where possible utilise local networks and multiple formats of communication to disseminate information.

Council will not rely on public notices or general advertisements to reach the whole community, given that there is different messaging required to reach Maroondah's most inactive residents. Positive messaging supporting the benefits of small incremental segments of activity has the ability to empower people leading sedentary lifestyles to move more often.

## What the community has told us

Community feedback during the COVID 19 restrictions highlighted that many residents had previously never realised the breadth of open space opportunities within walking distance of their homes. The 5km restrictions coerced families to explore their local neighbourhoods many noting that they had no idea of the extent of walking tracks, parks and other facilities within their neighbourhood. While it is hopeful that we will never again face lockdown travel restrictions, the situation has highlighted that greater promotion and effective wayfinding is required for residents to realise the local opportunities available to them.

Furthermore, in undertaking consultation with the community, conversations and feedback often reverted to barriers to attending the gym or sports with little recognition that physical activity can be simply moving more and sitting less in everyday lives. The guilt from not prioritising formalised activity often led to people doing nothing at all, feeling a hopelessness due to lack of time and/or motivation. This feedback highlights the need for Council to invest in awareness promotions on the value in moving more often, even in short bursts, and reducing time sitting.



Key Direction	Priority Actions	Lead Responsibility	Timeframe
4.1 Collaborate with Community networks and Council Advisory Group Committees that represent or are connected to the people that we are trying to reach.	4.1.1 Regularly attend the Eastern Volunteers Network Community of Practice, Migrant Information Centre's Community Leaders Meeting, Maroondah Emergency Relief Network, Maroondah Reconciliation Partnership Group, Disability Advisory Committee, and other networks and Advisory Committees to understand needs, share opportunities and determine effective avenues for promoting campaigns.	City Futures Sport & Recreation	Ongoing
4.2 Enhance the provision of appropriately tailored awareness campaigns, and program promotions to meet the needs of inactive residents, people from diverse backgrounds, older adults and persons with disabilities.	Capitalise on existing State and Federal Campaigns such as the Get Active Platform and Heart Foundation Walking Platform to benefit our community	Sport & Recreation	Min 1 per calendar year
	4.2.2 Develop a targeted MOVING campaign to assist residents to understand movement options and the benefits of increased daily activity and decreased sitting.	Sport & Recreation	October 2025
	4.2.3 Develop a process for the design and testing of targeted campaigns and promotions to ensure that it is reaching and resonating with the intended market.	Sport & Recreation Communications City Futures Community Services	March 2025
	4.2.4 Develop and evaluate Communication and Engagement Plans for infrastructure upgrade completions and programs including the development of accessible social scripts and other important access information.	Communications and Citizens Experience	Ongoing
4.3 Support sports, recreation & social groups to increase their connection and profile within the community	4.3.1 Provide a series of club development training opportunities to understand the needs of, and ways to reach marginalised groups.	Sport & Recreation	Min 1 per year
4.4 Utilise responsible pet ownership campaigns as a mechanism to promote increased physical activity.	4.4.1 Link social media messaging of 'Why being active with your dog is beneficial', to the Ok my dog's friendly campaign. Include messaging in the Responsible Pet owner packs and web information.	Local Laws	April 2025

## Indicators of progress

Review analytics of specific Council 'Active' webpages and social scripts

Utilise data and technology tracking measures to obtain and review baseline data on open space utilisation

Number of Maroondah walkers registered on the Heart Foundation Walk initiative.

## Tracking our progress

The specific priority actions and projects outlined in this Strategy will be monitored as they are implemented and reported to Council on a bi-annual basis with Strategy review commencing in the fourth year. Council will continue to work with the State and Federal Governments, key stakeholders including peak sporting bodies and health agencies, local sports and recreation providers and other community networks to make Maroondah's places, spaces and opportunities **as welcoming and suitable as possible to the least active members of our community.**



# Glossary and References

## Glossary

<b>Physical Activity</b>	World Health Organisation defines physical activity as any bodily movement produced by skeletal muscles that requires energy expenditure – including activities undertaken while working, playing, carrying out household chores, travelling, and engaging in recreational pursuits. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Active Living</b>	A way of life that integrates physical activity into daily routines
<b>Sport</b>	The Australian Sports Commission defines sport as: 'A human activity capable of achieving a result requiring physical exertion and/or physical skill which, by its nature and organisation, is competitive and is generally accepted as being a sport'. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Incidental Physical Activity</b>	Physical activities performed that are undertaken as part of carrying out normal daily chores.
<b>Sedentary Behaviour</b>	The Department of Health describes 'Sedentary behaviour' as a term used to describe time spent doing physically inactive tasks that do not require a lot of energy. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Pedestrian</b>	A person who travels by foot.
<b>Intersectionality</b>	Describes how different parts of a person's identity or circumstances – such as age, race, culture, disability, gender, socioeconomic status or religion – intersect and combine to shape people's life experiences, including unequal outcomes, privilege and discrimination <sup>1</sup>
<b>COVID 19 Pandemic</b>	The COVID-19 pandemic was a global outbreak of coronavirus, an infectious disease caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus.

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To contact Council

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- SMS 0480 020 200
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Translating and Interpreter Service  
13 14 50

National Relay Service (NRS)  
13 36 77

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-  Maroondah City Council





## Ringwood Ballet Group Inc. Lease Particulars

<b>Item 1.</b>	<b>Council:</b> (Clause 1)	<b>Maroondah City Council</b> of 179 Maroondah Highway Ringwood 3134
<b>Item 2.</b>	<b>Tenant:</b> (Clause 1)	Ringwood Ballet Group Inc, Association number A0001776G, ABN 48 969 435 608
<b>Item 3.</b>	<b>Land:</b> (Clause 1)	The land contained in certificate of title Volume 5956 Folio 068 and known as Bedford Park, Rosewarne Lane, RINGWOOD VIC 3134
<b>Item 4.</b>	<b>Premises:</b> (Clause 1)	That part of the Land shown bounded in red on the plan in Annexure B
<b>Item 5.</b>	<b>Commencement Date:</b> (Clause 1)	1 July 2024
<b>Item 6.</b>	<b>Term:</b> (Clause 1)	5 years
<b>Item 7.</b>	<b>Further Term(s):</b> (Clause 1 & 3.2)	1 further term(s) of 5 year(s)
<b>Item 8.</b>	<b>First and Last dates for exercising the Option for the Further Term:</b> (Clause 3.2.1)	1 January 2029 1 April 2029
<b>Item 9.</b>	<b>Rent :</b> (Clause 1 & 3)	Year 1: \$2,800 incl GST Year 2: \$2,898 incl GST Year 3: \$3,000 incl GST Year 4: \$3,105 incl GST Year 5: \$3,214 incl GST  The Rent is payable annually in advance, within 30 days of Council issuing an invoice for the Rent, commencing on the Commencement Date, and then on each anniversary of the Commencement Date during the Term and any Further Term. This payment obligation also applies to the payment of Rent during any Further Term.
<b>Item 10.</b>	<b>Rent During Further Term:</b> (Clause 1 and 5)	To be determined by Council in accordance with the Community Facilities Pricing Policy



## Particulars (continued)

Item 11.	(Clause 1 & 8.1)	
Item 12.	<b>Community Use:</b> (Clause 1 & 14.1)	The carrying on of Not for Profit activities normally associated with a ballet group.
Item 13.	<b>Hours of Use</b> (Clause 14.4)	'Not applicable'
Item 14.	<b>Special Conditions:</b> (Clause 1 & 22.6)	The Special Conditions in section two of Annexure A form part of this Lease.
Item 15.	<b>Changes to Council's standard terms:</b> (Clause 23.6)	The following standard clauses have been amended (as set out in section one of Annexure A): <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>14.4 Hours of Use</b></li></ul>

Capital Funding for Community Groups 2023/2024 - Project Proposal Summary

Organisation Name	Contact	Position	Address	Suburb	PC	Email	Location	Project Description	Total Cost (Inc. GST)	Council Contribution	Organisation Contribution	Deferred Contribution	External Funding	Comment - Department
<b>Projects under \$7,700</b>														
1 German Shepherd Dog Club	Rhonda Snijders	Branch Manager	PO Box 5521	Wantirna	3152	<a href="mailto:easternmanager@sdcv.org.au">easternmanager@sdcv.org.au</a>	German Shepherd Dog Club	Manson Reserve - Canteen Roller Door Replacement	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	NIL	NIL		<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval by Assets through a previous "request for works" process.
2 Heathmont East Preschool	Carly Cullen	Grants Officer	4a Pleasant Drive	Heathmont	3135	<a href="mailto:grants@heathmontpreschool.org.au">grants@heathmontpreschool.org.au</a>	Heathmont Preschool	Window Tint and Lockable Cabinet	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	NIL	NIL		<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval by Assets through a previous "request for works" process.
3 Dorset Golf Club	Peter Sier	Club Secretary	P.O Box 299	Kilsyth	3137	<a href="mailto:peter.sier@bigpond.com">peter.sier@bigpond.com</a>	Dorset Golf	Design of Outdoor Community Alfresco	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	NIL	NIL		<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> The outdoor alfresco design will form part of the broader Dorset Golf masterplan to look at the whole site and obtain a design that is cohesive for future projects.
<b>Projects over \$7,700</b>														
4 Crisp Nursery	Lloyd Smiley	Treasurer	17 Greenwood Avenue	Ringwood	3134	<a href="mailto:lloyd.smiley@yahoo.com">lloyd.smiley@yahoo.com</a>	Crisp Nursery	Crisp Nursery PV Solar	\$ 10,670.00	\$ 5,335.00	\$ 5,335.00	NIL		<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval by Assets through a previous "request for works" process. Funding through the solar capital budget
5 Ringwood East Senior Citizens' Centre	Peter Waters	Secretary	6 Laurence Grove	Ringwood East	3135	<a href="mailto:ringwoodeastseniors@gmail.com">ringwoodeastseniors@gmail.com</a>	Ringwood East Senior Citizens Centre	Ringwood East Senior Solar Panels	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 8,250.00	\$ 8,250.00			<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval by Assets through a previous "request for works" process. Funding through the solar capital budget
6 Maroondah BMX	Karen Shannon	President	3 Thelma Ave	Boronia	3155	<a href="mailto:eastfieldeagles@gmail.com">eastfieldeagles@gmail.com</a>	Maroondah BMX	Start Hill Upgrade	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,000.00		<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval to be managed by Councils Asset Team to address safety concerns over the existing starting gate.
7 Ainslie Park CC	Alan Moss	Secretary	PO Box 1194	Croydon	3136	<a href="mailto:ainslieparkcc@gmail.com">ainslieparkcc@gmail.com</a>	Ainslie Park Reserve	Cricket Nets Surface Renewal Project	\$ 24,805.00	\$ 12,402.50	\$ 12,402.50			<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval to be managed by Councils Sportsfield Team
8 Croydon Tennis Club	Joanna Carland	Treasurer	Croydon Park	Croydon	3136	<a href="mailto:treasurer.croydoncc@gmail.com">treasurer.croydoncc@gmail.com</a>	Croydon Tennis Club	Croydon Tennis Club Court Upgrade	\$ 174,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 39,000.00		<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval and supported through the Tennis Strategy
9 Burnt Bridge Tennis Club	Tom Keegan	President	PO Box 8172	Croydon	3136	<a href="mailto:keeganthomas@hotmail.com">keeganthomas@hotmail.com</a>	Burnt Bridge Tennis Club	Burnt Bridge Tennis Club Court 3 and 4 Revitalisation Project	\$ 63,000.00	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 5,250.00	\$10,500 TA Grant	<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval and supported through the Tennis Strategy
10 Heathwood Cricket Club	Ravish Chari	President	Waterloo Street	Heathmont	3135	<a href="mailto:heathwoodcc@gmail.com">heathwoodcc@gmail.com</a>	Heathmont Reserve	Heathmont Reserve Centre Wicket Upgrade	\$ 49,000.00	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 9,500.00	\$15,000 ACIF (TBC)	<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval to be managed by Councils Sportsfield Team
11 3rd Ringwood East Scout Group	Terri Verberne	Group Leader	PO Box 126	Ringwood East	3135	<a href="mailto:terriwerberne@gmail.com">terriwerberne@gmail.com</a>	3rd Ringwood East Scout Group	Knaith Rd Scout Hall Kitchen Upgrade	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00		<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval by Assets through a previous "request for works" process and will form part of the hall redevelopment works currently underway
12 Arrabri Community House	Sharon Cosgriff	Manager	42 Allamban Rd	Bayswater North	3135	<a href="mailto:manager@arrabri.org">manager@arrabri.org</a>	Arrabri Reserve	Childcare Playspace	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	NIL		<b>Yes - Recommended for funding</b> Recommended for approval by Assets based off the design generated through the last funding round.
<b>Projects Not Recommended for Funding</b>														
1 Glen Park Community Centre	Heidi Butler-Moore	CEO	30 Glen Park Rd	Bayswater North	3153	<a href="mailto:heidibutler@glenparkcc.com.au">heidibutler@glenparkcc.com.au</a>	Glen park	Security Screen Installation	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	NIL	NIL		<b>No - Not recommended for funding</b> Currently there are adequate shutters on the doors and windows outlined in this application. The Community Centre are looking to upgrade these for a more slimline option. Officers understand the safety concerns at Glen Park and feel that the current ones are adequate and have supported a RWICF (Request for Works) for the installation of a safety barrier in the reception area to address safety concerns for their staff. These works have been completed.
2 East Ringwood Football Club	Bruce Rosel	Finance Manager	PO Box 83	Ringwood East	3135	<a href="mailto:bruce.rosel.erfc@gmail.com">bruce.rosel.erfc@gmail.com</a>	East Ringwood Reserve	Coopersmith Pavilion Window Upgrade - Design	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	NIL		<b>No - Not recommended for funding</b> Project has not been fully costed. Engineering advice/design has not been sourced on how the new window/glass will be secured and held into the existing frames. Additionally budget is insufficient. Council officers to work with the club to fully scope the project to enable the club to apply for funding in the future.
3 Ringwood Central Tennis Club	Chris Fallon	President	Gardini Ave	Ringwood	3134	<a href="mailto:onsitemassage1997@gmail.com">onsitemassage1997@gmail.com</a>	Ringwood Central Tennis Club	Spectator Seating/Shelter	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	NIL		<b>No - Not recommended for funding</b> In principle support, insufficient budget. Support club to re-apply in the 2025/26 program. Club received funding for a four court replacement in the 2023/24 financial year.
<b>Projects Withdrawn</b>														
1 Brentwood Park Kindergarten	Kay Bryan	Operational Manager	25 Mandowrie Crescent	Croydon	3136	<a href="mailto:operational.manager.bpk@gmail.com">operational.manager.bpk@gmail.com</a>	Brentwood Park Kindergarten	Brentwood Park Playspace Design	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	NIL	NIL		Kinder withdrew application - do not wish to proceed
2 Heathmont Baseball Club	Cale Hunkin	President	Heathmont Reserve	Heathmont	3135	<a href="mailto:heathmontbaseballclub@gmail.com">heathmontbaseballclub@gmail.com</a>	Heathmont Reserve	Heathmont Reserve Batting Cage Lighting Project	\$ 7,700.00	\$ 7,700.00	NIL	NIL		Application withdrawn as quote came in higher than the club anticipated which moved the project from being fully funded by Council into the 50/50 category which they cannot fund currently. Council officers to work with the club for a future application.

Project Totals		Amounts Incl. GST
Council Allocation	\$	209,000
Funding Requests	\$	290,385
Officer Recommendations	\$	290,385
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$1,385</b>

\*\$13,385 will come from the 2024/25 Solar Capital Budget to fund the two solar projects

\*\* \$67,803 is proposed to be used from the Sports Surface capital works program (outcome of Tennis Strategy) to fund the Croydon Tennis court resurface project



# 2024 Survey

## SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

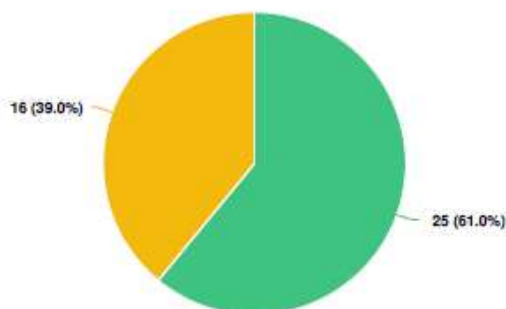
05 May 2024 - 18 June 2024

PROJECT NAME:  
Public Toilet Policy



2024 Survey : Survey Report for 05 May 2024 to 18 June 2024

**Q2 Does the draft Public Toilet Policy meet your needs as a community member in relation to public toilets in Maroondah?**



**Question options**

Yes No

Mandatory Question (41 response(s))  
Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q3 Please provide any comments on the draft Public Toilet Policy below.**

Anonymous  
5/15/2024 10:41 AM

Providing more public toilets in activity areas is a sensible approach as it will encourage more people to use activity areas and for longer periods of time.

Anonymous  
5/15/2024 01:15 PM

I agree that the automated toilets are often intimidating and often unsightly structures. I appreciate that they are usually clean but soap is often missing. Transport stations - rail ad bus - seem to me to be essential places to find toilets. This is the case in most towns and cities overseas. The situation in Ringwood East is unsatisfactory ..... really unsatisfactory. Toilets need to be clearly signposted in more than one place. Low shrubbery surrounding the build suggests relaxation and has been proved to be safer from vandalism than the current and cold unimaginative concrete blocks. Make Maroondah a friendly and supportive place for young and old.

Anonymous  
5/16/2024 09:22 AM

There are currently no toilets along or adjacent to the many kilometres of the Mullum Creek track/bike path which has high-usage at all times of the years. There is a toilet block near Maroondah

2024 Survey : Survey Report for 05 May 2024 to 18 June 2024

	Highway adjacent to a tennis club (near intersection at Oban road but this is not sign-posted on the track and is some distance away. The same goes for the football oval which opposite Norwood High School which has a football club. Their toilets are not signposted on the track, nor to my knowledge readily available to the public.
Anonymous 5/16/2024 10:33 AM	<a href="https://cloud.think-hq.com.au/s/19GMDD3qCyjctfM#pdfviewer">https://cloud.think-hq.com.au/s/19GMDD3qCyjctfM#pdfviewer</a> takes you to Changing places, which is being advocated for by Australia Myositis Association . Members suffer with muscle weakness and outings are difficult enough without finding there is no suitable facility nearby. Staley gardens would benefit from on site facilities without expecting people to navigate to Eastland to use their facilities.
Anonymous 5/16/2024 05:00 PM	We need a child's toilet at Aquahub and Aquanation for toddlers and small children who use these pools. Have requested previously no one listens
Anonymous 5/16/2024 05:42 PM	Where is the option to add more toilets? I live near abbey walk and Maroondah hwy and every time I go walking I am faced with men coming out of bushes or squatting because there are no nearby toilets. I have contacted the council on this but nothing has been done.
Anonymous 5/16/2024 06:07 PM	While the draft policy sounds good, I'm concerned that the same thing that happened at Proclamation Park will happen with other toilet facilities the council builds. In the redevelopment plan it was stated there would be accessible public toilets, however there are actually no public toilets as they are only available for community groups who hire the facilities. There are loads of parks where the toilets need updating or there are no e to begin with, however if toilets are built with council money and then not open to the general public then they cannot be cpu ted as public toilets.
Anonymous 5/16/2024 06:36 PM	Please install toilets at the new Ringwood East railway station
Anonymous 5/16/2024 06:49 PM	If you haven't done so already, you should watch the Japanese film 'Perfect Days'. It is totally about the life of a Japanese public toilet cleaner. It won a Cannes prize for best actor and is definitely one of my top movies for this year.
Anonymous	Cleaning is a high priority yet NONE of your "key considerations"

2024 Survey : Survey Report for 05 May 2024 to 18 June 2024

5/16/2024 07:39 PM

address's this. We stopped going to the toilets at Croydon library because they always smelt of urine, even after they were "cleaned". The smell never goes away, fix the ongoing smell. often toilets are put away from passive surveillance (Croydon Park), they should be located closer to Mt Dandenong rd, the current location is not CPTED compliant 1.1 prioritised over an actual need, how ridiculous 2.1, no consideration for existing facilities, 3.1 so footy club rooms with internal toilets, tennis club with toilets or netball courts with club facilities all get priority over a park without a toilet for km's? 4.1 go back to your survey group, safety is 99%, putting a toilet next to a park that is not lit up & no where near any passive surveillance is just stupid, even for council. if it's not in a safe area it wont be used, poor waste of money.

Anonymous

5/16/2024 07:36 PM

We need to provide safe spaces for women and girls and designate women and men toilets. Not unisex.

Anonymous

5/16/2024 09:41 PM

I'm worried that the public toilets at Croydon Park will not be prioritised as they work however are dirty smelly not inclusive dark unsafe and have no soap. I have young children...

Anonymous

5/16/2024 10:09 PM

More public toilets are needed especially ones accessible after business hours when there are very few and far between options for a toilet stop while out for a walk or run

Anonymous

5/17/2024 12:42 AM

Disabled toilet

Anonymous

5/17/2024 11:52 AM

In regards to cleanliness being important, I've noticed there's never soap dispensers in the toilets in Maroondah. We frequent the playgrounds a lot and with kids that touch everything in the toilet, it would be great to have soap. Otherwise I think the policy is fine. Good cleanliness and availability is important and toilets are key to utilising public spaces for extended periods of time, for example kids birthday parties.

Anonymous

5/17/2024 12:33 PM

How long do we have to wait for a public toilet to be installed at Ringwood East ?

Anonymous

5/17/2024 11:32 PM

It's an excellent policy and was an interesting read.

2024 Survey : Survey Report for 05 May 2024 to 18 June 2024

Anonymous

5/17/2024 11:14 PM

Thank you for preparing and sharing this policy. I would be willing to pay higher rates to increase public toilets and frequency of cleaning, repairing, accessibility needs. I am supportive of the campaign for public toilets at the new Ringwood East train station.

Anonymous

5/23/2024 08:17 PM

I was curious about what was in a Public Toilet Policy and surprised myself by reading the whole thing. It is well written, clear to understand and I appreciate how it is clear how this policy fits within a framework of supporting documents. Overall it is a very well written policy. I may have an unpopular opinion but I also see and understand the huge role public toilets play in the lives of people who are currently experiencing homelessness. It has become more visible throughout the Maroondah area and although it can make people uncomfortable it is a reality for many people at the moment. I have seen people living in cars or discreetly in tents around the area and know that finding a safe space is so important. The use of public facilities is a lifeline to many people and provide a small amount of dignity, stability and security when they are particularly vulnerable. Your policy talks about inclusion and how public facilities should support participation in the community. I think this goes beyond sporting events etc and should allow individuals to be able to stay connected to community by providing them with the ability to care for themselves ie some facilities open later (when safe to do so) ability to access fresh water and address basic hygiene needs. I would love to see this considered in a thoughtful and considered way that allows for safety and inclusion of the whole community. I appreciate the work that has gone into this document and thank you for your thoughtful consideration. As a mum with kids, the public facilities have been a lifesaver many times.

Anonymous

5/31/2024 10:56 PM

Attractive, thriving and well built" toilets should be attractive not the stainless steel horrible unattractive ones. Make them nice with tiled floors, nice toilet bowls, hand basins etc. If they are nice people will respect them.

Anonymous

6/01/2024 05:33 AM

Shopping centre toilets that need improvement are Arndale and Nth Ringwood. Can we get rid of the old ones or are they heritage? e.g. near Croydon station, opposite Armidale and Burnt Bridge. Yarrunga Reserve needs toilets when the Community Centre is closed.

Anonymous

6/01/2024 12:32 PM

Please put public toilets at yarrunga reserve in Croydon Hills

Anonymous

Comments not necessary. It appears the Maroondah draft Public

2024 Survey : Survey Report for 05 May 2024 to 18 June 2024

6/01/2024 03:37 PM	Toilet Policy has covered all areas necessary.
Anonymous 6/01/2024 08:22 PM	As long as Maroondah City Council provides public toilets (as they say they will in their policy) in well positioned places near & or within transport hubs; (as the population keeps rising and is needing to utilize good clean public toilets), particularly when there are train/bus incidents; causing people to spend longer on these modes of public transport; also where communities gather regularly; the upgrading or continual addition of user-friendly public toilets is essential. It is disgusting to see people regularly having to relieve themselves against buildings and trees in streets and local parks because they have been held up on trains/buses and these precincts at stations and shops do not have public toilet facilities. The sooner these scenarios can be alleviated with good public toilet facilities and the sensible placement of the same, the better. It is unfair and unreasonable to think there are more people (population) in Maroondah plus other municipalities but fewer (or no added) public toilets. Let's please put commonsense first and stop the use of public spaces and shop fronts as toilets. Thank you.
Anonymous 6/02/2024 08:54 AM	a wc near/around Yarunga reserve
Anonymous 6/02/2024 10:16 PM	I really don't have the time or energy to read your draft public toilet policy. Your picture above looks very nice but how realistic is it? When you need it, you need it. Having just two toilets for thousands of people who are in Main Street Croydon which is where I was on this particular day is nonsense. One of them was locked and the other was dirty added to that there were some sleazy men sitting around the area. The only other place was the Croydon station toilets which weren't ideal either. The only other way to access a toilet was to go into a cafe and have a meal just so I could use the toilet. This is a very unsatisfactory arrangement.
Anonymous 6/03/2024 04:03 PM	Dorset recreation reserve has no public toilet because the toilets in the new soccer pavilion are locked most of the time, apparently in pursuit of this policy. How dumb!
Anonymous 6/04/2024 10:28 AM	N/A
Anonymous 6/04/2024 10:42 AM	Because it does not cite any locations in needs of toilet facilities!

2024 Survey : Survey Report for 05 May 2024 to 18 June 2024

Anonymous

6/04/2024 10:50 AM

As a member of Myositis Australia, which is a support group for individuals suffering from a range of physical constraints due to progressive muscular weakness, it would be good to see at least one facility close to a major outdoor recreation area, such as Ringwood Lake, or similar where a facility that complies with current best standards eg. "Changing places". Most Myositis sufferers need a higher toilet seat, as legs are too weak to stand from sitting without help. Side handles are of not much use, since their arms are too weakened to be able to pull themselves up. Funding for Changing places, is available, through two grant schemes. The Changing Places funding round. The Changing Places funding round 2023 provides funding of up to \$180,000 per facility under two grant streams: Local government areas. Popular tourism destinations to support post COVID-19 pandemic recovery and grow the Victorian accessible tourism economy.

Anonymous

6/04/2024 11:21 AM

Helping people find public toilets and accurate, up to date information about opening times is important for users and for optimal the use of the provided facilities. It would be good if that was included in the policy. Many large warehouse style retail developments do not provide public toilets. This seems to be a gap in the system. I think point 1.1 is open to question. People need toilets where they need to be, for whatever activity they need to undertake.

Anonymous

6/04/2024 03:11 PM

My experiences with trying to find a clean unvandalised public toilet have given me much angst. I am sure there are many like me that cannot go out to shop or for entertainment unless I know I can access a toilet when needed.(which is at least every hour because of a bladder problem that many people have, not just elderly !) The one and only one at Croydon main street is a thorough disgrace with graffiti and filth meaning I have to cut short my outing and return home. Now the theatre has closed last year that option has ceased also. Main shopping centres like Croydon Central and Chirnside are the only clean and available toilets nearby. Even Ardales toilets are a disgrace although some work has been done on them but not enough. Hopefully Croydon main st shops which I love to visit will be first on the list to be attended too.

Anonymous

6/04/2024 04:01 PM

Just wanted to add that I hope that you would consider urinals be installed in every toilet. Most men prefer to use a urinal and I'm sure that women and others would prefer men to use urinals also. There should be a standard toilet plus urinal and sink in every cubicle.

2024 Survey : Survey Report for 05 May 2024 to 18 June 2024

Anonymous

5/04/2024 08:44 AM

It's written for council workers, not the general public. it has a lot of council language and is not written in plain English. It is very bureaucratic. If you want people to engage, it needs to be written appropriately. Why couldn't you write it like this survey which at least does a better job?

Anonymous

5/05/2024 08:55 AM

In the Council owned public toilets list, the facility at Burnt bridge shopping centre (Beaufort rd ) is not included. This toilet facility is not open to the public, yet it was several years ago. Could the council approach the owners of this property asking if it could be upgraded and opened again for public use. A lot of people would be pleased to have this facility opened again. 9 is not included. Obviously this isn't a council property.

Anonymous

5/05/2024 10:32 PM

Silcock Reserve is home to four large community groups. There is ONE public toilet available for all spectators at soccer games. The change room toilets are not made available to spectators as these rooms are for home and away teams with their bags, kits. There is a desperate need for additional public toilet facilities on the southern side of the pavilion, with female amenities included.

Anonymous

5/07/2024 07:37 AM

The amount of cleaning needs to be firstly increased but also cater to the dates different toilets would be used. Eg. If a toilet is located at a sporting field, the key dates of use will be Saturday & Sunday, so the toilets should be cleaned based around this usage. The dates toilets are cleaned should also be communicated.

Anonymous

5/07/2024 10:51 PM

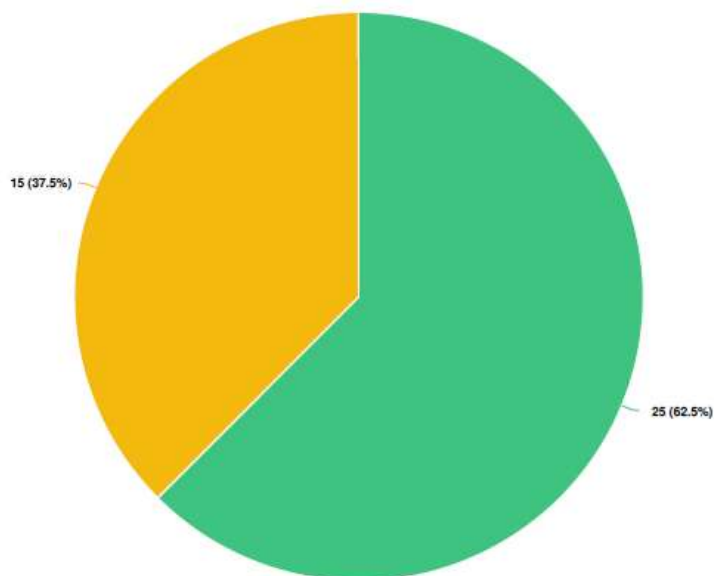
Agree cleanliness and safety is paramount. Contemporary toilets and accessibility for parents especially around sport/ parklands

**Optional question** (38 response(s), 3 skipped)

**Question type:** Essay Question

2024 Survey : Survey Report for 05 May 2024 to 18 June 2024

Q4 Do you want to be kept updated on this project?



## Question options

☒ Yes ☐ No

Optional question (40 response(s), 1 skipped)  
Question type: Radio Button Question

Overall Survey Themes	Respondents	%	Action
Design Focus	10	24%	To be covered as part of Council's Infrastructure (Public Toilet) Design Guidelines
Positive Feedback	10	24%	
Provision Gap	15	37%	To be covered as part of Council's <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Community Facilities (Public Toilet) Asset Management Plan (AMP) and</li><li>Long term capital works program</li></ul>
Other (e.g. community facilities, changing places, shopping precincts)	6	15%	Outside the scope of the public toilet framework. To be considered as part of Council's other Council Plan strategic priorities.
Total	41	100%	

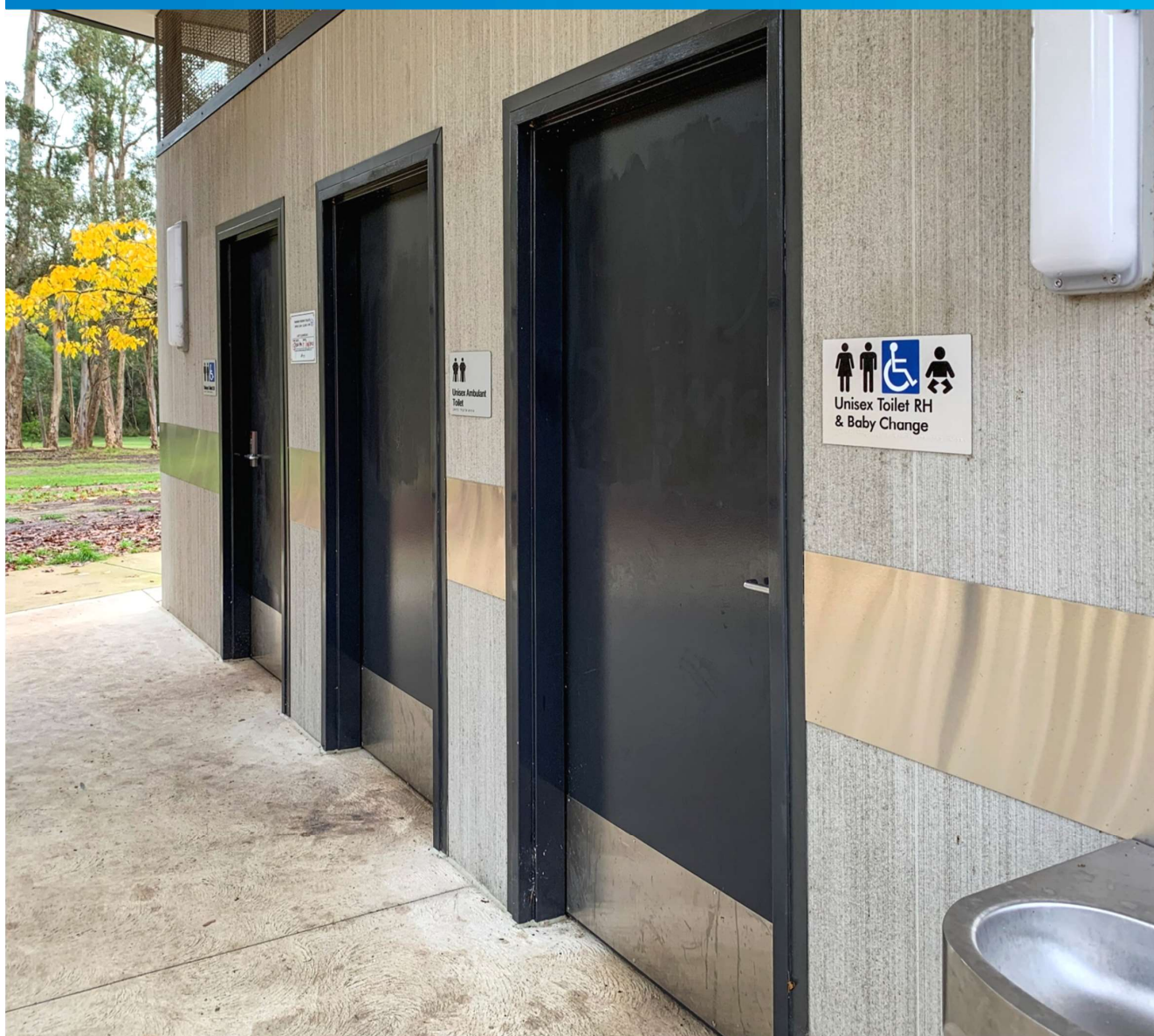




# DRAFT Public Toilet Policy 2024 - 2029

Date adopted:

Responsible Service Area: Projects and Asset Management



<b>Policy Title:</b> Public Toilet Policy 2024-2029		<b>Policy type:</b> Council Policy
<b>Current version approved:</b> TBA		<b>Current version number:</b> 001
<b>Parent policy:</b> N/A		<b>Policy review date:</b> July 2029
<b>Child policy/policies:</b> N/A	<b>Policy responsibility:</b> Projects and Asset Management	

All printed copies of this policy are uncontrolled. Please check Council's website for the most recent version of this policy.

Page 1 of 10

## DRAFT Public Toilet Policy 2024 - 2029



### Introduction

Public toilets, sometimes called public amenities, are toilet facilities away from the home that can be accessed by any person.

Public toilet facilities are important community assets. By providing and maintaining public toilets in recreational precincts, some retail centres and civic facilities, Council is supporting participation in a wide range of activities outside of the home that contribute to the overall health and wellbeing of the community.

Through a detailed service assessment, Council identified the need to adopt a consistent and principled approach to decisions about the provision and operation of public toilet facilities.

The *Maroondah City Council Public Toilet Policy* has been developed in response to this need.

The policy reflects relevant legislation and government policy, Council strategies and plans, as well as community and stakeholder input to establish key priorities for public toilet facilities.

Importantly, the policy establishes guiding principles that will help to ensure Council's investment in, and management of public toilet facilities, is well aligned to Council's strategic priorities, responsive to current and future community needs and reflective of best practice approaches.

### Strategic Context

*Maroondah 2040 – Our future together* (Maroondah 2040) is Council's overarching strategic document.

The *Maroondah 2040 Community Vision* captures the aspirations, 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.

The vision is for *"...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."*<sup>1</sup>

The vision encompasses eight (8) future outcome areas shown in Figure 1.

The contribution Maroondah's public toilet facilities makes to the achievement of these outcomes is summarised in the table in Figure 2.



Figure 1 - Maroondah 2040 – Our future together establishes eight interrelated outcome areas.

<sup>1</sup> Maroondah City Council, *Maroondah 2040 – Our future together*, 2014 (revised June 2021).

## DRAFT Public Toilet Policy 2024 - 2029



Maroondah 2040 Supported Outcomes	
 <p>Safe, healthy and active</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Safe and accessible public toilets support participation in active recreation and social activities.</p>
 <p>Prosperous and learning</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The availability of public toilets in retail and business precincts encourages the community to 'buy goods and services locally' and supports participation in Maroondah's vibrant local economy.</p>
 <p>Vibrant and culturally rich</p>	<p><i>In 2040, Maroondah will be a vibrant and creative community recognised for celebration of the arts, cultural expression and diverse entertainment options.</i></p> <p>The availability of accessible public toilets at festivals and events facilitates participation in arts, cultural and entertainment activities.</p>
 <p>Clean, green and sustainable</p>	<p><i>In 2040, Maroondah will be a resilient community committed to sustainable living, enhancing our natural environment, and providing leadership in responding to climate change.</i></p> <p>The provision of modern public toilet facilities contributes to the achievement of waste reduction and sustainability goals.</p>
 <p>Accessible and connected</p>	<p><i>In 2040, Maroondah will be accessible for all ages and abilities with walkable neighbourhoods, sustainable transport options, and a safe integrated transport network.</i></p> <p>The provision of a strategically planned public toilet network is critical to the use of sustainable transport options and a key principle of connected communities.</p>
 <p>Attractive, thriving and well built</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The provision of modern, clean and accessible public toilet facilities improves amenity and supports positive experiences of communal spaces.</p>
 <p>Inclusive and diverse</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The provision of public toilet facilities that are safe and inclusive for everyone in the community, fosters participation in all aspects of community life</p>
 <p>Well governed and empowered</p>	<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>Engaging with our community and understanding their needs is essential to the development of an effective public toilet network.</p>

Figure 2 – Public toilet infrastructure supports outcomes established in Maroondah 2040 – Our future together.

## DRAFT Public Toilet Policy 2024 - 2029



The *Council Plan 2021-2025* is a medium-term strategic document that sets key directions and priority actions linked to eight (8) broad outcome areas of *Maroondah 2040*.

A key direction directly relevant to public toilet facilities and the Maroondah Planning Scheme is “to encourage high density development in activity centres with access to high quality facilities, services, and amenities”.

Maroondah residents living in higher density housing areas have more limited access to private open space. As a result, the use of public open spaces and community zones is increasing, creating a greater demand for supporting infrastructure such as public toilet facilities.

The *Maroondah Liveability Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy 2021-2031* is Council’s key social environment strategic plan, which outlines how Council and partners will work to enhance community wellbeing, liveability and resilience over the next decade.

This strategy is accompanied by a detailed action plan which outlines the vision for Maroondah’s social environment and supports the key directions and desired outcomes identified in *Maroondah 2040*.

The provision of a safe, inclusive and accessible public toilet network will support outcomes in key focus areas - healthy lifestyles; liveable neighbourhoods; safe communities; social inclusion; and embracing diversity.

Council has also adopted a range of other strategies and plans that are relevant to the provision of public toilet facilities, often referred to as ‘amenities’.

## DRAFT Public Toilet Policy 2024 - 2029



### Public Toilet Framework

The *Public Toilet Framework* as depicted in Figure 3, is part of a suite of documents that work together to establish Council's approach to the management of public toilet facilities in Maroondah. The policy is one part of the framework. The other documents within the framework will be subsequently developed in due course.

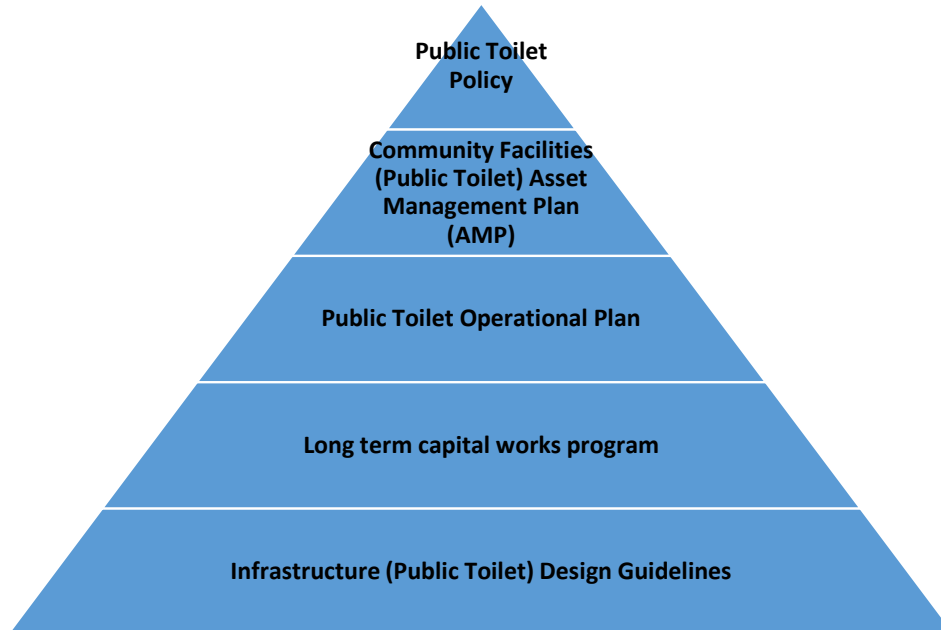


Figure 3 - Public Toilet Framework

The *public toilet policy* is a high-level statement of intent that defines Council's role in the service provision and outlines a set of guiding principles and considerations, which may be used in decision-making to ensure consistency in governance.

The *community facilities (public toilet) AMP* is intended to be a 10-year outlook encompassing the lifecycle phases of an asset portfolio. The plan outlines the condition and performance and the levels of service for assets to meet existing and future demands, and the consequences of budget scenarios, in particular the scenario that is selected to balance with the long-term financial plan.

The *public toilet operational plan* is intended to be a document that defines the agreed technical service standards, interventions and performance measures to effectively and efficiently manage and prioritise assets throughout their lifecycle.

The *public toilet long-term capital works program* will identify, in priority order, the renewal and upgrade works at site specific locations. The program aligns with associated budget allocations in accordance with Council's long-term financial plan and aims to provide a roadmap as to how the service provision will be delivered through infrastructure.

The *public toilet infrastructure guidelines* are intended to *clearly* document and standardise Council requirements for the design and development of municipal infrastructure to ensure consistent and uniform level of asset amenity that meets the agreed level of service.

## DRAFT Public Toilet Policy 2024 - 2029



### Policy approach

The policy outlines Council's role in the provision of public toilet facilities, the broad approach to the delivery of public toilet facilities and key considerations that will inform the planning and delivery of public toilets at specific locations.

The policy will apply to the planning and provision of standalone public toilet facilities and externally accessible toilets that are provided for public use as part of a public building – such as at sports pavilions. The policy will also inform decisions about the management and operation of existing public toilet facilities.

Through the application of the policy, Council aims to support community participation in a wide range of activities outside the home that contribute to health and wellbeing outcomes, local economic activity, access to key services and the achievement of municipal strategic goals.

### Council's Role

While Local Government plays an important role in the delivery of public toilet facilities, Councils are not the sole providers of these.

Many places that are open to the public, such as shopping centres, convenience stores, fast-food outlets, and public transport nodes, provide public toilets for patrons and visitors.

Public toilets are typically viewed as supporting infrastructure that is provided to facilitate participation in activities that occur away from home. Generally, there are three (3) reasons that Council provides public toilet facilities:

- To help facilitate participation in active recreation and community activities;
- To support the local economy; and
- To comply with the requirements of the Maroondah Planning Scheme, the National Construction Code or other regulatory instrument as part of a public building.

Other than for toilets in public buildings, Council has discretion in the provision of public toilet facilities.

The approach taken by Council in relation to the provision of public toilet facilities is based on broader strategic objectives and a commitment to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for the community.

### Service challenges

The provision of built infrastructure presents significant challenges for Local Government. Because building and service standards are constantly evolving, it can be difficult to ensure assets, which reflect the standards applied at the time of construction, remain compliant with current standards and fit for purpose. The longer an asset remains in service, the greater these challenges typically become.

Rules relating to environmental sustainability, disability access and all-gender access are examples of service and construction standards that have changed significantly over the past two (2) decades. These changes have a direct bearing on the design and operation of public toilet facilities.

In addition to changes in regulatory standards, Council must strike an appropriate balance between the need to maintain reasonable service standards and the cost to manage and maintain public toilet facilities.

The provision of toilet facilities comes at considerable expense beyond the construction period. Currently in Maroondah, all public toilet facilities are cleaned at least daily; more frequently in key locations and are secured outside opening hours. Repairs due to damage and wear-and-tear are an additional expense.

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### Contemporary approaches

Many Victorian Councils have adopted public toilet strategies, plans and policies as the requirement to develop Asset Plans under Section 92 of the *Local Government Act 2020* brings public toilet facilities into sharper focus.

Some Councils have developed classification systems that link decisions about public toilet provision to park, pavilion, and activity centre hierarchies. While most of these systems rely on location classifications to determine eligibility, facility standards, fit out, consumables and community service expectations, some take a more flexible approach based on site characteristics and individual needs assessments.

Local Government is also working to ensure public toilet facilities are considered as a component of masterplan development. For example, open space master plans, linking the need for toilets to the provision of other infrastructure at the same location, i.e. barbecues, larger playgrounds and picnic shelters – the types of activities expected to facilitate an extended stay at a specific location.

Contemporary approaches tend to reflect a ‘whole of lifecycle’ approach to asset provision, including for public toilets. This approach to facility costings recognises the influence toilet design and location can have on operating expenses, as well as the practical reality that the ongoing cost to operate public toilets quickly eclipses initial construction costs.

While cleaning is a significant expense, it is also one of the most important determinants of community satisfaction with toilet facilities. Prominent wayfinding and informational signage is also important for locating public toilets, letting users know what amenities are available, and overcoming any access issues associated with public toilets that are co-located in other buildings, such as sports pavilions.

There is a clear trend in the industry to move away from the installation of automated toilets. While these facilities may be easier and cheaper to manage, they are disliked by users due to confusion about how they operate, a degree of suspicion about electronic door locks and concerns about time limits.

In line with efforts to encourage participation in active recreation, it has become increasingly common for sports pavilion redevelopments to include externally accessible public toilet facilities. At pavilions and buildings in more isolated locations, however, this may not be appropriate.

Retrofitting or upgrading older public toilets is regarded as problematic due to the difficulties in achieving regulatory compliance, which is typically required when undertaking significant upgrades. Furthermore, older public toilet design and locations are often incompatible with contemporary Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. As a result, it can be more efficient to demolish older public toilet facilities and replace them with fully compliant new facilities, making use of existing services where possible.

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### Guiding Principles

A comprehensive review of feedback previously received through community consultation on various Council policies and strategies, facilitated the identification of five (5) key themes that relate to the provision of public toilet facilities: *Cleanliness, safety, availability, inclusivity and accessibility and uniformity*. These themes formed the basis of community consultation in 2023 and helped to inform the development of the *Maroondah Public Toilet Policy*.

Feedback was received from a broad cross-section of the Maroondah community who rated the importance of each theme to the provision and operation of public toilet facilities. Respondents were also asked whether there were other considerations that were more important for public toilet provision by Council.

Respondents confirmed that these key themes continue to be the most important considerations for public toilet provision by Council.

As Figure 4 shows, community feedback emphasised the importance placed on clean and safe public toilets, as well as the need to ensure toilets are available in key locations.

Respondents also identified the need to ensure toilets were adequately stocked with consumables – soap and toilet paper – and reinforced the importance of regular cleaning, safety considerations, adequate opening hours and the provision of additional public toilets in strategic locations, such as at local shopping centres and in busy recreational precincts.

Research suggests that public toilet facilities play an important part in facilitating a wide range of community activities that occur away from home.

To help clarify Council's role in the provision of public toilet facilities, five (5) principles have been established to guide decision making and shape the approach Council will take to the delivery and management of public toilet facilities in Maroondah.

These principles, which are shown in Figure 5 on the following page, reflect the outcomes of a detailed service assessment, community consultation, contemporary approaches to the provision of public toilet facilities and Council's broader strategic objectives.

	<b>Cleanliness</b> <b>99%</b> very important	Public toilet facilities that are clean and well maintained.
	<b>Safety</b> <b>99%</b> very important	The safety of public toilet infrastructure, including facility placement, site lines, lighting, vandalism and minimising entrapment areas.
	<b>Availability</b> <b>99%</b> very important	More public toilets, including in local retail precincts and along bike paths.
	<b>Inclusivity &amp; Accessibility</b> <b>93%</b> very important	An accessible and inclusive network of public toilets, including the provision of wheeled access and cubicles that can accommodate a parent with young children.
	<b>Uniformity</b> <b>81%</b> moderately important	Uniform level of amenity across the public toilet network, including baby change tables, lighting, door hooks, shelves and clear signage.

Figure 4 - Key themes for the provision of public toilet facilities and ratings of importance.

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Maroondah Public Toilet Facilities Guiding Principles	
	<b>Public toilets are ancillary infrastructure provided to support key services and participation</b> in activities that occur away from home. The provision of public toilet facilities aims to contribute to the achievement of community health and wellbeing outcomes and Council's strategic objectives.
	<b>Council will prioritise the provision of public toilet facilities at locations that have the greatest community need</b> , and where the public toilet facilities subsequently provide the greatest <b>community benefits</b> .
	Consistent with community feedback, the provision and operation of public toilets by <b>Council will prioritise uniformity, safety, cleanliness, inclusion and accessibility</b> .
	<b>The provision of public toilets at locations primarily for the benefit of a single group may require external funding contributions</b> . Council will take a partnership approach to the delivery of public toilet infrastructure across the municipality.
	<b>Council may advocate for new or upgraded public toilet facilities in places where it has no direct role in infrastructure provision</b> . Advocacy activities may relate to funding, access to land, provision of space, or the delivery of public toilet facilities by private providers or other tiers of government.

Figure 5 - Guiding principles for the provision of public toilet facilities

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### Key considerations

Further to the guiding principles, Council has identified key considerations that will inform decisions about the provision of public toilet facilities at specific locations. These are shown in Figure 6, below.

The application of these considerations will assist with prioritising projects that are well aligned to the guiding principles, and which deliver the greatest community benefits.

Maroondah Public Toilet Facilities Key Considerations			
Key consideration		Application to decision making	
1.	The activities at the location that the public toilets are intended to support.	1.1	<i>Locations where people participate in activities that improve health and wellbeing outcomes or contribute to municipal strategic goals will be prioritised.</i>
2.	The level of activity the location is intended to accommodate.	2.1	<i>Busier locations that host a wide range of activities will be prioritised over other sites.</i>
3.	Other infrastructure provided by Council at the location.	3.1	<i>Locations with significant community infrastructure will be prioritised over locations with less infrastructure.</i>
4.	The suitability of the site for public toilet facilities.	4.1	<i>Examples of site suitability considerations include accessibility, availability of utilities, proximity to key activities and safety.</i>
5.	The condition of existing public toilet facilities.	5.1	<i>Public toilet facilities in poor condition will be prioritised for maintenance, renewal or replacement over facilities in good condition.</i>
6.	The current or expected level of utilisation.	6.1	<i>Priority will be given to public toilet facilities that will be well utilised.</i>
7.	The availability of other public toilet facilities nearby and how easily these can be accessed.	7.1	<i>Priority will be given to the provision of public toilet facilities at locations without existing access to public toilets.</i>
8.	The cost to provide and operate public toilet facilities at the location.	8.1	<i>Council will prioritise cost-efficient public toilet facilities.</i>
9.	Feedback from user groups, residents and businesses at the location.	9.1	<i>Council will consider community needs and local feedback when planning public toilet facilities.</i>
10.	Any other matters that are relevant to the provision of public toilets at the location.	10.1	<i>Council recognises that a wide range of site-specific issues must be considered when providing public toilet facilities.</i>

Figure 6 -Key considerations for the provision of public toilet facilities.

# ATTACHMENT 1

## Lehmann Place, Croydon Hills - Petition - Parking Issues - Survey Results

### Option 1 - "No Stopping" signage between 8 - 9am and 3 - 4pm



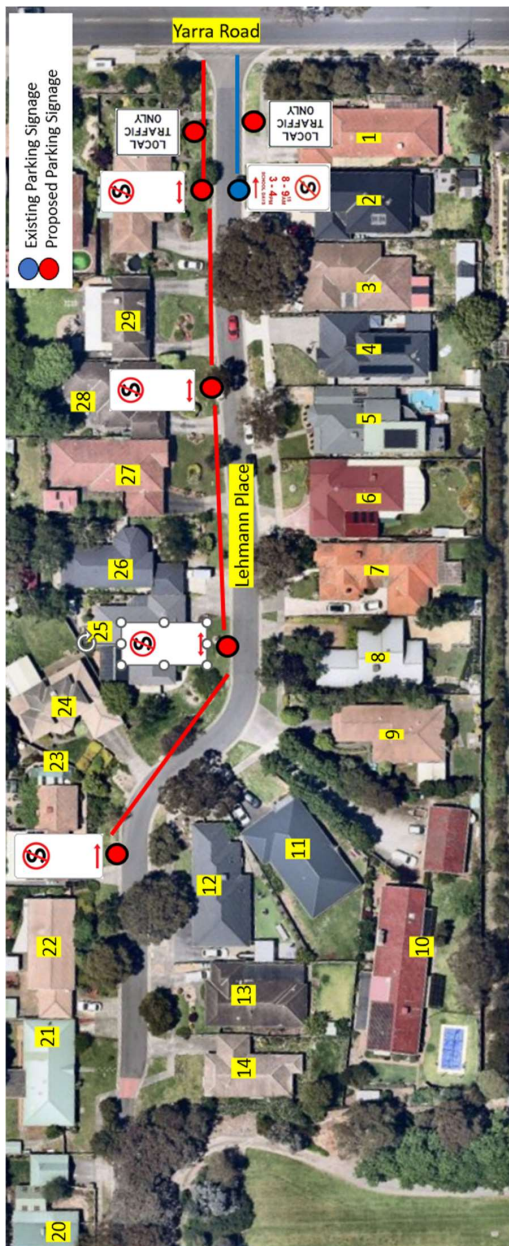
Total Response rate = 70% (21/30)

Yes rate (from responses received) = 90% (19/21)

No rate (from responses received) = 10% (2/21)

Yes response ■  
No response ■

Option 2 - "No Stopping" signage at all times



Total Response rate = 27% (8/30)

Yes rate (from responses received) = 37.5% (3/8)

No rate (from responses received) = 62.5% (5/8)

Yes response ■

No response ■