



# **Ordinary Meeting of Council Attachments**

**Monday 9 December 2024**

**Council Chamber**

## ATTACHMENTS

### CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

#### 2. Reports of Councillor Briefings

**Attachment 1:** 2024 November 25 - Councillor Briefing Public Record .....3

**Attachment 2:** 2024 December 02 - Councillor Briefing Public Record .....5

#### 3. Councillor Representation Reports

**Attachment 1:** 2024 September 11 - Maroondah Business Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.....7

**Attachment 2:** 2024 August 15 - Eastern Transport Coalition meeting papers .....11

**Attachment 3:** 2024 September 19 - Eastern Transport Coalition meeting papers .....36

**Attachment 4:** 2024 October 17 - Eastern Transport Coalition meeting papers .....86

#### 7. Glass Only Household Service - Research Findings and Collective Advocacy

**Attachment 1:** Glass service advocacy request - Minister for Environment.....112

### DIRECTOR STRATEGY & DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan 2025-2035

**Attachment 1:** Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan 2025-2035.....115

**Attachment 2:** MMC Biolink Draft Action Plan 2023 - consultation report.....164





## COUNCILLOR BRIEFING – PUBLIC RECORD

### Briefing Details:

Date: Monday 25 November 2024 Time: 6:00pm

Location: Meeting Rooms 1 & 2, Realm

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

### Attendees:

#### **Councillors**

Cr Kylie Spears (Mayor)  
Cr Linda Hancock (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr Chris Jones

Cr Catherine Gordon  
Cr Claire Rex  
Cr Nathaniel Henderson

Cr Paul Macdonald  
Cr Daniella Heatherich  
Cr Rob Steane OAM

#### **Council Officers:**

Steve Kozlowski  
Tony Rocca  
Adam Todorov  
Marianne Di Giallonardo  
Andrew Fuaux  
Emma Hills

Chief Executive Officer  
Director/Chief Financial Officer  
Director Assets & Leisure  
Director People & Places  
Director Strategy & Development  
Governance Officer

Grant Meyer  
Doug Evans  
Andrew Taylor  
Tom Dobson

Manager City Futures  
Strategic Environment Planner  
Manager Engineering & Building Services  
Coordinator Engineering Projects & Drainage

Item  
2  
2  
3  
3

### Apologies:

Councillors:

Nil

Council Officers:

Nil

### Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:

Cr Linda Hancock: Item 3 - Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 21083 Victoria Street Road Rehabilitation  
*Reason: Known to one on the tenderers as a friend and has conducted works at residential home.*

Cr Rob Steane: Item 3 - Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 21083 Victoria Street Road Rehabilitation  
*Reason: Personal relationship with director of one of the tenderers.*

Council Officers:

Cr Catherine Gordon: Item 4 - Community Assistance Fund  
*Reason: Current Volleyball Victoria board member.*

Nil

**Items Discussed:**

1	Council Meeting Agenda
2	Adoption of Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan 2025-2035
3	Tender Evaluation Report - Contract 21083 Victoria Street Road Rehabilitation
4	Community Assistance Fund
5	Items of a General Nature Raise by Councillors

**Record completed by:**

Council Officer  
Title

Emma Hills  
Governance Officer



## COUNCILLOR BRIEFING – PUBLIC RECORD

### Briefing Details:

Date: Monday 2 December 2024 Time: 6:05pm

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	Cr Catherine Gordon	Cr Paul Macdonald
Cr Linda Hancock	Cr Claire Rex	Cr Daniella Heatherich
Cr Chris Jones	Cr Nathaniel Henderson	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 Fuaux	Director Strategy & Development	
Emma Hills	Governance Officer	
Phil Medley	Manager Governance & Performance	Item 1,2,3,4
Nina Pirruccio	Coordinator Governance & Procurement	1
Danielle Butcher	Manager Communications & Citizen Experience	2
Brian Tu	Corporate & Community Planning Facilitator	4
Antonia Heward	Team Leader Waste Strategy & Policy	5
Sebastian Wojtas	Waste Project Officer	5

### Apologies:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil

### Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:	Nil
Council Officers:	Nil

**Items Discussed:**

1	Councillor Induction - Good Governance
2	Councillor Induction - Understanding and responding to community needs
3	Councillor Induction - Introduction to Strategic Planning
4	Councillor Induction - Development of Maroondah 2050 Community Vision and Council Plan 2025-2029
5	Glass Only Household service - Research findings and collective advocacy
6	Councillor Delegates' Meeting Report
7	Items of a General Nature Raised by Councillors

**Record completed by:**

Council Officer	Emma Hills
Title	Governance Officer



## Maroondah Business Advisory Committee – Minutes

### Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday 11 September 2024 Time: 9:30am - 12pm

Location: Meeting Rooms  
1 & 2, Realm

### Attendees:

#### **Councillors**

Cr Kylie Spears (Mayor and Chair)  
Cr Rob Steane OAM

#### **Council Officers:**

Steve Kozlowski, Chief Executive Officer  
Marianne Di Giallonardo, Director People and Places  
Chris Zidak, Manager Business and Precincts  
Andrew Binks, Bayswater Business Precinct Coordinator  
Chloe Messerle, Senior Governance Officer (Minute Taker)  
Chris Riseley, Team Leader Community Development

#### **Community Representatives:**

Jenny Newman, Maroondah Business Group  
Geoff Daniel, The Casual GM  
James Braunegg, Micron21 Pty Ltd (entered at 9:58am)  
Simon Fuller, Contek Constructions  
Jodie Murphy, Eastland QIC  
Marcus Young, Incarta IT  
Jessica Shaw, True Fairies  
Louisa Ellum, Swinburne University of Technology

#### **Others:**

Karen Milward, First Peoples Consultant

### Apologies:

Councillors:

Cr Tasa Damante

Council Officers:

Georgia Brent, Business Partnership & Engagement  
Lead

Community Representatives:

Greg Balmforth, Eastland QIC  
Claudia Gatt, Braille Tactile Signs Aust

### Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Councillors:

Nil

Council Officers:

Nil

Community 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

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES - WEDNESDAY, 26 JUNE 2024

ITEM 3

The minutes were moved by the committee by consensus.

2.1 Housekeeping

Cr Spears advised of the evacuation process if required.

4. ITEMS

BUSINESS ARISING

ITEM 4.1

Chris Zidak provided an update referring to a previous discussion regarding 'reviewing of existing programs that are doing well in this space with whom Council could approach/partner.' He advised that his team were currently conversing with Croydon Main Street Traders Association to work on existing programs.

Chris also spoke about the Maroondah Business Excellence Awards insights from 2024. Geoff Daniel spoke about the categories for the awards with discussion surrounding the new categories as well as the communities expectations.

Feedback on the night was very well received.

An update was provided on two action items from the previous meeting.

CEO UPDATE - MAROONDAH REPORT 'HIGHLIGHTS' - STEVE KOZLOWSKI

ITEM 4.2

A copy of the CEO update will be provided to committee members along with the minutes.

MBG UPDATE - JENNY NEWMAN

ITEM 4.3

An update was provided regarding Maroondah Business Group (MBG).

**SECTOR UPDATES - COMMITTEE MEMBER ROUND TABLE**

**ITEM 4.4**

Braille Tactile Signs Aust provided a powerpoint presentation - as attached.

Local wedding industry has increased but big wedding venues have dropped in numbers.

It was noted that business metrics have stabilised in the past 6 months.

A Victorian State Government Media Release was spoken about regarding a pilot program to address workforce shortages in Council's across Victoria in conjunction with RMIT, Federation University, Swinburne University of Technology and Victoria University.

Local Government 'Earn and Learn' initiative - flexible learning bring more people into Local Government.

**FOCUS SECTOR – MBAC MEMBER, JODIE PIRAK-MURPHY, EASTLAND**

**ITEM 4.5**

Jodie Pirak-Murphy presented a powerpoint and spoke about the difference between shops/traders located in local shopping centres including the sales statistics between 2023 and 2024 as well as the traffic numbers through the centre.

Discussion surrounded the Friendship Ninja Zone, part of the URSTRONG schools projects as well as many local projects that Eastland support.

Jodie shared a Consumer Insight video regarding consumer trends -  
<https://www.qicre.com/News/Consumer-Insights-6>

**RECONCILIATION PLAN - THEMES EMERGING FROM STAKEHOLDER  
ENGAGEMENT**

**ITEM 4.6**

Chris Riseley introduced the item, providing background to the Reconciliation Plan and introduced Karen Milward.

Karen spoke about the themes for Understanding First Peoples culture and history including storytelling, opportunities for First Peoples History, supporting festivals and event opportunities, continue to support and promote creativity and promoting positive outcomes. Karen advised that everyone consulted to date supports Maroondah Council to develop a Reconciliation Plan. Noting the work that Maroondah Council have already been involved with First Peoples. Also discussed was the importance of economic development and employment through ongoing reconciliation work and greater participation throughout the community.

Karen focused on collaborating on a network of organisations providing services to First Peoples, advocating for healthcare services, greater support for mainstream services, improving access to Council facilities and further sponsorship to key First People's community events.

*Question - How can Council, your organisation, business or community or community group improve First People's economic participation through procurement and employment opportunities?*

- Local Government 'Earn and Learn' initiative
- Connections through employment platforms
- How to target roles for specific organisations
- Ability for new Council to embed requirements to ensure Council continues with connections including the Reconciliation Plan post Council elections

#### OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 4.7

Marianne Di Giallonardo advised that due to Council Elections in October 2024, members of the Advisory Committee have the option to continue as a Committee Member to the end of 2025 if they so choose. If any members who do not wish to continue, would need to advise Chris or Georgia accordingly at their earliest convenience. The role of the Committee beyond that time will align to the directions of the new Council and Maroondah 2050 vision.

#### MEMBER QR SURVEY

ITEM 4.8

A QR code was provided for members to provide feedback regarding the meeting.

#### PRESENTATIONS AND THANK YOU TO CURRENT MBAC MEMBERS

ITEM 4.9

Cr Spears thanked all Advisory Committee Members for their contribution during the current Council term. The Committees insights and leadership in the Arts Community has been really useful, insightful, fruitful and very much appreciated by Council.

#### MEETING CLOSE - NEXT MEETING: TBC 2025

ITEM 4.10

Cr Spears closed the meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 11:34am.





**Attachment A**

## EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 2024

**Time:** 6.30 – 8.30pm

**Host:** Online

### Attendees:

#### Councillors

- Cr Susan Laukens, Knox City Council (Acting Chair)
- Cr Tina Liu, City of Whitehorse
- Cr Anna Chen, Manningham City Council

#### Officers

- Christopher Marshall, City of Greater Dandenong
- Shane Hardingham, Knox City Council
- Karen O’Gorman, Yarra Ranges Council
- Kim O’Connor, Yarra Ranges Council
- Chris Hui, City of Whitehorse
- Rachel Kamath, Whitehorse City Council

#### Secretariat

- James McGarvey, The Agenda Group

#### Guests

- Mike Reece, Peter Parker and Jackie Fristacky, Victorian Transport Action Group

#### Apologies

- Cr Stuart James, City of Monash (Chair)
- Cr Andrew Fullager, Yarra Ranges Council
- Cr Rhonda Garad, City of Greater Dandenong
- Cr Tony Dib, Maroondah City Council
- Emma Steele, Manningham City Council
- Michael Blowfield, Maroondah City Council
- Terry Tillotson, City of Monash
- Sandra Worsnop, City of Monash
- Yingnan Wang, Knox City Council
- Winchelle Chuson, Knox City Council
- Matthew Hanrahan, Knox City Council

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

As Cr James was an apology for the meeting, Cr Laukens assumed the Chair and welcomed the attendees.

**2. Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. ETC Finance Report**

The finance report for the ETC for July – August 2024 is as follows:

Opening Balance for July 2024	\$15,470.91
June Invoice from TAG Income	\$7,500.00 \$0.00
<b>Closing Balance for August 2024</b>	<b>\$7,970.91</b>

Moved: Cr Susan Laukens  
Seconded: Cr Tina Liu

Carried

**4. Ratify Previous Draft Minutes and Actions Arising**

Minutes of the July ETC meeting:

Moved: Cr Tina Liu  
Seconded: Cr Anna Chen

Carried

**5. 2024 ETC Advocacy Workplan**

**Plan for Victoria**

A draft ETC Plan for Victoria submission has been circulated amongst members for feedback before lodging by the end of August. Rather than being heavily prescriptive and locally detailed, the submission aims to address the broader concept that there needs to be appropriate provision and planning for public transport and roads to meet growing population across the region in coming decades.

### **Preparation for Federal Election**

Mr McGarvey raised the upcoming federal election and how the ETC may wish to identify projects to take to all candidates and parties for adoption as election policy.

Given the busy schedule for tonight's meeting, and it being held online only, it was agreed that this issue would be re-listed for discussion at the September ETC meeting.

Members were asked to give consideration to potential advocacy items to discuss at the next meeting.

As a recap, where the ETC has previously identified a number for regional roads projects that were important to the ETC, sentiment has been expressed by the Federal Government suggesting they would only look to projects identified by state governments as priorities that they would consider.

This provides some challenge to how the ETC may wish to identify items to put forward for the next Federal election – though it should be noted that there is no obvious constraint on us putting forward projects to the federal opposition and other parties.

### **Trails campaign**

Mr McGarvey reported that Amy Green from The Agenda Group has been working closely with Michael Blowfield over the last few weeks to progress development of the regional trails strategy policy document that we can then use to go out and campaign on, with all the information required from each of the respective councils on trails in their area having been received. is now in.

They're now liaising with a graphic designer and are trying to get some detailed and presentable mapping done to go into the document. This is worth investing a little bit of time and effort in because it really lifts and brings to life in a visual form what's being suggested.

The council elections period gives us a bit more time to get the document just right and in a really good presentable format. Once that's done, the document will be circulated to everybody and then we will refine and update the actual details of how we'll take that out as part of a survey and campaign. We'll also plan for some engagement with, particularly in the first instance, federal MP's and candidates, preferably by year's end, in time for some policy development on their behalf's and hopefully some announcements in the run up to the federal election next year.

## 6. Guest Presentation

Jackie Fristacky, Mike Reece, and Peter Parker from the Victorian Transport Action Group joined the meeting to give a presentation on two of VTAGs recent policy papers – *Increasing Melbourne’s Service Frequency* and *Melbourne’s Tram Plan Response- Filling the Gaps*.

VTAG is an informal grouping of transport advocates. Initially set up at the time of the Napthine Government’s announcement of its East West Link project, it comprises people drawn from local and state government backgrounds with specialisations in transport and planning. VTAG meets and presents to other likeminded groups, including the Metropolitan Transport Forum. Peter Parker and Mike Reece are examples of independent transport experts who are involved in developing strategies and policies for VTAG.

VTAG’s *Increasing Melbourne’s Service Frequency* was developed in recognition of the State Government’s Big Build program, the constraints on the state’s finances and the need to wisely and strategically invest in increased service frequency and intermodal linkages to increase patronage across the system with environmental, health and cost saving benefits gained by commuters and the wider community.

Key points from the VTAG presentation, broad discussion and summarising the policy document:

- Service Frequency is a key component of significantly improving public transport services in metropolitan Melbourne across all modes.
- Other components include rail and tram extensions, busways, grade separations and the transition to zero emission buses. All are worthy. However, out of the many ways that public transport can be compared across cities, it is service frequency where Melbourne’s performance rates lowest relative to networks in comparable cities (including Sydney).
- Also when considered against other potential improvements, better all-day frequency can be delivered most rapidly, at low cost and without disruption.
- Making services convenient by reducing waiting time is also the one that will have the highest recognition factor for Melburnians as it can transform their journeys to work, to school, health and other services - directly impacting upon their lives.
- The transformative impact is considerable and further intensified when the cost of living is front of mind, especially where buying, financing and running a motor vehicle, with its inherent problems of cost, pollution and congestion is the only practical means of transport.
- The annual cost of running a vehicle (including registration, insurance, fuel and maintenance) is now reported to be \$15,754. A huge dent in a household’s disposable income, amplified when second or more household vehicles are required for families to cover all the demands of work, education and social activity.

- Costs of living is of key concern to people at the moment and reducing the cost of car dependency by launching convenient and inexpensive public transport would be greatly appreciated by commuters.
- Having abundant all-week "turn-up-and-go" frequent public transport is what separates cities where public transport is a real choice for the many from those where it is an option only for the few.
- Therefore government sponsored actions that reduce the reliance on private vehicles via measures that deliver a frequent viable public transport alternative are vote winners.
- *Increasing Melbourne's Service Frequency* examines the existing network and service conditions with emphasis on the current inequality within modes and throughout the week. Further, it identifies the prevalence and user experiences at different levels of service from over 60 minutes to as low as 5 minutes.
- Whilst acknowledging the problems, this paper also offers solutions:
  - Recommendation 1 - VTAG recommends that the Victorian Government put in place a major program which mirrors its successful staged approach to Level Crossing Removals: it should commit to a staged upgrade of Public Transport service frequencies across Melbourne over the next decade.
  - Recommendation 2 - Moving towards a multimodal hierarchy could be done at the following times, Planning for the Metro Tunnel train timetables, Greenfields reviews of metropolitan rail timetables, Bus network reform, Staged program to reduce maximum waits for service completeness.
  - Recommendation 3 - Budgets should be available for communicating improved services to the public
- Service frequency is the cheapest, quickest to implement and least disruptive way of delivering a significant increase in public transport.
- VTAG sees the upcoming 2025 state budget and looming state election as opportunities to advocate for public transport frequency improvements.

*A copy of the VTAG presentation will be circulated with the meeting's minutes.*

## 7. General Business

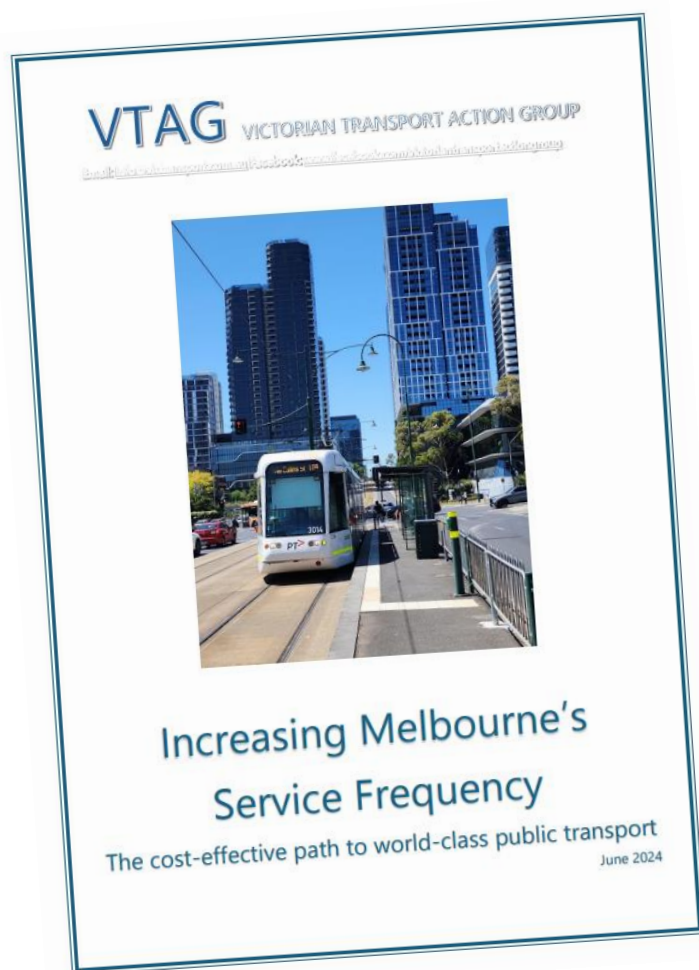
No general business items were raised.

## 8. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be hosted by Yarra Ranges Council and online, and will commence at 6.30pm (6.00pm for dinner) on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

### Action Summary

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline
1. ETC Secretariat to finalise ETC submission to <i>Plan for Victoria</i> .	Secretariat	Submission due by 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024
2. Potential federal election advocacy projects to be identified by member councils for discussion at the next ETC meeting	Council officers	September 2024



## **Increasing Melbourne's Service Frequency**

**The cost-effective path to  
world-class public transport**

**Jackie Fristacky  
Peter Parker**

**Victorian Transport Action Group**

1

**PT is cheaper but the service must exist to save people money**

## COST OF LIVING

**RACV**

About RACV Re  
Insurance Cars & transport Home Travel & experiences Me

travelled by Victorian motorists, which is 13,000 kilometres per year.

**Private vehicle average running costs in Victoria for 2023:**

Segment	Cheapest vehicle	Monthly running cost
Light cars	MG3 Core light 1.5spd Auto Hatch	\$746.01
Small cars	Mazda 3 Pure 2.0 6spd Auto Hatch	\$915.30
SUV small	Hyundai Venue (Base) 1.6 6spd Auto FWD Wagon	\$926.56
SUV medium	Honda CRV Vi 2.0 CVT FWD Wagon	\$1,161.36
Electric	MG ZS Excite Standard Range RWD Wagon	\$1,172.76
Medium cars	Toyota Camry Ascent Hybrid 2.5 Hybrid CVT Sedan	\$1,120.98
Light commercial 4x2	Isuzu D-Max SX Dual Cab 1.9T Diesel 6spd Auto Utility	\$1,364.67
SUV large	Subaru Outback 2.5 Petrol CVT AWD Wagon	\$1,387.37
Light commercial 4x4	GWM Cannon L Dual Cab 2.0T Diesel 8spd Auto Utility	\$1,372.93
People movers	Hyundai Staria (Base) 3.5 V6 8spd Auto Van	\$1,553.31
All terrain	Mitsubishi Pajero Sport GLX 2.4T Diesel 4WD 8spd Auto Wagon	\$1,568.43

**Over \$900 per month**

**Under \$200 per month**

**myki Pass**

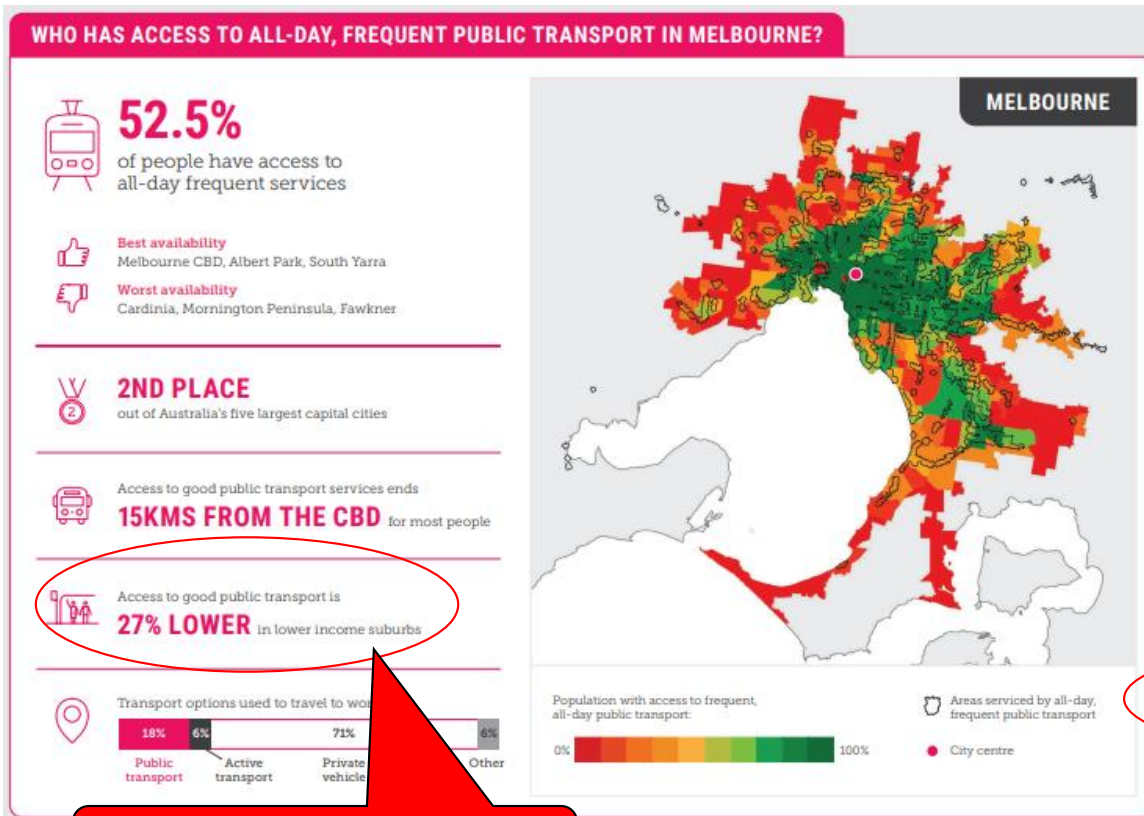
Zone/s	7 Day myki Pass		325* Day myki Pass (per day)	
	Full Fare	Concession	Full Fare	Concession
1+2	\$53.00	\$26.50	\$6.36	\$3.18
2	\$33.00	\$16.50	\$3.96	\$1.98



2

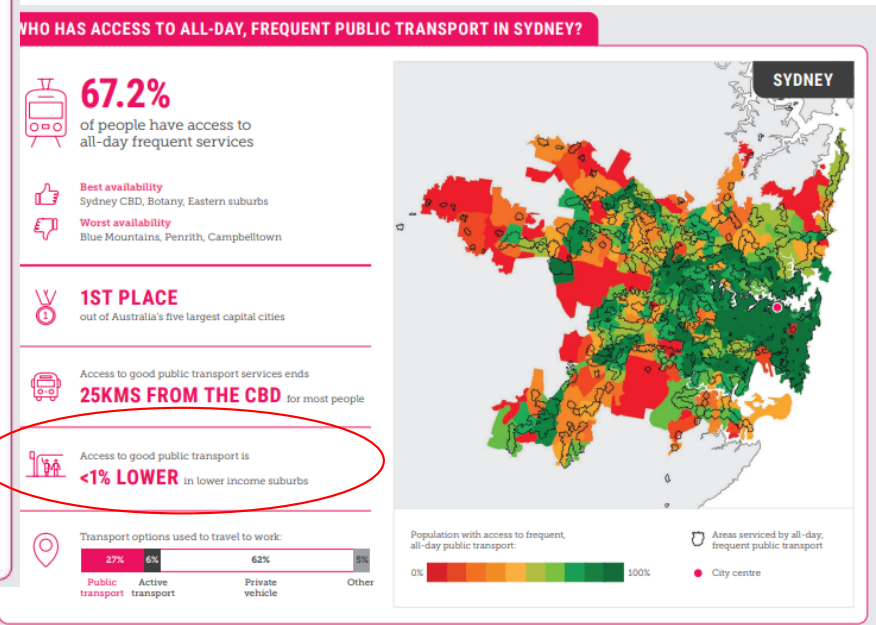
Sydney has fewer train stations than Melbourne but has many more people nearer all day frequent public transport

## ACCESS TO FREQUENT SERVICE



**Melbourne also rates poorly for transport inequality**

Climate Council 'Next Stop Suburbia' report

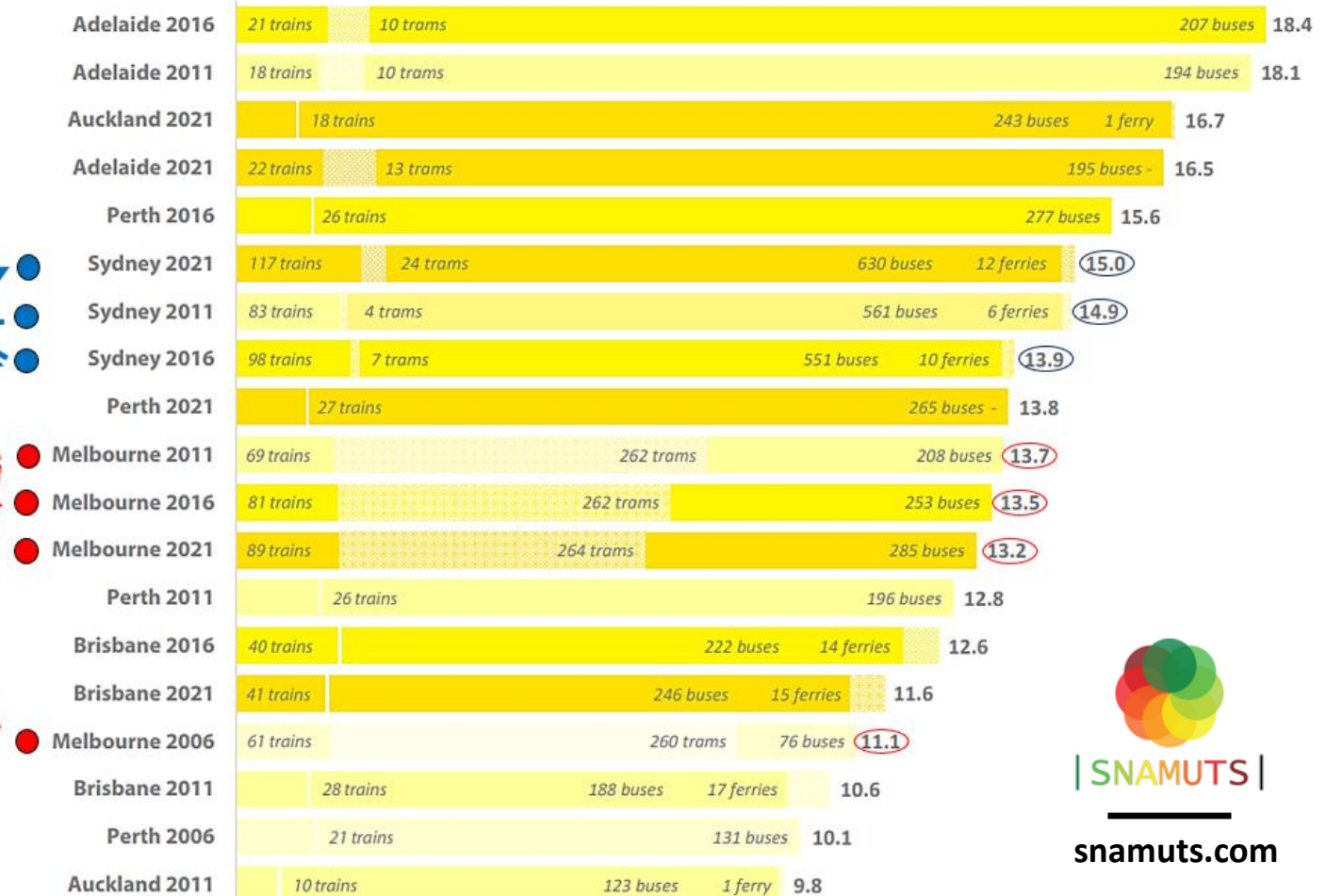


2a

Sydney's PT service intensity per 100 000 inhabitants increased between 2011 & 2021

Melbourne's PT service intensity per 100 000 inhabitants fell between 2011 & 2021

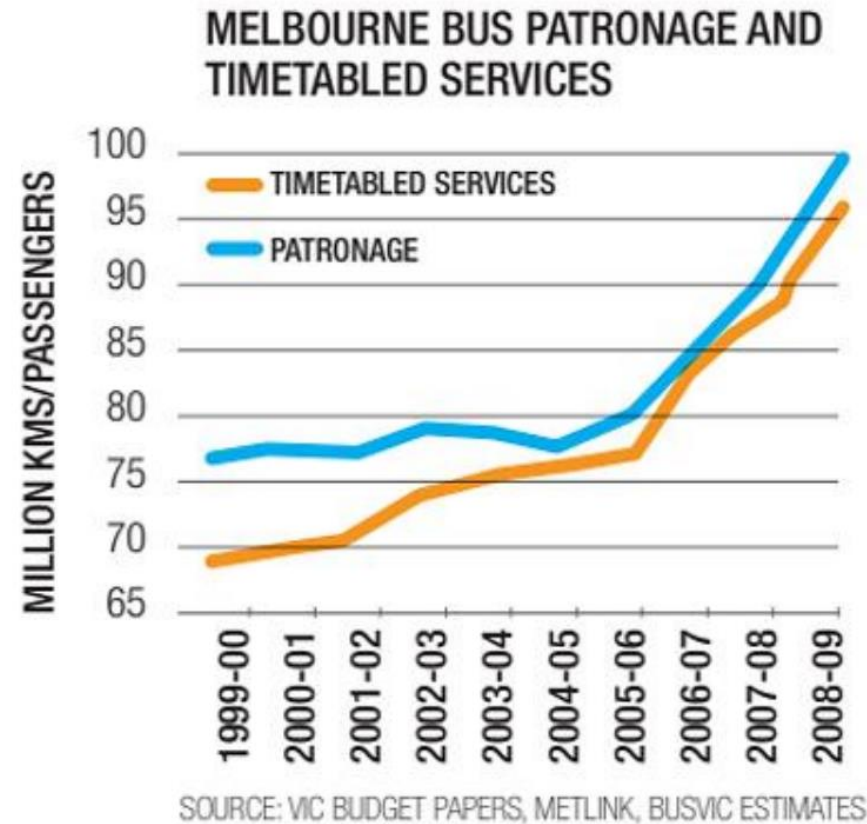
## Service Intensity per 100,000 inh, and in absolute figures by mode



3

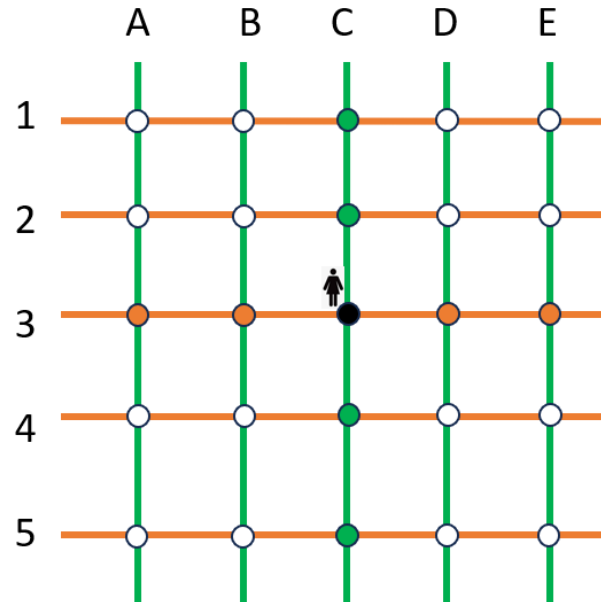
**FREQUENCY & PATRONAGE**

**Why frequency?  
It encourages usage**



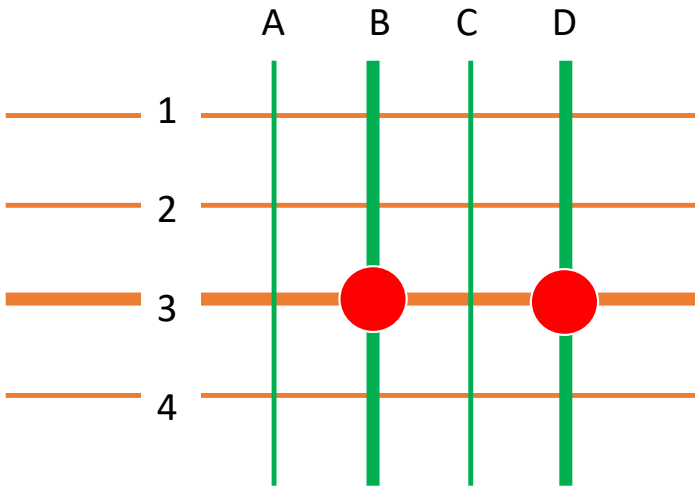
**Source: Bus Solutions Issue 1 Nov 2009, BusVic**

4

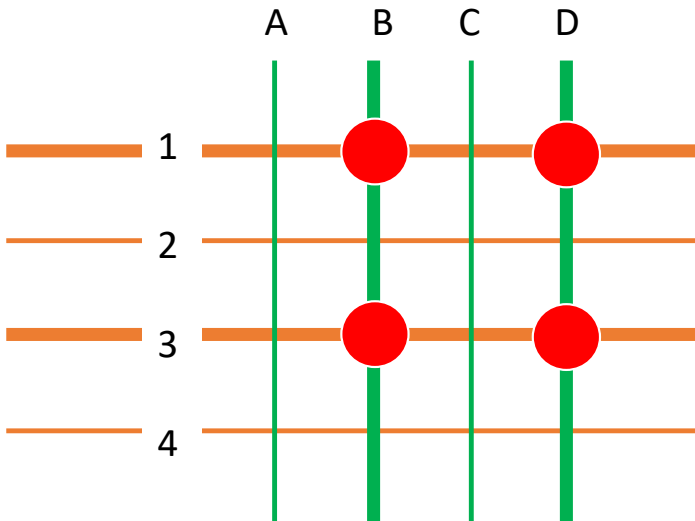
**THE POWER OF FREQUENCY****How the network effect increases travel freedom**

A person at location C3 can reach 8 destinations (green and orange) with a single seat ride. However access to 16 more destinations (white) is possible via one connection. This requires well located stops and frequent service to minimise waiting.

5



THE POWER OF FREQUENCY

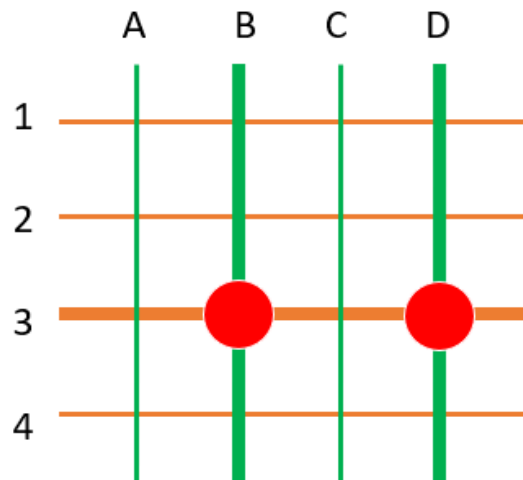


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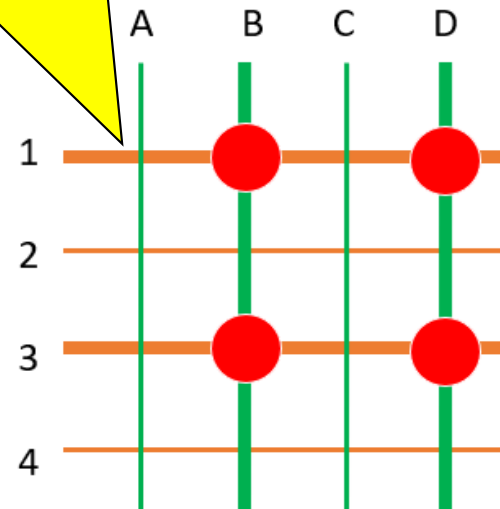
**THE POWER OF FREQUENCY**

**Adding frequency  
can multiply  
connections**

Upgrading just one route to frequent service can double the number of useful connection points and thus multiply destinations accessible.

**Network A**

3 frequent lines  
5 infrequent lines  
2 usable connection points

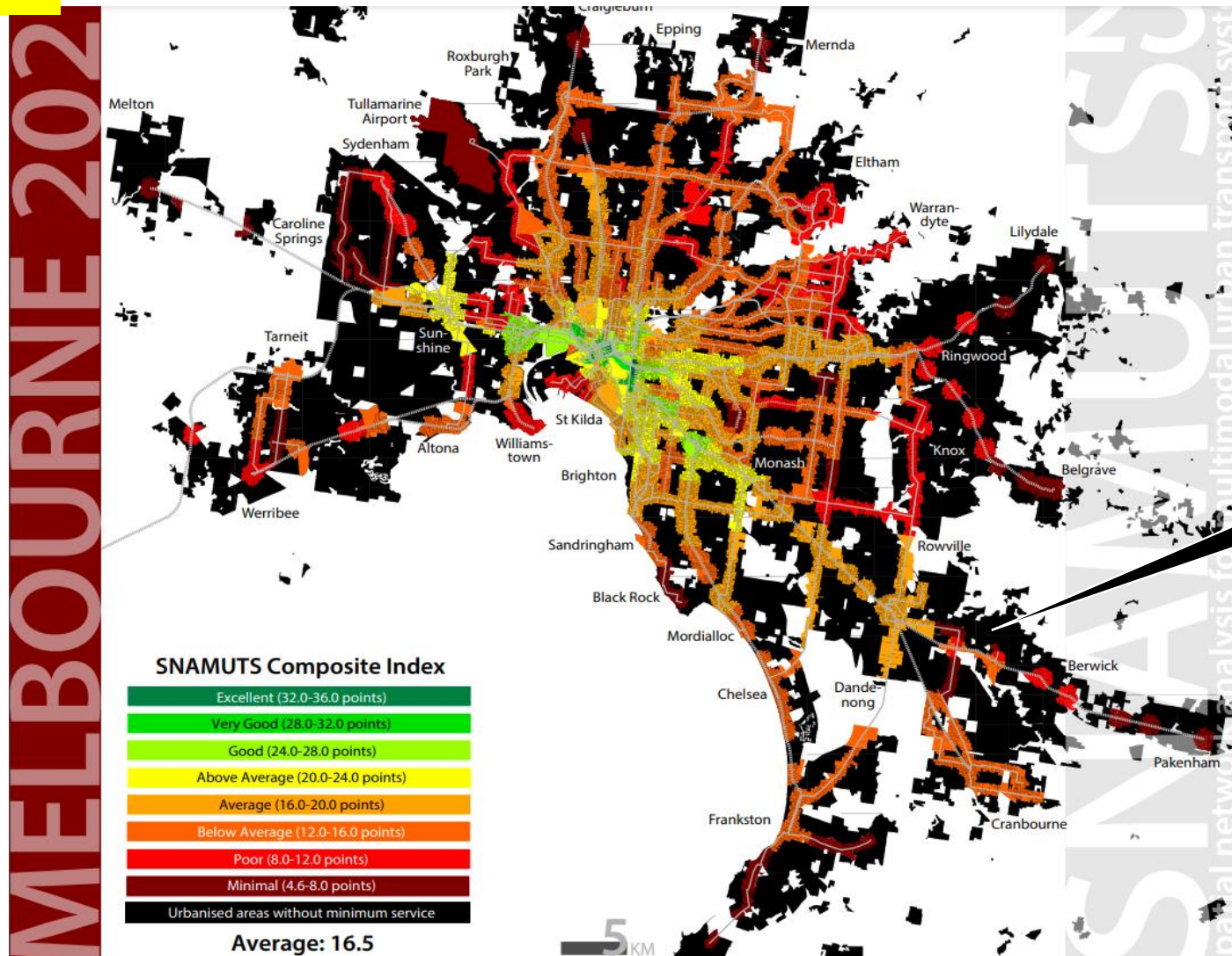
**Network B**

4 frequent lines  
4 infrequent lines  
4 usable connection points



7

## SNAMUTS 2022



8

**SNAMUTS 2022 – ETC REGION**

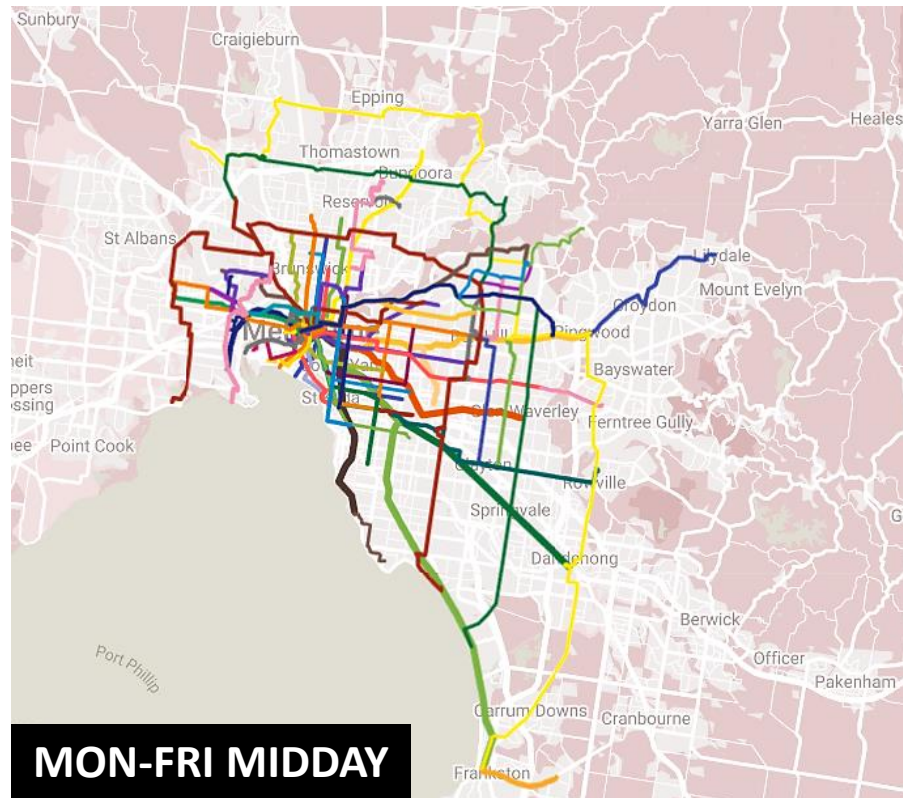
Other maps at [snamuts.com](https://snamuts.com)



9

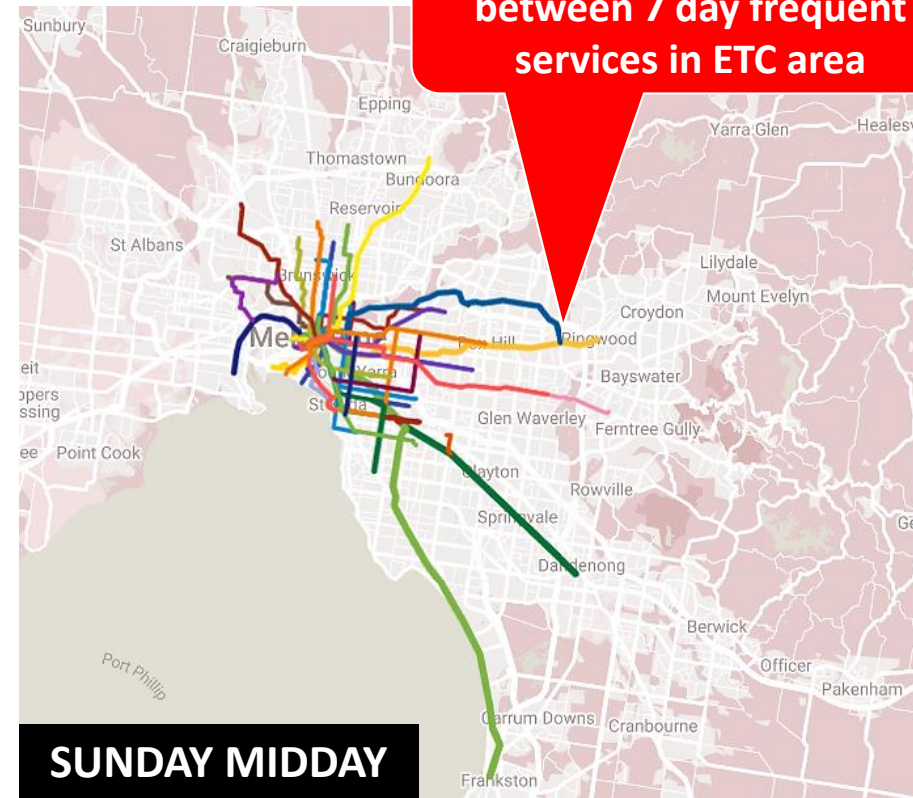
## Variations over the week

### PT services every 15 min or better



## VARIATIONS ACROSS THE WEEK

**Very few connection points  
between 7 day frequent  
services in ETC area**

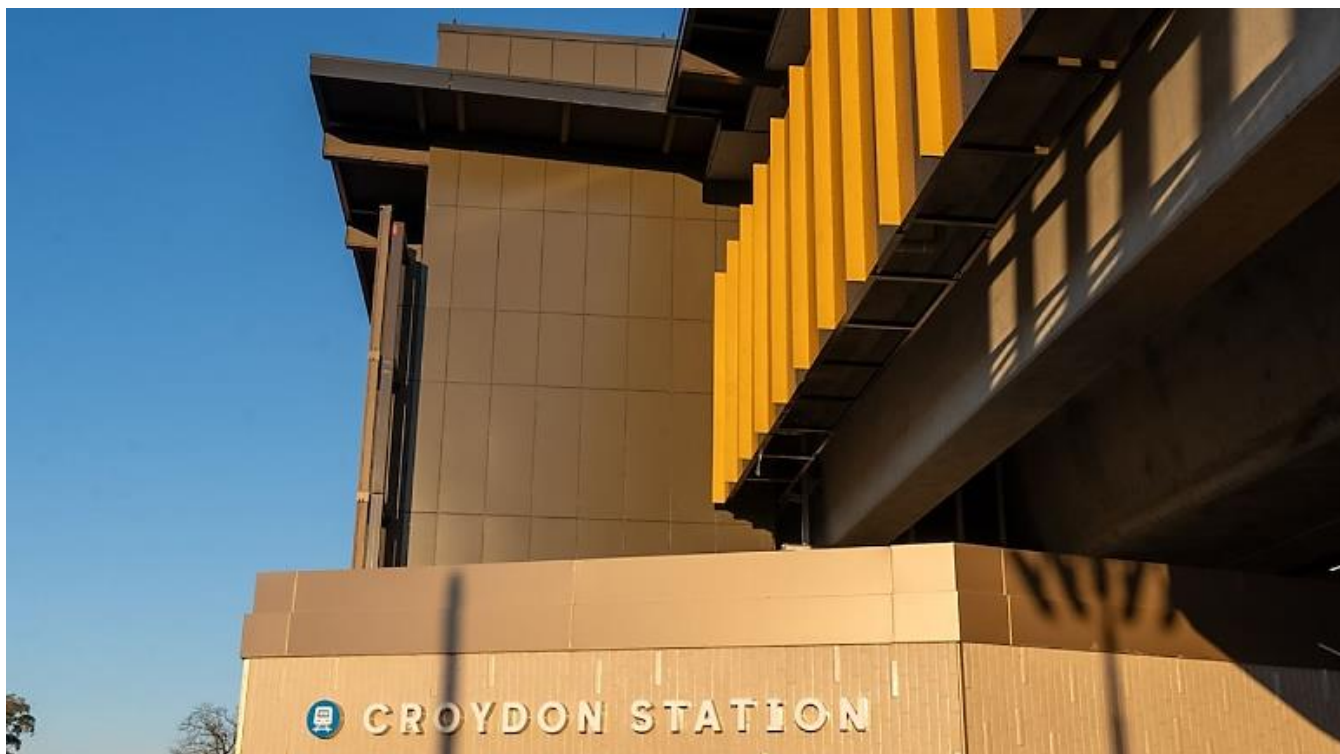


10

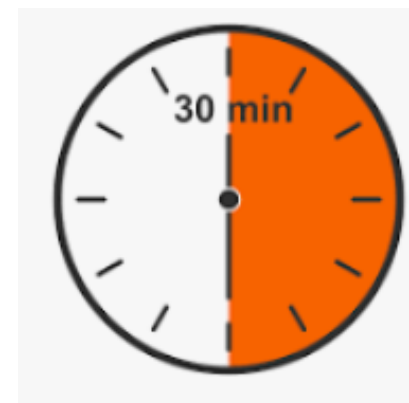
## New Croydon station

### But interpeak trains remain every 30 min

#### NEW CROYDON STATION



<https://bigbuild.vic.gov.au/news/level-crossing-removal-project/new-premium-croydon-station-now-open>



Time between trains

(in contrast only 10 min between trains on Frankston line)

11

## SUGGESTED ADVOCACY PRIORITIES FOR ETC AREA

- Ringwood/Belgrave/Lilydale lines  
Upgrade to every 10/20/20 min off-peak



- Glen Waverley line  
Upgrade to max wait 20 min nights & Sun am



- SmartBuses 703, 900, 901, 902, 903, 905, 906, 907, 908  
Upgrade to 15-20 min max waits 7 days to late



- Key regular routes eg 279, 670, 693, 732, 733, 737, 767, 800, 828  
Upgrade to every 15-20 min max waits 7 days



- Other local routes  
Upgrade to 7 days to 9pm with minimum service standards

12

READ OUR PAPER

## Victorian Transport Action Group on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/victoriantransportactiongroup>





## Attachment B

Eastern Transport Coalition  
Level 14, 333 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000  
03 8639 5884  
www.etc.org.au

The Eastern Transport Coalition represents seven municipalities and over one million people in eastern Melbourne. It advocates for accessible and integrated transport in the eastern region of Melbourne to improve liveability and reduce car dependence.

28<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Via Engage Victoria

To whom it may concern,

### Re: Plan for Victoria submission

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the Victorian Government's Plan for Victoria development process.

The Eastern Transport Coalition represents residents, businesses and commuters across a significant region of Melbourne. We see the planning and delivery of good transport – and particularly public and active transport – infrastructure and services as key to the area's liveability, economy and sustainability, now and as we gear up to cater for significant population and housing growth in coming years.

We would be happy to discuss our submission or provide any further information the Department of Transport and Planning may require.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stuart James", followed by a long horizontal line.

Cr Stuart James

Chair







## EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION – PLAN FOR VICTORIA

The Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) represents the interests of the cities of Greater Dandenong, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse, and the Yarra Ranges Shire. Our region is home to a population of 1.1 million residents, more than 430,000 households, and 400,000 jobs.

Our region's economy is strong, and produces approximately \$106 billion in total sales, \$23 billion in exports and \$2.6 billion in tourist revenue per annum.

ETC is pleased to make this submission to the Plan for Victoria consultation process and provide input on areas of critical importance to the future of our region. We are keen to work in partnership with the Victorian Government to ensure the future sustainability of Melbourne's east, preserve its economic promise, and ensure the wellbeing of our residents.

Like most urban areas in Australia, Melbourne's east is facing compounding major challenges, including the need to accommodate a growing population and an ageing community.

ETC recognises that the Victorian Government's statewide housing targets place a significant emphasis on delivering new housing and additional population in our region, with an additional 366,000 homes identified to be constructed by 2051.

Delivery of statewide housing targets would represent an 84 per cent increase in total housing in Melbourne's east and deliver local population growth of more than 900,000 additional residents over the next 25 years.

To preserve liveability and grow the region's economic potential, it is essential that Plan for Victoria recognises existing pressures on infrastructure and services in Melbourne's east and provides a clear strategy to address how we plan for this significant population growth.

Plan for Victoria must be supported by a range of complementary plans and resources which address the immediate and longer-term improvements that are required to ensure that our transport network that can handle the expected increase in both freight and commuter movements.

In order to achieve the vital transport upgrades which are required to making Plan for Victoria a reality over coming decades, the Victorian Government must deliver a comprehensive state transport plan which provides a consistent approach delivering local transport upgrades. Consistent with the existing requirements within the *Transport Integration Act 2010*, work on a state transport plan can be completed concurrently with the development of Plan for Victoria.

Victoria has been without a dedicated transport strategy for over a decade, and beyond individual Big Build projects there has been a lack of a vision and long-term plan for our transport system. A state transport plan should bring together and coordinate the existing planning for freight, train, bus, tram, and active transport networks into one consistent vision and action plan. A clear long-term plan will help to pave the way for a better, fairer and modern transport network that is capable of moving people to where they need to go at the time they need to travel.



## KEY PRIORITIES

### *Affordable Housing and Choice*

ETC supports the ambition to make housing more affordable in Melbourne's east.

Noting that the Victorian Government's target to densify suburbs within our municipalities will have a significant impact on the capacity of our roads and public transport, it is critical that any densification is matched with adequately planned and funded upgrades to local transport infrastructure and services which maintain affordability and choice for residents moving around Melbourne's east.

The urban growth forecasts for areas of the Melbourne's east will significantly increase use and demand for community spaces, services and transport systems over coming decades. In the near-term, timely access to services and support will become a significant issue as there is little existing capacity in, and for, these services.

ETC submit that population growth must be matched by appropriate planning and resources to ensure that transport remains accessible and affordable for all and enables easy access to basic goods and services, jobs, schools, and healthcare. This must include effective precinct planning, funding, and coordination of action to deliver transit and pedestrian oriented precincts with better active transport infrastructure.

There is a substantial risk that unless Plan for Victoria delivers effective mechanisms to review and deliver improvement to the capacity of local transport networks as population grows, the financial and time-related costs of moving around ETC council areas and accessing local services will become a major impediment to the prosperity of new and existing residents.

### *Equity and Jobs*

ETC wants Melbourne's east to be Australia's most liveable urban region where people build the best future for themselves, their families, and their businesses.

Congestion is one of the biggest issues facing Melbourne and our region. Solutions that increase capacity and improve operational productivity on the road and rail networks will increase the efficiency of the entire transport system.

To achieve this, ETC believes that Plan for Victoria must include actions and complementary plans to ensure that planning to upgrade transport infrastructure and bring additional capacity online must occur simultaneously with planned densification of Melbourne's east.

To realise our vision, Melbourne's east needs better public transport to ensure our communities and businesses are connected by modern transport connections that protect liveability, ensure sustainability, and promote economic growth.

If planning and investment is not consistently and thoughtfully delivered to make our local transport networks more productive, Melbourne's east will fail to attract the jobs and investment required to support expanding population.

Transport capacity improvements for Melbourne's east must look beyond existing plans to construct the Suburban Rail Loop (SRL) and North East Link. The upgrade and expansion of the existing public transport network must be a priority, including additional capacity along the Belgrave and Lilydale train lines to enable the additional services, including more limited express trains, to support the



anticipated additional movements of people to and from work. Quality bus routes are similarly essential for convenient access to major employment precincts, such as the Bayswater Business Precinct.

While it is understood that not all these services can be upgraded at once, a series of staged improvements and long-term planning to the existing system must be advanced to deliver the modern public transport system of the future which can operate on a 24/7 timetable to cater for a 24-hour workforce.

ETC also notes that existing plans for SRL East indicate that a total of 70,000 new homes will be planned for construction around the six station precincts between Cheltenham and Box Hill. As such, a significant majority of the Victorian Government's new housing targets for ETC council areas over the next 25 years will be located outside of SRL precincts. This intensifies the need for comprehensive forward planning of our local transport networks over the next 25 years to ensure their adequacy and effective connectivity with each other.

#### **Thriving and Liveable Suburbs and Towns**

Melbourne's population growth is not being matched by investment and enhancement of our transport systems. This is not sustainable, and future housing growth and precinct development in Melbourne's east must be linked to upgrades that extract additional capacity from existing transport networks and systems to carry more passengers and move more vehicles. Integrated land use and transport planning will be critical to delivering on the aspirations of Plan for Victoria.

To maintain Melbourne's liveability, rail, tram, and rapid bus services must be provided to the many areas that have developed without good public transport. We must also maximise walking and cycling opportunities. Easier access transport modes other than cars improve travel times and make Melbourne a safer community and are crucial to realising the concept of 20-minute neighbourhoods.

Connectivity in transport improves mobility, provides better and easier access to trade, social services, employment, and opportunities for the community. Improved connectivity delivers better productivity, while families enjoy shorter, more reliable travel times.

Many suburban centres in Melbourne's east are not properly serviced by the broader public transport network and the lack of convenient and regular connections remains one of the greatest barriers to using public transport, especially in the commute to work.

ETC submit that it is essential that future transport to service expanding population in Melbourne's east must progress the development of key transport system upgrades including:

- A new Trackless Rapid Transit service between Caulfield and Rowville,
- Extension of the Route 75 Tram from Vermont South along Burwood Hwy and Mountain Hwy,
- Duplication of the Lilydale Railway Line from Mooroolbark to Lilydale,
- Expansion of on-demand FlexiRide bus services across Melbourne's east, including immediate funding to address immediate demand undertake trials in Knox, Yarra Ranges, Manningham, Whitehorse, and Greater Dandenong,
- New bus services (and realignment of existing services) along priority transport routes to better link residents with activity centres, employment clusters, medical precincts, and train stations,
- Extension of the Dandenong Bypass to South Gippsland Freeway,
- Extension of Westall Road from Dandenong Road to the Monash Freeway,





- Widening of various sections of Maroondah Highway,
- Duplication of Templestowe Road, and
- Duplication of Maroondah Highway between Warburton Highway and Melba Highway.

In addition, various intersection and signalisation upgrades should be prioritised in consultation with local councils in advance of population growth to ensure pedestrian safety is maintained and traffic bottlenecks are addressed before they develop into major traffic hazards.

#### **Sustainable Environment and Climate Action**

With Melbourne's population forecast to double in the next 30 years, we need forward-thinking transport policies for a sustainable city.

Transport systems in Melbourne's east are at risk of failure if solutions are not put in place to solve our transport infrastructure challenges. Failure of our local transport systems in Melbourne's east will lead to increase local traffic congestion and emissions outcomes.

ETC acknowledge that doubling our road network is not possible, and that we need urgent and substantial investment to provide our residents and visitors with alternative forms of mass transit.

Decisions on upgrades to local transport infrastructure should be based on long-term planning with a vision of achieving efficient movement of people and products in a safe, economical, and environmentally sustainable way.

The planning of new residential developments should also ensure that sufficient infrastructure capacity is planned and delivered to support the projected increase in the number of privately owned electric vehicles in Melbourne's east in coming decades.

#### **Conclusion**

As the Victorian Government moves forward with Plan for Victoria and its implementation, it should ensure that a key focus is placed on planning for, and resourcing ongoing improvements to, the capacity and connectivity of transport networks in Melbourne's east.

In summary, the development and implementation of Plan for Victoria for Melbourne's east must:

- Include the provision of comprehensive state transport plan,
- Provide consistent investment to make existing transport networks more productive,
- Ensure population growth is matched by key transport system upgrades, and
- Deliver appropriate planning and resources to ensure that transport in Melbourne's east remains affordable and accessible.

ETC looks forward to future opportunities for further engagement and partnership with the Victorian Government as Plan for Victoria is developed and rolled out.



**Attachment A**

## EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
**Time:** 6.30 – 8.30pm  
**Host:** Yarra Ranges Council, 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale and online

### Attendees:

#### Councillors

- Cr Susan Laukens, Knox City Council (Acting Chair)
- Cr Stuart James, City of Monash (Chair)
- Cr Andrew Fullager, Yarra Ranges Council

#### Officers

- Christopher Marshall, City of Greater Dandenong
- Emma Steele, Manningham City Council
- Andrew Mangan, Manningham City Council
- Terry Tillotson, City of Monash
- Sandra Worsnop, City of Monash
- Yingnan Wang, Knox City Council
- Shane Hardingham, Knox City Council
- Karen O’Gorman, Yarra Ranges Council
- Kim O’Connor, Yarra Ranges Council
- Rachel Kamath, Whitehorse City Council

#### Secretariat

- James McGarvey, The Agenda Group

#### Apologies

- Cr Tina Liu, City of Whitehorse
- Cr Anna Chen, Manningham City Council
- Cr Rhonda Garad, City of Greater Dandenong
- Cr Tony Dib, Maroondah City Council
- Michael Blowfield, Maroondah City Council
- Chris Hui, City of Whitehorse
- Winchelle Chuson, Knox City Council
- Matthew Hanrahan, Knox City Council

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Cr James assumed the Chair and welcomed the attendees.

**2. Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. ETC Finance Report**

The finance report for the ETC for August - September 2024 is as follows:

Opening Balance for August 2024	\$7,970.91
July Invoice from TAG	\$7,500.00
Income	\$15,000.00
<b>Closing Balance for September 2024</b>	<b>\$15,470.91</b>

*The report was not formally received, due to lack of quorum.*

**4. Ratify Previous Draft Minutes and Actions Arising**

Minutes of the August ETC meeting:

*The minutes were not formally received, due to lack of quorum.*

**5. 2024 ETC Advocacy Workplan**

**Plan for Victoria**

The ETC Plan for Victoria submission was finalised after receiving member feedback and was submitted with a cover letter by the due date, together with an offer to provide any further information required.

It may form a basis for an ETC conversation with the Victorian Public Transport Minister in 2025.

### **Preparation for Federal Election**

Mr McGarvey raised the upcoming federal election and how the ETC may wish to identify projects to take to all candidates and parties for adoption as election policy.

The trails package can form a major and specific component of advocacy focus for the upcoming federal election, though it can be complemented by other agreed projects.

A review of advocacy asks by the ETC at the last federal election included regional trails, funding and support for the Caulfield to Rowville TRT, duplication of the rail line between Mooroolbark and Lilydale, and a package of roadworks that would support the bus network throughout the ETC region.

It was noted that a number of regional trails received election commitments as did specific road projects. Federal MPs and candidates from both major parties showed little interest in supporting the rail line duplication, though there was differing support from both major parties for the Caulfield-Rowville project, to be funded jointly with the state government.

In discussion there was general agreement that, as well as the regional trails package, it's important that the ETC continues to support the Lilydale line duplication and the Caulfield-Rowville TRT project, though there may be limited interest in the line duplication, and state budget constraints may be impacting on the chances of the TRT project progressing in the shorter term.

Beyond local initiatives that each ETC Council has identified as a priority on its own federal election advocacy list, members were asked to give further consideration to identifying any other items that the ETC could consider.

Around the table discussion identified the following options were discussed by each council:

#### **Manningham**

- Templestowe Rd duplication
- Five-ways intersection
- Jumping Creek Rd duplication

#### **Yarra Ranges**

- Rail line duplication
- Trails and road crossings (e.g. Yering to Yarra Glen trail)
- Sealing of unsealed roads
- Street lighting package

#### **Monash**

- Westall Rd extension
- TRT project

**Knox**

- Signalised pedestrian crossing projects (for Knox and other ETC councils to consider)
- Dorset Rd extension
- Mass transit – feasibility funding for 75 tram extension alternatives

**City of Greater Dandenong**

- Djerring trail
- Dandenong South public transport solution
- Dandenong bypass extension

It was agreed that any proposed road projects should provide clear benefit to either public transport (i.e. bus) or active transport usage.

The ETC secretariat will liaise further with each Council to refine a federal advocacy project list.

**Trails campaign**

Mr McGarvey reported that the Trails policy document was now under development with a graphic designer. The challenge is to incorporate maps of each trail as easy to understand visuals for each area. A draft of the document should be available to display at the next ETC meeting.

In preparation for the campaigning phase of the project, Mr McGarvey asked each ETC member to give thought to compiling a list of stakeholder groups in their municipalities who may take an interest in supporting a local trail project.

This list of stakeholders can then be targeted during a campaign through mailouts or social media activity to demonstrate their support by signing e-petitions, letters to MPs and candidates, etc.

## 6. Doncaster Park & Ride - Urban Design and Landscape Plan

Emma Steele and Andrew Mangan from the City of Manningham provided the meeting with a presentation on the next public consultation phase of the Doncaster Park & Ride (DPR) project being delivered as part of the Victorian Government's North East Link project.

Exhibition of the 150 page is open until 24<sup>th</sup> September.

Of the 400 spaces at DPR, 150 are currently used by NEL construction workers, and the carpark will be closed altogether by year's end for an expected 3 year period.

NELP built Bulleen Park & Ride (BPR) which provides 380 parking spaces to cater for the closure of DPR, but is full most days from early in the morning.

Temporary bus stops will be set up on Doncaster Rd outside DPR, but there won't be any temporary carparking provided. Council has suggested options, and is concerned about the likely on-street parking spillover effect when DPR is closed.

Council is also concerned that the loss of parking at DPR will cause commuters to shift back to private vehicle use, though in the longer term the induced demand created by BPR is expected to be duplicated by DPR when complete.

A Transit Oriented Development concept for the DPR was developed for Council in 2022.

The concept proposed:

- Commercial spaces that could include a gym, retail and office spaces
- 657 carparking spots – compared to the 400 provided under current plans
- Public open and green space areas
- Enhanced walking and cycling connections.

Council's submission to the Urban Design and Landscape Plan consultation reiterated the key points from its Transit Oriented Development concept and was also critical of the consultation process, particularly the limited timespan for councils and community to respond and the challenges of dealing with this given the impact of the caretaker period in the run up to council elections.

*A copy of the presentation will be circulated with the meeting's minutes.*

## 7. Local issue presentation

Karen O’Gorman, from Yarra Ranges Council provided the group with a presentation on Council’s *Draft Parking Management Framework*.

Karen explained that the framework had been developed over the last few months to better manage existing parking provision across the municipality. The framework’s purpose is not so much about providing extra parking, but focuses on highlighting priorities for optimising and better managing existing capacity and setting expectations.

*A copy of Karen’s presentation will be circulated with the meeting’s minutes.*

## 8. General Business

No general business items were raised.

## 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be hosted by the City of Greater Dandenong and online, and will commence at 6.30pm (6.00pm for dinner) on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### Action Summary

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline
1. ETC members to list stakeholder groups in their municipalities who may take an interest in supporting a local trail project	All members	November 2024
2. ETC secretariat to liaise with each council to compile list of federal election advocacy projects.	Council officers	November 2024



# Doncaster Park & Ride

## ETC Presentation

Integrated Transport | 19 September 2024



Interpreter service **9840 9355**

普通话 | 廣東話 | Ελληνικά | Italiano | عربي | فارسی



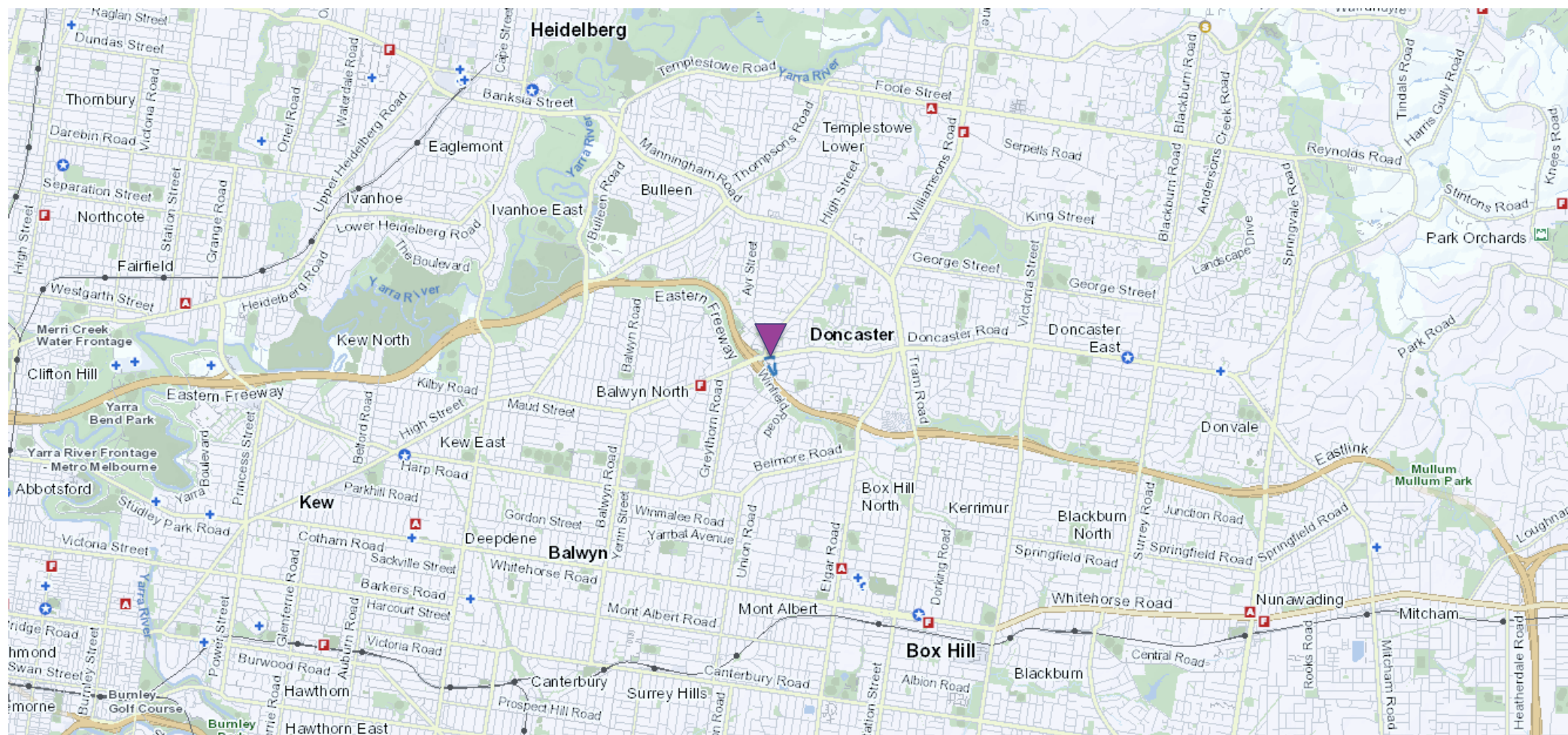


# Context

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# Planning Context

**Zone:** Mixed Use Zone

**Overlays:**

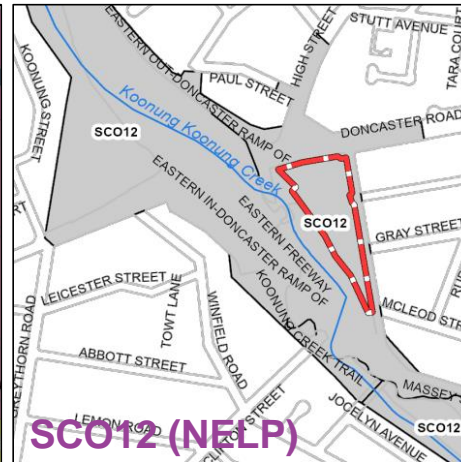
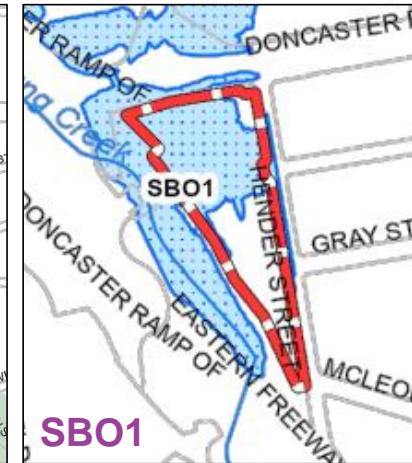
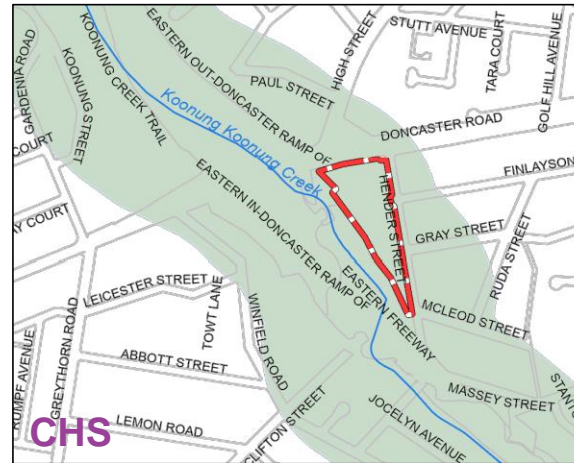
- Special Building Overlay Schedule 1
- Specific Controls Overlay Schedule 12
- Design and Development Overlay Schedule 1

**Other:**

- Areas of Cultural Heritage Significance

**Future:**

- Housing targets
- Growth along Doncaster Road corridor
- Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) advocacy



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## Current DPR

Site owned by DTP

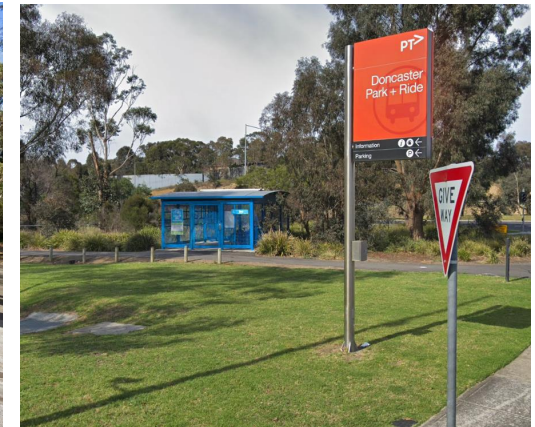
Facility operated by Kinetic

Route planning by DTP  
(PTV)

Approx. 400 car parking  
spaces

Bicycle parkiteer (outdoor  
cage)

Enclosed waiting area &  
ticket office



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# DPR Closure

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# Summary

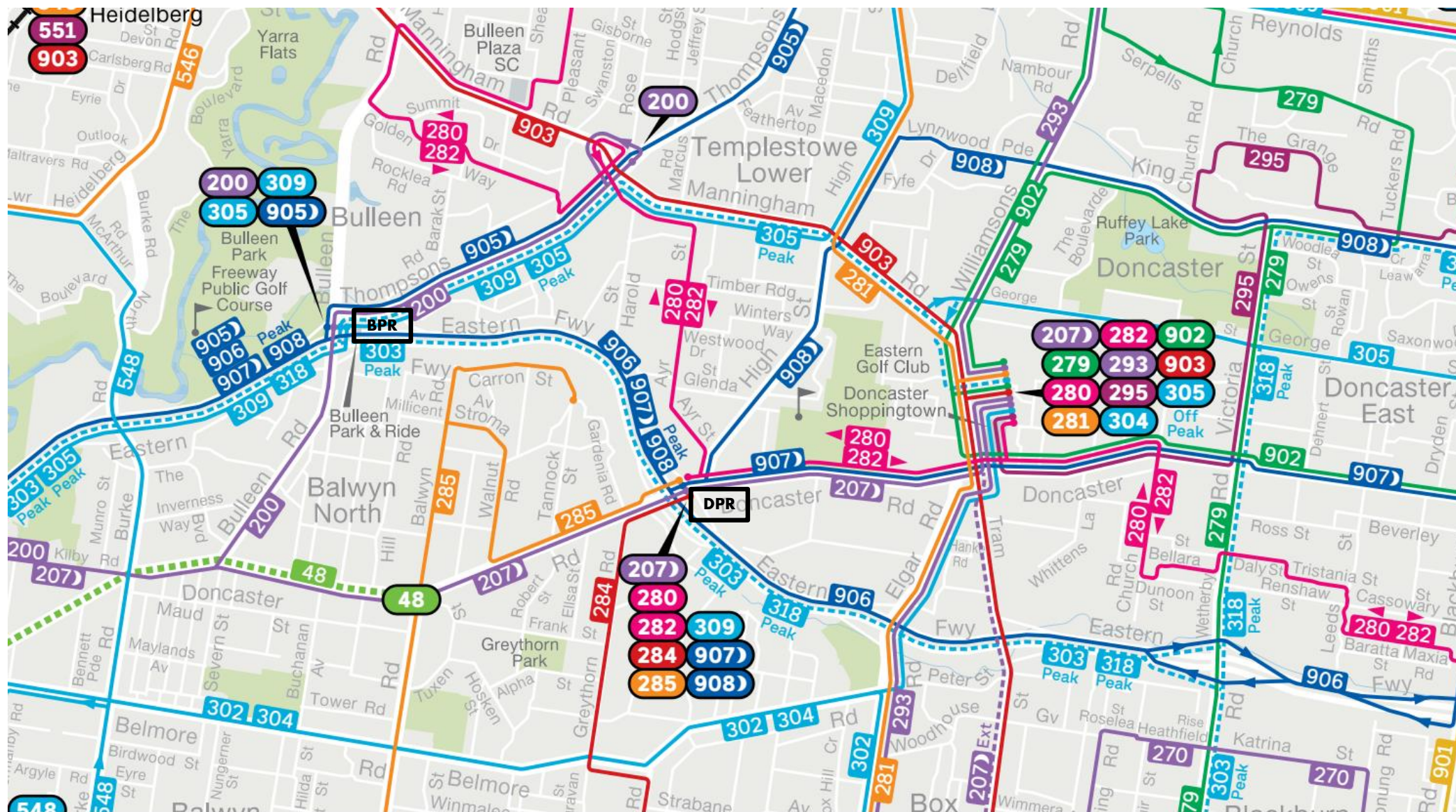
Impacts will occur as a result of the full-closure of Doncaster Park and Ride for NELP works, to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Bus commuters; and</li><li>- Local residents surrounding Doncaster Park and Ride</li></ul>
NELP’s position is that Bulleen Park and Ride was built to mitigate impacts. NELP’s messaging is expected to direct displaced DPR users to Bulleen.
Bulleen Park and Ride is full, and Doncaster is not yet fully closed.
Temporary bus stops will be constructed on Doncaster Road for buses to continue operating from the area.
Council is undertaking an advocacy campaign (beginning with a letter to local MPs) for NELP / the State to provide additional mitigation measures.



8

















## Impacts – parking congestion

Parking congestion in local streets is expected to increase as commuters drive to DPR and find it closed, or drive to BPR and find it full.

Council may need to implement new parking restrictions to protect local residents.

400m is the standard distance that a person is willing to walk to catch a bus. The 400m catchment around DPR and BPR may need to be investigated for revised parking restrictions.

Council would prefer to avoid making any changes to parking restrictions, if possible, but it may become unavoidable.



## Impacts – decreased public transport use

Through various transport and mode-shift strategies/policies - Council has gradually worked to increase public transport participation in Manningham.

There is concern that the loss of parking at DPR will cause commuters to shift back to private vehicle use, due to the lack of available PT that is locally accessible.

However, the induced demand created by BPR is expected to be duplicated by DPR when complete – even if only a ‘like-for-like’ facility is provided.



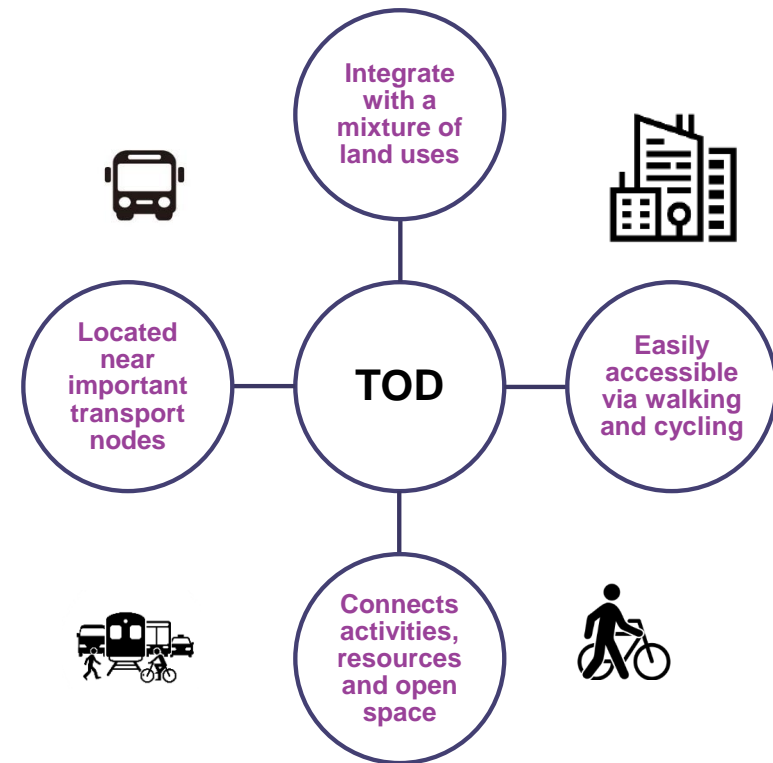
# Manningham Design Proposal

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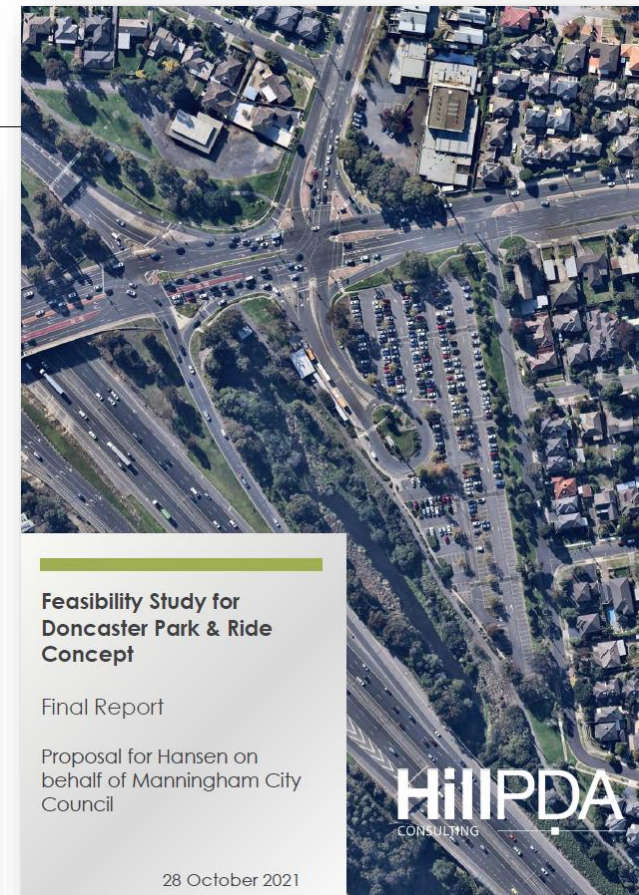
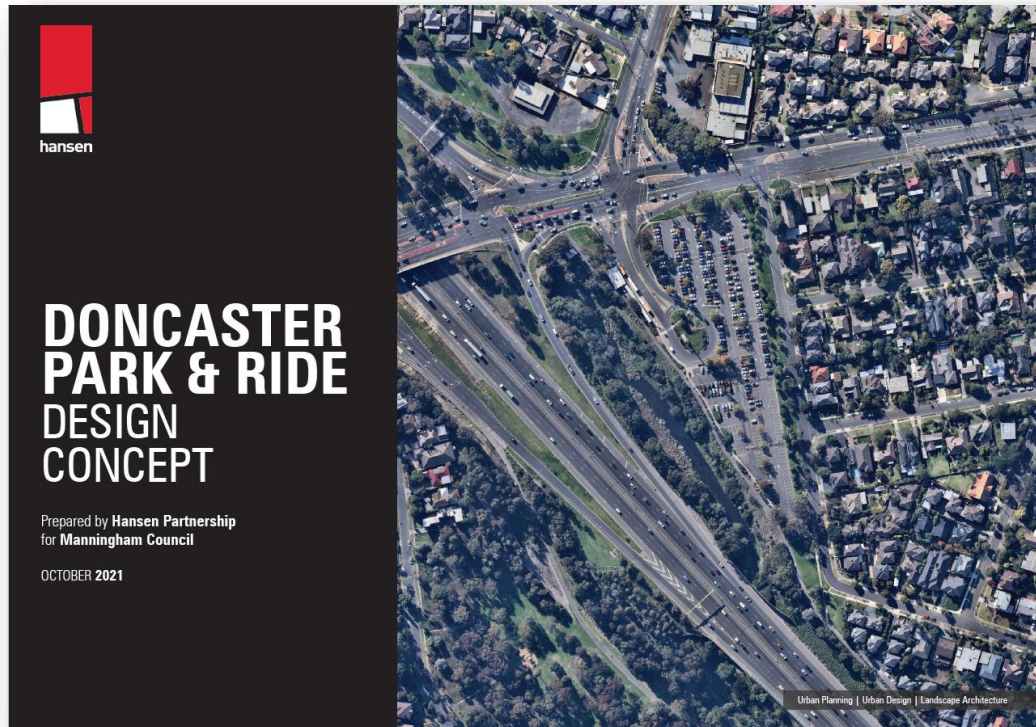


# Transit Oriented Development (TOD)





# July 2022 Design Concept



16









Financial return from the modelled mixed-use facility is approximately **\$49 million** (before costs)  
The overall cost estimate for the specific project envisaged by the design concepts is **\$65 million**.

 <p>Two new public open space areas</p>	 <p>Commercial uses such as gym, retail and office spaces</p>	 <p><b>657</b> car parking spaces for bus commuters (compared to the current 400)</p>
 <p>Increased employment: <b>286</b> ongoing jobs, <b>151</b> construction jobs</p>	 <p><b>8,175</b> sqm of retail and commercial uses</p>	 <p>Improved access to retail for surrounding residents</p>
 <p>Improved public transport access</p>	 <p>Enhanced walking and cycling connections</p>	 <p>Improved safety through mixed use activation</p>

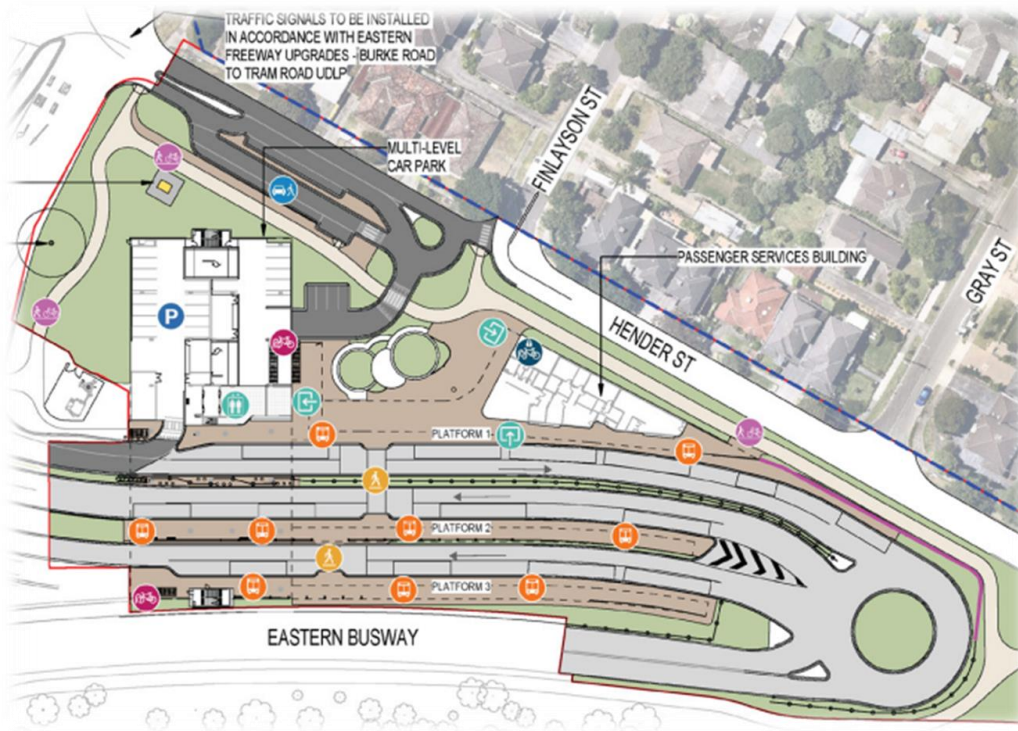
# Exhibited UDLP

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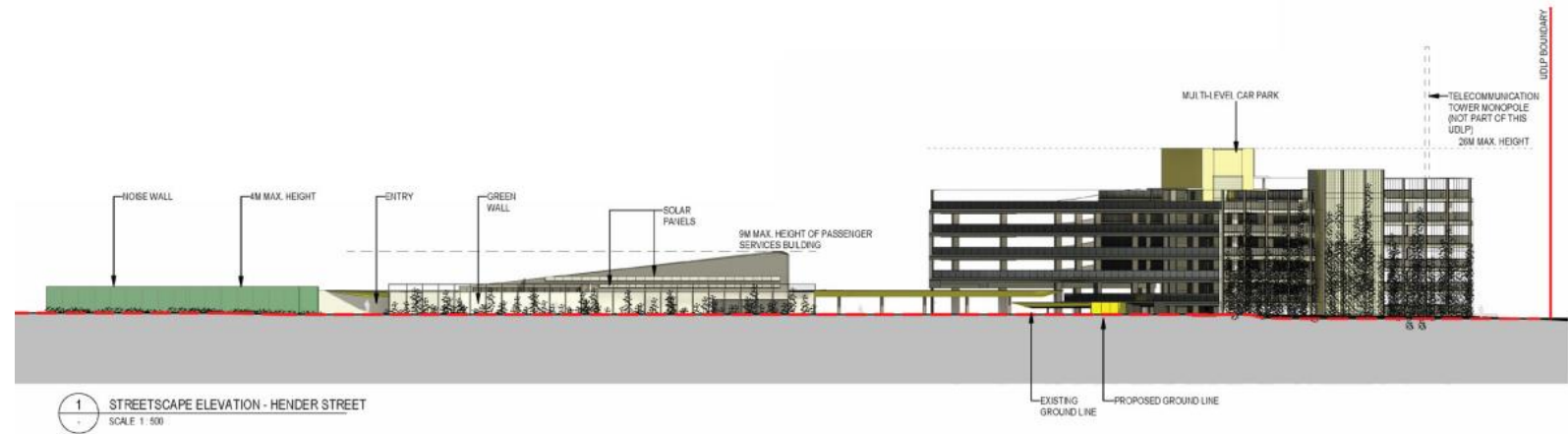
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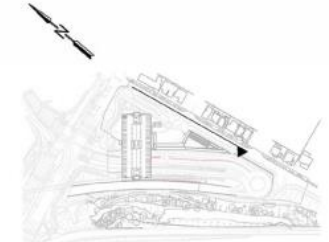
## LEGEND:

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- UOLP BOUNDARY
- EXISTING GROUND LINE
- PROPOSED GROUND LINE

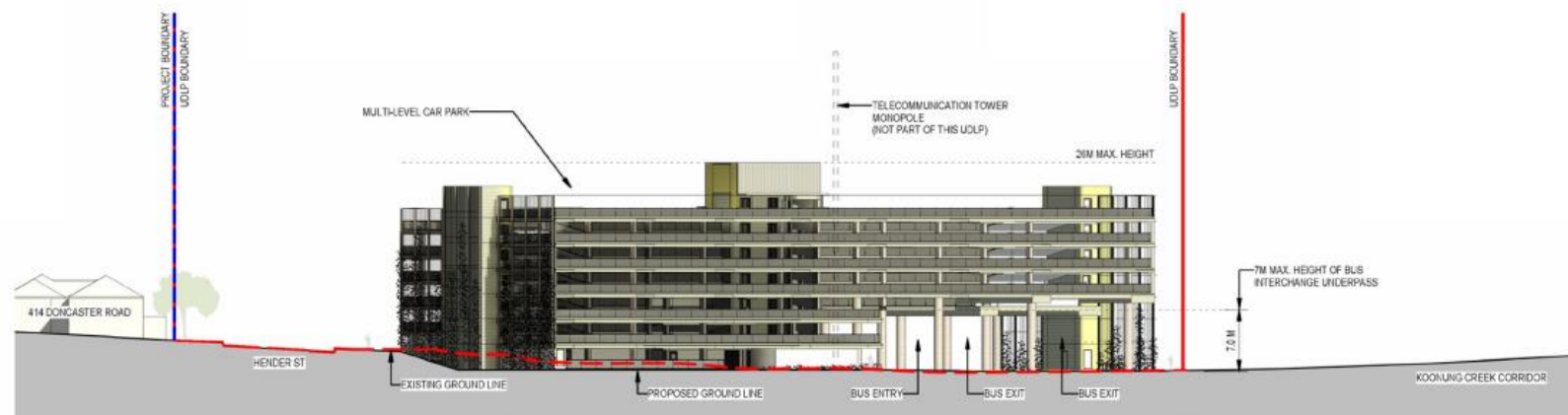
## NOTES:

NOISE WALL DESIGN SUBJECT TO FINAL ENGINEERING ADVICE.  
DETAILED DESIGN AND CONSULTATION TO DIRECTLY INFORM  
FORMULATION OF PARAMETERS FOR THESE STRUCTURES  
INCLUDING DESIGN, PATTERNS, MATERIALS AND STRUCTURAL  
FRAMING.

MAXIMUM HEIGHTS NOTED WITHIN THE DRAWINGS ARE  
MEASURED FROM EXISTING GROUND LEVEL AT THAT SPECIFIC  
LOCATION.







1 STREETScape ELEVATION - DONCASTER ROAD  
SCALE 1:500

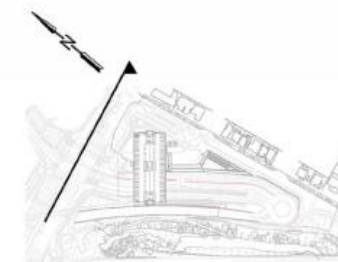


#### LEGEND:

- PROJECT BOUNDARY
- UDLP BOUNDARY
- EXISTING GROUND LINE
- PROPOSED GROUND LINE

#### NOTES:

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FORMULATION OF PARAMETERS FOR THESE STRUCTURES  
INCLUDING DESIGN PATTERNS, MATERIALS AND STRUCTURAL  
FRAMING.







ITEM	NELP PROPOSAL	MCC PROPOSAL
Car parking to match existing capacity	✓	✓
Car parking in excess of existing capacity (to accommodate growth)	✗	✓
Bus interchange per NELP reference design	✓	✓
Gym	✗	✓
Retail	✗	✓
Office space	✗	✓
Financial return	✗	✓
Elevated concourse / open space over bus circulation	✗	✓
Active communal rooftop open space	✗	✓
Bicycle parking	✓	✓

25



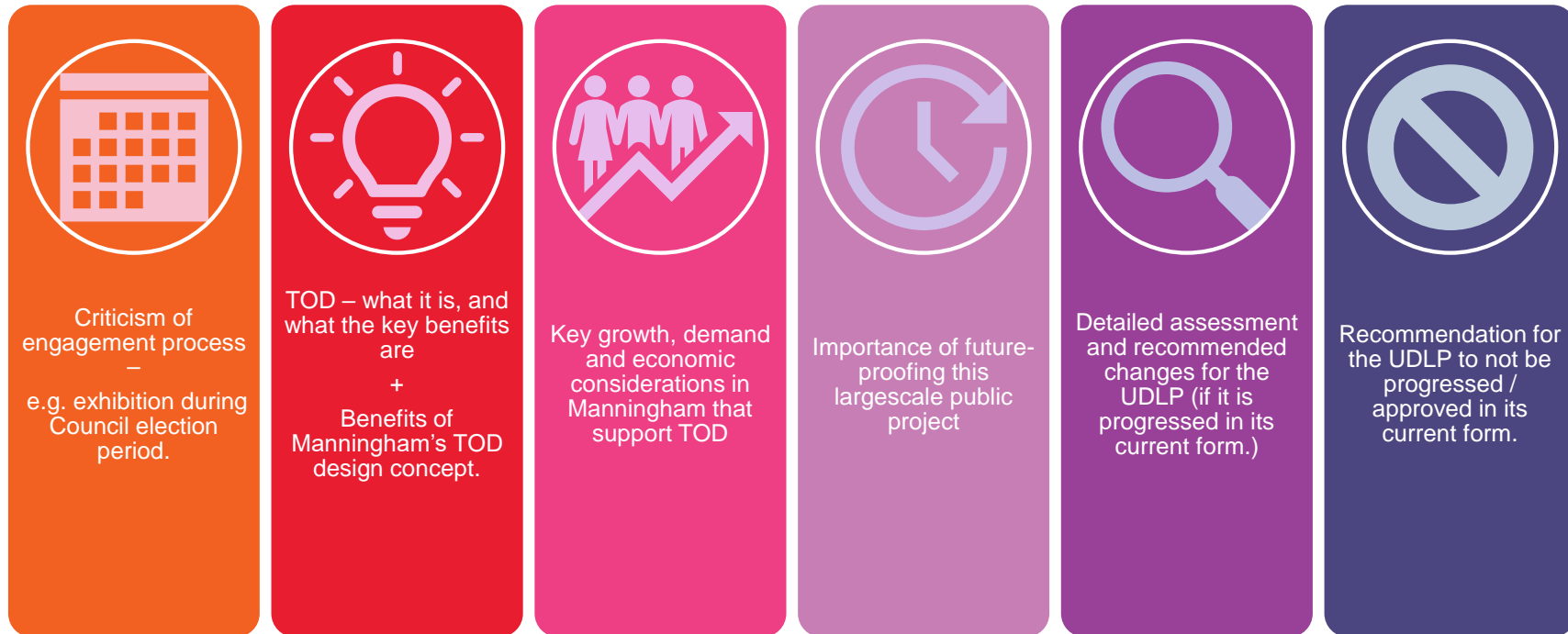
# Manningham Submission



Available online: [here](#)



## Manningham's UDLF Submission – Key Points



# Manningham's UDLP Submission – Key Points



- 150+ pages of UDLP documents to review
- Three weeks is a very short time frame
- Limited time for community groups to meet/discuss and collate feedback
- Timing poorly chosen with caretaker period
- Caretaker is a legislated restriction that applies to all Councils – NELP would have been aware
- Noting caretaker, Council had only 9 business days to prepare a submission and go through required governance processes for Council endorsement.
- Workshops with officers prior to exhibition were helpful but created an additional administrative burden.

# Manningham's UDLP Submission – Key Points



- TOD is widely-reported to reduce car dependency, increase active travel, provide community health benefits, increase economic productivity, improve employment opportunities, increase PT use and improve an area's sense of community.
- Manningham's TOD design concept provides financial, economic, place activation and amenity benefits by incorporating retail and commercial uses within the site.
- Westfield Doncaster and The Pines are local examples of successful bus interchanges combined with commercial and other uses.
- Multiple objectives of the NELP Urban Design Strategy seek integrated land use and transport solutions. The UDLP does not comply with several of the UDS objectives.
- TOD would encourage future economic investment to support local employment and incentivise developers to invest in the area.

# Manningham's UDLP Submission – Key Points



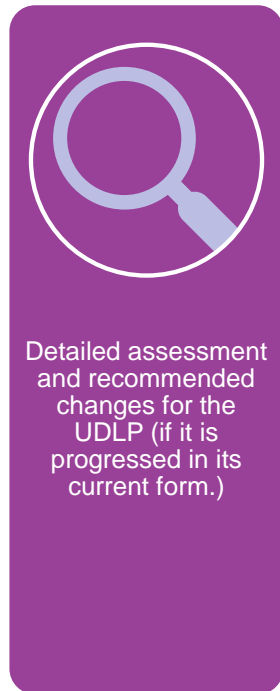
- State Government Housing Targets – 39,000 new homes in Manningham by 2051.
- Existing proximate planning controls encourage substantial growth and increased development intensity. 80% of new dwellings developed in Manningham between 2016 and 2021 were provided in Doncaster Hill and surrounds.
- In-progress review of Manningham Residential Strategy, which will direct more growth to the area around DPR. Doncaster Road Capacity and Growth Assessment (DRC CGA) project is commencing, to further inform and guide growth.
- 20-minute neighborhood concept supports TOD.
- Parking infringement data shows DPR was already over capacity pre-NELP.
- Bulleen Park and Ride has created its own induced demand.
- Bus demand increasing due to Eastern Busway, cost of living, sustainability, population growth and lack of rail in Manningham.

# Manningham's UDLP Submission – Key Points



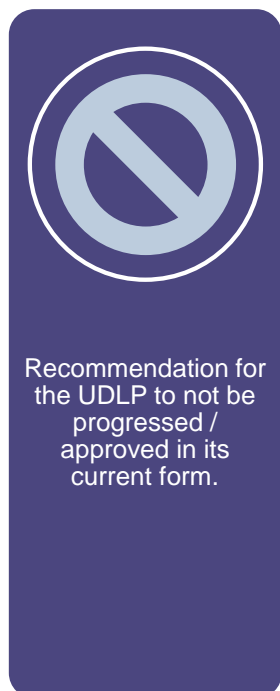
- Floor-to-ceiling heights in car park preclude conversion to commercial or other uses. Car park construction also precludes additional levels to be added in the future for increased capacity.
- Only mention of future-proofing in UDLP relates to EV's – which are a current consideration, not future.
- No information on how spaces/buildings might be converted in the future. Need to build-in flexibility from the outset.
- Lack of compliance with Urban Design Strategy and *Transport Integration Act 2010* as resource expenditure will not be efficient and enduring.
- UDLP is similar to 2019 reference design – it is out of date and will be more so by 2028.
- Failing to future-proof = facility will be obsolete immediately upon opening.

# Manningham's UDLP Submission – Key Points



- **Open Space and Landscaping**
- **Amenity**
- **Cultural Themes**
- **General**
- **Inconsistencies / errors**
- **Urban Design / Architecture**
  - Passenger Services Building
  - Materials
  - Noise Walls
  - Car Park
  - Services and utilities
  - General
- **Traffic, Car Parking and Access**
  - Impacts to Hender Street and surrounds
  - Pick Up / Drop Off (PUDO)
  - Shared User Paths and Footpaths
  - General

# Manningham's UDLP Submission – Key Points



***Council considers that the proposed UDLP should not be approved in its current form, for the reasons outlined by this submission - which are summarised as follows:***

- a) The 'like for like' upgrade with no increased capacity, and lack of mixed-use TOD or robust futureproofing is a significant missed opportunity.
- b) The proposal as currently shown in the UDLP is an unacceptable underdevelopment of a key strategic site under State Government ownership.
- c) It is expected that if the design is delivered in its current form, the facility will become obsolete and outdated long before its expected design life is over.
- d) There will be significant resource expenditure and impact to the community (during construction) for no net overall benefit.
- e) The design does not provide maximum public value for this strategic location.
- f) The design will preclude future economic investment to support local business and provide vibrant and engaging offerings for the community.
- g) The design fails to consider important contextual factors that have significantly shifted since the original reference design in 2019.
- h) The UDLP is discordant with multiple aspects of the approved North East Link Urban Design Strategy.
- i) The UDLP does not meet several Environmental Performance Requirements, specifically LP2, LP3 and SW11.



***Taking into account Council's aforementioned concerns, should the UDLF be approved, Council requests that the approval be subject to the conditions outlined in Appendix A below.***

# Appendix A

34

<b>Capacity</b>		22	The sharp angle of the shared user path (where it turns to pass under the Doncaster Road bridge) addressed via an increased radius and/or other measures to limit speeds.
1	Robust future proofing for conversion to a mixed-use TOD including (but not limited to) increased floor-to-ceiling heights, connections/conduits to support future amenities, and structural considerations for additional building and/or car parking levels.	23	The path connecting the shared user path to the pedestrian operated signals at the Hender Street / Doncaster Road intersection widened so that cyclists can ride right up to the crossing.
2	Additional car parking levels to provide increased capacity in response to growing demand.	24	Further deterrents for cyclists not to ride onto bus platforms, in particular Platform 1 and 3.
<b>Architecture / Urban Design</b>		25	Clarification of crossing treatments and any signals for pedestrians to cross between platforms, to demonstrate that pedestrians are given priority.
3	A second floor level provided to the passenger services building, designed in an appropriate manner to minimise all amenity and other impacts, to facilitate space for alternate commercial and/or community uses to operate within the building.	26	Additional pedestrian crossings provided at the intersection of Hender Street / Finlayson Street and Hender Street / Gray Street intersections, to facilitate local resident access east/west into and out of the Park and Ride site.
4	Clarification of the 'wing wall' extending to the north from the passenger services building, or deletion of the extension if it is superfluous.	27	Provision of an at-grade pedestrian crossing refuge and signalised crossing is required on the western side of the Doncaster Road / High Street intersection.
5	RGB values for the proposed yellow feature material, to the satisfaction of Council.	28	All shared user paths to have a minimum width of 3 metres.
6	A suitable alternative noise wall material that is high quality, textured, and durable – with incorporation of First Nations art as appropriate.	<b>Landscaping / Open Space</b>	
7	An additional visual treatment or design features to the long elevations of the car park structure, to break up the expansive linear appearance.	29	Provision of additional canopy trees within the car park as practicable, and within the southern corner of the site.
8	Relocation of the Telstra mast to be less prominent to the streetscape.	30	The rocks proposed within the and/or as part of the forecourt seating area to be thoughtfully sized and located to ensure they provide suitable seating and visual landscape outcomes.
9	Relocation and/or screening of the substation to minimise visual impacts.	31	A more practical approach to the green wall planting, to maximise the potential for built form softening that reaches the full height of relevant buildings.
10	Provision of fenestration or other meaningful design feature to soften the eastern wall of the passenger services building, in addition to the proposed green wall.	32	All canopy trees to be installed at a sufficiently mature height to maximise sightlines and provide mature landscaping from the outset.
<b>Traffic / Car Parking / Access</b>		33	A clear outline of how the heritage oak tree will be sensitively treated and managed (including in relation to any nearby drainage infrastructure).
11	A comprehensive traffic modelling assessment to support the proposal and any subsequent measures to mitigate parking and traffic impacts in the local area. The catchment for the analysis must be appropriately sized to ensure an accurate assessment of all potential impacts.	34	The heritage oak tree to be surrounded with mulch to its dripline.
12	A Traffic Management Plan to detail all contingencies and management of traffic congestion within the PUDO and multi-level car park, to Council's satisfaction.	<b>Amenity</b>	
13	Details and dimensions of the traffic splitter island at Finlayson Street / Hender Street and clear demonstration that emergency services vehicles will have access, with modification to the shape/design of the island as necessary.	35	Details and/or measurements to demonstrate how the bus platform canopies will provide adequate protection from all types of weather.
14	Relocation of the staff car parking spaces to avoid conflict with the vehicle exit lane from the car park.	36	A review of all seating locations on bus platforms with comments to justify the locations in relation to passenger safety and comfort.
15	Clear directional signage and distinctive coloured pavement provided to delineate the bus-only lane at the vehicle entry to the site. The coloured pavement (usually red for buses) must extend for a significant length into the site to avoid private vehicles continuing past the car park entry and into the busway.	37	A bike repair station provided near the entry or within the parkiteer.
16	Confirmation that ongoing road operation and management responsibility for the PUDO area will be transferred to the State.	38	Provision of a wall-mounted desk/shelf or similar and power stations within passenger services building.
17	Relocation and/or redesign of the DDA car parking space within the PUDO to more clearly differentiate it and deter general public vehicles from using it as another short-term space within the PUDO.	39	Appropriate replacement of public seating on Hender Street as necessary, in direct consultation with Council.
<b>Pedestrians and Cyclists</b>		<b>General</b>	
18	The pedestrian crossing separating the PUDO from Finlayson / Hender Streets raised if practicable, or otherwise provided with a clear visual threshold treatment. If the crossing is not raised, a road safety audit to confirm the treatment is suitable must be provided.	40	Cultural themes to be more actively included throughout the design, beyond plant selection alone.
19	Additional physical protection for pedestrians at the southern edge of the southernmost car parks within the PUDO.	41	Water Sensitive Urban Design elements demonstrated via a comprehensive WSUD plan, with appropriate water quality outcomes achieved.
20	A planting buffer provided along the western side of the vehicle exit lane from the carpark, to prevent pedestrians crossing away from the designated crossing point.	42	Details of all lighting to demonstrate effective lighting that does not cause amenity impacts, to be provided throughout the site and along the path network within 400 metres of the site.
21	A fence or other physical barrier provided to prevent pedestrians from the eastern PUDO lane walking across the western PUDO lane away from the designated crossing point.	43	Additional details to confirm adequate security measures for the site and facility.
		44	Details of a canopy or other solar/weather protection provided to the top level of the car park.
		45	Details including the location, orientation, number and size of solar panels throughout the site and details of what they will power.
		46	Inclusion of electric vehicle chargers.
		47	The voluntary purchase scheme proactively advertised to heavily impacted residents including those fronting Hender Street.
		48	All documents thoroughly reviewed to correct any inconsistencies and errors, including those outlined by Council's submission to the UDLF.



# Draft Parking Management Framework

Eastern Transport Coalition  
19 September 2024

Karen O’Gorman

Built Environment and Infrastructure

# What is the Draft Parking Management Framework?

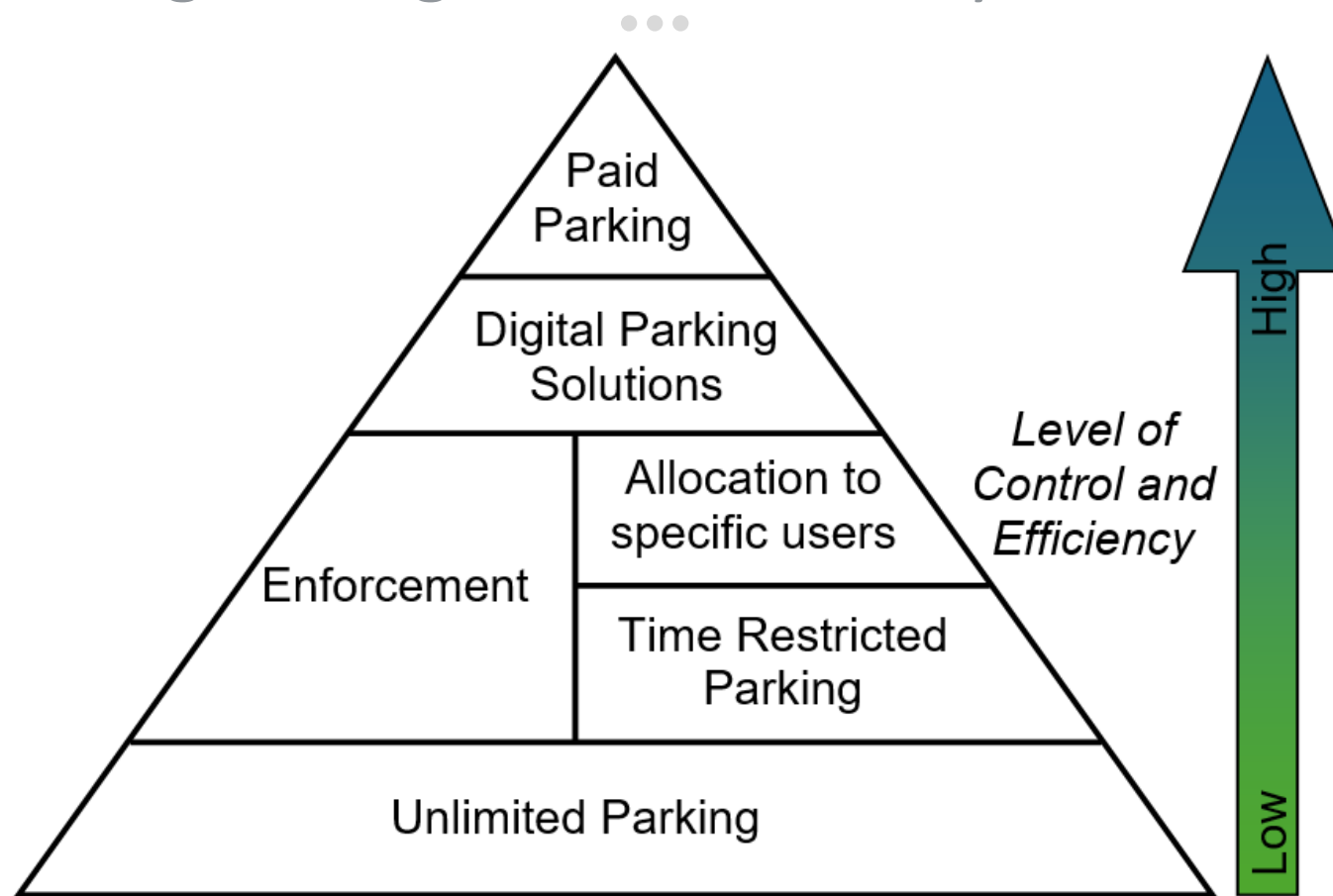
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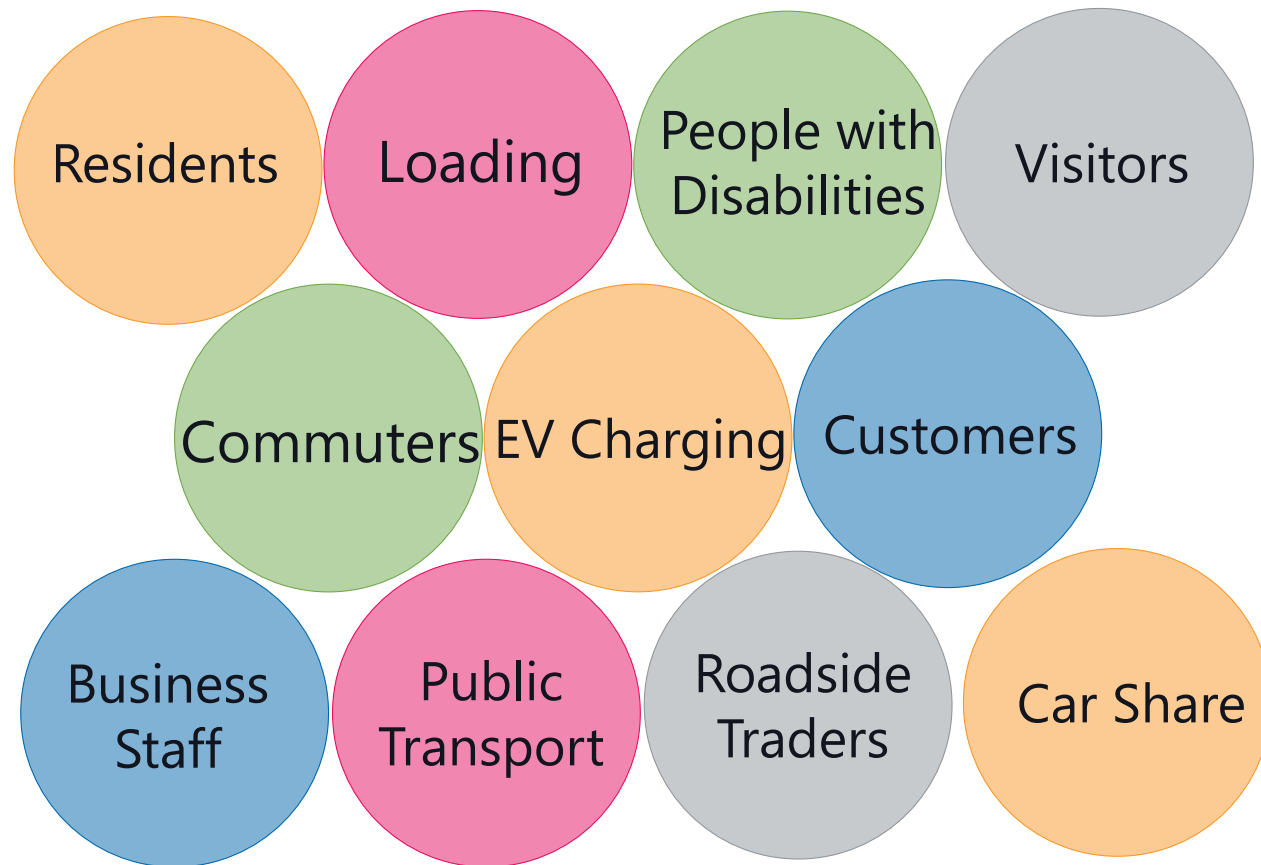
# Parking Management Hierarchy of Control

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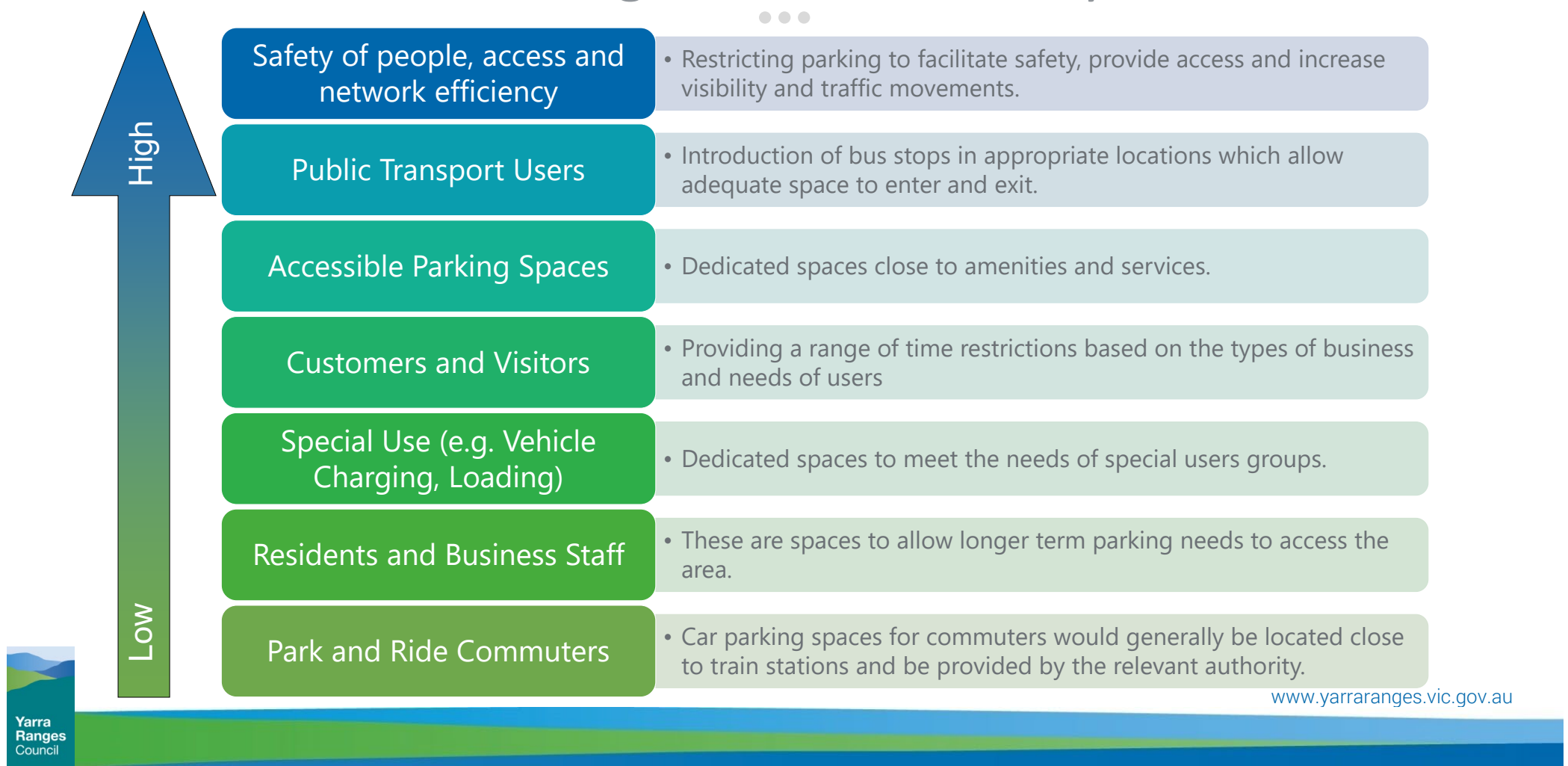


# Needs of Different Users

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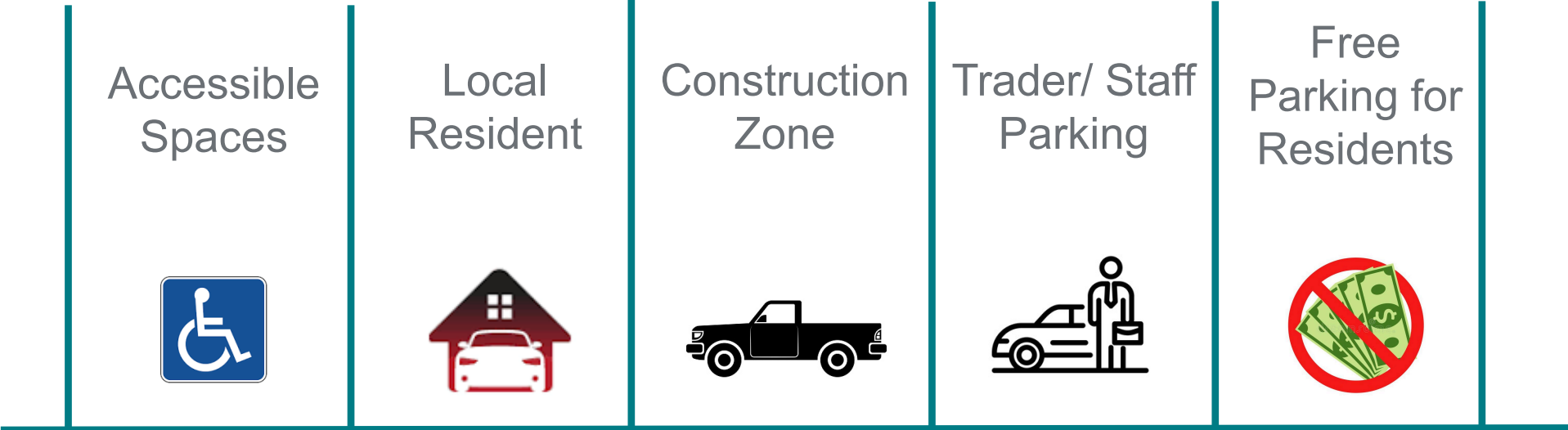
# Parking Allocation Priority





# Types of Parking Permits

6



# Paid Parking Trial

7

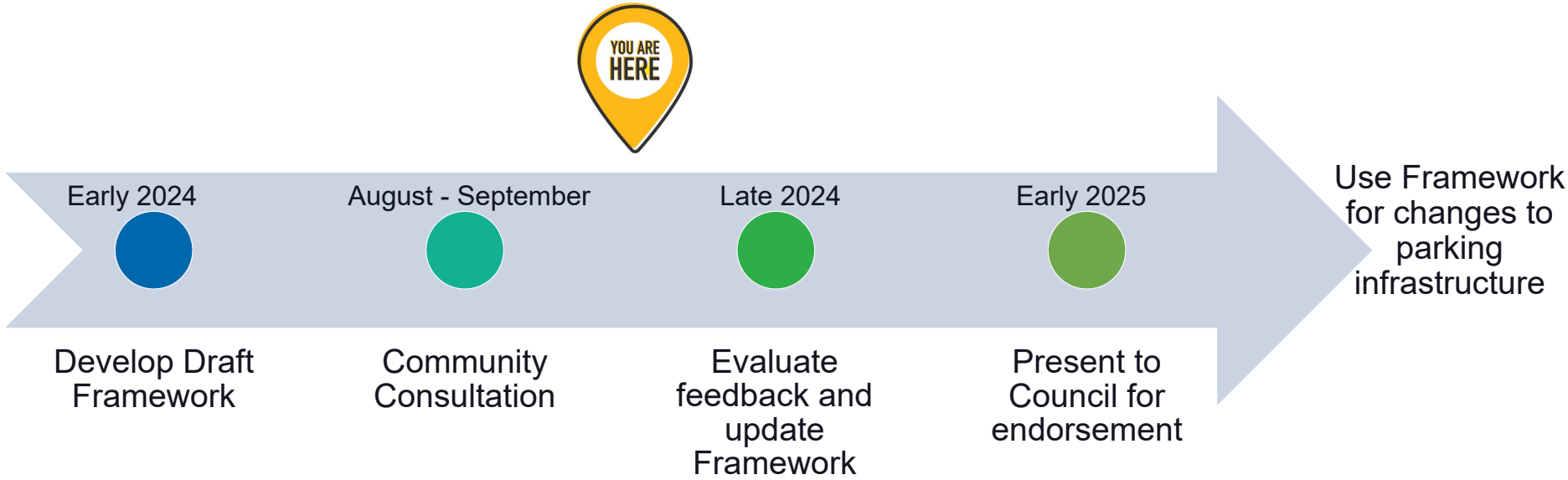


# Process of Evaluating Changes to Parking Restrictions

8



# Next Steps









**Attachment A**

## EASTERN TRANSPORT COALITION MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024

**Time:** 6.30 – 8.30pm

**Host:** City of Greater Dandenong, and Online

### Attendees:

#### Councillors

- Cr Tina Liu, City of Whitehorse

#### Officers

- Christopher Marshall, City of Greater Dandenong
- Shane Hardingham, Knox City Council
- Emma Steele, Manningham City Council
- Andrew Mangan, Manningham City Council
- Terry Tillotson, City of Monash
- Chris Hui, City of Whitehorse
- Karen O’Gorman, Yarra Ranges Council
- Kim O’Connor, Yarra Ranges Council

#### Secretariat

- James McGarvey, The Agenda Group

#### Guest

- Graham Smith, Executive General Manager, Kinetic

#### Apologies

- Cr Stuart James, City of Monash (Chair)
- Cr Susan Laukens, Knox City Council
- Cr Andrew Fullager, Yarra Ranges Council
- Cr Anna Chen, Manningham City Council
- Cr Rhonda Garad, City of Greater Dandenong
- Cr Tony Dib, Maroondah City Council
- Michael Blowfield, Maroondah City Council
- Martin Halden, City of Greater Dandenong
- Matthew Hanrahan, Knox City Council
- Yingnan Wang, Knox City Council
- Winchelle Chuson, Knox City Council
- Sandra Worsnop, City of Monash
- Rachel Kamath, City of Whitehorse

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

As Crs James and Laukens were apologies, Tery Tillotson, City of Monash, assumed the Chair and welcomed the attendees.

**2. Conflicts of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were raised.

**3. ETC Finance Report**

The finance report for the ETC for September- October 2024 is as follows:

Opening Balance for September 2024	Operating \$12,470.91	Advocacy \$3,000	Total \$15,470.91
August Invoice from TAG	-\$7,500.00		
September Invoice from TAG	-\$7,500.00		
Income	\$24,000	\$6,000	
Closing Balance for October 2024	\$19,470.91	\$9,000	\$28,470.91

*The report was not formally received, due to lack of quorum.*

**4. Ratify Previous Draft Minutes and Actions Arising**

Minutes of the September ETC meeting:

*The minutes were not formally received, due to lack of quorum.*

## **5. 2024 ETC Advocacy Workplan**

### **Trails campaign**

Mr McGarvey reported that the Trails policy document was well under development with a graphic designer. The challenge is to incorporate maps of each trail as easy to understand visuals for each area. A draft of the document should be available to display at the next ETC meeting, and excerpts from the document on each individual trail will be forwarded to officers from relevant councils for final proofing of details.

In preparation for the campaigning phase of the project, Mr McGarvey asked each ETC member to give thought to compiling a list of stakeholder groups in their municipalities who may take an interest in supporting a local trail project.

This list of stakeholders can then be targeted during a campaign through mailouts or social media activity to demonstrate their support by signing e-petitions, letters to MPs and candidates, etc.

### **Preparation for the Federal Election**

Mr McGarvey reported that a number of councils had flagged that they were not able to confirm advocacy priority projects for the upcoming federal election until new council groups, post the elections, have had a chance to review and approve items for their respective councils.

In light of this, time permitting, once councils have clarity around their federal advocacy priorities, these can again be considered for ETC support during the run up to the federal election.

## **6. Guest presentation - fast tracking electrification and improved transport outcomes across Melbourne and the east**

Graham Smith, Executive General Manager with Kinetic joined the meeting to provide a presentation on the company's position and advocacy on fast tracking electrification of the public transport bus fleet and improved transport outcomes across Melbourne and the east.

Kinetic commenced in Australia as Skybus, and has since expanded to become the largest bus operator across Australia and New Zealand, and is a 50% shareholder in rail operator GoAhead in the UK. Kinetic took over the Melbourne bus franchise from Transdev in 2022, covering routes including across the east of Melbourne with a depot in Doncaster, and has worked to improve all facets of service delivery since acquiring the franchise.

Recruitment of women bus drivers, employee satisfaction, depot upgrades, safety and cleanliness have been key areas of improvement to date.



Kinetic aspire to operate 100% zero emissions vehicles in Melbourne by 2035. The company now operates two electrified depots, with four to go, and currently operates 37 ZEBs as part of its stage one phase.

The company has set out a four-stage plan to achieve full electrification of the fleet and depots, and is in discussion with the Victorian Government on stage 2 of the plan, to bring on 49 more zero emissions buses.

The bus fleet and depots serving Melbourne's eastern routes would be electrified under stages 3 and 4 of Kinetic's plan.

Graham also outline Kinetic's thinking on the challenges it has identified to providing an optimal bus service. Suggestions include:

- Implement Monday & Friday, Tuesday – Thursday and weekend timetables
- Re-route / spread CBD services out – remove some from Lonsdale Street to reduce congestion, improve safety and improve connections with Trams
- Increase bus priority – physical lanes / restrictions or through on-bus technology (e.g. transponders to call for priority)
- Maximising the benefits from the North East Link by reviewing the route from the Eastern Freeway through to the City along Hoddle St, Victoria Pde and Lonsdale St
- Maximising capacity at the Doncaster and Bulleen Park & rides and development of a Park and Ride at Blackburn Road.

*A copy of Graham's presentation will be circulated with the meeting's minutes.*

## 7. Local issue presentation

Chris Marshall, from the City of Greater Dandenong provided the group with a presentation on the Webster Street Level Crossing Removal Project.

The project is located at a key crossing point surrounded by residential, commercial, industrial and redevelopment zones, just outside the boundary of the Central Dandenong Revitalisation zone.

The area is marked by constrained road linkages to the main activities centre of Dandenong.

There have been a range of consultations held on aspects of the project since its inception in 2018, and the expectation is that final designs will be released by the end of this year, with construction to begin in 2025. State Government funding constraints suggest that opportunities for upgrades to related trails and roads will not be realised.

*A copy of Chris' presentation will be circulated with the meeting's minutes.*

## 8. General Business

No general business items were raised.

## 9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be hosted online, and will commence at 6.30pm on Thursday, 21st November 2024.

### Action Summary

Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline
1. ETC members to list stakeholder groups in their municipalities who may take an interest in supporting a local trail project	All members	November 2024
2. ETC secretariat to liaise with each council to compile list of federal election advocacy projects.	Council officers	December 2024

# Trails for Tomorrow

Invest in Eastern Victoria's  
Recreational Pathways



2024  
Trail Funding Priorities



## About ETC

### What is the Eastern Transport Coalition?

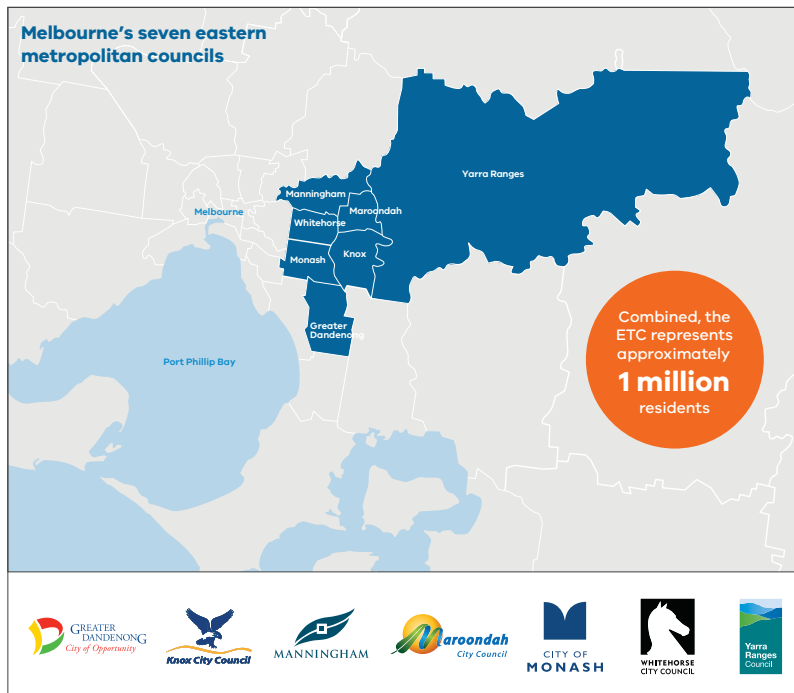
The Eastern Transport Coalition (ETC) consists of representatives from Melbourne's seven eastern metropolitan councils:

- City of Greater Dandenong
- Knox City Council
- Manningham Council
- Maroondah City Council
- Monash City Council
- Whitehorse City Council
- Yarra Ranges Council

Combined, the ETC represents approximately one million residents. We advocate for sustainable and integrated transport services that reduce car dependency.

**We aim to work with federal and state governments to ensure the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of Melbourne's outer east.**

The initiatives we promote are crucial to the eastern region's growing business opportunities, thriving job market, clean air and liveable communities.



## Why Trails?



Regional trails are shared trails that accommodate multiple potential user groups (particularly pedestrians and cyclists), are mostly off-road, have a relatively long and continuous length and have a regional scale, purpose and impact.

Trails not only promote healthier lifestyles and provide community enrichment but also enhance local economies by attracting outdoor enthusiasts from across Victoria.

**By investing in trails, we can create safe, accessible spaces that encourage physical activity, improve mental well-being, and connect people to nature.**

This policy document advocates for government funding that will enrich our communities in Melbourne's outer east, support sustainable transportation, and provide lasting benefits for generations to come.

The trails outlined in this funding proposal have been carefully evaluated by the member councils of the ETC and identified as high-priority projects for our region. These trails are not only essential for enhancing outdoor recreational opportunities but also play a significant role in promoting environmental stewardship and community connectivity.

By securing funding for these initiatives, we aim to provide a range of benefits to the community:



### Social & health benefits

Regional trails create spaces for people to exercise with others which creates community connection and contributes to good mental and physical health.



### Environmental benefits

A high quality regional trail network encourages people to choose to walk or cycle to destinations, rather than using motorised transport modes. This results in reduced vehicle numbers on roads, and the resulting reductions in air pollutants, noise pollution and congestion issues.

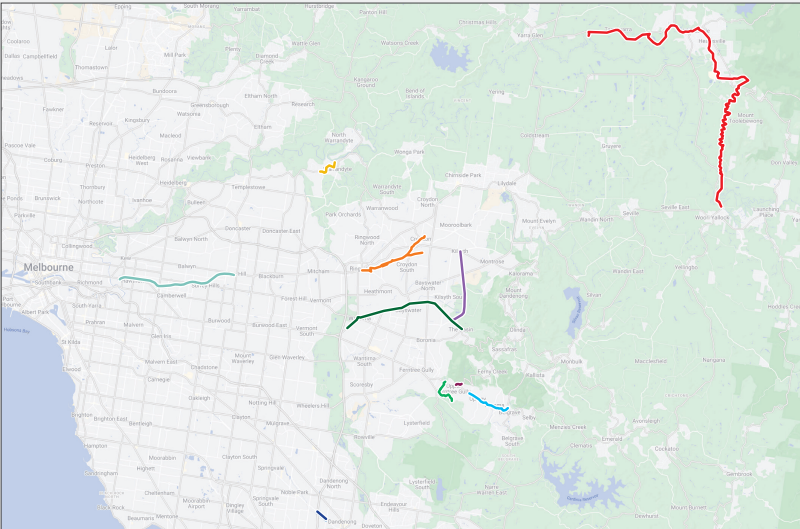


### Economic and tourism benefits

Most of the visitors to the regional trails in eastern Melbourne live in Melbourne themselves. These local tourists have the same potential to provide economic advantage as those travelling greater distances before arrival. The trails can also provide a focus for economic activity. This includes activities such as personal training and fitness.



Top 10 Proposed Trails



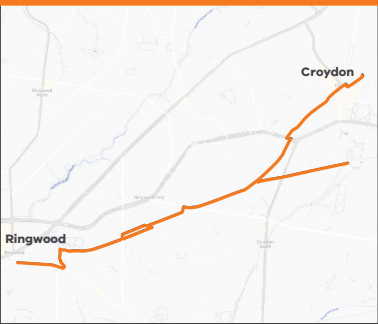
Click on the Trail below for more information

Trail #	Proposed Trail Location	Local Government Area
1	Box Hill to Ringwood – Ringwood to Croydon	Maroondah City Council
2	Djerring Trail	City of Greater Dandenong
3	Ferny Creek Trail	Knox City Council & Yarra Ranges Council
4	Yarra Valley Trail	Yarra Ranges Council
5	Heathmont to Belgrave Rail Trail	Yarra Ranges Council
6	Mountain Hwy shared path from Eastlink Trail to The Basin	Knox City Council
7	Main Yarra Trail	Manningham Council
8	Liverpool Road	Knox City Council
9	Heathmont to Belgrave Rail Trail	Knox City Council
10	Box Hill to Ringwood – Box Hill To Hawthorn (Stages A, B & C)	City of Boroondara

Trail #1

Box Hill to Ringwood – Ringwood to Croydon (Stage 1: Bedford Road Link)

**Length:** ???  
**Location:** Ringwood & Ringwood East  
**Local Government Area:** Maroondah City Council  
**State electorate:** Ringwood & Croydon  
**Federal electorate:** Deakin



Objectives and benefits

The project is an important link in the larger 30-kilometre CBD to Croydon Strategic Cycling Corridor which is a key route for the eastern metropolitan cycling network. It will:

- Create a direct, safer and continuous journey for walking and cycling along Bedford Road, through Bedford Park Reserve and along Railway Avenue with facilities to connect the Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre to Ringwood East Activity Centre, public transport, nearby schools, community hubs and other local cycling paths.
- Lead and draw visitors along the Lilydale railway line to, and through, the Bedford Park Reserve with enhanced landscaping and clearer and formalised walking and cycling paths.
- Reinforce commuter journey to stations, schools and shops and connect visitors to places of interest and support local living in the community.
- Complement and protect the significant vegetation sites within the Bedford Park Reserve.

Major facilities & enhancements

When complete, Bedford Road between the Warrandyte Road intersection and Great Ryrie Road intersection will feature:

- A 3m exclusive and protected di-directional bicycle path and 1.5m exclusive footpath on the northern roadside.
- A 2.5m di-directional shared path on the south side to the school gate of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Primary School.
- A bicycle lane extensions and integration with Warrandyte Road intersection pedestrian crossings.

Through the Bedford Park Reserve, and along the Lilydale railway line, will feature:

- A meandering 3m di-directional shared path with lighting to give a slower journey that avoids existing significant vegetation areas.
- A rest node at the community gardens with seating, bike parking, bicycle repair station and drinking fountain.
- Landscaping enhancements to frame and protect existing significant vegetation areas from encroachment from shared paths.
- A wider and raised 3m bi-directional shared path along Railway Avenue with barrier kerb to protect against the proximity to traffic.

Project supporters



- Department of Transport and Planning
- Bicycle Network
- Victoria Walks
- Metropolitan East Bicycle User Group (MeBUG)
- Ringwood Secondary College
- Bedford Park Community Centre
- Maroondah Girl Guides
- Bedford Park Community Garden

Project delivery



This project has an estimated delivery timeframe of 2025, to link in with the construction timeframes for the walking and cycling facilities delivered by the Bedford Road and Dublin Road Level Crossing Removal Projects.

**Project estimated cost:** Stage 1: \$2.8m  
**Funding request:** \$2.8m

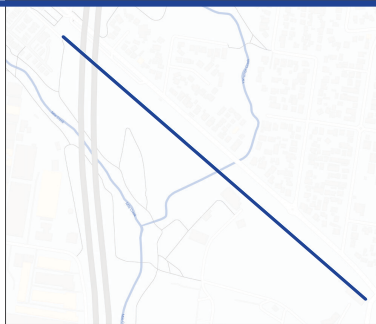
## Trail #2

### Djerring Trail (Stage 3)

**Length:** 2km

**Location:** Greaves Reserve to intersection of Railway Parade, Bennett Street and Jones Road  
**Local Government Area:** City of Greater Dandenong

**State electorate:** Dandenong  
**Federal electorate:** Bruce



#### Objectives and benefits

The proposed trail forms part of the 2km trail leg from Yarraman Station to Dandenong Station and Dandenong Metropolitan Activity Centre, which has not been constructed as part of the Caulfield-Dandenong level crossing removal program. Consequently, this relatively short section of the extensive Djerring Trail is a missing link between Caulfield and the south-eastern suburbs. It will:

- Provide active transport trail connection between Yarraman Station and Dandenong Metropolitan Activity Centre.
- Improve resident access to Greaves Reserve which is used for recreation and major events.
- Improve access to jobs and retail opportunities in the industrial area.
- Address active transport safety and accessibility barriers at the intersection, including a footpath connection to the west of Railway Parade.
- Improve connectivity to the East Link trail.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

- Reconstruct signalised intersection to provide required space for a shared-user path.
- Provide missing footpath connection from the intersection to the existing footpath along Railway Parade, west of the intersection.
- Provide wombat zebra crossing across Bennet St from Greaves Reserve.

#### Project supporters

- Department of Transport and Planning
- Bicycle Network
- TAC



#### Project delivery

A 2025 delivery would allow for the reconstruction of the intersection required to facilitate the construction of Stage 4 of this trail. Without Stage 3 being funded, the benefits of other stages cannot be realised.

**Project estimated cost:** \$8 million

**Funding request:** \$8 million

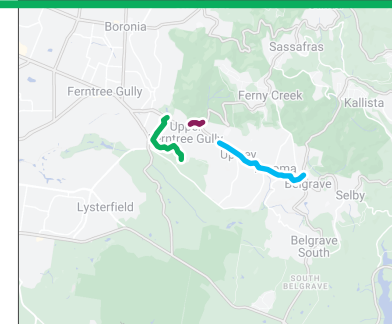


## Trail #3

### Ferny Creek Trail (Stages 1 & 2)

**Length:** 2.8km

**Location:** Upper Ferntree Gully  
Stage 1 – Burwood Highway to Mason Street  
Stage 2 – Mason Street to New Road  
**Local Government Area:** Knox City Council & Yarra Ranges Council  
**State electorate:** Monbulk & Rowville  
**Federal electorate:** Aston



#### Objectives and benefits

Ferny Creek Trail is a key commuting and recreational trail for the outer-eastern region.

The proposed 2.8km shared path extension of the Ferny Creek Trail is a community-requested extension that will allow controlled access into a significant natural corridor. This will service several clubs and recreational facilities located within Gilmour Park, Kings Park, and the Glenfern Valley Bushland Reserve and will encourage users to travel by foot and bike, especially during wet weather.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

The proposed trail will provide a 2.5m off-road shared path, extending the existing Ferny Creek Trail to Glenfern Valley Bushland Reserve in the Yarra Ranges. It will be a key route connecting Knox to Birdland Park in the Yarra Ranges.

The link will feature:

- A 2.5m wide concrete/asphalt shared path next to the kerb of the road on the south side of Acacia Road from the existing Ferny Creek Trail to Kings Park entry and signed shared zone between Kings Park entry and Mason Street.
- A 2.5m shared path along Acacia Road from Mason Street and along the natural footprint of the Ferny Creek Trail, which serves recreational and commuter users alike.

#### Project supporters

- Department of Transport and Planning
- Bicycle Network
- Victoria Walks
- Metropolitan East Bicycle User Group (MeBUG)
- Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands



#### Project delivery

**Stage 1:** 2026 (shared path along Acacia Road) to be piggybacked on Acacia Road Reconstruction that will be designed in FY24/25 and constructed in FY26/27.

**Stage 2:** 2028

**Project estimated cost:** \$2 million

**Funding request:** \$2 million



Ferny Creek Trail

## Trail #4

### Yarra Valley Trail (Stage 2B & Stage 3)

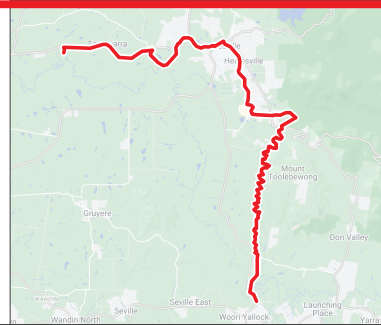
**Length:** 11km (Stage 2B) & 22km (Stage 3)

**Location:** Tarrawarra to Woori Yallock, via Healesville

**Local Government Area:** Yarra Ranges Council

**State electorate:** Eildon

**Federal electorate:** Casey



#### Objectives and benefits

Yarra Valley Trail Stages 2B and 3 will create an off-road recreational and active transport link between Tarrawarra and Woori Yallock, connecting Yarra Valley Trail to Lilydale and to Warburton Highway, completing a valley-wide network of shared trails.

The proposed trail will attract visitors to the region and contribute to sustainable growth in the Yarra Valley visitor economy, supporting local businesses and communities, creating local jobs and building a social licence for tourism.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

When complete, Yarra Valley Trail Stage 2B will feature:

- Approx 8.2 km of new 2.5 m unsealed shared trail.
- Approx 2.8 km of existing sealed trail, upgraded to a minimum 2.5 m shared path standard where required.
- Connections to trail nodes at Tarrawarra Railway Station and Healesville Railway Station, integrating with future Yarra Valley Railway heritage services between Yarra Glen and Healesville.

When complete, Yarra Valley Trail Stage 3 will feature:

- Approx. 22 km of sealed and unsealed shared trail, including:
  - An approx. 4.1 km sealed connection from Healesville township to Healesville Sanctuary, upgrading the existing footpath network to 2.5 m shared path.
  - An approx. 18 km unsealed connection from Badger Creek to Woori Yallock, with a significant portion of trail following the Coranderrk Aqueduct (when decommissioned).

#### Project supporters

- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Parks Victoria
- VicTrack
- Yarra Ranges Tourism, Rail Trails Australia, Healesville Traders Association, Warburton Valley CEDA, Wine Yarra Valley, and various community and sporting groups across the region.

#### Project delivery

2027 to follow on from Yarra Valley Trail Stage 2A: Yarra Glen to Tarrawarra.

**Project estimated cost:** \$9 million

**Funding request for Stages 2B & 3:** \$9 million

## Trail #5

### Heathmont to Belgrave Rail Trail (Upwey to Belgrave)

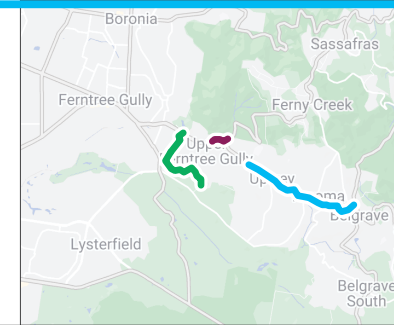
**Length:** 3.2km

**Location:** Upwey to Belgrave

**Local Government Area:** Yarra Ranges Council

**State electorate:** Monbulk

**Federal electorate:** Aston



#### Objectives and benefits

The project is an important link in the larger 30-kilometre Melbourne to Warburton Strategic Cycling Corridor, which is a key route for the eastern metropolitan cycling network. It will:

- Upgrade the existing trail to create a safe and continuous journey for walking and cycling between Belgrave and Upwey, with connections to Belgrave, Tecoma and Upwey railway stations, nearby schools, community hubs and the broader Heathmont to Belgrave Trail.
- Encourage active transport between townships and to railways stations, schools, community hubs and commercial precincts.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

Upgrade approx. 3.2km of existing trail to Yarra Ranges Council Level 1 Shared Path standard, including:

- Regrade / reconstruct steep trail sections east of Morris Road, Upwey.
- Move mid-trail obstructions (power poles) at Burwood Highway, Upwey.
- Reconstruct (widen and realign) trail north of Upwey Railway Station.
- Reconstruct McNicol Road crossing and upgrade trail interface with Tecoma Primary School and Railway Station.
- Reconstruct narrow trail sections between Tecoma and Belgrave, noting that narrow corridor and railway cutting present construction challenges.
- Safety upgrades to Blacksmiths Way, Belgrave and interface with Belgrave Railways Station and bus interchange.
- Surface and drainage upgrades throughout.

#### Project supporters (\*assumed supporters):

- Rail Trails Australia
- Tecoma Primary School
- **Bicycle Network\***
- **Victoria Walks\***
- **Metropolitan East Bicycle User Group (MeBUG)\***
- Belgrave Hub
- Upwey Community Link

#### Project delivery

2025

**Project estimated cost:** \$2 million

**Funding already committed:** \$400,000

**Funding request:** \$1.6 million

## Trail #6

### Mountain Highway shared path from Eastlink Trail to The Basin (10 stages)

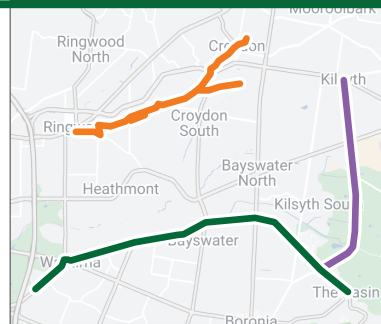
**Length:** 5.2km

**Location:** Wantirna, Bayswater, The Basin

**Local Government Area:** Knox City Council

**State electorate:** Bayswater

**Federal electorate:** Aston



#### Objectives and benefits

Mountain Highway is a key transport corridor in Knox. Completing the missing cycling links along Mountain Highway would provide cycling connections to the Dandenong Creek Trail, Eastlink Trail, Doongalla Forest Mountain Bike Tracks, and the very popular 1-in-20 climb that attracts over 2,000 cyclists every weekend.

The cycling route will also provide a safe cycling connection from The Basin to Deakin University via the Bayswater Business Precinct, Bayswater Activity Centre, Wantirna Mall, and the Wantirna Health Precinct.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

The proposed cycling link will consist of ten sections that are mainly constructed as shared paths or bicycle lanes on the northern side of Mountain Hwy. This 5.2km long cycling lane will provide a connection for commuter and recreational users between The Basin and the Eastlink Trail. In detail, the cycling link will feature:

1. Pedestrian lights outside Wantirna Primary School to Petalnina Drive, Wantirna – upgrade path from footpath to shared path width.
2. Petalnina Drive to Boronia Road – widen to 3m.
3. Upgrade footpath on Boronia Road south side between Wantirna Road and Mountain Highway.
4. North side of Mountain Highway from Boronia Road to Church Street: Upgrade footpath to shared path and on-road facilities throughout service roads.
5. North side of Mountain Highway from King Street to Scoresby Road (east side) and connect to Dandenong Creek Trail: Footpath upgrade to shared path.

6. North side from Whithers Road to municipal boundary on the west side of Dorset Road: Bike facilities on service road.
7. North side from Dorset Road to 1001 Mountain Highway: Upgrade footpath to shared path.
8. North side outside Miller Park to Liverpool Road: Shared path.
9. Liverpool Road intersection: Re-do grades and provide a suitable shared path connection to the school gate.
10. North side of The Basin Primary School to The Basin Triangle roundabout: Shared path to be constructed.

#### Project supporters

- Department of Transport and Planning
- Bicycle Network
- Victoria Walks
- Metropolitan East Bicycle User Group (MeBUG)
- Residents
- The Basin Primary School
- Mountain bike riders

#### Project delivery

2026

**Project estimated cost:** \$5 million

**Funding request:** \$5 million

## Trail #7

### Main Yarra Trail – Pound Road to Taroona Avenue

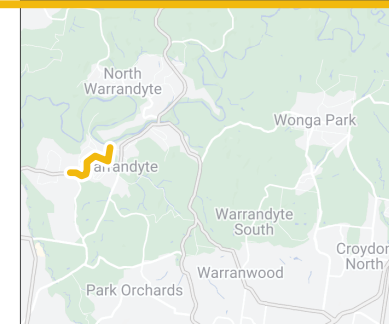
**Length:** ???

**Location:** Warrandyte

**Local Government Area:** Manningham Council

**State Electorate:** Warrandyte

**Federal Electorate:** Menzies



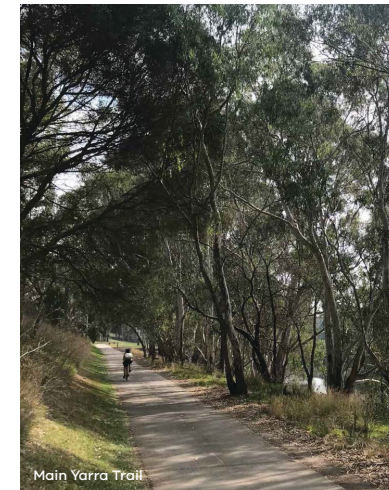
#### Objectives and benefits

The Main Yarra Trail is much loved by our community and an important environmental asset to the area. Providing an extension to the Warrandyte township will improve this experience and provide an additional link around the Yarra River. The existing Main Yarra Trail is a highly used link from inner-city suburbs, including Abbotsford to Templestowe and Eltham along the Yarra River.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

When completed, the Main Yarra Trail extension in Warrandyte will feature:

- Stage 3 – shared user path capacity (pending investigations)
- Stage 4 – pedestrian path extension only (bicycle route on-road)



Main Yarra Trail

#### Project delivery

Planning and design for Stage 3 is underway, however due to the complexity of the project it will need further discussion and approval from the Department of Transport and Planning.

Stage 4 is feasible as a pedestrian path only. It is planned for delivery this financial year (2024/25).

**Project estimated cost:** \$2.5 million

**Committed funding:** \$665,000

**Funding request:** \$1.85 million



## Trail #8

### Liverpool Road

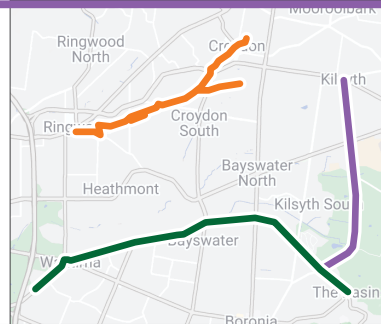
**Length:** 1.5km

**Location:** The Basin

**Local Government Area:** Knox City Council

**State electorate:** Croydon

**Federal electorate:** Deakin



#### Objectives and benefits

This project includes the construction of a 1.5km Liverpool shared path from Mountain Highway to Chandlers Lane (Bayswater), including the construction of kerb and channel and drainage upgrades.

It will improve the connection between the Dandenong Creek Trail and The Basin's 1 in 20 rides.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

This link will feature a 2.5m-wide concrete shared path connecting:

- The popular Liverpool Road Retarding Basin
- The Dandenong Creek Trail via Chandlers Lane
- The Doongalla Forest Mountain Tracks
- The Basin Primary School
- The Basin Community House
- Bayswater Business Precinct via Mountain Hwy
- The Basin 1/20 ride

#### Project supporters

- Department of Transport and Planning
- Bicycle Network
- Victoria Walks
- Metropolitan East Bicycle User Group (MeBUG)
- The Basin Primary School
- Residents
- Mountain Bike Riders
- Bayswater Business Precinct

#### Project delivery

2026, as this project will be partially funded (\$900k) via Knox City Council's capital work programs in FY 26/27 and FY27/28.

**Project estimated cost:** \$1.2 million

**Committed funding:** \$900,000

**Funding request:** \$100,000

## Trail #9

### Heathmont to Belgrave Rail Trail (Upper Ferntree Gully to Upwey link)

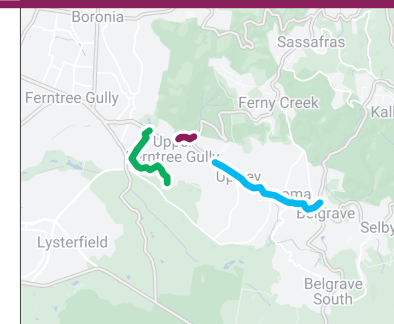
**Length:** 650m

**Location:** Upper Ferntree Gully

**Local Government Area:** Knox City Council

**State electorate:** Monbulk

**Federal electorate:** Aston



#### Objectives and benefits

Construction of a 650m-long missing link of Heathmont to Belgrave Rail Trail at Upper Ferntree Gully from Railway Avenue, School Road and the Mt Dandenong Tourist Road to Burwood Highway using the signal crossing point at Burwood Highway. This community-requested link has been sought after for decades.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

This missing link will feature a 2.5-meter-wide concrete shared path that completes the Upper Ferntree Gully section of the Heathmont to Belgrave Rail Trail. It will provide a safer and more accessible connection to several key destinations, including the Upper Ferntree Gully Train Station, the Dandenong Ranges National Park, the 1000 Steps, and various shops and services located on the south side of Burwood Highway. This development is eagerly anticipated by the community as it enhances both recreational opportunities and local connectivity.

#### Project supporters

- Department of Transport and Planning
- Bicycle Network
- Victoria Walks
- Parks Victoria
- Metropolitan East Bicycle User Group (MeBUG)
- Mountain Bike Riders
- Community

#### Project delivery

2026, as this project will be partially funded (\$900k) via Knox City Council's capital work programs in FY 26/27 and FY27/28.

**Project estimated cost:** \$400,000

**Funding request:** \$400,000

## Trail #10

### Box Hill to Ringwood – Box Hill To Hawthorn (Stages A, B & C)

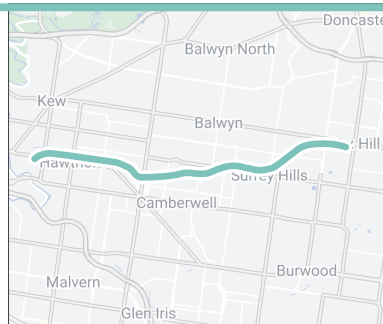
**Length:** 10km

**Location:** Box Hill, Mont Albert, Surrey Hills, Canterbury, Camberwell, Hawthorn East & Hawthorn

**Local Government Area:** City of Boroondara

**State electorate:** Box Hill & Hawthorn

**Federal electorate:** Kooyong



#### Project Background

The Strategic Cycling Corridor (SCC) network was initially developed by the Victorian Government in 2015. The SCC network aims to provide a cycling environment that is low stress, safe, and usable by cyclists of all ages.

The Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC is a key SCC, and is also included in Council's 2022 Bicycle Strategy as a high priority.

The Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC connects the Box Hill Metropolitan Activity Centre with the Hawthorn-Glenferrie Road Major Activity Centre, other key shopping strips at Surrey Hills, Canterbury, Hawthorn West as well as many schools and local destinations. The general corridor alignment developed by the Victorian Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), formerly VicRoads, follows the rail corridor and is the subject of a high-level DTP-led study. At Hawthorn, the SCC would then continue to the Central Business District through the Cities of Yarra and Melbourne.

The Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC presents a significant opportunity to deliver a high quality, low stress dedicated cycling link for a broad demographic of cyclists, including commuter, recreational and everyone in between.

The corridor travels through diverse environments and the SCC design approach allows for different configurations along the route, including off-road paths where space is available and on-road infrastructure where there are constraints on the rail corridor.

#### Objectives and benefits

The benefits of the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC are significant. The new cycling and walking link would provide a range of benefits to local communities, including:

- A safe, connected and direct corridor to walk and ride.
- A safe and direct commuter route to the Melbourne CBD.
- Safer and easier ways to walk and ride to get to the train.
- Safer ways to walk and ride to local places including schools, shopping centres and work.
- Improved safety for on-road cyclists that would use the off-road Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC path in preference to main roads.
- Improved local air quality from reduced tailpipe emissions.
- Reduced carbon emissions.
- Benefits to both the local Boroondara community as well as broader communities given its regional links and significance.

#### Major facilities & enhancements

By virtue of its directness and safety, the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC has the potential to become the busiest trail in the City of Boroondara and possibly one of the busiest commuter routes in Melbourne.

The proposed corridor aims to not only provide a direct east-west connection to Melbourne CBD but will also link all major activity centres, train stations, local schools, Swinburne University and other local attractions.

The Gardiners Creek Trail, which meanders along the southern boundary of Boroondara, averages in the order of 2,500 cyclists per day. With a safe, connected, direct link that services the heart of Boroondara, it is estimated that the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC would attract up to 5,000 cyclist trips per day within and beyond Boroondara.

#### Project supporters

- Department of Transport and Planning
- Bicycle Network
- Metropolitan East Bicycle User Group (MeBUG)



#### Project delivery

2025 – 2028

This project requires a commitment by the DTP to fund the detailed design for the entire length of the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC, along the preferred alignment and a commitment by DTP to fund the delivery of the entire length of the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC.

**Project estimated cost:** \$10 million

The outcomes sought are:

- Funding of \$10m to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) for the detailed design for the entire length of the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC at 10km along the preferred railway alignment.
- A commitment by the DTP to fund the construction of the entire length of the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC.
- DTP to seek Council and community input in the design of the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC.
- DTP to undertake the detailed design and construction of the Box Hill to Hawthorn SCC.

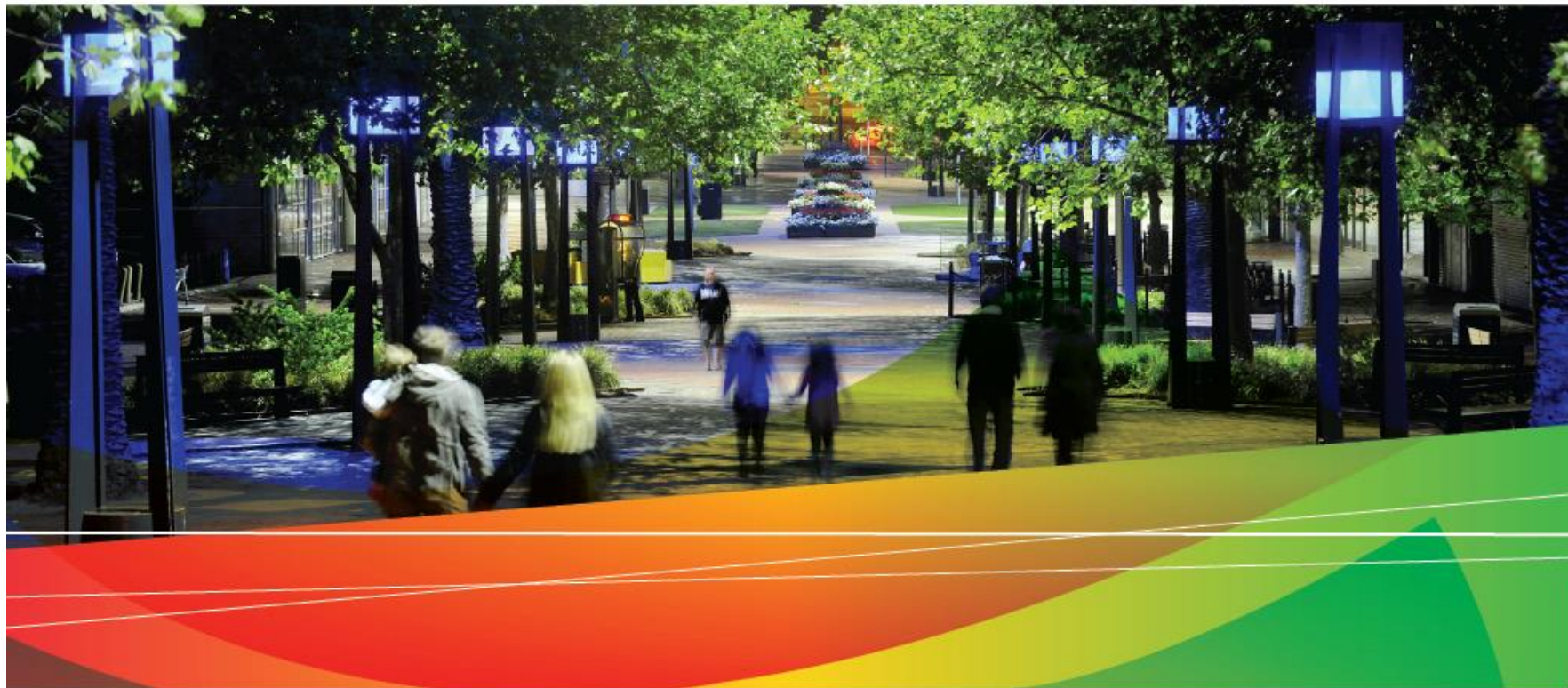
**Funding request:** \$10 million

Get in touch

-  [info@etc.org.au](mailto:info@etc.org.au)
-  [www.etc.org.au](http://www.etc.org.au)
-  [@CommutersCount](https://twitter.com/CommutersCount)
-  [Facebook.com/CommutersCount](https://Facebook.com/CommutersCount)

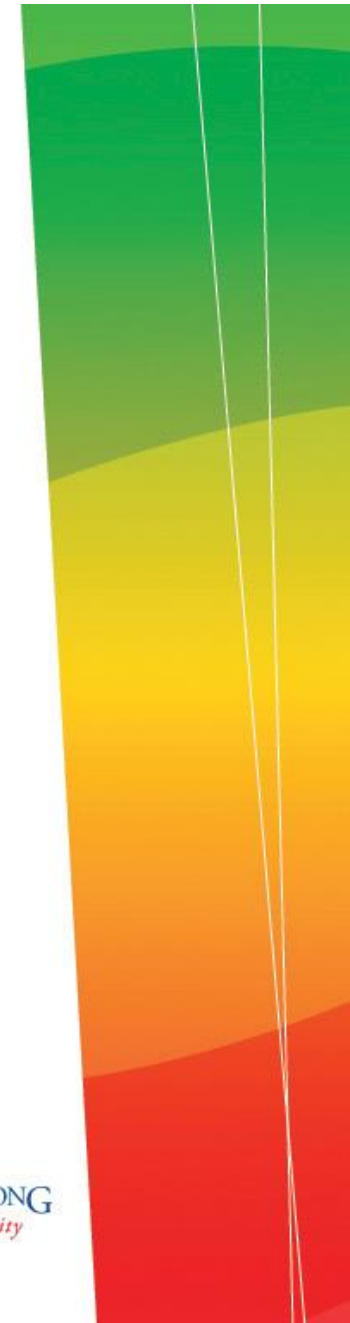
## Webster Street Level Crossing Removal Project

October 2024



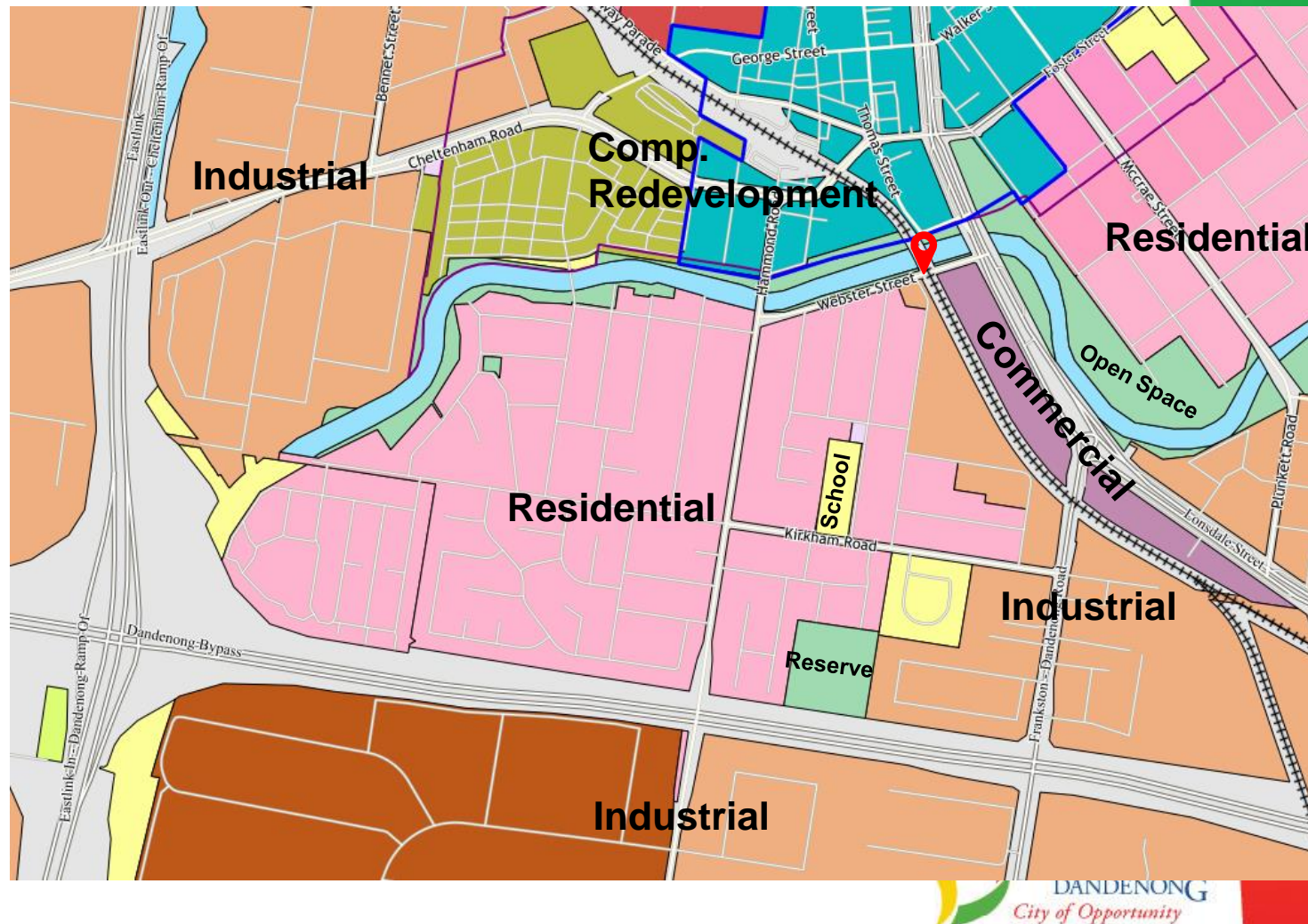


## Location

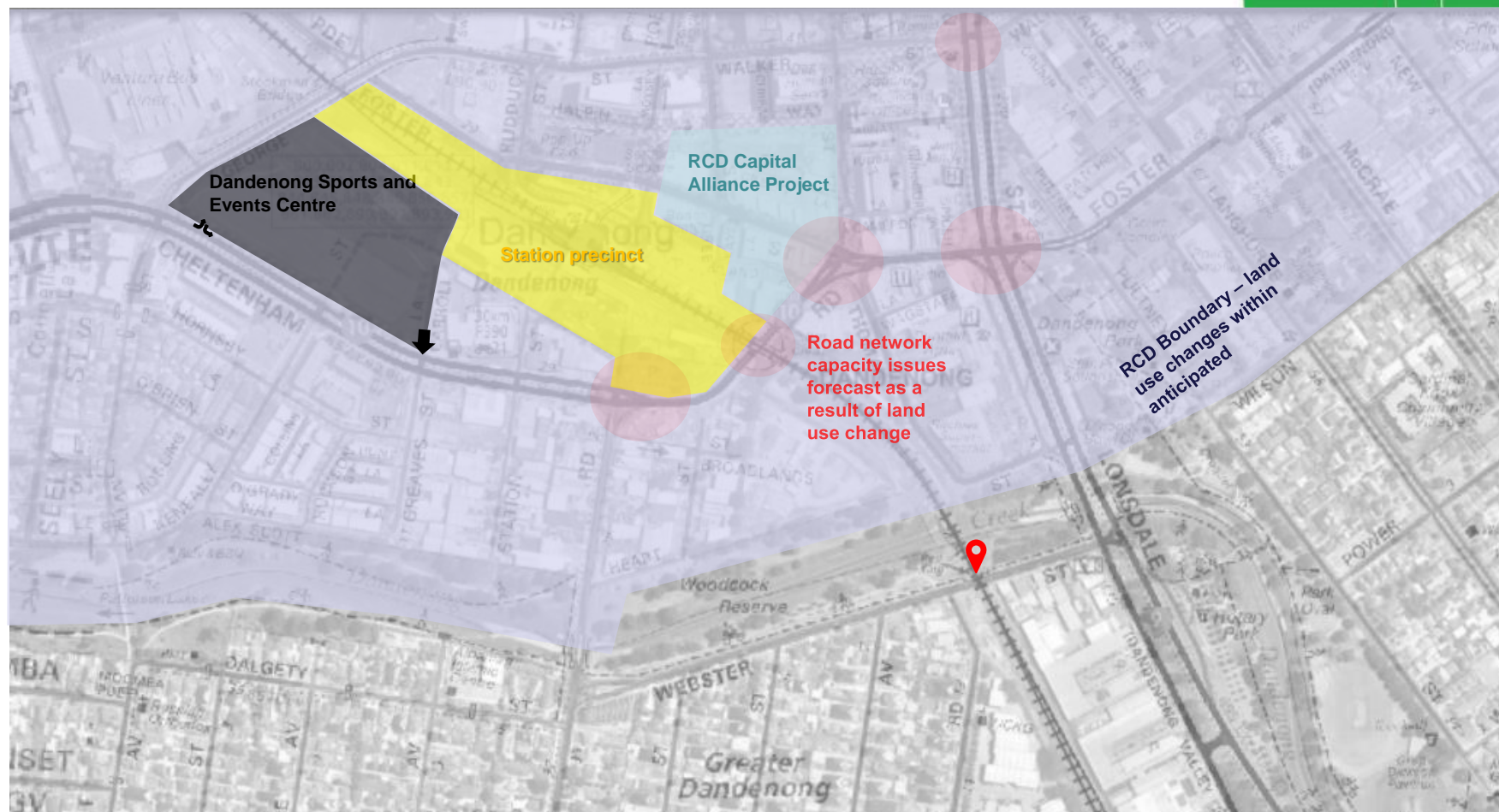




## Land Use

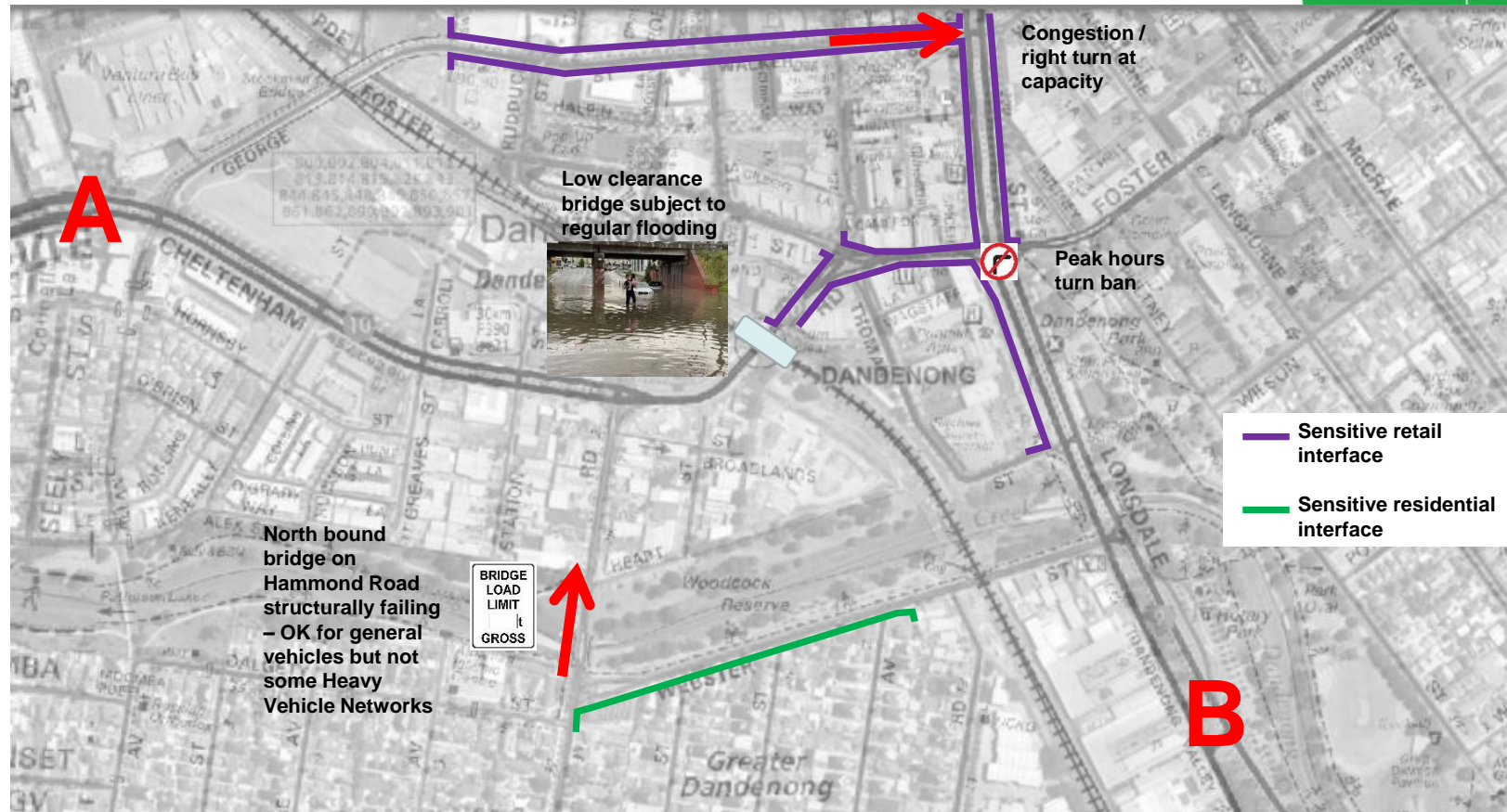


## Future major land use projects





## Road Network Constraints



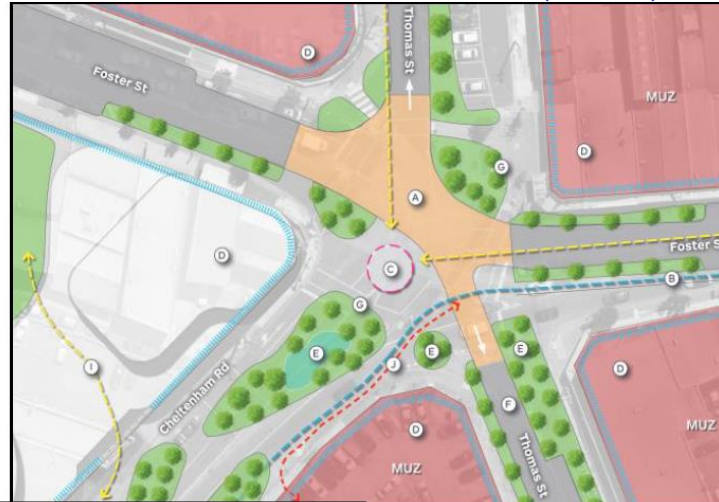


## Activity Centre opportunities



## Activity Centre opportunities

Thomas St/Foster St intersection (Area 2)



Lonsdale St intersection (Area 3)



Existing underpass (Area 1)



New intersection (Area 4)



## Level Crossing Removal Scope



### Why this level crossing needs to go?



Up to **10,000 vehicles** travel through this crossing each day



Boom gates are down for up to **62 minutes** during the morning peak (7am-9am)



**22 near misses** since 2012

## Consultation

- LXRP engaged properties and business being acquired
- LXRP consultation in November 2023
  - Council submission
- LXRP regularly engaged Council
  - Has resulted in improvements to concepts
  - Understanding of underpinning information
- Council has engaged
  - Development Victoria
  - Capital Alliance
  - Department of Transport and Planning
- Project meetings:
  - Fortnightly officer meetings
  - Monthly executive meetings

### Project timeline



#### 2018

- Level crossing removal project announced



#### 2022 to late 2023

- Site investigations, traffic surveys and planning works



#### November 2023

- Concept designs released
- Community consultation
- Site investigations continue



#### Late 2024

- Final designs released
- Early works



#### 2025

- Construction starts
- Boom gates gone for good



#### 2026-2028

- Construction



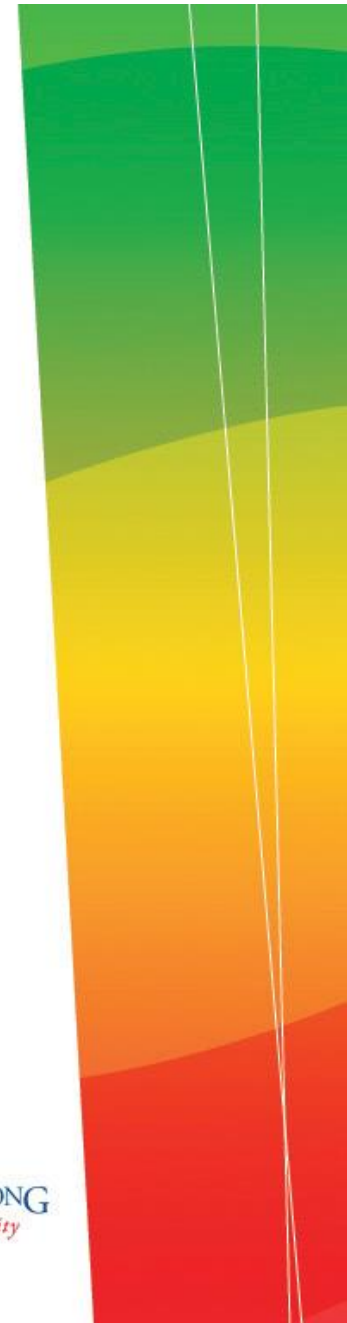
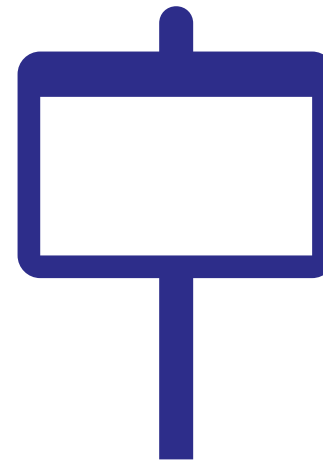
#### 2028

- New road underpass opens



## Next Steps

- LXP  
  - Community update
  - Award delivery contract
- Ongoing engagement with LXP
- Engage with DTP/LXP on underpass
- Road renaming
- Prepare advocacy and development planning recommendations
  - Activity centre master plan
  - Dandenong station master plan
  - Active transport network
  - Urban design
  - Flood management
  - Landscaping
  - Road network



## Questions



**Attachment B****ETC meeting dates for 2025 - draft.**

Meetings to be held on the third Thursday of the month. Face to face meetings begin at 6.00pm.  
Online meetings begin at 6.30pm.

Month	Host
February 20th	Online
March 20th	<b>Maroondah</b> 179 Maroondah Highway, Ringwood VIC 3134 Australia
April 17th	<b>Manningham</b> Manningham City Council, 699 Doncaster Rd, Doncaster VIC 3108, Australia
May 15th	Online
June 19th	<b>Monash</b> Monash City Council, 293 Springvale Rd, Glen Waverley VIC 3150, Australia
July 17th	<b>Knox</b> Knox City Council - 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna South
August 21st	Online
September 18th	<b>Yarra Ranges</b> Yarra Ranges Shire Council, 15 Anderson Street, Lilydale VIC 3140
October 16th	<b>Greater Dandenong</b> Dandenong Civic Offices, 225 Lonsdale Street, Dandenong
November 20th	Online
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Whitehorse</b> Whitehorse City Council, 379-397 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading VIC 3131, Australia



Minister for Environment, Steve Dimopolous  
Suite G.02 3 Chester Street  
Oakleigh  
VIC 3166

Dear Steve Dimopolous,

**RE: Request to reconsider the need for the Kerbside glass only service**

Maroondah City Council and 21 other local governments from across regional, metro and interfacing local government areas, are writing to respectfully request a reconsideration of the need for a Kerbside glass only recycling service in our communities. Whilst this collective of Councils understand the importance of glass recycling, we believe there are alternative approaches that can achieve the desired outcomes more effectively and efficiently.

Specifically, we would like to draw your attention to the following points:

1. Success of the Container Deposit Scheme (CDS): The Victorian Government's CDS has proven to be highly successful, with record numbers of containers collected in its first year of operation. The scheme has easy-to-access infrastructure and clear educational messaging, making it widely embraced by the community. Expanding the CDS to include wine and spirit bottles, as proposed in the national environment ministers' meeting agenda, would increase the collection of uncontaminated glass without imposing additional costs on local communities.
2. Cost-effectiveness of the CDS: The CDS operates as a product stewardship scheme, funded by the producers of the materials, rather than local communities. By utilizing the existing infrastructure and processes of the CDS, we can collect pure material streams, eliminating the decontamination costs associated with a glass only service. This approach makes more sense if the goal is to reduce contamination in glass recycling.
3. Research findings: A research project undertaken by 22 Councils, representing a quarter of all Victorian local governments, found that implementing a glass only service would come at a significant cost. The combined cost for these Councils was estimated at \$75 million, with an average cost of \$27 per household. Furthermore, conversations with glass beneficiation plant operators revealed that mechanical processing is still required to remove contamination from glass only services, resulting in no gate fee savings or reduced processing costs for MRFs. Additionally, Councils serviced by major MRFs in Melbourne are already achieving bottle-to-bottle recycling through their mixed recycling service.
4. Declining volumes of glass: It is important to consider the declining volumes of glass being collected. Investing in new infrastructure to collect increasingly smaller portions of glass limits our capacity to utilize the infrastructure for other materials and increase our overall resource recovery rate across the state. It is crucial to explore alternative approaches that can maximize resource recovery and minimize costs.

In light of these points, we kindly request that you reconsider the need for a kerbside glass only recycling service. By focusing on expanding the highly successful Container Deposit Scheme to include wine and spirit bottles, and exploring other cost-effective alternatives, we can achieve our recycling goals while minimizing the financial burden on households and local communities.

**Contact us**

**Phone** 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598 **Fax** 9298 4345

maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au | www.maroondah.vic.gov.au | PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134 | DX 38068, Ringwood

ABN 98 606 522 719





Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am available for further discussion or to provide any additional information that may assist in your decision-making process. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours Sincerely,

Firstname Surname  
Title  
Department

Council:	CEO name:	Signature:
Council:	CEO name:	Signature:
Council:	CEO name:	Signature:
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**Contact us**

**Phone** 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598 **Fax** 9298 4345

maroondah@maroondah.vic.gov.au | www.maroondah.vic.gov.au | PO Box 156, Ringwood 3134 | DX 38068, Ringwood

ABN 98 606 522 719



Council:	CEO name:	Signature:
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**Contact us**

**Phone** 1300 88 22 33 or 9298 4598 **Fax** 9298 4345

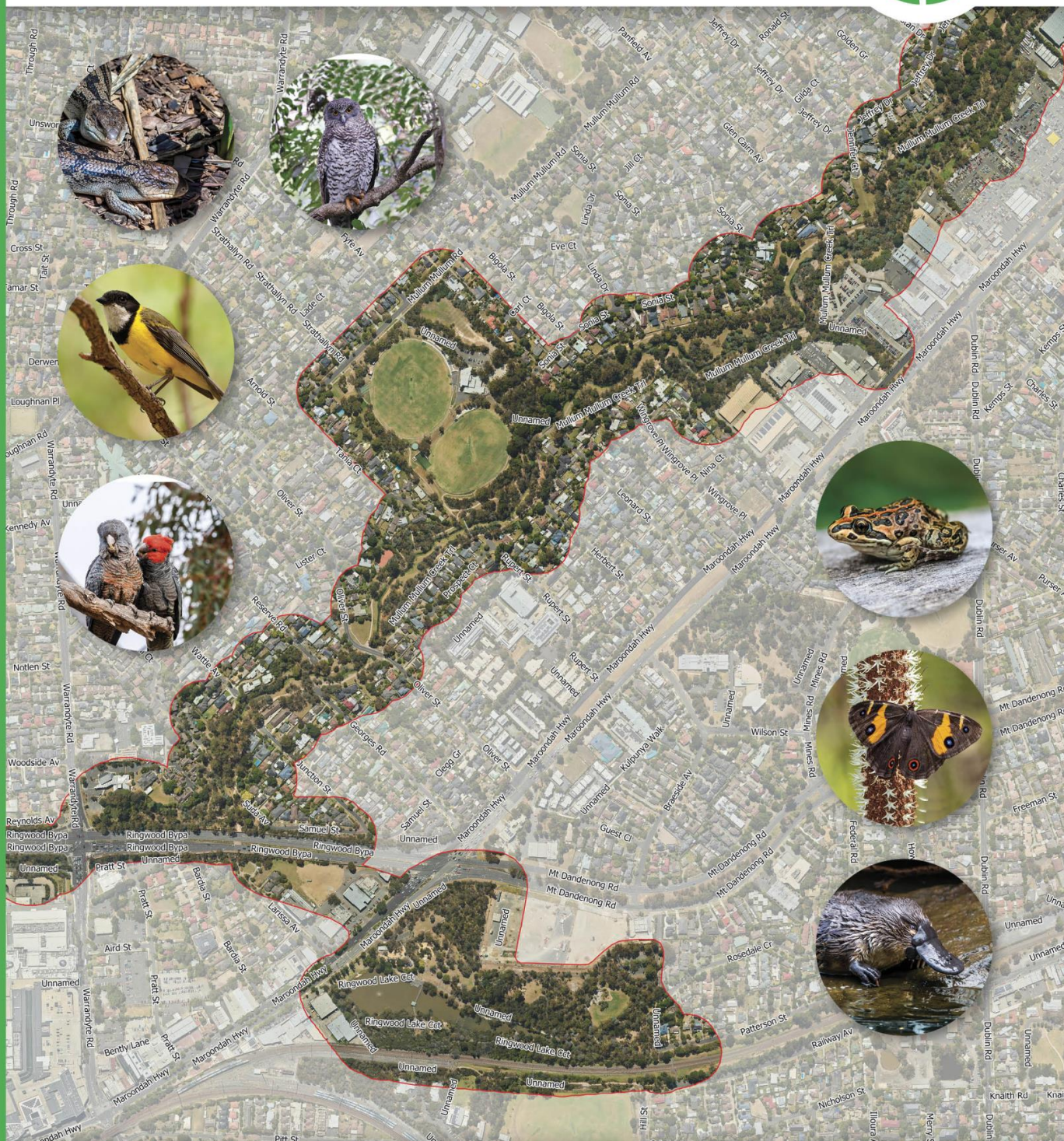
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ABN 98 606 522 719

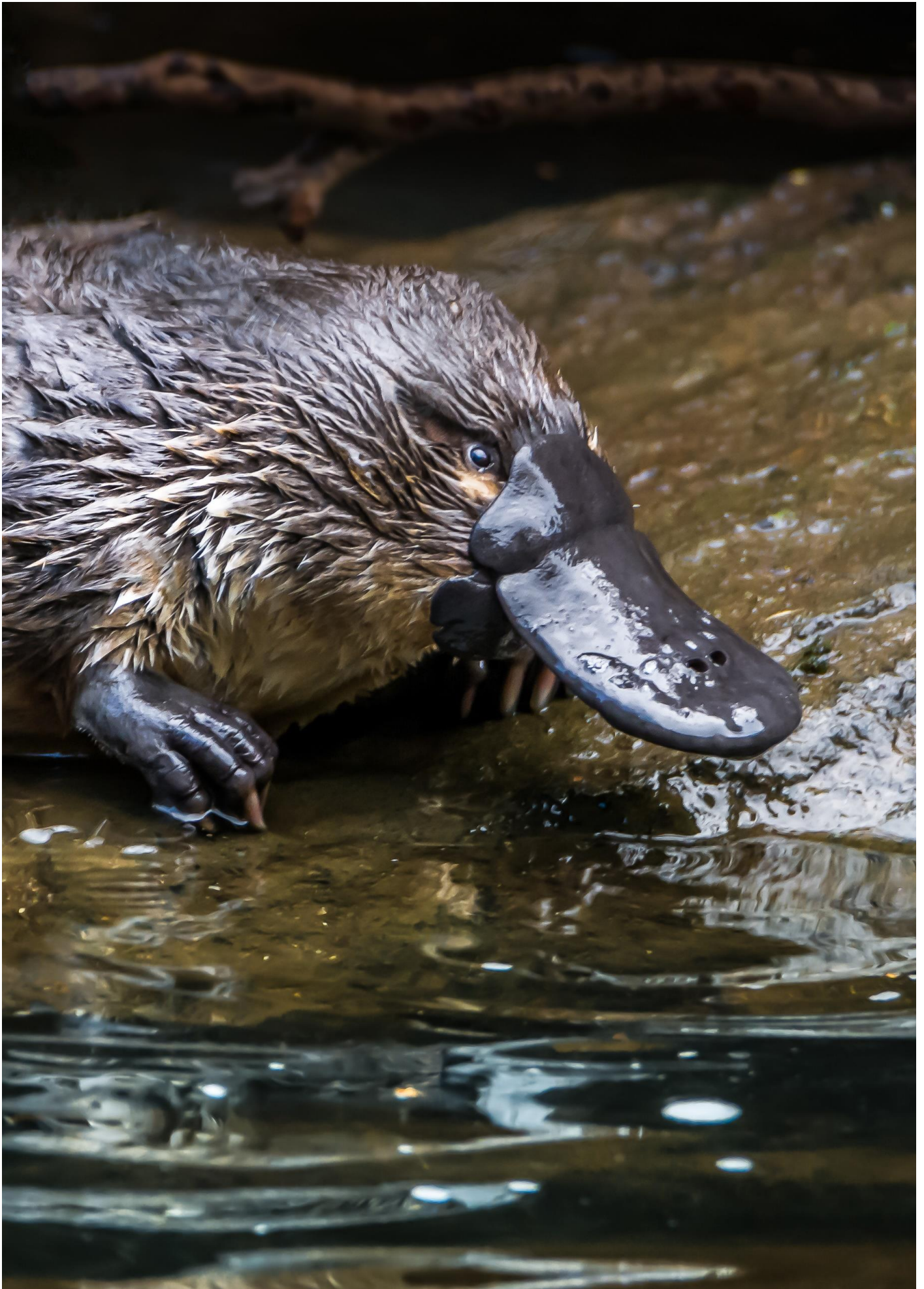


# Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan 2025-2035

Working towards a clean green and sustainable community









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*The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink forms part of the Traditional Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation.*

*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, present and emerging.*

## About this plan

This plan presents a range of actions that have been identified as needed to establish and sustain the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink as a functioning wildlife corridor.

Collectively these actions are designed to progress towards a shared vision for the biolink and have been identified by a group of key stakeholders from within and external to Maroondah City Council (refer Appendix 1 for the full list of stakeholders).

This plan sets a clear direction for establishing the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink and is expected to provide guidance to Council and other organisations for the next ten years or more to drive implementation of actions and advocating for further external support and investment.

The actions will be implemented through a collective effort of relevant organisations, with a focus on the actions identified as the highest priority. The steps being taken by Council and other organisations towards implementing these actions will be documented in an accompanying rolling two-year implementation plan that will be reported on and extended annually.

It is proposed that implementation will be overseen by a coordination group to continually review and reassess actions to confirm the highest priorities and assign lead roles for advocacy, pursuit of external funding, internal budgeting and implementation.

A full list of the actions in table form is provided in Appendix 3.

## What has led us to this point?

### [Maroondah 2040: Our future together](#)

Developed with our community, partners and service providers, and endorsed by Council in June 2014, “*Maroondah 2040: Our future together*” provides a roadmap for our 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. Updated in June 2021, “*Maroondah 2040: Our future together*” states the following:

**Outcome:** A clean, green and sustainable community.

**Key direction 4.6:** Work in partnership to protect and restore biodiversity and habitat corridors for local plants and animals.

### [Biodiversity in Maroondah - Volumes 1 & 2 2020](#)

The consultancy Biosphere Pty Ltd was engaged in 2018 to provide a contemporary assessment of Maroondah’s biodiversity with a focus on indigenous species, communities, and habitats. The resulting report, *Biodiversity in Maroondah Volumes 1 & 2 2020*, is a key component of the municipal-wide vegetation review arising from the Maroondah Housing Strategy 2016. This study also provides an updated assessment of sites originally identified in the 1997 report *Sites of Biological Significance in Maroondah*. The two-volume report has informed the development of both the *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020 - 2030* and the *Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan 2021*.

### [Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020 - 2030](#)

Developed with community input firstly through an Issues and Options Paper, then a draft strategy, the *Maroondah Vegetation Strategy 2020 - 2030* was adopted by Council in March 2020. The strategy states the following:

**Outcome 2:** More nature throughout Maroondah.

**Priority Action 2.3(b):** Review the 2005 Habitat Corridor Strategy to confirm priority linkage routes and align with this strategy’s focus on habitat for a suite of ‘focal’ species.

### [Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan 2021](#)

The consultancy Eco Logical Australia was engaged in June 2020 to utilise the spatial modelling decision framework General Approach to Planning Connectivity from Local to Regional Scales (GAP-CloSR) to identify the ‘pathways of least resistance’ through the Maroondah landscape that offer the best potential for improving habitat connectivity. Guided by an advisory group of internal and external stakeholders with relevant knowledge and expertise, the resulting *Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan 2021* identified a number of priority locations that together formed a number of biolinks or wildlife movement corridor pathways.

In order to depict these biolinks on a map, a 50-metre buffer was drawn around each priority location with eight biolinks identified and named. The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink was the first selected to undergo more detailed action planning.

[Council Plan 2021-25 \(2023/24 update\)](#)

The *Council Plan 2021-2025* has been informed by the participation and recommendations of a Deliberative Panel of 40 community members in 2021 who, over a period of six weeks, deliberated on key topics in Maroondah 2040. Panel members strongly supported improving habitat corridors and increasing biodiversity in Maroondah and recognised the role that the natural environment plays in promoting economic and community wellbeing. Each year Council undertakes a revision of the four-year Council Plan to ensure that it continues to be aligned with *Maroondah 2040 - Our future together* and is responsive to emerging community needs and aspirations. The 2023/24 update includes the following:

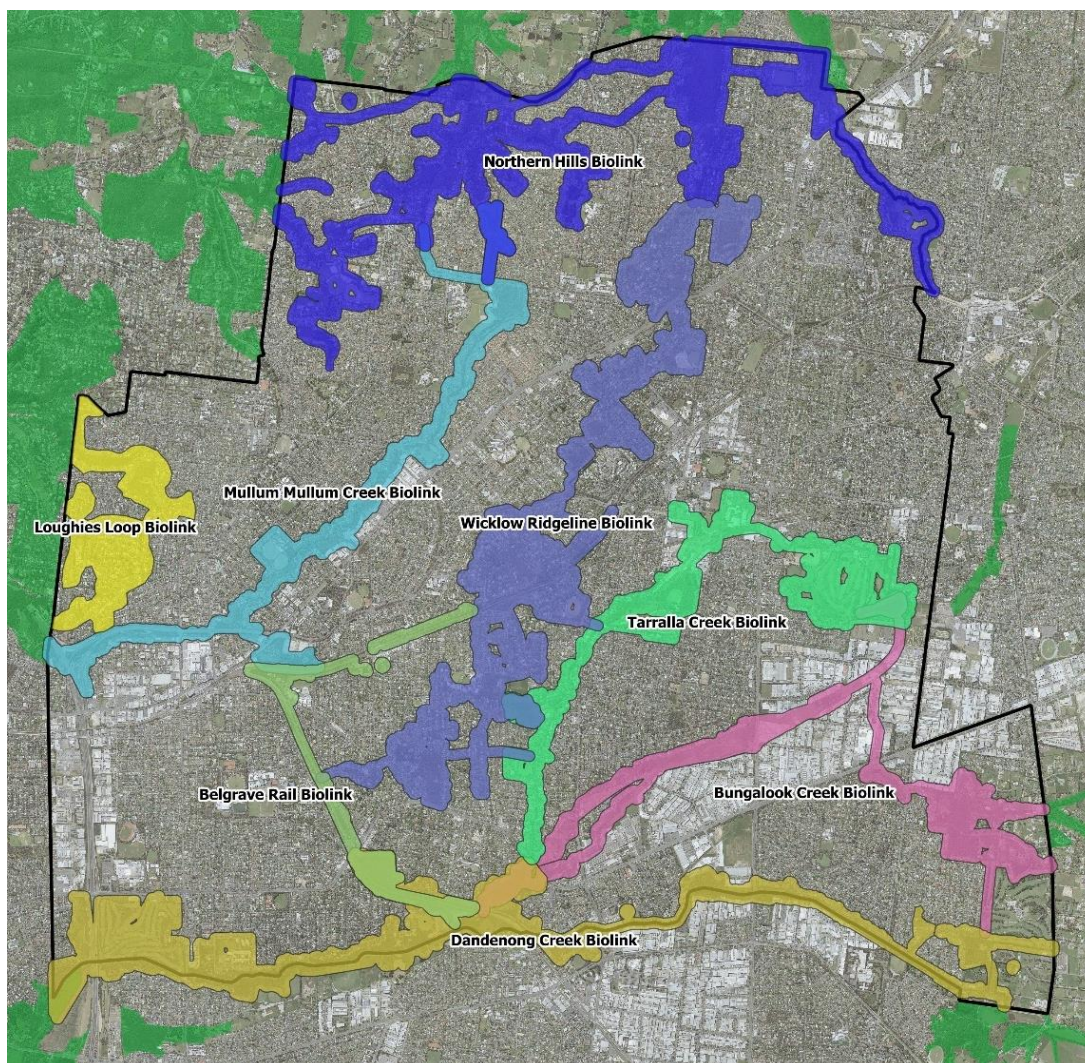
**Outcome:** A clean, green and sustainable community.

**Priority Action** (for years 2021/22, 22/23, 23/24, 24/25 onwards): Prepare and implement a series of Biolink Action Plans that implement the Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Study.



## The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink

Biolinks can be defined as the routes that represent the best opportunities for improving habitat connectivity and facilitating wildlife movement through a landscape.



*The eight biolinks identified in Maroondah*

The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink is one of eight biolinks in Maroondah that have been identified through a process of spatial modelling (for more detail on the modelling process view the consultancy report [here](#))

These eight biolinks represent the best opportunities for enabling more nature to disperse throughout Maroondah.

The biolinks are identified 'pathways of least resistance' through the landscape that will each require a wide range of on-ground actions to become functioning wildlife movement corridors. Once created, each biolink is expected to enable a wide range of fauna to move

more easily along and into adjacent areas, so that there is more nature throughout Maroondah, and more people in Maroondah able to connect with nature as part of their daily lives.

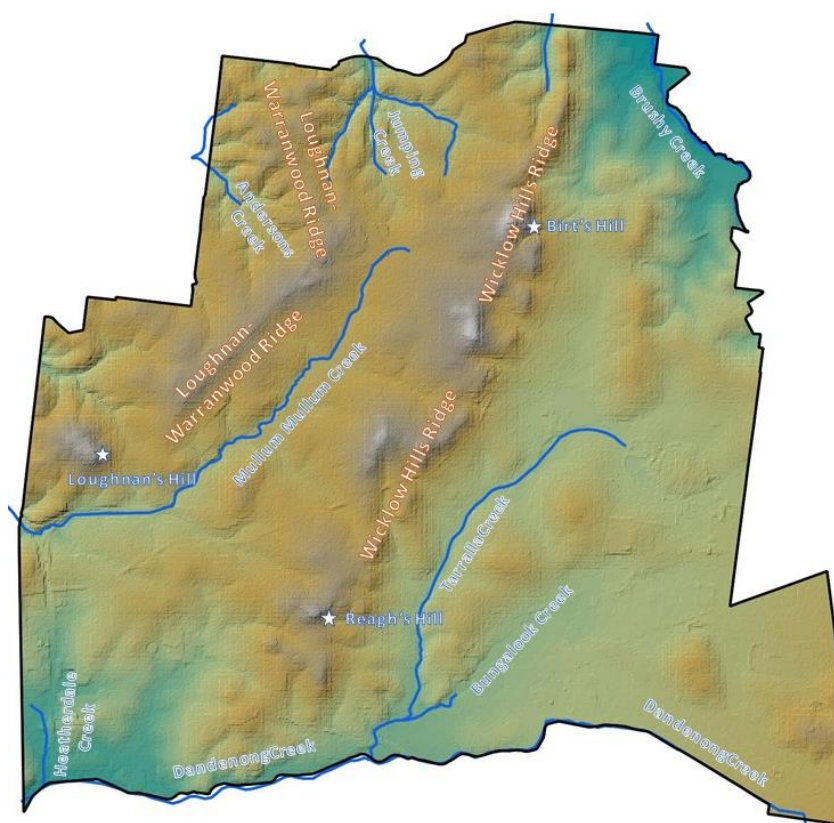
The Mullum Mullum Creek biolink was selected as the first to undergo more detailed planning of the actions needed to create it, and this plan presents the actions that have been identified to not only establish, but also to support, sustain and connect people to, the biolink.

Actions in this plan are many and varied and will take considerable time and concerted effort to implement, but if implemented collectively, are expected to create a functioning habitat corridor following the Mullum Mullum Creek through Maroondah.

## Landscape context

The Mullum Mullum Creek flows through the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri-Woi Wurrung people, and its name is thought to mean "place of many big birds" in the Woi Wurrung language.

The current form of the Mullum Mullum Creek and its valley comprises a predominantly surface-flowing stream flanked by a series of patches of bushland and open space forming a narrow ribbon of nature through the surrounding urbanised landscape.



*Digital Elevation Model of the Maroondah landscape*

The Mullum Mullum Creek is incised into a plateau formed by the Wicklow Hills Ridge to Reagh's Hill in the east, Bedford Road and Maroondah Highway in the south, and the Loughnan's - Warranwood Ridge to the west. The Mullum Mullum Creek has its headwaters on the northern tip of this plateau in Maroondah, originating close to Birt's Hill off Richardson Road in Croydon North. From its source the current day creek now flows through stormwater pipes until the creek first appears above ground in the Douglas Maggs Reserve near the Yarra Valley Grammar bushland reserve and remains aboveground for the rest of its length.



Drier mixed species forests gradually give way to Swamp Gums and Manna Gums as the creek flows in a south-westerly direction passing remnant orchards, bushland and parks through Ringwood and past Eastland Shopping Centre and the Ringwood Bypass, under the Eastlink tollway, and then flows in a north-westerly direction through Whitehorse and Manningham local government areas before joining the Yarra River (Birrarung) in Templestowe.

Many thousands of years ago the creek once turned and flowed south of Maroondah Highway, near New Street, down the now dry bed of the upper Heatherdale Creek to the Dandenong Creek and Port Philip Bay. Since then, a natural "river capture" (a geomorphological phenomenon caused in this case by headwater erosion of the lower Mullum Mullum Creek) has now taken the waters of the creek and diverted them through a narrow gap in the hills to become a tributary of the Yarra River.

The Mullum Mullum Creek and its valley forms part of a much broader major north-south vegetated corridor that stretches from the Great Dividing Range to the Yarra River, then down along the Dandenong Valley Parklands to Port Philip Bay. Unlike many waterways associated with cities, the upper reaches and surrounds are more modified and urbanised, compared to the lower reaches (in Whitehorse and Manningham) which are more natural and is sometimes described as an 'upside down' creek.

The total stream channel length is estimated at around 19 kilometres, of which about 5 kilometres is within Maroondah.

The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink applies to the section of creek within the Maroondah municipality only, with its boundary extending 50 metres either side of the priority locations identified for this biolink in the *Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan 2021* and covers a total area of approximately 193 hectares.

As such, the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink is not limited to the public creek corridor and extends into neighbouring residential and commercial areas. An estimated 68 parcels of public land (excluding roads) fall wholly or partially within the biolink and cover an estimated 74 hectares. Conversely, an estimated 777 parcels of private land fall wholly or partially within biolink and cover an estimated 139 hectares.



### Pre-settlement vegetation

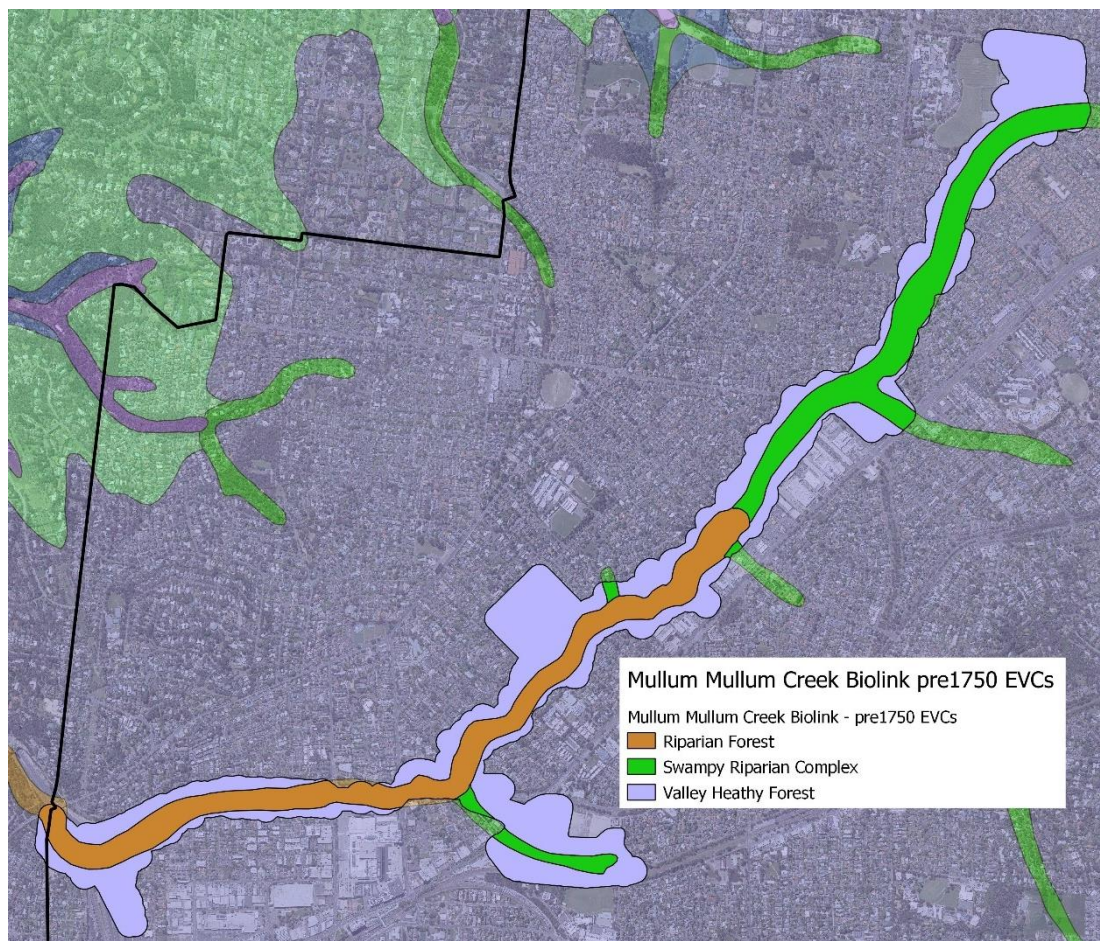
Based on factors such as climate, soil, topography and vegetation strata the Victorian Government have established a state-wide classification scheme for different vegetation types in Victoria called 'Ecological Vegetation Classes', or EVCs. The distribution of EVCs presumed to have been present prior to European settlement have been modelled and provide a guide for efforts to restore or recreate natural habitats.

The three main EVCs within the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink are:

**Riparian Forest** - the dominant eucalypt species typically being Manna Gum (*Eucalyptus viminalis* subspecies *viminalis*)

**Swampy Riparian Complex** - the dominant eucalypt species typically being Swamp Gum (*Eucalyptus ovata*)

**Valley Heathy Forest** - no single dominant eucalypt species with Silver-leaved Stringybark (*Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*), Bundy (*Eucalyptus goniocalyx*), Messmate Stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), Red Stringybark (*Eucalyptus macrorhyncha*) and/or Narrow-leaved Peppermint (*Eucalyptus radiata*) usually present



Modelled pre-1750 distribution of Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs)

## Vision, focal species, and actions needed for the biolink

This action plan presents:

- a vision for the biolink (page 12).
- seven focal fauna species (page 13) and their habitat needs.
- actions needed to meet these habitat needs (pages 14 to 30).
- actions needed to support function of the biolink (pages 31 to 32).
- actions needed to sustain the biolink' (pages 33 to 35).
- actions needed to connect people to the biolink (pages 36 to 37).

In more detail, the actions focus on:

- habitat creation and improvement (eg availability of food resources, shelter, breeding, dispersal opportunities) and threat reduction (eg from predation, competition, toxins, pollution, extreme flows). These actions are expected to serve the needs of a wide range of plant and animal species and not just the seven focal species.
- supporting the functioning of the biolink, such as making streets and residential properties more wildlife-friendly.
- sustaining the biolink, by maintaining the existing and created habitats, and keeping threats at bay.
- connecting people to the biolink through awareness, learning, and contributing.

## Vision

***"In 2040, when you are in the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink ...***

- ***you are enriched by your surroundings.*** Day and night is abuzz with the sights and sounds of nature; the rich mosaic of vegetation and the murmurings of the creek convey healthiness. You can hear the chorus of insects, birds and frogs and you might catch a glimpse of a Platypus in the creek or a Powerful Owl in the treetops.
- ***you are immersed in a culture of caring.*** All around you can sense the rich history of the Wurundjeri people - language, stories and practices being shared. You can see people admiring, respecting, and enjoying being with nature. Individuals, businesses and organisations are working together to play their part in caring for it.
- ***you feel kinship with this place.*** Nurtured by feeling part of something bigger, you leave happier, healthier and more knowledgeable. You accept a responsibility of custodianship and are eager to return".

## Focal species

Seven different fauna species were selected to provide a focus for provision of habitat and other requirements. Their selection was based on the premise that their collective habitat requirements would also serve the needs of a much wider range of species likely to occur in, or potentially be attracted into, the Maroondah area.

These focal species were selected from a larger range of 'engagement species' (see Appendix 2) previously identified through the spatial modelling project that determined the best routes through the Maroondah landscape for improving habitat connectivity.

To learn more about this project visit

<https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Development/Natural-Environment/Biodiversity-and-habitat-connectivity>.

The seven focal species are:



Blotched Bluetongue Lizard



Golden Whistler



Gang Gang Cockatoo



Sword Grass Brown



Platypus



Powerful Owl



Spotted Marsh Frog



## Focal species habitat requirements and actions needed

Details for each of the seven focal species including their habitat requirements (with an illustration of suitable habitat), actions needed to meet these requirements and details of other species likely to be served by the actions are provided.

### 1. Blotched Bluetongue Lizard (*Tiliqua nigrolutea*)

#### Requirements

Like many lizards, this species prefers relatively open bushland with good solar access and lots of ground cover such as tussocky grasses or leaf litter and large rocks and logs to shelter under. They eat a variety of plants, especially those with fleshy fruits and small, slow-moving invertebrates including slugs and snails.

Bluetongues, particularly the young, are easy prey for suburban dogs and cats, foxes, and predatory birds like kookaburras. They can also be poisoned by eating slugs and snails that have consumed toxic snail bait.



#### Actions needed

##### Habitat creation and improvement

**1.1** In locations within the biolink where there are relatively dry, open and sunny areas with minimal overhead tree canopy, establish areas of diverse understorey vegetation (aim to replicate understorey vegetation primarily associated with the EVC #127 Valley Heathy Forest), particularly tussocky grasses, sedges and berry-producing species with plenty of leaf litter, scattered logs and rocks (inc small rock piles).

**1.2** In locations where there are steep slopes that are relatively dry, open and sunny, create rocky escarpments with interspersed plantings of tussocky grasses, sedges and berry-producing species.

##### Threat reduction

**1.3** Encourage dog owners using off-lead areas (Peter Vergers Reserve and south-eastern oval of Mullum Mullum Reserve) to manage their dogs and ensure they remain in permitted areas only, and do not stray into bushland areas.

**1.4** Encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on lead at all times when not in off-lead areas and Council's Animal Management Officers to conduct patrols for compliance with Council's on-leash requirements.

**1.5** Fence all or parts of selected lizard habitat areas to exclude dogs.

**1.6** Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.

**1.7** Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.

**1.8** Target fox control efforts around the open habitat patches.

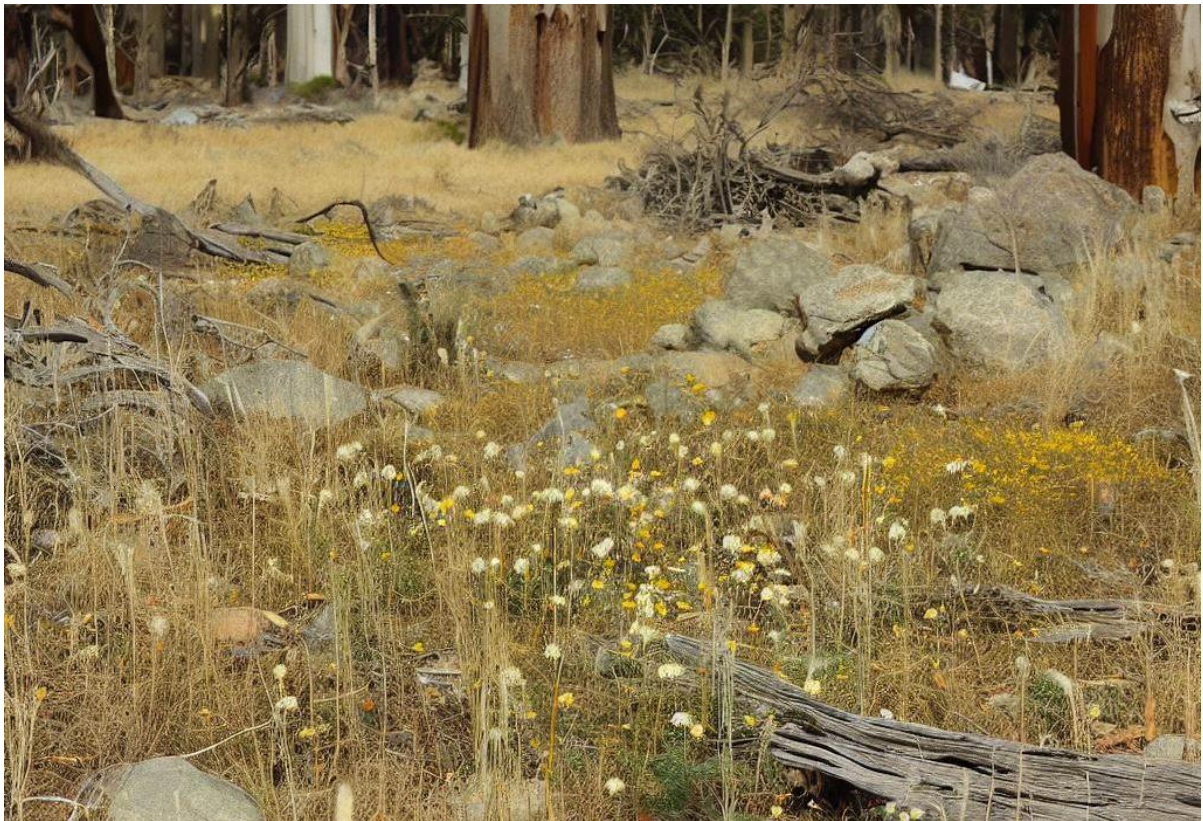
**1.9** Encourage residents within the biolink to avoid using toxic snail baits in their garden, by using organic or physical alternatives if they are having issues with snails or slugs.



**Other species likely to be served by these actions**

These actions are also likely to serve other species including:

- Small reptiles such as Pale-flecked Garden Sunskink, Delicate Skink, Weasel Skink and Eastern Bluetongue Lizard.
- A wide range of invertebrates such as ants, worms, beetles, moths, butterflies, and spiders that in turn provide food for insectivorous species including microbats and many local birds such as thornbills and Superb Fairy-wren.
- Seed-eating bush birds such as Red-browed Finch and Common Bronzewing.
- Understorey plant species associated with the EVC #127 Valley Heathy Forest through establishment of new populations and improved opportunities for cross-pollination and seed dispersal.

**Suitable habitat**

*(AI-generated image - for illustrative purposes only)*

## 2. Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*)

### Requirements

This species likes most indigenous wooded habitats, with a preference for areas with denser foliage that provides shelter, especially in tree canopies and in taller shrubs.

They need access to a reliable supply of food in the form of insects, spiders and other small arthropods that are picked from leaves and bark mostly from the lower or middle tree level. Berries are also eaten.

Within the biolink, the quality of much of the available habitat has been degraded due primarily to environmental weed species altering the vegetation structure and/or outcompeting and reducing the diversity of middle and ground storey species.

In Maroondah, they are likely to be at risk of predation from cats.



### Actions needed

Habitat creation and improvement

**2.1** In locations close to the creek itself, retain or create areas of open forest vegetation with diverse and relatively dense shrub and understorey layers, including berry producing species (aim to replicate forest vegetation associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest, #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland, and #127 Valley Heathy Forest).

Threat reduction

**2.2** Manage habitat-altering environmental weed species to restore habitat quality.

**2.3** Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.

**2.4** Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.

### Other species likely to be served by these actions

These actions are also likely to serve other species including:

- Small and medium bush birds such as thornbills, robins, honeyeaters, fantails and pardalotes, as well as White-browed Scrubwren, Grey Shrikethrush and Grey Butcherbird.
- A wide range of invertebrates such as ants, worms, beetles, moths, butterflies, and spiders that in turn provide food for insectivorous species including microbats and many local birds.
- Plant species associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest, #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland, and #127 Valley Heathy Forest through establishment of new populations and improved opportunities for cross-pollination and seed dispersal.



**Suitable habitat**



*(Valley Heathy Forest (EVC #127) at Dublin Road Reserve, Ringwood)*

### 3. Gang Gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*)

#### Requirements

The Gang Gang Cockatoo is an “altitudinal migrant” meaning that during spring and summer, it is mainly found at higher altitudes where they breed in tree hollows in tall mountain forests and woodlands, with dense shrubby understoreys. There have however been some reports of them successfully breeding at lower altitudes. In autumn and winter, they will move to lower altitudes into drier, more open forests and woodlands, and may be seen by roadsides and in parks and gardens of urban areas, where they forage for food.



They mainly feed in the tree canopy on seeds of native trees and shrubs, with a preference for eucalypts and wattles. They will also eat berries, fruits (including those of introduced fruiting shrubs such as cotoneaster and hawthorn), nuts and insects and their larvae. They mainly come to the ground only to drink.

Within the biolink, the quality of much of the available habitat has been degraded due primarily to environmental weed species altering the vegetation structure and/or outcompeting and reducing the diversity of middle and ground storey species. In Maroondah, they are likely to be at risk of predation from cats and foxes.

#### Actions needed

##### Habitat creation and improvement

**3.1** Throughout the terrestrial parts of the biolink, retain, restore or create areas of open forest and woodland vegetation (aim to replicate forest vegetation associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest, #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland, and #127 Valley Heathy Forest), incorporating indigenous eucalypts and wattles, with a scattering of berry and cone producing shrubs.

**3.2** Enable access to water, for example by placing logs and branches to extend into the creek or wetlands in locations relatively secure from cats and foxes.

##### Threat reduction

**3.3** Manage habitat-altering environmental weed species to restore habitat quality.

**3.4** Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.

**3.5** Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.

**3.6** Target fox control efforts around high-quality habitat patches.



**Other species likely to be served by these actions**

These actions are also likely to serve other species including:

- Other large parrots and cockatoos such as King Parrot, Crimson Rosella, Galah and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo
- Small and medium bush birds such as thornbills, robins, honeyeaters, fantails and pardalotes, as well as White-browed Scrubwren, Grey Shrikethrush and Grey Butcherbird.
- A wide range of invertebrates such as ants, worms, beetles, moths, butterflies, and spiders that in turn provide food for insectivorous species including microbats and many local birds.
- Plant species associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest, #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland, and #127 Valley Heathy Forest through establishment of new populations and improved opportunities for cross-pollination and seed dispersal.

**Suitable habitat**

*(Riparian Forest (EVC #18) along Mullum Mullum Creek)*

#### 4. Sword-grass Brown (*Tisiphone abeona*)

##### Requirements

Sword-grass Browns inhabit open woodlands, and swampy and wetland habitats that support Saw Sedges (*Gahnia* spp). The adults are assumed to feed on nectar-producing plants that occur in these habitats, whereas their caterpillars feed exclusively on the Saw Sedges, with the Red-fruit Saw-sedge (*Gahnia sieberiana*) being a particularly favoured species.

This *Gahnia* species, however has not been recorded as naturally occurring within the Mullum Mullum Creek corridor, and it is unclear if the caterpillars feed on Thatch Saw-sedge (*Gahnia radula*) which does occur within the biolink.



##### Actions needed

Habitat creation and improvement

**4.1** In low-lying areas within the biolink, particularly where EVCs Swampy Woodland (EVC #937), Swampy Riparian Woodland (EVC #83), and Swamp Riparian Complex (EVC #126) are thought to have occurred, plant or stimulate growth and spread of patches of *Gahnia* species, in particular Thatch Saw-sedge (*G. radula*), as part of restoring swampy vegetation.

**4.2** Encourage the incorporation of Red-fruit Saw-sedge (*G. sieberiana*) into habitat creation in urban gardens and selected locations within the biolink.

**4.3** In locations where they are lacking or in short supply, incorporate appropriate flowering species associated with the above-mentioned EVCs to provide food for the adult butterfly - eg Sweet Bursaria (*Bursaria spinosa*).

##### Other species likely to be served by these actions

These actions are also likely to serve other species including:

- Many invertebrates such as ants, worms, beetles, moths, butterflies (such as the Spotted Skipper and Donnyssa Skipper) and spiders that in turn provide food for insectivorous species including microbats and many local birds.
- Small bush birds such as thornbills, honeyeaters and pardalotes, as well as Superb Fairy-wren and White-browed Scrubwren.
- Swampy plant species associated with the EVCs Swampy Woodland (EVC #937), Swampy Riparian Woodland (EVC #83), and Swamp Riparian Complex (EVC #126) through establishment of new populations and improved opportunities for cross-pollination and seed dispersal.



**Suitable habitat**



*(Patch of Thatch Saw-sedge for illustrative purposes only)*

## 5. Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)

### Requirements

Platypus are semi-aquatic egg-laying mammals, and reliant on rivers, creeks and bodies of good quality freshwater. These waterways need to have relatively natural flow regimes that produce stable earthen banks, and indigenous riparian vegetation that provides shading of the water and cover near the banks.

Platypus feed mainly during the night, searching for a wide variety of mainly bottom-dwelling aquatic invertebrates (eg worms, insect larvae) in both slow-moving and rapid (riffle) parts of creeks. The presence of logs, twigs, leaf litter and roots, as well as instream cobbled or gravel substrate result in increased aquatic invertebrate fauna, and the Platypus also tends to be more abundant in areas with pool-riffle sequences.



When not foraging, the Platypus spends most of the time in its burrow in the earthen bank of the river, creek or pond. The burrow also serves as a nest for raising young. At times, individuals will use rocky crevices and stream debris as shelters, or they burrow under the roots of vegetation near the stream.

Platypus need to be able to move up and down stream in search of food, to search for a mate during the breeding season, and for young to disperse to find their own home territory. During periods of low rainfall/low creek flows there needs to be one or more suitable 'drought refuge pools' of permanent water that provide a reliable supply of food and shelter during dry spells.

According to the Atlas of Living Australia, Platypus have been recorded relatively recently in the downstream reaches of the Mullum Mullum Creek in Manningham, but only once (in 2015) in the section of creek within Maroondah.

The catchment of the Mullum Mullum Creek in Maroondah is highly urbanised with high levels of impervious surfaces (roofs, roads, etc.) that directly drain falling rain into the creek via stormwater pipes. As a result, periods of high rainfall result in large volumes of water flowing at speed into and along the creek causing erosion, destabilising creek banks and flushing out aquatic plants and invertebrates, particularly further downstream where the creek flows through Manningham. This runoff can also carry with it sediment, litter, and pollutants such as grease, oils and metals arising from roads and roofs that degrade water quality in the creek and can impact on Platypus and other species, including their food sources.

Given its close proximity to the creek and the nature of the businesses there, stormwater runoff from the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct (that includes many new and used car sellers and repairers) between Maroondah Highway and the creek has a high potential to carry a wide range of pollutants into the creek. Many of these businesses are presumed to have washdown areas that are required to have triple interceptor traps to prevent grease, fat, oil, silt, sand, sludge and other substances from entering the sewer system. Interceptor traps that are not well maintained are likely to result in some of these pollutants being washed into the creek. The Ringwood Metropolitan Activity Centre with its high concentration of retail, commercial and entertainment businesses, and the associated carparking, is also likely to be a significant source of stormwater-carried pollutants including litter but does have a series of litter traps designed to prevent much of these entering the creek.

Similarly, Eastlink and the Ringwood Bypass have stormwater treatment wetlands designed to treat run off from these major roads before it enters the creek.

Various pollutants can also arise from accidental spills and other isolated sources and causes and be transported into the creek by stormwater.



The quality of much of the riparian vegetation has been degraded due primarily to environmental weed species altering the vegetation structure and/or outcompeting and reducing the diversity of middle and ground storey species.

In Maroondah, Platypus are very likely to be at risk of predation from dogs and foxes, and to a lesser extent, cats. Other risks include entanglement in litter items and being entrapped in illegal yabby/fish traps (ie 'opera house' traps)

### Actions needed

#### Creek navigability

**5.1** Assess the feasibility for platypus to access the full length of the creek to identify any obstacles and barriers to movement up and down the creek and recommend solutions.

**5.2** Where identified as feasible, remove/replace/modify culverts and other instream barriers (eg weirs) so they are readily traversable (minimum internal diameter of 250 mm, stepped or slanted entry/exit structures (ideally < 30°), baffles and textured or uneven floor surfaces to reduce flow velocities and improve grip, vertical-slot fishways designed to enable medium-to-large fish to travel past weir walls can be utilised for the same purpose by platypus - ie with apertures at least 150 mm, water depth along the length of a fishway at least 200-300 mm)

#### Habitat creation and improvement

**5.3** Undertake a technical investigation (this investigation could be combined with the assessment of navigability outlined above) to identify viable locations where:

- a. creating one or more instream or offline drought refuge pools is feasible.
- b. there is potential to convert hardened creek edges (ie rock, concrete) to stable earthen banks.
- c. there is potential to widen and/or deepen the creek channel.
- d. there is potential to add rock weirs to create a series of pools and riffles without negative implications for flows and flood management.
- e. instream habitat is poor, and habitat elements (stony substrates, aquatic vegetation, large woody debris) could be added.
- f. the addition of creek side riparian vegetation is needed.

**5.4** Create refuge pool/s at one or more identified viable locations, based on achieving attributes of ~80m long, 500m<sup>2</sup> surface area, 1-4m deep, steep and stable earthen banks, instream aquatic vegetation, overhanging indigenous tree and shrub vegetation, reliable volumes and quality of incoming water, little or no artificial light spill.

**5.5** In suitable locations close to the creek itself, retain, restore or create areas of open forest vegetation with diverse and relatively dense shrub and understorey layers following the Australian Platypus Conservancy guidelines to shade the water and provide shelter, leaf drop, bank stability, etc. (aim to replicate forest vegetation associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest and #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland).

**5.6** Where feasible, install numerous rock "weirs" to create a series of pools and riffles along the entire length of the creek.

**5.7** Gather information on the nature and extent of macroinvertebrate populations along the creek and improve instream habitat as needed to ensure there is an ongoing food supply available.

**5.8** Where practical and feasible, add instream aquatic vegetation, and potentially cobbled or gravel substrate, to sections of the creek where it is noticeably absent.

## Threat reduction

**5.9** Manage habitat-altering environmental weed species to restore riparian habitat quality.

**5.10** Avoid creating, and remove where possible, hard creek edges (rock/concrete) to create relatively stable earthen creek banks.

**5.11** Undertake a specialised investigation of the wider creek catchment that:

- a. identifies opportunities to slow flows, increase soil infiltration and improve quality of stormwater runoff.
- b. estimates the number, size, location and type of stormwater treatments needed in the catchment to restore near natural flows and water quality in the creek:
  - at property scale (eg rainwater tanks, rain gardens).
  - at street scale (eg water sensitive urban design (WSUD) streets)
  - at sub-catchment scale, eg:
    - stormwater harvesting (capture, treatment and reuse of stormwater where there is a suitably sized catchment above and a nearby suitable demand for non-potable water such as sports field irrigation. Location considerations include Yarra Valley Grammar, Mullum Reserve, Ainslie Park and East Ringwood Reserve).
    - stormwater detention that can slow peak flows and enable more water to soak into the soil. Location considerations include Lipscombe Park and Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct
    - sediment traps and treatment wetlands that remove pollutants and provide wetland habitat. Location considerations include Peter Vergers Reserve and Ringwood Lake.
- c. assesses the feasibility and estimated cost of implementing the identified mix of treatments.

**5.12** Based on the findings of the above, introduce planning controls in the urbanised catchment area that maximise pervious surfaces, require WSUD treatments and/or development contributions to support larger scale stormwater treatments.

**5.13** Liaise with the Environment Protection Authority to deliver an education program and inspection of businesses in the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct for understanding of and adherence to sewer connection requirements, including the effective functioning of interceptor traps, and penalise ongoing breaches accordingly (potentially after an amnesty period that provides adequate time to rectify breaches).

**5.14** Identify and document the location, maintenance responsibilities and minimum maintenance requirements of all known stormwater treatment wetlands, litter traps and gross pollutant traps, and ensure they are managed and maintained to best practice standards.

**5.15** Encourage dog owners using off-lead areas (Peter Vergers Reserve and south-eastern oval of Mullum Mullum Reserve) to manage their dogs and ensure they remain in permitted areas only, and do not stray into bushland areas.

**5.16** Encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on lead at all times when not in off-lead areas and Council's Animal Management Officers to conduct patrols for compliance with Council's on leash requirements.

**5.17** Fence area around refuge pools to exclude dogs (ensure does not impede high flows and is readily maintainable).

**5.18** Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.

**5.19** Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.

**5.20** Target fox control efforts around the refuge pools.

**5.21** Avoid use of artificial lighting around the refuge pools.

### Other species likely to be served by these actions

These actions are also likely to serve other species including:

- Aquatic/semi-aquatic vertebrates such as Rakali, Common Galaxias, Climbing Galaxias, Southern Shortfin Eel and Eastern Long-necked Turtle.
- Many aquatic-breeding invertebrates such as yabbies, dragonflies, water beetles, worms and true bugs that in turn provide food for other species including waterbirds.
- Plant species associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest and #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland, as well as aquatic species, through establishment of new populations and improved opportunities for cross-pollination and seed dispersal.

### Suitable habitat



*(Image of pool and riffle for illustrative purposes only)*

## 6. Powerful Owl (*Ninox strenua*)

### Requirements

The Powerful Owl is Australia's largest owl species, a nocturnal predator that can be found in open forests and woodlands, as well as along sheltered gullies in wet forests with dense understoreys, especially along watercourses in eastern Australia. It is an opportunistic, nocturnal hunter that preys mainly on medium to large tree-dwelling mammals, particularly the Eastern Ringtail Possum and Sugar Glider.



They roost by day, perched on a large branch in the shade of dense mid-storey or tree canopy foliage, often with the previous night's prey held in its talons. Riparian eucalypts and Blackwood Wattles are often used, however non-indigenous trees (pines, oaks, willows) are sometimes used, provided they have dense canopy foliage.

Their main prey species require well-connected canopy to limit the need to come to ground where they are vulnerable to predation from introduced predators, as well as tree hollows for shelter and breeding. In the case of the Eastern Ringtail Possum, densely foliated tall shrubs (such as Sweet Bursaria) are favoured for building their dreys (communal nests). With substantial populations of possums now occurring in built-up areas, Powerful Owls are increasingly being recorded in the suburbs, including recent records in and close to Maroondah.

The availability of prey and suitable habitat are the main influencers of the extent of their home range, along with the availability of a suitable nesting hollow. They typically nest in a large vertical hollow high up in a large old living eucalyptus tree, typically located within a densely treed gully.

Within Maroondah, there are likely to be very few (if any) naturally occurring tree hollows suitable for nesting, so although there is limited evidence of successful utilisation, artificial hollows may still offer the best available alternative.

Indirect ingestion of rat poisons through their prey (second generation anticoagulant rodenticides are especially toxic and more persistent in organs of the poisoned animal) is also another possible threat, although rats don't make up a large part of their diet, and possums are unlikely to take rat baits in large quantities.

### Actions needed

#### Habitat creation and improvement

**6.1** Retain, restore and create stands of large indigenous trees to create wide (up to 50 metres) and largely continuous corridor of canopy and mid-storey foliage, incorporating a mix of eucalypts and Blackwood (aim to replicate forest vegetation associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest and #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland).

**6.2** Ensure tree spacing allows for growth of wide canopies with large horizontal branches for roosting, and in the long term, hollow creation following branch drops.

**6.3** Install suitably sized artificial hollows (eg nest boxes (timber or 3D printed), chainsaw hollows, salvaged tree sections with hollows (dimensions - internally 70-150cm deep, 40-50cm wide, with 150-300mm wide entrance hole, mounted at least 10 metres above the ground) in a large, healthy living tree with good canopy foliage, located within existing stands of established large trees. Consideration should be given to including the ability to safely monitor use and occupation from the ground (eg internal camera).



**Powerful Owl nest box designs**

Timber construction



Salvaged hollow tree section



3-D printed

**6.4** For their prey, retain and protect hollow bearing trees, and retain and/or create dense stands of tall indigenous midstorey habitat including prickly shrub species, whilst balancing the need for more open and unshaded understorey vegetation that provides habitat for other species.

**6.5** For their prey, also use large-canopied indigenous tree species as street trees to improve canopy connectivity, especially over roads that cut across the biolink.

**Threat reduction**

**6.6** Deliver an education program to discourage the use of second-generation rodenticides within the biolink.

**6.7** Gradually remove large tree species considered to be weedy (eg pines and willows) in a staged manner and replace with large indigenous tree species. Prior to any removals check for current use as roosting sites.

**Other species likely to be served by these actions**

These actions are also likely to serve other species including:

- Larger forest birds such as cockatoos, Brown Goshawk, Southern Boobook, Tawny Frogmouth, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Laughing Kookaburra and Black-faced Cuckooshrike.
- Arboreal mammals such as Sugar Glider, Common Brushtail Possum and Eastern Ringtail Possum (although these are also likely to form much of the diet of the Powerful Owl!).
- Plant species associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest and #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland through establishment of new populations and improved opportunities for cross-pollination and seed dispersal.

**Suitable habitat**



*(Large Manna Gums on Mullum Mullum Creek)*

## 7. Spotted Marsh Frog (*Limnodynastes tasmaniensis*)

### Requirements

Spotted Marsh Frogs inhabit dams, roadside ditches, marshy areas, flooded grasslands, streams and ponds with grassy areas, sheltering in cracks in the ground, burrows made by other small animals, beneath logs or rocks, or in dense ground vegetation, near the edge of temporary or permanent water.



Adult frogs are ground dwelling hunters, and mostly active during the night, hunting insects, spiders and other invertebrates. Tadpoles feed in the water, mainly on algae and other plant life, and occasionally (typically dead) invertebrates.

They breed mainly during spring and autumn, but also in winter or summer after heavy rains. Eggs are laid as a foamy mass on the surface of a small temporary or permanent water body, and as the tadpoles take around three and a half months to develop into frogs, the water bodies they float their eggs on need to retain water for at least that long.

A shortage of small and/or ephemeral wetlands suitable for habitat and breeding is likely to be a limiting factor for their distribution across Maroondah. Predation on eggs and tadpoles from the introduced Eastern Mosquitofish (*Gambusia holbrooki*) is likely to be a significant threat. Predation on adults by kookaburras and larger waterbirds is expected and natural, however adults are also likely to be taken by foxes, cats and dogs.

### Actions needed

#### Habitat creation and improvement

**7.1** In locations within the biolink where there are lower-lying or poorly drained, open and sunny areas with minimal overhead tree canopy, create a series of small and medium sized permanent and semi-permanent habitat wetlands with the following characteristics:

- Aim to have 50-100cm depth at deepest point with over 50% submerged and 20-40% floating/emergent, indigenous aquatic vegetation cover, and gently sloping edges and terracing providing a variety of depths supporting emergent and semi-aquatic fringing wetland vegetation.
- Within the surrounding 10 metres, ensure overshadowing canopy and shrubby vegetation is kept to a minimum, and provide 10-20% cover of logs and rocks.
- If a wetland is also expected to provide a sediment trapping function design them to enable desilting (and draining to control Mosquitofish), with minimal disturbance to its ongoing habitat function.
- ideally space wetlands within 500m (and no more than 1000m) of each other.

**7.2** Encourage the creation of frog bogs/small habitat wetlands or ponds in private residential gardens within the biolink.

#### Threat reduction

**7.3** Encourage dog owners using off-lead areas (Peter Vergers Reserve and south-eastern oval of Mullum Mullum Reserve) to manage their dogs and ensure they remain in permitted areas only, and do not stray into bushland areas.

**7.4** Encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on lead at all times when not in off-lead areas and Council's Animal Management Officers to conduct patrols for compliance with Council's on leash requirements.

**7.5** Fence selected habitat wetland areas to exclude dogs.



**7.6** Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.

**7.7** Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.

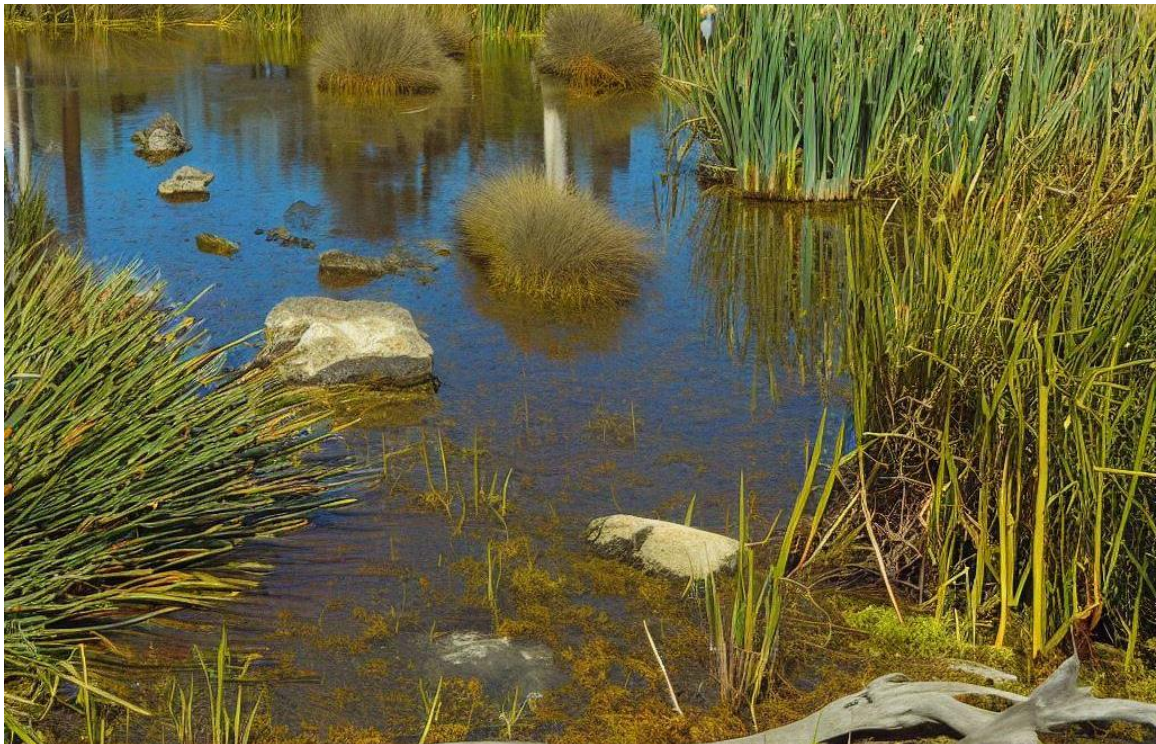
**7.8** Target fox control efforts around selected wetland habitat areas.

### Other species likely to be served by these actions

These actions are also likely to serve other species including:

- Other frog species such as Southern Banjo Frog and Verreaux's Tree Frog.
- Wetland birds such as White-faced Heron, Buff-banded Rail, Eastern Great Egret and Nankeen Night-Heron.
- Species that regularly prey on frogs and tadpoles such as larger waterbirds, Laughing Kookaburra, Rakali, fish, larger reptiles (including snakes) and predatory invertebrates.
- Many aquatic invertebrates such as dragonflies, water beetles, worms and true bugs that in turn provide food for other species including waterbirds, and potentially the rare shrimp *Koonunga cursor* (originally described from a specimen found at 'Mullum Mullum Creek at Ringwood').
- Aquatic and semi-aquatic wetland plant species through establishment of new populations and improved opportunities for cross-pollination and seed dispersal.

### Suitable habitat



(AI-generated image - for illustrative purposes only)



## Actions to support the biolink

### 8. General actions to support the biolink

There are several additional actions that aim to support the function of the biolink in general, such as making streets and residential properties more wildlife-friendly, including:

- 8.1** Manage existing planted and remnant indigenous vegetation patches to optimise their habitat value, primarily through managing environmental weed species to improve vegetation structure, species diversity and habitat quality.
- 8.2** Incorporate the use of suitable indigenous species into street tree replacement planning along street sections that fall within the biolink.
- 8.3** Incorporate water sensitive urban design features into street renewal projects that fall within the biolink.
- 8.4** On residential properties within the biolink, encourage residents to create habitat in their gardens with information, advice and support provided through participation in Council's Nature Havens\* program.
- 8.5** Facilitate the creation and ongoing maintenance of understorey habitat on nature strips within the biolink, such as creating planting plan templates for interested landowners that meet Council's permit requirements (a suitable planting plan and permit from Council are required).
- 8.6** Design public lighting, especially lighting of shared trails, to be wildlife-friendly by minimising light spill and potential impacts on nearby habitats without reduction in public safety.
- 8.7** Through pre-application meetings and internal referrals to Environmental Planning, encourage elements of new developments to contribute to the functioning of the biolink (eg indigenous landscaping).
- 8.8** Introduce planning and development controls (eg an Environmental Significance Overlay over the entire biolink) that:
  - a. encourages new developments adjacent to the public creek reserve to face the creek rather than turn their back on it (incorporating design templates).
  - b. requires large setbacks from the creek reserve and landscaping with indigenous plant species that mimic the relevant EVCs.
  - c. encourages building and landscaping designs that contribute to the biolink function (eg biodiverse green roofs, indigenous landscaping design templates, incorporation of artificial hollows).
  - d. protects the biolink from future development and construction that may impact on its function.
  - e. collects development contributions to support larger scale stormwater treatments.

*\*Nature Havens is a Council program that supports Maroondah residents to make their gardens more wildlife friendly by creating habitat 'stepping stones' for native animals such as birds, insects, lizards and small mammals. The program includes on-site advice and guidance from Maroondah's Bushland Management team and a Nature Havens garden report including recommendations specific to your garden and a list of indigenous plants suitable to your garden and to the wildlife you'd like to attract.*



*Creating understorey habitat on nature strips (illustrative example)*

## Proposed actions to sustain the biolink

### 9. Management and maintenance actions to sustain the biolink

The existing and newly created habitats, and efforts to reduce threats, described in the preceding sections will require ongoing management and maintenance actions in order to sustain the biolink as a functioning habitat corridor for the long term.

#### Managing and maintaining public land

Public land comprises much of the core parts of the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink, however its ownership and responsibilities for management are complex. This includes:

- Maroondah City Council owns and manages 32 land parcels covering 33.3 hectares.
- The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA, formerly Department of Environment Land Water and Planning) own 18 land parcels covering 20.4 hectares (unreserved Crown land).
- Between them, the Department of Education, VicTrack, the Department of Families, Fairness & Housing, and the Department of Transport own and manage another 13 land parcels covering 19.5 hectares.
- Melbourne Water have management responsibilities for the 'bed and banks' of the Mullum Mullum Creek (including fish/platypus passageways).

Responsibilities for maintaining Council-owned land are spread across several teams:

- Council's Bushland Team manages and maintains indigenous vegetation, trees and habitat creation and management, WSUD stormwater treatment measures, targeted fox control measures, community engagement and volunteer support (including the Nature Havens program).
- Council's Parks Maintenance Team manages and maintains areas of mown grass and nature strips (including the permit process for planting on nature strips).
- Council's Tree Maintenance Team manages and maintains street and park trees.
- Council's Engineering Team manages and maintains renewal and maintenance of roads and drainage infrastructure.
- Council's Assets Team manages and maintains trails, playgrounds, furniture, signs and other built assets, and also has responsibilities for open space and capital works planning.
- Council's Local Laws team implement the new Community Local Law 2023 - that includes regulations for managing cats and dogs.

The DEECA-owned land is unreserved Crown land meaning it has not been set aside for a particular public use. DEECA do not maintain this land and as a result this land receives a minimal level of maintenance from Maroondah City Council by default.

DEECA have expressed interest in Maroondah City Council taking on the role of Committee of Management for their unreserved Crown land within the biolink meaning it could be reserved for a particular public use (eg to serve the biolink).

Maroondah Council's Bushland Team has indicated it would be prepared to take on the role of Committee of Management for this land provided commensurate resources for ongoing habitat creation, management and maintenance were made available (and which DEECA say they are unable to provide).

The Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation have an established Natural Resource Management (NRM) team, referred to as the Narrap Team, to support their aspiration of working on Country.

**Bushfire risk**

The CFA have assessed there is a low risk of bushfire within the biolink due to several factors:

- the biolink shape and its position in the landscape (largely urbanised).
- there has been no record of bushfire in the area for the past 50 years.
- the area is not listed in the Victoria Fire Risk Register.
- the network of trails, roads, and mown grassy areas provide discontinuity of fuels and numerous access options that in the event of a fire starting would limit fire spread and support suppression efforts.

Actions aimed at creating new habitat (ie revegetation) should seek to maintain this low level of bushfire risk by ensuring new areas of vegetation retain sufficient discontinuity of fuels, and avoid butting up to adjacent property fencing.

**9.1** Provided additional, specialist staff resources are made available on an ongoing basis, Maroondah City Council take on the role of Committee of Management for the unreserved Crown land within the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink to serve the functioning of the biolink.

**9.2** With the creation of substantial new areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat identified through this plan, and the unique and complex nature of managing waterways and wetlands, one or more specialised waterway biolink positions be added to Council's Bushland Team specifically to maintain riparian, semi-aquatic and wetland vegetation and habitats on public land within the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink and along other waterways within Council's responsibility.

**9.3** Create a role within Council to coordinate all actions associated with creek-based biolinks and liaise with relevant external agencies.

**9.4** When opportunities arise, engage the Wurundjeri Narrap Team to help maintain the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink.

**Managing and maintaining private land**Private residential land

**9.5** Residents within the biolink that have, or wish to create, habitat in their gardens to be provided with information, advice and support upon request through Council's Nature Havens program.

Yarra Valley Grammar

The bushland reserve at Yarra Valley Grammar is a significant and valuable area of habitat within the biolink.

**9.6** Yarra Valley Grammar to initially seek advice on managing bushland from Council's Bushland Team.

**9.7** Yarra Valley Grammar to explore options for ongoing specialist management of their bushland to protect and optimise its habitat values.

Eastland

Eastland owns and manages a narrow strip of land between the shopping centre and the creek reserve.

**9.8** Eastland to pursue options for improving and maintaining the habitat values of their land, particularly for lizards and other small ground dwelling fauna.



Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct

**9.9** Ensure future development of the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct incorporates measures to:

- a) protect existing habitat within the precinct.
- b) incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features that enable stormwater flows (from the precinct, as well as the wider catchment) to be slowed, pollutants removed, and soil infiltration increased before it reaches the creek.
- c) contribute to the biolink by creating habitat patches that build on and extend from adjacent habitat - eg landscaping that provides habitat values (terrestrial and wetland), incorporate biodiverse green (and blue) roofs into design of new buildings.

EastLink (ConnectEast)

As part of their lease arrangements, ConnectEast manages over 480 hectares of open space landscaping along the EastLink corridor from Springvale Road to the Frankston Freeway, including along the Ringwood Bypass.

**9.10** ConnectEast to maintain and establish landscaping along the Ringwood Bypass area and adjacent Mullum Mullum Creek within EastLink's lease boundary to provide more habitat opportunities (without increasing the risk of exposing flora and fauna to threats posed by proximity to vehicular traffic).

**Managing and maintaining threat prevention measures:**Private residential land

**9.11** Council's Bushland Team, Local Laws and Communications and Engagement Teams to design and deliver community education programs around the use of snail and rat baits, and the need to keep dogs on leads and cats indoors.

Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct

**9.12** Individual businesses within the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct to maintain their washdown areas, interceptor traps and other legally required pollution prevention measures to the minimum required standards.

**9.13** Individual businesses within the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct to manage employee and contractor understanding and behaviours to prevent pollutants being added to stormwater drains.

**9.14** EPA to provide education services on environmental duty of care and follow up compliance inspections and reporting of businesses within the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct.

EastLink (ConnectEast)

ConnectEast has responsibility for maintaining 63 stormwater runoff treatment facilities along the length of EastLink. Quarterly inspections are assessed against a strict Code of Maintenance Standard to ensure best-practice operation and maintenance of these facilities. Two treatment wetlands are located within the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink and treat runoff before it enters the creek.

**9.15** ConnectEast to ensure regular inspection, maintenance and reporting of the two stormwater runoff treatment wetlands located within the biolink.

Eastland

**9.16** Eastland to ensure regular inspection, maintenance and reporting of their litter traps.

**Coordinating, monitoring and driving action**

**9.17** Establish a Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan oversight group to:

- a) Monitor and report on progress with implementing actions
- b) Help resolve issues with action delivery
- c) Regularly review and reassess priorities
- d) Identify and agree on proposed new actions (consistent with achieving the vision)
- e) Track agreed measures of success
- f) Identify opportunities to promote progress and successes
- g)** Oversee a review of the action plan after 5 years

## Actions to connect the community to the biolink

### 10. Promotional, learning and engagement actions to connect people to the biolink

Critical to sustaining the biolink as a functioning habitat corridor for the long term are the connections people make with the biolink and the breadth of support from the community. The biolink will need to be understood, valued and actively cared for by many sectors of the community requiring actions that build community awareness and understanding of its purpose and values, engage people in experiencing it, and provide opportunities to actively contribute to and care for it.

Key to people accessing and experiencing the biolink is the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail and its numerous offshoots and connecting trails. The Mullum Mullum Creek Main Trail has been identified as a strategically important link in the Maroondah Principal Pedestrian Network and the Victorian Strategic Cycling Corridor Network.

#### 10.1 Create learning opportunities for students of Yarra Valley Grammar:

Design environmental studies programs with a focus on the school's bushland reserve, potentially incorporating:

- a) Collecting data on the reserve's flora and fauna.
- b) Monitoring of owl nest box use.
- c) Engaging external ecological expertise and educational programs.

#### 10.2 Create learning opportunities for people using the trails through the biolink:

- a) Refresh (or replace) the existing cultural heritage interpretive trail (eg update existing signage, refresh yarning circle space, link to interpretive brochures and/or story telling through audio guides). Involve Wurundjeri in selecting the themes and drafting the content, and options for artwork to be incorporated into their design.
- b) Incorporate Wurundjeri art, language, stories and other cultural elements into wayfinding signage along the trails.
- c) Add interpretive signage and audio guides to existing trails that provide information on habitats, flora and fauna (including the focal species), and ecology of the biolink (eg linked with wayfinding signage at trail entry points).
- d) Create creek nature viewing areas (eg a hide to overlook but not disturb, a platypus refuge pool)
- e) Incorporate public art installations that feature elements of the biolink.
- f) Investigate options for separating faster moving trail users (eg runners and commuting cyclists) from slower moving users such as alternative trails and offshoots to points of interest and/or rest places.

#### 10.3 Create learning opportunities for people living within the biolink:

- a) Prepare and distribute promotional material about the benefits of creating habitat in gardens, and the offer of information, advice and support from Council's Nature Havens program.
- b) Deliver community education programs around use snail and rat baits, and the importance of keeping dogs on leads and cats indoors.

#### 10.4 Create learning opportunities for people visiting the biolink:

- a) Design and deliver community events and activities in the biolink that showcase, celebrate and help people learn about the creek, the biolink and its biodiversity (potentially through reinvestigation of the Mullum Mullum Festival and/or the Friends of Mullum Mullum Valley).
- b) Design and deliver community events and activities in the biolink that showcase, celebrate and demonstrate Indigenous/Wurundjeri culture, language, stories, people and practices - Involve Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place and Wurundjeri in designing activities and events that utilise the yarning circle and other locations in the biolink.

**10.5** Create opportunities for people from across Maroondah and beyond to contribute to sustaining the biolink:

- a) Provide support to volunteers wishing to help build and maintain the biolink.
- b) Provide citizen science opportunities for data collection and monitoring of different aspects of the biolink - for example observations of flora and fauna using the biolink (including the focal species), water quality, water sampling for eDNA testing.
- c) Deliver photography competitions, "treasure hunts", or similar that focus on, highlight and help promote elements of the biolink.

**10.6** Promote the biolink to raise awareness, and build community support and involvement:

- a) Establish a Council webpage dedicated to the Mullum Mullum Creek biolink, including information on:
  - i. this action plan, its vision and the stakeholders who developed it.
  - ii. updates on the progress of actions in the plan.
  - iii. observations of flora and fauna - especially focal species.
  - iv. community activities and events focused on the biolink.
  - v. volunteering opportunities, including Nature Havens program.
  - vi. volunteer groups actively involved in maintaining the biolink.
  - vii. how this biolink will connect to other biolinks and habitat outside of Maroondah.



## Appendix 1 - Key stakeholder group

A key stakeholder group was formed to guide action planning for the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink.

Group members agreed to take a collaborative approach and contribute their knowledge, skills, influence, and other resources to:

- establish an agreed, shared vision for the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink
- identify a small number of focal species that collectively if their needs are met then the needs of many more species will also be met
- identify and agree on, a suite of documented actions that will enable the biolink to function effectively as a habitat corridor, as well as provide other secondary benefits to the Maroondah community
- promote and encourage wide and active support for the agreed vision and action plan through group member networks and communication channels.

The stakeholder group also acknowledge the Traditional Owners:

*The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink forms part of the Traditional Country of the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people of the Kulin Nation. We acknowledge and respect their ongoing connection to, and culture of caring for, Country. We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and seek to honour their custodianship of its land, water, plants, and animals in creation of the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink.*

### Key stakeholder group organisations

<b>Melbourne Water</b>  <b>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning</b>  <b>ConnectEast/Eastlink</b>  <b>Eastland</b>  <b>Commercial landowners, Maroondah Highway</b>  <b>Yarra Valley Grammar</b>	<b>Community organisations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CRISP Nursery, Friends of Mullum Mullum Valley</li> <li>• Mullum Mullum Festival</li> <li>• Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place</li> <li>• Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation</li> </ul> <b>Maroondah City Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinator Strategic Planning and Sustainability</li> <li>• Strategic Environmental Planner</li> <li>• Team Leader Bushland Management</li> <li>• Team Leader Tree Maintenance</li> <li>• Team Leader Parks and Open Space</li> <li>• Team Leader Environmental Planning</li> <li>• Integrated Water Engineer</li> <li>• Asset Planner (Open Space)</li> <li>• Bushland Revegetation and Community Supervisor</li> <li>• Bushland Revegetation and Community Officer</li> <li>• Director Strategy and Development</li> </ul>
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## Appendix 2 - Engagement species

The advisory group who supported development of the Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan 2021 also agreed on a suite of 'engagement species'.

The purpose of having a suite of 'engagement species' is to provide a focus for communications and engagement around building support for creating biolinks in Maroondah.

The advisory group agreed on a suite of 23 fauna species as a mix of species that:

- represent different faunal groups (i.e. birds, reptiles, frogs, mammals, fish, insects, etc.).
- are associated with different habitats found in Maroondah (ie forests/woodlands, riparian, wetlands, creeks etc).
- have a high likelihood of being increasingly observed in more parts of Maroondah following connectivity improvement.
- represent a range of 'commonness' and/or conservation significance.
- could be potential indicators of ecosystem health and function, and/or connectivity improvement success.
- have a high likelihood of being present within or adjacent to the City of Maroondah
- are species that people would take delight in encountering, be relatively easily observed, and that people won't see as 'problematic'.
- six flora species were also added to complete the list.

The 'Engagement species' are:

Common name	Scientific name	Common name	Scientific name
Blotched Bluetongue Lizard	<i>Tiliqua nigrolutea</i>	Powerful Owl	<i>Ninox strenua</i>
Buff-banded Rail	<i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	Prickly Moses	<i>Acacia verticillata</i>
Bulbine Lily	<i>Bulbine bulbosa</i>	Rakali (Australian Water Rat)	<i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i>
Common Blue-banded Bee	<i>Amegilla cingulata</i>	Red-browed Finch	<i>Neochmia temporalis</i>
Common Galaxias	<i>Galaxias maculatus</i>	Short-beaked Echidna	<i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>
Eastern Spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	Southern Short-fin Eel	<i>Anguilla australis</i>
Eastern Yellow Robin	<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>	Spotted Marsh Frog	<i>Limnodynastes tasmaniensis</i>
Gang Gang Cockatoo	<i>Callocephalon fimbriatum</i>	Kreff's Glider	<i>Petaurus notatus</i>
Glossy Grass Skink	<i>Pseudemoia rawlinsoni</i>	Superb Fairy-wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>
Golden Whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	Sword-grass Brown	<i>Tisiphone abeona</i>
Grey Parrot Pea	<i>Dillwynia cinerascens</i>	Tawny Frogmouth	<i>Podargus strigoides</i>
Kangaroo Grass	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Victorian Smooth Froglet	<i>Geocrinia victoriana</i>
Kidney Weed	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	White Stringybark	<i>Eucalyptus globoidea</i>
Laughing Kookaburra	<i>Dacelo novaeguineae</i>	White-striped Mastiff Bat	<i>Austronomus australis</i>
Platypus	<i>Ornithorhynchus anatinus</i>		

## Appendix 3 - Full list of actions

The full complement of actions articulated in this draft action plan are listed here in a table.

### Proposed actions for creating the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink

1. Actions to meet the needs of the Blotched Bluetongue Lizard	
1.1	In locations within the biolink where there are relatively dry, open and sunny areas with minimal overhead tree canopy, establish areas of diverse understorey vegetation (aim to replicate understorey vegetation primarily associated with the EVC #127 Valley Heathy Forest), particularly tussocky grasses, sedges and berry-producing species with plenty of leaf litter, scattered logs and rocks (inc small rock piles).
1.2	In locations where there are steep slopes that are relatively dry, open and sunny, create rocky escarpments with interspersed plantings of tussocky grasses, sedges and berry-producing species.
1.3	Encourage dog owners using off-lead areas (Peter Vergers Reserve and south-eastern oval of Mullum Mullum Reserve) to manage their dogs and ensure they remain in permitted areas only, and do not stray into bushland areas.
1.4	Encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on lead at all times when not in off-lead areas and Council's Animal Management Officers to conduct patrols for compliance with Council's on-leash requirements.
1.5	Fence all or parts of selected lizard habitat areas to exclude dogs.
1.6	Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.
1.7	Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.
1.8	Target fox control efforts around the open habitat patches.
1.9	Encourage residents within the biolink to avoid using toxic snail baits in their garden, by using organic or physical alternatives if they are having issues with snails or slugs.
2. Actions to meet the needs of the Golden Whistler	
2.1	In locations close to the creek itself, retain or create areas of open forest vegetation with diverse and relatively dense shrub and understorey layers, including berry producing species (aim to replicate forest vegetation associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest, #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland, and #127 Valley Heathy Forest).
2.2	Manage habitat-altering environmental weed species to restore habitat quality.
2.3	Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.
2.4	Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.

**3. Actions to meet the needs of the Gang Gang Cockatoo**

3.1	Throughout the terrestrial parts of the biolink, retain, restore or create areas of open forest and woodland vegetation (aim to replicate forest vegetation associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest, #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland, and #127 Valley Heathy Forest), incorporating indigenous eucalypts and wattles, with a scattering of berry and cone producing shrubs.
3.2	Enable access to water, for example by placing logs and branches to extend into the creek or wetlands in locations relatively secure from cats and foxes.
3.3	Manage habitat-altering environmental weed species to restore habitat quality.
3.4	Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.
3.5	Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.
3.6	Target fox control efforts around high-quality habitat patches.

**4. Actions to meet the needs of the Sword-grass Brown**

4.1	In low-lying areas within the biolink, particularly where EVCs Swampy Woodland (EVC #937), Swampy Riparian Woodland (EVC #83), and Swamp Riparian Complex (EVC #126) are thought to have occurred, plant or stimulate growth and spread of patches of <i>Gahnia</i> species, in particular Thatch Saw-sedge ( <i>G. radula</i> ), as part of restoring swampy vegetation.
4.2	Encourage the incorporation of Red-fruit Saw-sedge ( <i>G. sieberiana</i> ) into habitat creation in urban gardens and selected locations within the biolink.
4.3	In locations where they are lacking or in short supply, incorporate appropriate flowering species associated with the above-mentioned EVCs to provide food for the adult butterfly - eg Sweet Bursaria ( <i>Bursaria spinosa</i> ).

**5. Actions to meet the needs of the Platypus**

5.1	Assess the feasibility for platypus to access the full length of the creek to identify any obstacles and barriers to movement up and down the creek and recommend solutions.
5.2	Where identified as feasible, remove/replace/modify culverts and other instream barriers (eg weirs) so they are readily traversable (minimum internal diameter of 250 mm, stepped or slanted entry/exit structures (ideally < 30°), baffles and textured or uneven floor surfaces to reduce flow velocities and improve grip, vertical-slot fishways designed to enable medium-to-large fish to travel past weir walls can be utilised for the same purpose by platypus - ie with apertures at least 150 mm, water depth along the length of a fishway at least 200-300 mm.
5.3	Undertake a technical investigation (this investigation could be combined with the assessment of navigability outlined above) to identify viable locations where: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) creating one or more instream or offline drought refuge pools is feasible.</li> <li>b) there is potential to convert hardened creek edges (ie rock, concrete) to stable earthen banks.</li> <li>c) there is potential to widen and/or deepen the creek channel.</li> <li>d) there is potential to add rock weirs to create a series of pools and riffles without negative implications for flows and flood management.</li> <li>e) instream habitat is poor, and habitat elements (stony substrates, aquatic vegetation, large woody debris) could be added.</li> <li>f) the addition of creek side riparian vegetation is needed</li> </ul>



5.4	Create refuge pool/s at one or more identified viable locations, based on achieving attributes of ~80m long, 500m <sup>2</sup> surface area, 1-4m deep, steep and stable earthen banks, instream aquatic vegetation, overhanging indigenous tree and shrub vegetation, reliable volumes and quality of incoming water, little or no artificial light spill.
5.5	In suitable locations close to the creek itself, retain, restore or create areas of open forest vegetation with diverse and relatively dense shrub and understorey layers following the Australian Platypus Conservancy guidelines to shade the water and provide shelter, leaf drop, bank stability, etc. (aim to replicate forest vegetation associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest and #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland).
5.6	Where feasible, install numerous rock “weirs” to create series of pools and riffles along the entire length of the creek.
5.7	Gather information on the nature and extent of macroinvertebrate populations along the creek and improve instream habitat as needed to ensure there is an ongoing food supply available.
5.8	Where practical and feasible, add instream aquatic vegetation, and potentially cobbled or gravel substrate, to sections of the creek where it is noticeably absent.
5.9	Manage habitat-altering environmental weed species to restore riparian habitat quality.
5.10	Avoid creating, and remove where possible, hard creek edges (rock/concrete) to create relatively stable earthen creek banks.
5.11	Undertake a specialised investigation of the wider catchments of the creek that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) identifies opportunities to slow flows, increase soil infiltration and improve quality of stormwater runoff.</li> <li>b) estimates the number, size, location and type of stormwater treatments needed in the catchment to restore near natural flows and water quality in the creek: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• at property scale (eg rainwater tanks, rain gardens).</li> <li>• at street scale (eg water sensitive urban design (WSUD) streets).</li> <li>• at sub-catchment scale, eg: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. stormwater harvesting (capture, treatment and reuse of stormwater where there is a suitably sized catchment above and a nearby suitable demand for non-potable water (eg sports field irrigation). Location considerations include Yarra Valley Grammar, Mullum Reserve, Ainslie Park and East Ringwood Reserve.</li> <li>ii. stormwater detention that can slow flows and enable more water to soak into the soil. Location considerations include Lipscombe Park and Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct.</li> <li>iii. sediment traps and treatment wetlands that both remove pollutants and provide/protect wetland habitat. Location considerations include Peter Vergers Reserve and Ringwood Lake.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>c) assesses the feasibility and estimated cost of implementing the identified mix of treatments</li> </ul>
5.12	Based on the findings of the above, introduce planning controls in the urbanised catchment area that maximise pervious surfaces, require WSUD treatments and/or development contributions to support larger scale stormwater treatments.
5.13	Liaise with the Environment Protection Authority to deliver an education program and inspection of businesses in the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct for understanding of and adherence to sewer connection requirements, including the effective functioning of interceptor traps, and penalise ongoing breaches accordingly (after an amnesty period that provides adequate time to rectify breaches).

5.14	Identify and document the location, maintenance responsibilities and minimum maintenance requirements of all known stormwater treatment wetlands, litter traps and gross pollutant traps, and ensure they are managed and maintained to best practice standards.
5.15	Encourage dog owners using off-lead areas (Peter Vergers Reserve and south-eastern oval of Mullum Mullum Reserve) to manage their dogs and ensure they remain in permitted areas only, and do not stray into bushland areas.
5.16	Encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on lead at all times when not in off-lead areas and Council's Animal Management Officers to conduct patrols for compliance with Council's on leash requirements.
5.17	Fence area around refuge pools to exclude dogs (ensure does not impede high flows and is readily maintainable).
5.18	Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.
5.19	Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.
5.20	Target fox control efforts around the refuge pools.
5.21	Avoid use of artificial lighting around the refuge pools.
<b>6. Actions to meet the needs of the Powerful Owl</b>	
6.1	Retain, restore and create stands of large indigenous trees to create wide (up to 50 metres) and largely continuous corridor of canopy and mid-storey foliage, incorporating a mix of eucalypts and Blackwood (aim to replicate forest vegetation associated with the EVCs #18 Riparian Forest and #83 Swampy Riparian Woodland).
6.2	Ensure tree spacing allows for growth of wide canopies with large horizontal branches for roosting, and in the long term, hollow creation following branch drops.
6.3	Install suitably sized artificial hollows (eg nest boxes (timber or 3D printed), chainsaw hollows, salvaged tree sections with hollows (optimal dimensions - internally 70-150cm deep, 40-50cm wide, with 150-300mm wide entrance hole, mounted at least 10 metres above the ground) in a large, healthy living tree with good canopy foliage, located within existing stands of established large trees. Consideration should be given to including the ability to safely monitor use and occupation from the ground (eg internal camera).
6.4	For their prey, retain and protect hollow bearing trees, and retain and/or create dense stands of tall indigenous midstorey habitat including prickly shrub species, whilst balancing the need for more open and unshaded understorey vegetation that provides habitat for other species.
6.5	For their prey, also use large-canopied indigenous tree species as street trees to improve canopy connectivity, especially over roads that cut across the biolink.
6.6	Deliver an education program to discourage the use of second-generation rodenticides within the biolink.
6.7	Gradually remove large tree species considered to be weedy (eg pines and willows) in a staged manner and replace with large indigenous tree species. Prior to any removals check for current use as roosting sites.

**7. Actions to meet the needs of the Spotted Marsh Frog**

7.1	<p>In locations within the biolink where there are lower-lying or poorly drained, open and sunny areas with minimal overhead tree canopy, create a series of small and medium sized permanent and semi-permanent habitat wetlands with the following characteristics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aim to have 50-100cm depth at deepest point with over 50% submerged and 20-40% floating/emergent, indigenous aquatic vegetation cover, and gently sloping edges and terracing providing a variety of depths supporting emergent and semi-aquatic fringing wetland vegetation.</li> <li>• Within the surrounding 10 metres, ensure overshadowing canopy and shrubby vegetation is kept to a minimum, and provide 10-20% cover of logs and rocks.</li> <li>• If a wetland is also expected to provide a sediment trapping function design them to enable desilting (and draining to control Mosquitofish), with minimal disturbance to its ongoing habitat function.</li> <li>• ideally space wetlands within 500m (and no more than 1000m) of each other.</li> </ul>
7.2	Encourage the creation of frog bogs/small habitat wetlands or ponds in private residential gardens within the biolink.
7.3	Encourage dog owners using off-lead areas (Peter Vergers Reserve and south-eastern oval of Mullum Mullum Reserve) to manage their dogs and ensure they remain in permitted areas only, and do not stray into bushland areas.
7.4	Encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on lead at all times when not in off-lead areas and Council's Animal Management Officers to conduct patrols for compliance with Council's on leash requirements.
7.5	Fence selected habitat wetland areas to exclude dogs.
7.6	Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats.
7.7	Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew.
7.8	Target fox control efforts around selected wetland habitat areas.

**8. General actions to support the biolink**

8.1	Manage existing planted and remnant indigenous vegetation patches to optimise their habitat value, primarily through managing environmental weed species to improve vegetation structure, species diversity and habitat quality
8.2	Incorporate the use of suitable indigenous species into street tree replacement planning along street sections that fall within the biolink.
8.3	Incorporate water sensitive urban design features into street renewal projects that fall within the biolink.
8.4	On residential properties within the biolink, encourage residents to create habitat in their gardens with information, advice and support provided through participation in Council's Nature Havens* program.
8.5	Facilitate the creation and ongoing maintenance of understorey habitat on nature strips within the biolink, such as creating planting plan templates for interested landowners that meet Council's permit requirements (a suitable planting plan and permit from Council are required).

8.6	Design public lighting, especially lighting of shared trails, to be wildlife-friendly by minimising light spill and potential impacts on nearby habitats without reduction in public safety.
8.7	Through pre-application meetings and internal referrals to Environmental Planning, encourage elements of new developments to contribute to the functioning of the biolink (eg indigenous landscaping).
8.8	<p>Introduce planning and development controls (eg an Environmental Significance Overlay over the entire biolink) that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) encourages new developments adjacent to the public creek reserve to face the creek rather than turn their back on it (incorporating design templates).</li> <li>b) requires large setbacks from the creek reserve and landscaping with indigenous plant species that mimic the relevant EVCs.</li> <li>c) encourages building and landscaping designs that contribute to the biolink function (eg biodiverse green roofs, indigenous landscaping design templates and species lists, incorporation of artificial hollows).</li> <li>d) protects the biolink from future development and construction that may impact on its function.</li> <li>e) collects development contributions to support larger scale stormwater treatments.</li> </ul>
<b>9. Management and maintenance actions to sustain the biolink</b>	
9.1	Provided additional, specialist staff resources are made available on an ongoing basis. Maroondah City Council to take on the role of Committee of Management for the unreserved Crown land within the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink to serve the functioning of the biolink.
9.2	With the creation of substantial new areas of indigenous vegetation and habitat identified through this plan, and the unique and complex nature of managing waterways and wetlands, one or more specialised waterway biolink positions be added to Council's Bushland Team specifically to maintain riparian, semi-aquatic and wetland vegetation and habitats on public land within the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink and along other waterways within Council's responsibility.
9.3	Create a role within Council to coordinate all actions associated with creek-based biolinks and liaise with relevant external agencies.
9.4	When opportunities arise, engage the Wurundjeri Narrap Team to help maintain the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink.
9.5	Residents within the biolink that have, or wish to create habitat in their gardens to be provided with information, advice and support through Council's Nature Havens program.
9.6	Yarra Valley Grammar to initially seek advice on managing their bushland from Council's Bushland Team.
9.7	Yarra Valley Grammar to explore options for ongoing specialist management of their bushland to protect and optimise its habitat values.
9.8	Eastland to pursue options for improving and maintaining the habitat values of their land, particularly for lizards and other small ground dwelling fauna.



9.9	<p>Ensure future development of the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct incorporates measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) protect existing habitat within the precinct.</li> <li>b) incorporate Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) features that enable stormwater flows (from the precinct, as well as the wider catchment) to be slowed, pollutants removed, and soil infiltration increased before it reaches the creek.</li> <li>c) contribute to the biolink by creating habitat patches that build on and extend from adjacent habitat - eg landscaping that provides habitat values (terrestrial and wetland), incorporate biodiverse green (and blue) roofs into design of new buildings.</li> </ul>
9.10	ConnectEast to maintain and establish landscaping along the Ringwood Bypass area and adjacent Mullum Mullum Creek within EastLink's lease boundary to provide more habitat opportunities (without increasing the risk of exposing flora and fauna to threats posed by proximity to vehicular traffic).
9.11	Council's Bushland Team, Local Laws and Communications and Engagement Teams to design and deliver community education programs around the use of snail and rat baits, and the need to keep dogs on leads and cats indoors.
9.12	Individual businesses within the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct to maintain their washdown areas, interceptor traps and other legally required pollution prevention measures to the minimum required standards.
9.13	Individual businesses within the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct to manage employee and contractor understanding and behaviours to prevent pollutants being added to stormwater drains.
9.14	EPA to provide education services on environmental duty of care and follow up compliance inspections and reporting of businesses within the Maroondah Highway Employment Precinct.
9.15	ConnectEast to ensure regular inspection, maintenance and reporting of the two stormwater runoff treatment wetlands located within the biolink.
9.16	Eastland to ensure regular inspection, maintenance and reporting of their litter traps.
9.17	<p>Establish a Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan oversight group to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Monitor and report on progress with implementing actions.</li> <li>b) Help resolve issues with action delivery.</li> <li>c) Regularly review and reassess priorities.</li> <li>d) Identify and agree on potential new actions (consistent with achieving the vision).</li> <li>e) Track agreed measures of success.</li> <li>f) Identify opportunities to promote progress and successes.</li> <li>g) Oversee a review of the action plan after 5 years.</li> </ul>
<b>10. Promotional, learning and engagement actions to connect people to the biolink</b>	
10.1	<p>Create learning opportunities for students of Yarra Valley Grammar:</p> <p>Design environmental studies programs with a focus on the school's bushland reserve, potentially incorporating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Collecting data on the reserve's flora and fauna.</li> <li>b) Monitoring of owl nest box use.</li> <li>c) Engaging external ecological expertise and educational programs.</li> </ul>

10.2	<p>Create learning opportunities for people using the trails through the biolink:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refresh (or replace) the existing cultural heritage interpretive trail (eg update existing signage, refresh yarning circle space, link to interpretive brochures and/or story telling through audio guides). Involve Wurundjeri in selecting the themes and drafting the content, and options for artwork to be incorporated into their design.</li> <li>Incorporate Wurundjeri art, language, stories and other cultural elements into wayfinding signage along the trails.</li> <li>Add interpretive signage and audio guides to existing trails that provide information on habitats, flora and fauna (including the focal species), and ecology of the biolink (eg linked with wayfinding signage at trail entry points).</li> <li>Create creek nature viewing areas (eg a hide to overlook but not disturb, a platypus refuge pool).</li> <li>Incorporate public art installations that feature elements of the biolink.</li> <li>Investigate options for separating faster moving trail users (eg runners and commuting cyclists) from slower moving users such as alternative trails and offshoots to points of interest and/or rest places.</li> </ol>
10.3	<p>Create learning opportunities for people living within the biolink:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and distribute promotional material about the benefits of creating habitat in gardens, and the offer of information, advice and support from Council's Nature Havens program.</li> <li>Deliver community education programs around use snail and rat baits, and the importance of keeping dogs on leads and cats indoors.</li> </ol>
10.4	<p>Create learning opportunities for people visiting the biolink:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design and deliver community events and activities in the biolink that showcase, celebrate and help people learn about the creek, the biolink and its biodiversity (potentially through reinvigoration of the Mullum Mullum Festival and/or the Friends of Mullum Mullum Valley).</li> <li>Design and deliver community events and activities in the biolink that showcase, celebrate and demonstrate Indigenous/Wurundjeri culture, language, stories, people and practices - Involve Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place and Wurundjeri in designing activities and events that utilise the yarning circle and other locations in the biolink.</li> </ol>
10.5	<p>Create opportunities for people from across Maroondah and beyond to contribute to sustaining the biolink:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide support to volunteers wishing to help build and maintain the biolink.</li> <li>Provide citizen science opportunities for data collection and monitoring of different aspects of the biolink - for example observations of flora and fauna using the biolink (including the focal species), water quality, water sampling for eDNA testing.</li> <li>Deliver photography competitions, "treasure hunts", or similar that focus on, highlight and help promote elements of the biolink.</li> </ol>
10.6	<p>Promote the biolink to raise awareness, and build community support and involvement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a Council webpage dedicated to the Mullum Mullum Creek biolink, including information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>this action plan, its vision and the stakeholders who developed it.</li> <li>updates on the progress of actions in the plan.</li> <li>observations of flora and fauna - especially focal species.</li> <li>community activities and events focused on the biolink.</li> <li>volunteering opportunities, including Nature Havens program.</li> <li>volunteer groups actively involved in maintaining the biolink.</li> <li>how this biolink will connect to other biolinks and habitat outside of Maroondah.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



To contact Council telephone 1300 88 22 33  
visit our website at: [www.maroondah.vic.gov.au](http://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au)  
or call in to one of our service centres:

Realm Service Centre  
Maroondah Highway  
Ringwood

Croydon Service Centre  
Civic Square  
Croydon

Translating and Interpreter Service  
13 14 50

National Relay Service (NRS)  
13 36 77



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Maroondah City Council

## Draft Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan

Community consultation summary report





## The draft Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan

Eight biolinks that are the 'pathways of least resistance' through the Maroondah landscape that represent the best opportunities for improving habitat connectivity and facilitating wildlife movement have been identified.

The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink is the first of these eight biolinks to be taken to the next level of planning.

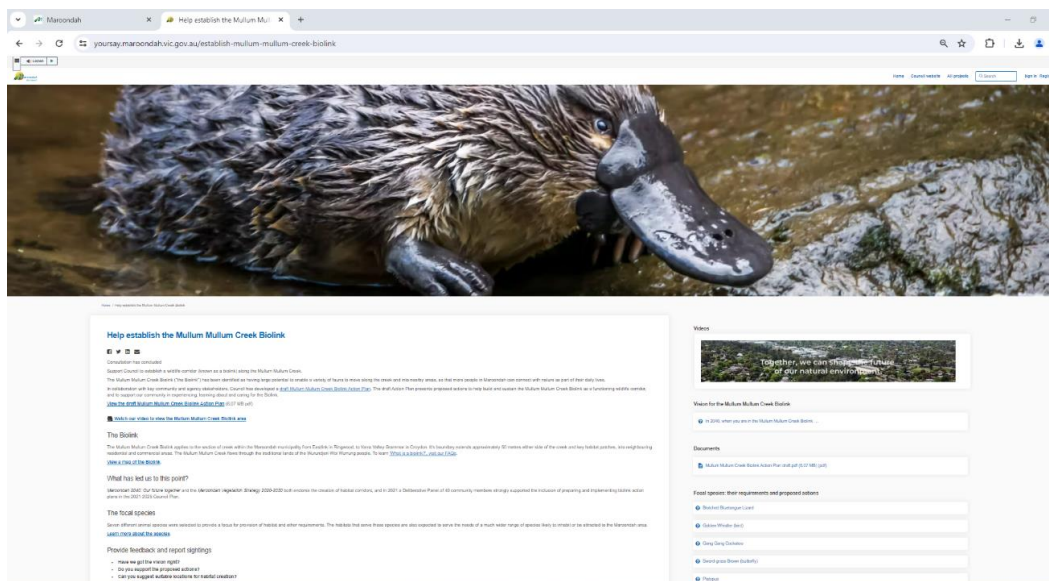
A draft action plan was developed by a key stakeholder group that proposed a range of actions required to build and sustain the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink as a functioning wildlife corridor, and to progress towards their shared vision for the biolink.

The draft plan was released publicly from 8<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 to share the proposed actions with organisations and individuals in the wider Maroondah community. The purpose was to seek comments and feedback that can reflect the level of community support for creating the biolink overall, the identified actions, and also suggestions that can help to locate, refine, improve and consolidate the actions to be included in the final action plan.

The draft Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan was structured as follows:

- Background
  - About this plan
  - What has led us to this point?
  - The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink
  - Landscape context
- Vision
- Proposed actions to
  - meet the needs of the seven focal species (Blotched Bluetongue Lizard, Golden Whistler, Gang Gang Cockatoo, Sword-grass Brown (butterfly), Platypus, Powerful Owl, Spotted Marsh Frog)
  - support the biolink
  - sustain the biolink
  - connect the community to the biolink

## How did we consult?



A webpage titled “[Help establish the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink](#)” on the Maroondah “Your Say” online platform was used to provide the means for community to learn about the draft action plan and provide their feedback on it.

In addition to the draft action plan document, this webpage also provided extracts such as the vision, the habitat requirements and proposed actions for each of the seven focal species, the proposed actions for supporting, sustaining and creating community connection to the biolink, frequently asked questions, and a video outlining the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink area.

Visitors to the page were posed the questions:

- Have we got the vision right?
- Do you support the proposed actions?
- Can you suggest suitable locations for habitat creation?
- Have you seen any of the focal fauna species?

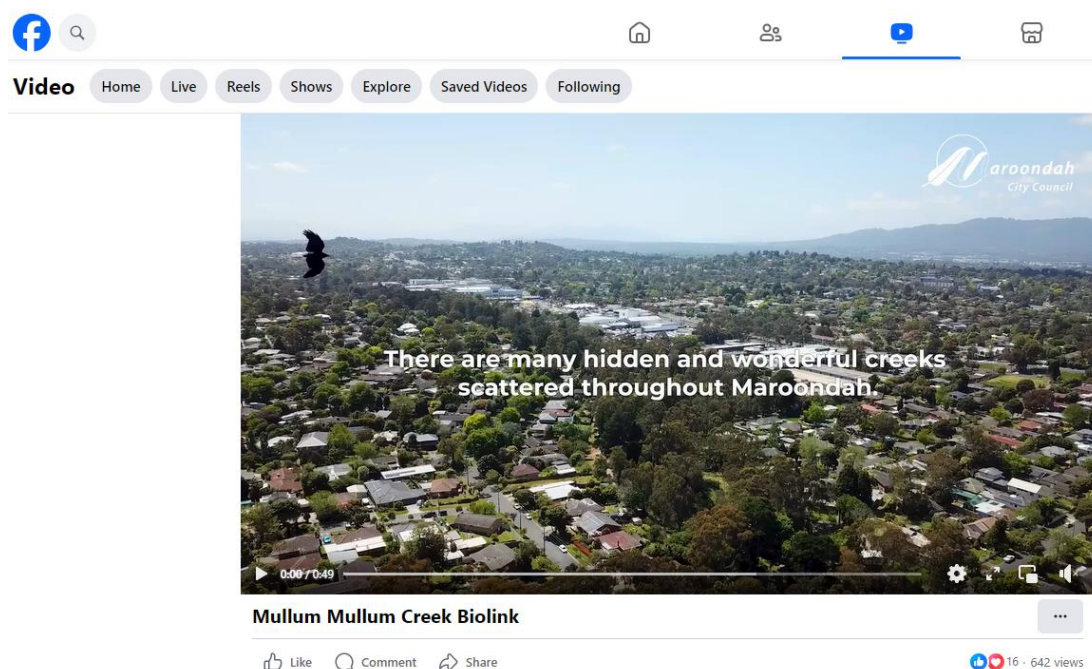
Their responses were collected via:

- Completing an online survey (feedback on the vision and proposed actions)
- Dropping a ‘pin’ on an interactive map (suggest locations for habitat creation and sightings of the focal species)

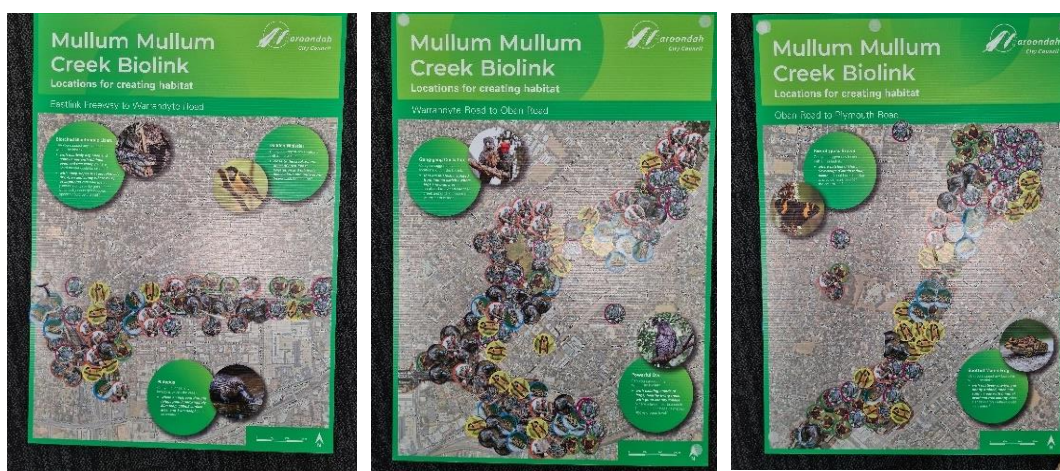
## Promoting the opportunity to comment

The opportunity to provide feedback and a link to the Your Say web page were communicated to the community through several means:

- Promotional flyers put up at bushland reserves and community group noticeboards and buildings
- Flyers displayed at four locations along biolink area (end of Leonard St, end of Sonia St, entrances both sides of Oliver St)
- Promotional postcards delivered to local residents within biolink
  - 9<sup>th</sup> November - 900 postcards delivered to letterboxes
- Maroondah News publications
  - 21<sup>st</sup> November - November/December 2023 edition email
  - 2500 hardcopies distributed to 40 locations - customer service centres, Council venues, community houses, newsstands in shopping centres and post offices.
- MCC Customer Service Centres
  - 300 postcards available for pick up
  - TV promotion at Realm level 1 and Croydon Library
- Social media - video posts (<https://youtu.be/bodwmQrTknw>)
  - 28<sup>th</sup> November - Facebook - Reach - 1,454 Reactions - 14 Views - 533  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=727867669237774>
  - 9<sup>th</sup> December - Facebook - Reach - 1,434 Engagement - 4 Views - 499  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3219218288381886>
  - Instagram - Reach - 1,682 Likes - 69 Comments - 1



- eNewsletters
  - 8<sup>th</sup> November - Waste and Sustainability - 2873 deliveries, 73% open rate
  - 10<sup>th</sup> November - MCC eNews - 14169 deliveries, 70% open rate
  - 21<sup>st</sup> November - Maroondah News online - 14226 deliveries, 93% open rate
  - 24<sup>th</sup> November - Nature News - 1485 deliveries, 47% open rate
  - 24<sup>th</sup> November - MCC eNews - 14206 deliveries, 69% open rate
- 12<sup>th</sup> November - Maroondah Festival
  - Display and map activity in Café Consult marquee at Maroondah Festival - estimate of 500 people visited the marquee.
  - Postcards handed out to visitors
  - Visitors to the marquee were encouraged to add focal species stickers to map of biolink in locations where they think suitable habitat could be created



- 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November - Great Southern Bioblitz nature discovery activities
  - Postcards handed out to 50 participants
- Stakeholder support
  - 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December - Eastland promoted on the large screen at Ringwood Town Square
  - Wurundjeri Special Projects Manager: Included in community notices.
  - Eastern FM - Included in content of Councillor radio spot



## Community engagement with the Your Say web page

- 545 people visited the Your Say web page
- 296 people clicked on one or more links on the page:
  - 24 viewed the video
  - 156 downloaded a document (the draft action plan)
  - 124 visited the FAQ page
  - 62 contributed to an online tool (survey or pin drop)

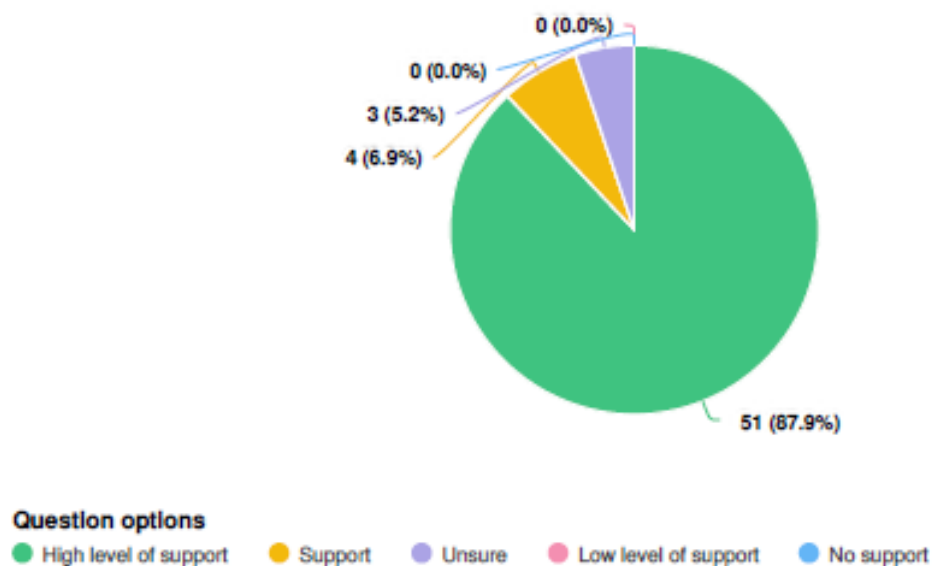
## What did people tell us?

- 58 people completed the feedback survey
  - ages ranged from 12-17 years old to over 85 years old
  - 32 identified as female, 25 as male, and 1 preferred not to say
- Responses to survey questions:

*"To what extent do you support the creation of biolinks in Maroondah?"*

High level of support	51	87.9%
Support	4	6.9%
Unsure	3	5.2%
Low level of support	0	0%
No support	0	0%

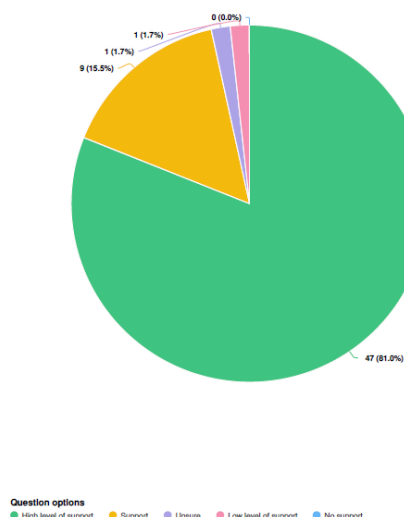
(58 responses)



*"To what extent do you support pursuit of the vision for the Biolink?"*

High level of support	47	81.0%
Support	9	15.5%
Unsure	1	1.7%
Low level of support	1	1.7%
No support	0	0%

(58 responses)



*"Thinking about supporting, sustaining and connecting the community to the Biolink, to what extent do you endorse the proposed actions presented in the draft Action Plan?"*

*I endorse:"*

Proposed actions to support the Biolink

None of the proposed actions	0	0%
Some of the proposed actions	7	12.1%
All of the proposed actions	51	87.9%

(58 responses)

Proposed actions to sustain the Biolink

None of the proposed actions	0	0%
Some of the proposed actions	8	13.8%
All of the proposed actions	50	86.2%

(58 responses)

Proposed actions to connect the community

None of the proposed actions	0	0%
Some of the proposed actions	13	22.4%
All of the proposed actions	45	77.6%

(58 responses)

*“Thinking about meeting the needs of focal species (habitats and threats), to what extent do you endorse the proposed actions presented in the draft Action Plan?*

*I endorse.”*

#### Blotched Bluetongue Lizard

None of the proposed actions	2	3.4%
Some of the proposed actions	6	10.3%
All of the proposed actions	50	86.2%

(58 responses)

#### Golden Whistler

None of the proposed actions	1	1.7%
Some of the proposed actions	4	6.9%
All of the proposed actions	53	91.4%

(58 responses)

#### Gang-gang Cockatoo

None of the proposed actions	2	3.4%
Some of the proposed actions	5	8.6%
All of the proposed actions	51	87.9%

(58 responses)

#### Sword-grass Brown (butterfly)

None of the proposed actions	2	3.4%
Some of the proposed actions	2	3.4%
All of the proposed actions	54	93.1%

(58 responses)

#### Platypus

None of the proposed actions	0	0%
Some of the proposed actions	6	10.3%
All of the proposed actions	52	89.7%

(58 responses)

#### Powerful Owl

None of the proposed actions	1	1.7%
Some of the proposed actions	4	6.9%
All of the proposed actions	53	91.4%

(58 responses)

#### Spotted Marsh Frog

None of the proposed actions	1	1.7%
Some of the proposed actions	4	6.9%
All of the proposed actions	53	91.4%

(58 responses)

## Comments made on specific actions and corresponding response statements

- 29 comments were received on the actions proposed for supporting, sustaining and connecting the community to the Biolink:
  - 14 comments on proposed actions
  - 15 comments on actions/issues missed
- 31 comments were received on the proposed actions for meeting the needs of focal species:
  - 8 comments on actions not supported
  - 13 comments on actions supported
  - 10 comments on actions/issues missed

*Do you have any feedback about specific actions proposed for supporting, sustaining and connecting the community to the Biolink?*

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
<p>8.6. Public lighting. I think the current state of public lighting can be improved in terms of consistency. It is important to shield wildlife so that artificial lighting isn't creating an unnatural impact, but at the same time, in considering how to create strong community engagement with the biolink, having adequate lighting so the place is inviting at all times and not seen as a dangerous place at night is important. I support 8.6 as it stands, but would suggest as part of the improvements, additional lighting be considered.</p> <p>9.8. Eastland. 8.8(a) suggests new developments should consider facing the creek. I think Eastland is a missed opportunity in that all of the focus has gone into the Town Square precinct and the front facing Maroondah Highway, whilst the back facing the creek against the Ringwood Bypass feels literally like the "butt" of Eastland, both in physical aspect and also in feeling (it literally feels like a concrete landscape). Council and Eastland should partner to consider how the "butt" can be improved so that there is a natural connection with the surrounding environment. I think Westfield Knox and its connection to the adjacent Lewis Park is an example of a step in the right direction. It's not perfect, and they can also improve, but it feels much more open and connected.</p>	<p>Should any additional lighting be proposed for the Mullum Mullum Creek Trail, an assessment on the need for path lighting would be undertaken in accordance with the Maroondah Public Lighting Guidelines. For nature reserves, lighting is generally only considered necessary where a strategic pedestrian or bicycle route has been identified (Note: The Mullum Mullum Creek main trail has been identified as a strategic link in the Maroondah Principal Pedestrian Network and the Victorian Strategic Cycling Corridors). Where justified, lighting is generally only operational during night-time peak use periods - outside of these hours, the lighting is switched off or dimmed.</p> <p>Eastland are aware and acknowledge their ownership of the narrow strip of land between the shopping centre and the creek reserve. As part of this ownership, Eastland have invested in efforts to improve the habitat values of the narrow strip of landscaped land they own, and in consultation with Council's Bushland team have commenced with the planting of ground layer indigenous plants into the gaps and will continue to manage this area with their gardening team.</p> <p>Eastland will continue to work closely with their stakeholders including Maroondah City Council's Bushland teams on maintenance and potential improvements of this area.</p>	<p>Modify action 8.6 to read 'Design public lighting, especially lighting of shared trails, to be wildlife-friendly by minimising light spill and potential impacts on nearby habitats without reduction in public safety'</p>



Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
If the information could be less to read at first for the community to follow you may get a bigger following, eg a fast fact sheet, with more visual pictures. If they want to read the full plan details they can and will	We agree that simple and concise information to explain the biolink plan will help more people understand and potentially support it aims. It is expected that the action 10.6 'Promote the biolink to raise awareness and build community support and involvement by establishing a Council webpage dedicated to the Mullum Mullum Creek biolink' will help do this.	No change
The concept of a biolink i.e. follow the creeks (?) does not support the total ecosystem. For example, certain native and heritage plants are missing from the plan i.e. terrestrial orchids, fungi, beetles, micro food sources. These are extremely important to small birds e.g. pardalotes. Scrub such as tea tree needs to be preserved. Dead logs and roughage need to remain and not cleaned up by staff. Certainly the "pre-settlement" surveys of 1841 and onwards noted obvious "stringbarks" and so forth but other plants were not on the survey maps. Unless the whole ecosystem is promoted, the select few of the "focal species" might not live in optimum surroundings. Some of the Action Items (keep feral rabbits, dogs, cats and foxes at bay) are obvious and really in the hands of council by-laws. Little is mentioned of the polluted water and its quality, not of shopping trolleys, plastics, etc. These are more a danger to animals.	Current day Maroondah is very different to what it was like before European settlement having become very urbanised since then, however remnant patches of the once extensive habitats still remain. The eight biolinks that have been identified represent the "pathways of least resistance" through our highly urbanised landscape where we have the best chance to connect and restore habitats such that they can enable movement of some wildlife through Maroondah. Many, but not all, of these biolinks follow creeks. Several plants and animals that once occurred in Maroondah no longer occur here, and although the prospects of getting many of them back again are slim at best, biolinks offer an opportunity to reintroduce some. The seven focal species were selected for just that - to provide a focus for both action planning and engaging the community, and with the view that serving their needs would also serve the needs of a much wider range of plant and animal species. In addition to the recognised sites of biological significance, the biolinks will provide Council with key areas to focus its efforts on habitat protection, improvement and creation. Reducing the potential impact of dogs, cats and foxes is not the sole responsibility of Council - cat and dog owners can play a major role in preventing their pets from accessing areas important for native fauna. The importance of water quality is referenced under the requirements for Platypus, and associated actions needed under the sub-heading 'Threat reduction'.	No change
First map had coloured polygons but no legend. Connect with community on native vegetation, biolinks, cultural burning and fire safety in the landscape	The first map included labels for each of the coloured polygons but did lack a title. The actions 10.2 'Create learning opportunities for people using the trails through the biolink' and 10.4 'Create learning opportunities for people visiting the biolink' are both expected to cover, and help connect the community to the biolink, a range of topics that are likely to include the topics you suggest.	Add map title

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
Who are the Wurundjeri people? Do they live in the area where residents rates will be used to enhance? If not then I feel you are not working in the interest of rate payers. Also, there is no mention of the budget for this project. The public should be heavily consulted before there is a decision to provide financial support for changes to private lands within biolink scope. I dont want my rates going to fixing up someones backyard or a private companies gardens.	The Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people are the acknowledged Traditional Owners of the land now known as Maroondah. Their ancestors once lived sustainably on this land, and their present day descendants retain a strong connection to this Country. The purpose of consulting the community on the draft Action Plan was to understand the level of community support before moving into the more detailed specifics including setting priorities, responsibilities and budgets. The community feedback received on the draft biolink action plan does indicate a high level of community support for implementing the proposed actions for creating the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink. As part of finalising the Action Plan, the highest priority actions will be identified and provide the focus for implementation for the first couple of years.	No change
If Biolink is a measure for the benefit of many citizens in the area, I believe that those who are restricted in the use of their personal property due to this plan should be compensated appropriately.	Should any action that may affect what a landholder can do on their property be considered, it would go through its own public consultation process prior to being enacted.	No change
Only one targeted species mentioned enforcing cat lockups at night. This should be mentioned for all species where cats are to be encouraged to stay indoors during the day.	The threat of predation from cats, and the associated threat reduction action of encouraging cats to be kept indoors, is identified for five of the seven focal species. For the other two species (Powerful Owl and Sword Grass Brown butterfly) predation from cats is not considered a major threat.	No change
In addition to 8.1 General actions to support the Biolink - add creation of wetland habitats in suitable areas beside Mullum Mullum Ck watercourse that provide quality habitat for indigenous aquatic flora, aquatic invertebrates and frogs such as the Spotted Marsh Frog, one of seven target species for the proposed Biolink.	The first action under the sub-heading 'Habitat creation and improvement' for Actions needed for the Spotted Marsh Frog (page 29), is "7.1 In locations within the biolink where there are lower-lying or poorly drained, open and sunny areas with minimal overhead tree canopy, create a series of small and medium sized permanent and semi-permanent habitat wetlands, ideally spaced within 500m (and no more than 1000m) of each other" On page 30, there are a range of other species listed that are also expected to benefit from the actions proposed for the Spotted Marsh Frog.	No change

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
Cats should be on 24/7 cat curfew to further protect wildlife, and the biolink doesnt seem to include the part of the creek around dampier grove to hillcrest ave area, which is also in maroondah council.	Council's current cat curfew is from dusk to dawn, however its enforcement is reliant on residents participating in Council's cat trapping program (to help identify cat owners). More information is available on Council's website including what you can do about a stray or nuisance cat. ( <a href="https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Residents-property/">https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Residents-property/</a> ) A review of Maroondah's Domestic Animal Management Plan will commence in late 2024/early 2025 with community consultation on a range of topics including the cat curfew. The Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink boundary does not include all of the Mullum Mullum Creek catchment. It has been drawn by adding a 50-metre buffer around the priority locations identified in the Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan (2021). Although the area between Dampier Grove and Hillcrest Avenue is within the Mullum Mullum Creek catchment it does not fall within the biolink boundary.	Modify actions 1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 5.19 and 7.9 to read "Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats." Add new action "Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew"
Whilst extensive transparent objectives and proposals do need to be established, caution should be applied not to get lost in bureaucracy. Outcomes and demonstrable results should be the focus.	Action 9.17 on page 35 proposes the establishment of a Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan oversight group to coordinate, monitor and drive action. This includes tracking progress against agreed measures of success.	No change
The Mullum Mullum biolink in parts is already a corridor of high significance in that it has some relatively pristine spots along its length. To impose human based interactive signage, yarn circles or other is in my opinion, not required for engagement, there are other ways for the community to learn to appreciate the natural environment than to impose man made creations, into what should remain a nature trail.	It is agreed that the Mullum Mullum Creek corridor already has areas of significance and habitat value that contribute to it currently functioning to some level as a biolink. The proposed actions in the plan are seeking to greatly increase its effective function as a biolink, and this will require substantial and sustained community support. The proposed interpretive signage is expected to increase community understanding of, and subsequent connection to and valuing of, the biolink, its cultural importance, and the plants and animals it aims to serve. The design and siting of any such signage will take into account, and seek to avoid, their potential impact on any existing natural values.	No change
very supportive; except for the observation hut [near platypus habitat] which I feel would be invasive	We understand and share the concern. If we are successful in attracting Platypus back into Mullum Mullum Creek, then there will be a high level of community interest in trying to see one. We would then want to see if we can create a suitable viewing area that enables people to look over a pool where platypus may be seen, but do so with minimal likelihood of disturbing Platypus (and other fauna) that may occur there, and also direct people away from other more sensitive locations.	No change

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
Did not see costings and can't compare with other needs.	The primary purpose of the draft action plan was to introduce the concept of creating a functioning biolink along the Mullum Mullum Creek corridor, describe the wide range of actions needed to do so, and test the level of community support for those actions. If community support is strong, then actions will be prioritised, and high priority actions will be described in more detail, allocated a lead responsibility and resources sought accordingly. These will be included in a rolling two-year implementation plan to accompany the final version of the biolink action plan. The feedback received indicates there is a high level of community support.	No change
<p>Action 8.3 - should be more WSUD generally, even beyond the immediate biolink as any property near and around Maroondah highway in particular will feed into the stormwater system it must be assumed</p> <p>Hope that measures to "ensure" are truly enforced and not just a statement of action - if people know there is no repercussion they will not do the right thing unfortunately (particularly businesses)</p> <p>Who will make up the "oversight group" from action 9.17?</p> <p>Hope to see community representation in that group, not just from Council</p> <p>Permit process of nature strip planting needs to be expedited and made easier - there is currently not clear communication / information about what is allowed / not allowed and no contact for information - the planting of nature strips with diverse (especially indigenous) species should be encouraged more even beyond the biolink corridor - it all contributes, with the Nature Havens a great initiative to see</p> <p>I wonder how the permit application of the Grill'd restaurant to remove vegetation and increase vehicular traffic with a drive-through fits in with this proposal - doesn't seem to be a good fit being quite close by the corridor</p>	<p>Action 5.12 Undertake a specialised investigation of the wider catchments of the creek is designed to enable us to understand just how much and what types of water sensitive urban design treatments will be needed in the creek's catchment to restore flow regimes and water quality to more natural levels. This is seen as a critical prerequisite to understanding the scale of the task, and where the highest priorities may lie.</p> <p>Where there are not laws in place where compliance can be legally enforced, then education is expected to be the primary means for 'ensuring' particular measures.</p> <p>The oversight group will be primarily comprised of people and organisations with lead responsibilities for delivering priority actions. This may include community organisations as well as Council and other agencies.</p> <p>The creation of understorey habitat on a nature strip needs to meet many different requirements including road safety, utility provision and access, and ongoing maintenance, amongst other things. It is being proposed that a template planting plan be created that addresses the various requirements and specifies appropriate species for specific locations within the biolink. It is hoped that this would make the process clearer and easier.</p>	<p>Modify action 8.5 to read 'Facilitate the creation and ongoing maintenance of understorey habitat on nature strips within the biolink, such as creating planting plan templates for interested landowners that meet Council's permit requirements (a suitable planting plan and permit from Council are required)'</p>



*“Do you think there are any specific actions or issues that have been missed relating to supporting, sustaining and connecting the community to the Biolink?”*

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
Could all schools in this area be involved, in some way - wonderful opportunities for the whole community to learn.	All schools are welcome to contribute in whatever ways they are able, and at their initiative. Yarra Valley Grammar was singled out because it has a significant patch of bushland habitat within the biolink that is critical to the future functioning of the biolink.	No change
Every primary school and secondary school in Maroondah should be encouraged to engage in the plan, with projects - displayed at eastland. For students to visit sites, to plant to see before, during and after work - to do there own surveys to establish a care for there environment and, flora fauna, waterways etc	All schools are welcome to contribute in whatever ways they are able, and at their initiative. Yarra Valley Grammar was singled out because it has a significant patch of bushland habitat within the biolink that is critical to the future functioning of the biolink.	No change
There appears no attempt to provide a baseline count of "focal" or any other species. Unless there is a "biolink" line in the sand, the project has no way to gauge if it has been successful in promoting species, else it is just rhetoric. Many of the plants, that have been cited to be planted, have not been native to area - see P32. From the photo, I can't see how a paper-bark tree and tufted grasses promote any sort of native ecosystem. P36. It has been confirmed by academic sources (Woiwod, Aboriginal Languages V4 by Dixon and Blake) that the Wurundjeri language essentially ceased to be used. There is one small private (one person) revival but many of our so-called Aboriginal words e.g. Mullum Mullum, Kalinda, Carcoola are not Indigenous. How many "big birds" or "place of eagles" have been in the environment of Deep Creek? Very few. So be very wary of creating a local "Indigenous" environment because, in many cases, it did not exist e.g. Indigenous art. McGivern did record some local stories but to use "mainstream" Indigenous culture, in this local area, is, I would think, offensive to those descendants. A "platypus refuge pool", are you serious? "Deliver community education programs around use snail and rat baits," please don't kill the native mice and native land snails! So, in summary, I think that this project is a half-hearted effort and really hasn't been thought out properly. I acknowledge Lorimer's fine work but all the rhetoric of the "2040 Vision" dilutes any real attempt to make a genuine difference, at least to "sustain" what is current these in 2023.	Action 9.17 on page 35 proposes the establishment of a Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan oversight group to coordinate, monitor and drive action. This includes tracking progress against agreed measures of success that they will need to determine. The existing records of focal species within the biolink may well provide a baseline for monitoring success. There are no plant species 'cited to be planted' on page 32, only an illustrative photo of an example of planting of native understorey species beneath a street tree. Irrespective of whether or not the Woi-Wurrung (Wurundjeri) language ceased to be used, components of the language still exist, and retains its potential to be revived. The Wurundjeri people will be directly consulted on use of language and other proposed representations of their culture. Proposed action 5.3 to undertake a technical investigation to identify viable locations where creating a drought refuge pool for platypus is feasible will ensure that any subsequent efforts to create a refuge pool are undertaken seriously. It is acknowledged that other actions to improve habitat conditions for platypus are likely to be needed before taking on the task of creating a refuge pool. The community education programs around the use of snail and rat baits are about avoiding their use and are linked to proposed action 1.9 (Encourage residents within the biolink to avoid using toxic snail baits in their garden - page 14) and action 6.7 (Deliver an education program to discourage the use of second-generation rodenticides within the biolink - page 27)	No change

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
We could be even more assertive/ambitious as a community, so even residents living a few blocks away could make an impact. I am not sure whether the 'stepping stone' strategy is strong/visible enough.	The process used in the Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan (2021) that identified the eight biolinks provides the strategic rationale for focussing our efforts where we think we are most likely to have success. If the biolinks can be successfully created, then expanding linkages further into the rest of Maroondah have a greater chance of being effective in dispersing more nature into those areas.	No change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no reference to fire impact in the plan.</li> <li>• Much reference to 50m revegetation and no reference to balancing fire risk with vegetation encroaching on residences and structures.</li> <li>• Focus on habitat creation and improvement which in itself is a good thing, but no thought into the impacts of this outside of biodiversity.</li> <li>• No reference/consideration to access issues in the event of a fire.</li> <li>• CFA keen to be an active stakeholder in future actions for this plan.</li> <li>• Planning controls to consider bushfire.</li> </ul>	<p>We acknowledge that the draft action plan does not make reference to fire impact so will include in the final version reference to bushfire risk and guidance on keeping the risk low. The '50 metre' references relate to how the biolink boundary was defined (ie adding a 50m buffer to the priority locations identified in the Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan (2021), and not to any proposed extent of revegetation.</p> <p>The CFA have since conducted an overview assessment of bushfire risk within the biolink. This concluded there is a low risk of bushfire due to several factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the biolink shape and its position in the landscape (largely urbanised)</li> <li>- no record of bushfire in the area for the past 50 years</li> <li>- not listed in the Victoria Fire Risk Register</li> <li>- the network of trails, roads, and mown grassy areas have created discontinuity of fuels and numerous access options that in the event of a fire starting would limit fire spread and support suppression efforts</li> </ul> <p>The CFA would be welcomed as another stakeholder for implementation of this plan, potentially as a participant in the Mullum Mullum Creek Biolink Action Plan oversight group proposed under action 9.17 (page 35).</p>	<p>In the section 9. Management and maintenance actions to sustain the biolink, under the heading 'Managing and maintaining public land', add the following:</p> <p><b>Bushfire risk</b></p> <p>The CFA have assessed there is a low risk of bushfire within the biolink due to several factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the biolink shape and its position in the landscape (largely urbanised)</li> <li>• there has been no record of bushfire in the area for the past 50 years</li> <li>• the area is not listed in the Victoria Fire Risk Register</li> <li>• the network of trails, roads, and mown grassy areas provide discontinuity of fuels and numerous access options that in the event of a fire starting would limit fire spread and support suppression efforts</li> </ul> <p>Actions aimed at creating new habitat (ie revegetation) should seek to maintain this low level of bushfire risk by ensuring new areas of vegetation retain sufficient discontinuity of fuels, and avoid butting up to adjacent property fencing.</p>
Has any analysis been done towards the fact that an increase in seven focal species may increase the risks of natural predators like venomous snakes? The word snake does not exist on either of your project documents... What will be done to keep snake populations down and away from residents yards where they may have pets and young kids?	Of the seven focal species, only the Spotted Marsh Frog is considered likely to be a regular prey item for snakes, although Bluetongue lizards may also be taken. Implementation of the biolink action plan is considered very unlikely to elevate the risk of venomous snakes entering residential yards beyond the existing (very low) risk.	In the section 7. Spotted Marsh Frog, add under "Other species likely to be served by these actions" the following dot point: "Species that regularly prey on frogs and tadpoles such as larger waterbirds, Laughing Kookaburra, Rakali, fish, larger reptiles (including snakes) and predatory invertebrates."

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
There is also potential to support local bees and to reintroduce native flowers and plant species from custom seed banks. There is a wonderful project called Melbourne Meadows, please see <a href="https://linktr.ee/melbourne_meadows">https://linktr.ee/melbourne_meadows</a> . Council funds can be better used for propagating these meadows that are far less cumbersome and costly to maintain (no more grass mowing!), and for introducing plants that have been forgotten, and no new weeds.	The proposed action 1.1 (page 14) to establish areas of diverse understorey vegetation in locations where there are relatively dry, open and sunny areas with minimal overhead tree canopy, using understorey species associated with Valley Heathy Forest, presents an opportunity to create meadow-like areas that can incorporate wildflower species as well as grasses and sedges. Native bees are expected to benefit from most of the habitat creation actions proposed in the action plan.	No change
Would recommend adding an item to 10.2 Create learning opportunities for people using the trails through the biolink: Duplicate parts of the trail to separate cyclists and fitness runners from sections where there are natural and cultural points of interest and interpretation areas. People will stop and take their time enjoying the attractions, potentially blocking the path if there are larger groups. Could create a conflict with some fast-moving cyclists. I recently saw a near miss along this creek which could have ended up with a severe injury!	There is support for the principle of separating slower moving, nature observing trail users from the faster moving cyclists and runners. There are existing duplications of the trail in parts of the biolink corridor providing a narrower, and more meandering and informal alternative, however the narrowness of the public creek corridor and the desire to avoid unnecessary vegetation removal, limits the opportunity for duplicating the trail along its entire length.	Add Action 10.2 (f) Investigate options for separating faster moving trail users (eg runners and commuting cyclists) from slower moving users such as alternative trails, and offshoots to points of interest and/or rest places
Create opportunities for ALL Maroondah Schools to participate in water quality monitoring, biodiversity monitoring. Provide and offer biolinks outreach people to schools	All schools are welcome to contribute in whatever ways they are able, and at their initiative. Yarra Valley Grammar was singled out because it has a significant patch of bushland habitat within the biolink that is critical to the future functioning of the biolink.	No change
Please do not create any concrete pathways, only soft surface nature trails	The Mullum Mullum Creek main trail has been identified as a strategic link in the Maroondah Principal Pedestrian Network and the Victorian Strategic Cycling Corridor Network, and as a result whenever a trail upgrade is required Council is obligated to bring it to the Austroads/VicRoads shared use trail standards. Provision of an all-weather seal along the main trail is supported to cater for the significant pedestrian and cyclist use. The existing asphalt section between Oban Road and Kalinda Road is in poor condition with a few unsafe bends, and plans for an upgrade are in preparation with works expected to commence in late 2024 and into 2025. This upgrade will result in a 3-metre-wide concrete path to meet shared use path specifications, with modified alignments in some locations to address safety issues on bends with poor sightlines.	Add statement to spiel under the heading "10. Promotional, learning and engagement actions to connect people to the biolink": "The Mullum Mullum Creek Main Trail has been identified as a strategically important link in the Maroondah Principal Pedestrian Network and the Victorian Strategic Cycling Corridor Network"
I propose that other schools near the creek should also have similar opportunities to contribute to sustaining the biolink. Also, another possibility for enhancing community engagement with the biolink is a Parkrun along the Maroondah area of the creek.	All schools are welcome to contribute in whatever ways they are able, and at their initiative. Yarra Valley Grammar was singled out because it has a significant patch of bushland habitat within the biolink that is critical to the future functioning of the biolink. There is an existing Mullum Mullum Park Run that extends into Maroondah.	No change

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
<p>There is no mention of the original reason for the Mullum Mullum Ck as a green area still.</p> <p>I understand that at the time of the initial settlement, Mitcham and surrounds was one of the highest, if not the highest rainfall in the eastern Metropolitan area. When I was growing up, the forest was wet sclerophyll hence the messmates, peppermints, manna gums and blackwood wattles. There was an assortment of ferns, springs, and orchids. The area hosted the most diverse range of acacias in the Melbourne area, next to Studley Park. At the head of the creek there was a gold-antimony mine. People fished for eels, and blackfish. As a child, I drank from the creek and walked along its stream bed, where large cobbles and rocky outcrops marked elevation falls.</p> <p>This does not appear to have been considered. My walks along the creek today bear no resemblance to yesteryear, and the plan makes no mention of re-establishing the smaller herbs and ferns within the green belt. I can only hope that the microclimates that the Mullum Valley used to support allowing these to thrive, will be established and encouraged. The smaller marsupials need tracks to cross roads. There is no mention of aerial pathways or faunal culverts so the possums, antechinus, native rats etc can move through without being squashed. What about koalas? As a child they used to visit our yards. The plan mentions echidnas. Where do the echidnas live? What about the legless lizards? Do we return to the fire paranoias of previous centuries resulting in the loss of the multi-layered understory? And the return to exotic weed species?</p> <p>If the plan forms a component of the overall Eastern Seaboard Greening, the Maroondah greenbelts need to be connected through to the Yarra Ranges, through to the southern coast up to the Great Divide and North Queensland. How does the Maroondah Environmental Plan fit within this much broader picture? Has it been considered? I hope so.</p> <p>There is no link/reference to the species lists of the EVCs within the greenbelts of Maroondah.</p> <p>There is no faunal species list either historical or current.</p>	<p>The draft action plan does not attempt to provide a history of the Mullum Mullum Creek corridor other than a very brief background for context, with the plan focussed on establishing a functioning biolink by building on the current situation. Proposed action 10.6 Promote the biolink to raise awareness and build community support and involvement (page 37) proposes establishment of a Council webpage dedicated to the Mullum Mullum Creek biolink that would provide an ideal platform for providing the community with more information on the history of the creek corridor. Local knowledge holders are likely to be a valuable source of information for this purpose.</p> <p>Although the draft action plan has been developed around meeting the requirements of seven focal fauna species, many of the proposed actions are aimed at creating new habitats and improving existing habitats (through weed control amongst other things) that are expected to benefit many plant and animal species beyond just the focal species.</p> <p>It is hoped that some species that once occurred along the Mullum Mullum Creek corridor can be attracted back as a result of establishing the biolink, however it is also sadly acknowledged that some species are not expected to return.</p> <p>The Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan that was the basis for identifying eight biolink routes through the Maroondah landscape took into account habitat connectivity beyond the Maroondah boundaries. The biolink action planning processes for each biolink however will be focussed on actions within Maroondah. Lists of species that occur/ once occurred within the biolink could be incorporated into the proposed webpage outlined above.</p>	No change
Including public schools such as Ringwood SC	All schools are welcome to contribute in whatever ways they are able. Yarra Valley Grammar was singled out because it has a significant patch of bushland habitat within the biolink that is critical to the future functioning of the biolink.	No change



Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
<p>Cats could be regulated to have to remain indoors at all times across the council, not just the biolink - where is the line drawn for being expected to keep them indoors and how will it be ensured it is being maintained - across the board makes it an easier regulation and protects our wildlife throughout the council.</p> <p>Some idea of how this biolink could or will connect to others across the council would be good to include in the biolink 'website'</p> <p>Creating a council wide encouragement of WSUD initiatives, including more creative pilot projects to educate and share information would be great to combine with this as the systems are all connected.</p>	<p>Council's current cat curfew is from dusk to dawn, however its enforcement is reliant on residents participating in Council's cat trapping program (to help identify cat owners). More information is available on Council's website including what you can do about a stray or nuisance cat. (<a href="https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Residents-property/">https://www.maroondah.vic.gov.au/Residents-property/</a>)</p> <p>A review of Maroondah's Domestic Animal Management Plan will commence in late 2024/early 2025 with community consultation on a range of topics including the cat curfew.</p> <p>Agree with the inclusion of biolink connectivity on the proposed webpage.</p> <p>Establishing demonstration and practical WSUD projects that have a clear purpose of helping establish a functioning biolink is expected to help encourage their wider acceptance and adoption.</p>	<p>Modify actions 1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 5.19 and 7.9 to read "Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats."</p> <p>Add new action "Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew".</p> <p>Add a bullet point to action 10.6 that reads "how this biolink will connect to other biolinks and habitat outside of Maroondah"</p>
<p>Will roads intersecting the bushland surrounding the creek such as Oban Rd and Oliver St (through the edge effect) negatively influence the connectivity of key wildlife species' numbers after the supporting actions are completed?</p>	<p>Roads that cut across the biolink such as Oban Road and Oliver Street do present challenges to the habitat connectivity for some species, especially those that are ground-dwellers. For aquatic species and some terrestrial ground-dwellers, the existing culverts under these roads should provide opportunities to safely get past the roads, and the proposed action 6.6 (on page 27) to use large-canopied indigenous tree species as street trees is expected to improve canopy connectivity, especially over roads that cut across the biolink and should benefit many birds and arboreal species.</p>	<p>No change</p>

*"Thinking about meeting the needs of focal species (habitats and threats), do you have any feedback on specific actions you do support and why?"*

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
<p>1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 5.19, 7.5 Cats: I am curious to know how strongly Council enforces the dusk-to-dawn cat curfew, as I have occasionally seen cats roaming the neighbourhood. Given this curfew is not fully enforced, I question how the Council would enact its plan to "encourage" cats to be kept indoors. I think the plan should be more specific in how this would be done, and how strong this "encouragement" would be.</p> <p>1.5, 5.17 Dogs: Similarly, I would be interested to see how this enforcement of dog leashing would in reality be implemented and executed, as I have personally never once seen it happening.</p>	<p>Council's current cat curfew is from dusk to dawn, however enforcement is reliant on residents participating in Council's cat trapping program (to help identify cat owners). More information is available on Council's website including what you can do about a straying or nuisance cat. Stray and nuisance cats   Maroondah City Council</p> <p>Council's Animal Management Officers conduct patrols for compliance with Council's on-leash requirements.</p> <p>A review of Maroondah's Domestic Animal Management Plan will commence in late 2024/early 2025 with community consultation on a range of topics including dog off-leash provisions and cat curfew.</p>	<p>Modify actions 1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 5.19 and 7.9 to read "Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats."</p> <p>Add new action "Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew"</p> <p>Modify actions 1.4, 5.16 and 7.6 to read "Encourage dog owners using off-leash areas (Peter Vergers Reserve and south-eastern oval of Mullum Mullum Reserve) to manage their dogs and ensure they remain in permitted areas only, and do not stray into bushland areas"</p> <p>Modify actions 1.5, 5.17 and 7.7 to read "Encourage dog owners to keep their dogs on lead at all times when not in off-leash areas and Council's Animal Management Officers to conduct patrols for compliance with Council's on-leash requirements "</p>
<p>Action to support one species will help with the conservation of other species. How can we take action to support one species and not the others on the same space? Wouldn't that defeat the purpose of that council is trying to do?</p>	<p>The biolink action plan is about creating habitat and other conditions that would support the seven focal species, and in doing so would also meet the requirements of many other species as well (other species expected to benefit from the proposed actions are listed at the end of each focal species section). The focal species were selected on this basis and represent a wide diversity of fauna with diverse habitat requirements.</p>	<p>No change</p>
<p>I don't have a whole lot of input on the other species, but I have knowledge of Blue Tongues and I think it should really be hammered home about pesticide usage (such as snail bait), as bio-accumulation of toxins is not something the Everyman will be thinking about. Perhaps in addition to discouraging usage of snail bait, also give suggestions for natural alternatives, such as companion plants and egg shells.</p>	<p>We agree with the idea of suggesting alternatives.</p>	<p>Modify action 1.9 to read 'Encourage residents within the biolink to avoid using toxic snail baits in their garden, by using organic or physical alternatives if they are having issues with snails or slugs'</p>

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
Balance with bushfire safety	<p>The CFA have conducted an overview assessment of bushfire risk within the biolink. They concluded there is a low risk of bushfire due to several factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the biolink shape and its position in the landscape (largely urbanised)</li> <li>- no record of bushfire in the area for the past 50 years</li> <li>- not listed in the Victoria Fire Risk Register</li> <li>- the network of trails, roads, and mown grassy areas have created discontinuity of fuels and numerous access options that in the event of a fire starting would limit fire spread and support suppression efforts.</li> </ul> <p>A section on bushfire risk will be added to the action plan.</p>	<p>In the section 9. Management and maintenance actions to sustain the biolink, under the heading 'Managing and maintaining public land', add the following:</p> <p><b>Bushfire risk</b></p> <p>The CFA have assessed there is a low risk of bushfire within the biolink due to several factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the biolink shape and its position in the landscape (largely urbanised)</li> <li>• there has been no record of bushfire in the area for the past 50 years</li> <li>• the area is not listed in the Victoria Fire Risk Register</li> <li>• the network of trails, roads, and mown grassy areas provide discontinuity of fuels and numerous access options that in the event of a fire starting would limit fire spread and support suppression efforts</li> </ul> <p>Actions aimed at creating new habitat (ie revegetation) should seek to maintain this low level of bushfire risk by ensuring new areas of vegetation are 'islanded' to retain the discontinuity of fuels, and avoid butting up to adjacent property fencing.</p>
1.7,2.4,3.5,5.19,7.9 - Cats should be treated like foxes and trapped and culled if they are in the Bio-link, they should never be in there in the first place as they should be contained on their owners property	The biolink action plan recognises that predation by cats is a threat to a wide range of native fauna, including some of the focal species, and proposes the action "Encourage cats to be kept indoors at all times within the biolink or wider catchment and reinforce the dusk-to-dawn cat curfew" to reduce that threat.	No change
<p>Section 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5</p> <p>The start of the creek at Highland Ave past Yarra Valley Grammar to Strathfield Pde is dominated by Willow Trees and Radiata Pine trees and is in poor condition, these weed species should be removed and large wetlands created. These wetlands could have multiple benefits: pollution reduction, slow water flows during storm events, filtering of water, habitat creation. A wetland could also be created downstream of the initial wetlands that could be used for platypus habitat. There is large open space along this stretch of the creek and could easily fit the wetlands.</p>	<p>The removal of willows and pines in Strathfield Parade section would form part of restoring the riparian vegetation that once occurred there. This section also lends itself to the creation of several wetlands that could provide habitat for frogs and waterbirds (refer actions 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4 and 7.8). Such wetlands require minimal overshadowing from nearby trees and shrubs, so they have good access to sunshine.</p> <p>Actions 5.3 and 5.4 relate specifically to creation of one or more drought refuge pools for Platypus. It is assumed that before suitable locations for these could be transformed, other issues such as high velocity flows and water quality will need to be addressed first.</p>	No change

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
I'm impressed by the many and varied actions listed in this plan and excited to imagine what the results will be like in the future. You seem to have covered everything!	Thank you	No change
<p>Actions to encourage the nominated birds, Golden Whistler and Gang-gang Cockatoo by establishing quality habitat will provide the benefit of attracting many other visiting bird species.</p> <p>Also, if the aquatic habitats are made suitable for Spotted Marsh Frogs, it is likely to be so for a range of other species such as the Eastern Banjo Frog, which I recently heard while walking through the reserve adjacent to the Yarra Valley Grammar bushland area.</p>	We agree. The biolink action plan is about creating habitat and other conditions that would support the seven focal species, and in doing so would also meet the requirements of many other species as well. The focal species were selected on this basis and represent a wide diversity of fauna with diverse habitat requirements.	No change
6.5 and 6.6 There is a need to provide DENSE impenetrable prickly mid-level habitat for prey (eg. ring-tailed possums). Large enough for them to build dreys. [eg. Dense impenetrable habitat plantings of: Bursaria spinosa, Allocasuarina littoralis, Melaleuca ericifolia, Pomaderris aspera, Acacia paradoxa, Acacia verticillata, Cassinia longifolia, Coprosma quadrifida, and perhaps re-introduce local Banksia that used to be in thickets along the creek.]	We agree, but also recognise that creating this type of habitat needs to be balanced with providing other types of habitat to serve a wide range of species - this clarification will be incorporated into the action plan.	Modify action 6.5 to read "For their prey, retain and protect hollow bearing trees, and retain and/or create dense stands of tall indigenous midstorey habitat including prickly shrub species, whilst balancing the need for more open and unshaded understorey vegetation that provides habitat for other species."
Exclusion/control of pest species, including feral domestic animals	There are actions with measures to protect sites from predation by dogs, cats and foxes where habitats for lizards, frogs and other species are to be created.	No change
Actions as specified for platypus	Thank you	No change
1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 5.19, 7.9, 9.11 - I live near to the proposed Biolink area and regularly see cats roaming at night time, including across my own property. Given the well documented catastrophic damage that cats are known to cause to native wildlife I would like to see stronger action taken to prevent cat predation - 5 of the 7 Focal Species are noted as being at risk of cat predation but the plan only proposes the fairly weak action of "Encourage cats to be kept indoors at all times". I would strongly and enthusiastically support a full-time cat curfew, requiring cat owners to contain their cat indoors or to a suitable outdoor enclosure. Similar schemes are in operation in numerous other local government areas, I would like to see Maroondah join the growing number of councils to enforce responsible cat ownership.	<p>Council's current cat curfew is from dusk to dawn, however its enforcement is reliant on residents participating in Council's cat trapping program (to help identify cat owners). More information is available on Council's website including what you can do about a stray or nuisance cat. (Residents &amp; property/Animals/Stray and nuisance cats)</p> <p>A review of Maroondah's Domestic Animal Management Plan will commence in late 2024/early 2025 with community consultation on a range of topics including the cat curfew.</p>	<p>Modify actions 1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 5.19 and 7.9 to read "Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats."</p> <p>Add new action "Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew"</p>



*“Thinking about meeting the needs of focal species (habitats and threats), if you selected 'some' or 'none' of the proposed actions, please provide feedback on the specific actions you do not support, stating the relevant action code number/s and why”*

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
Cockatoos are stripping trees in big gangs as neighbour is feeding them, so noisy too	There are several different species of cockatoo that have been recorded in Maroondah. The Gang-gang Cockatoo does not form large flocks and are typically very quiet feeders.	No change
I don't think that increasing the population of any specific frog or butterfly is a sound use of rate payers money.	The biolink action plan is about creating habitat and other conditions that would support the seven focal species, and in doing so would also meet the requirements of many other species as well. The focal species were selected on this basis and represent a wide diversity of fauna with diverse habitat requirements. It is hoped the biolink will provide habitat and connectivity for many species into the future.	No change
I am a cat owner. I don't want to be limited in my ability to keep cats because of this plan.	The biolink action plan does not propose a ban on keeping cats. It recognises that predation by cats is a threat to a wide range of native fauna, including some of the focal species, and proposes the action "Encourage cats to be kept indoors at all times within the biolink or wider catchment and reinforce the dusk-to-dawn cat curfew" to reduce that threat.	Modify actions 1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 5.19 and 7.9 to read "Promote and enforce the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats." Add new action "Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew"
The selection of suitable sites did not include protection from predators such as feral cats and foxes in the area.	There are actions with measures to protect sites from predation by dogs, cats and foxes where habitats for lizards, frogs and other species are to be created.	No change
Blotched Blue-tongue: There is no mention of Island refuges, just fences, to exclude unwelcome lizard predators. Platypus 5.11. Be wary of excluding all rocky banks and stream verges. These help stabilise high-energy streambanks with muddy/silty reaches for small invertebrates, larvae, and crustacea. Both are needed as the Mullum Mullum Creek is high in the catchment. It is a reasonably straight stream lacking the muddy meanders of a plains stream.	Patches of habitat that provide the requirements of Blotched Bluetongues and other lizard species and are protected from unwelcome predators would be considered island refuges. Stable creek banks and a healthy supply of aquatic invertebrates are essential for attracting Platypus, so rocky banks would not be removed if it created excessive bank instability. Reducing the volume and velocity of flows in the creek following high rainfall events is also considered important for improving conditions for Platypus and their invertebrate food sources.	No change
Use of pesticides being sprayed - some banned by other countries (eg; round up] Only organic sprays to be used anywhere by Maroondah Council.	The prudent use of herbicides is still considered an effective tool in the management of environmental weeds for improving the condition of habitats, with strict safety protocols applied around their use.	No change

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
1.2, 2.2, 2.3, 3.2, 5.6, 6.2 too vague; 4.1-4.3, is there evidence those plants will thrive under current conditions?; 6.4, never saw birds preferring nest boxes; 8.6, impact of new lighting on public safety?	<p>Actions 1.2, 2.2, 3.2, 5.6, and 6.2 are about aiming to restore/create habitats that are similar in structure and plant species mix to the vegetation communities that existed in those locations prior to European settlement. Those plant species have adapted to the local soils and other environmental conditions so are expected (and have) to thrive. They also in turn provide the food, shelter and other resources that the indigenous animals we hope to attract need. Although their survival cannot be guaranteed, all revegetation will be conducted in ways designed to optimise plant survival.</p> <p>The use of nest boxes by target species is also not guaranteed, however their use by hollow-dependent species is more likely if there is a shortage of suitable tree hollows in the surrounding area.</p>	Modify action 8.6 to read 'Design public lighting, especially lighting of shared trails, to be wildlife-friendly by minimising light spill and potential impacts on nearby habitats without reduction in public safety'

*“Thinking about meeting the needs of focal species (habitats and threats), do you think there are any specific actions or issues that have been missed?”*

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
Maybe Gang Gang Cockatoo but, obvious, the author hasn't seen one of them really drinking.	The main reason Gang Gang Cockatoos come to ground level is to drink where they are most vulnerable to predation by cats and foxes.	Modify action 3.3 to read "Enable access to water, for example by placing logs and branches to extend into creek or wetlands in locations relatively secure from cats and foxes"
Ban domestic cats altogether.	Council's current cat curfew is from dusk to dawn, however its enforcement is reliant on residents participating in Council's cat trapping program (to help identify cat owners). More information is available on Council's website including what you can do about a stray or nuisance cat. (Residents & property/Animals/Stray and nuisance cats) A review of Maroondah's Domestic Animal Management Plan will commence in late 2024/early 2025 with community consultation on a range of topics including the cat curfew.	Modify actions 1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 5.19 and 7.9 to read "Promote the dusk till dawn cat curfew, including options available to residents if they encounter stray and nuisance cats." Add new action "Invite community input into future reviews of the Domestic Animal Management Plan including the cat curfew"
How will you guarantee that the increase in some of these species wont increase predators like venomous snakes?	Of the seven focal species, only the Spotted Marsh Frog is considered likely to be a regular prey item for snakes, although Bluetongue lizards may also be taken. Implementation of the biolink action plan is considered very unlikely to elevate the risk of venomous snakes entering residential yards beyond the existing (very low) risk.	In the section 7. Spotted Marsh Frog, add under "Other species likely to be served by these actions" the following dot point: "Species that regularly prey on frogs and tadpoles such as larger waterbirds, Laughing Kookaburra, Rakali, fish, larger reptiles (including snakes) and predatory invertebrates."
The start of the creek at Highland Ave past Yarra Valley Grammar to Strathfield Pde is dominated by Willow Trees and Radiata Pine trees and is in poor condition, these weed species should be removed and the creek repaired and more native species planted.	The removal of willows and pines in Strathfield Parade section would form part of actions aimed at restoring the riparian vegetation that once occurred there.	No change
Why are skinks not included in the list of focal species?	The Blotched Bluetongue Lizard is a skink. Providing for this species is expected to also meet the requirements of a number of other skink species at the same time (some of which are listed in the action plan).	No change

Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
<p>For the more ambitious focal species, the Platypus and Powerful Owl it could take some time possibly at least a decade before they are attracted to and call Mullum Mullum Ck home.</p> <p>The Powerful Owl may briefly visit to feed on possums before moving on. But for them to stay for longer periods and possibly breed using provided nest boxes the bushland would have to be very well established and already supporting high numbers of prey species.</p> <p>Improving the water quality along the Mullum Mullum Ck watercourse will be the major challenge for platypus. This will take time and money in creating pollution filters, water traps and of course substantial bank modifications.</p> <p>For both these species we need to emphasize that it will take time (possibly decades), before we can have the pleasure of seeing them along Mullum Mullum Ck. But I support them being nominated, as it will make us work harder and put more resources toward converting Mullum Mullum Creek into a high-quality wildlife corridor.</p>	<p>Agreed, much is needed to be done over a long period of time to create the conditions that are likely to attract and retain species such as the Platypus. Restoring more natural levels of stormwater volume, velocities and quality are probably the major challenges for encouraging Platypus to return, which makes action 5.12 'Undertake a specialised investigation of the wider catchments of the creek' particularly important for determining the scope and scale of the task.</p>	No change
<p>relationship between the animals, the plants and fungi specific to the area.</p>	<p>Protecting and re-establishing the many relationships and interdependencies between the animals, plants and fungi that will make up the biolink is important. It is expected that the range of actions outlined in the plan will create the conditions for this to occur.</p>	No change
<p>trafficways across roads and between areas.</p> <p>There is no mention of aerial roadways over roads or faunal culverts under roadways.</p> <p>How does this plan fit within the broader plan for the Eastern Australian Seaboard Greening.</p>	<p>Roads that cut across the biolink such as Oban Road and Oliver Street do present challenges to the habitat connectivity for some species, especially those that are ground-dwellers. For aquatic species and some terrestrial ground-dwellers, the existing culverts under these roads should provide opportunities to safely get past the roads, and the proposed action 6.6 (on page 27) to use large-canopied indigenous tree species as street trees is expected to improve canopy connectivity, especially over roads that cut across the biolink and should benefit many birds and arboreal species. The Maroondah Habitat Connectivity Plan that was the basis for identifying eight biolink routes through the Maroondah landscape took into account habitat connectivity beyond the Maroondah boundaries. The biolink action planning processes for each biolink however will be focussed on actions within Maroondah. Maroondah is located on the edge of the Great Eastern National Corridor and if this plan is successful in creating a functioning wildlife corridor would contribute to this larger corridor.</p>	No change



Comment made	Response statement	Change to action plan
harmful sprays. removal of trees and bushland for high density development	The prudent use of herbicides is still considered an effective tool in the management of environmental weeds, with strict safety protocols applied around their use. Action 8.8 'Introduce planning and development controls (eg an Environmental Significance Overlay over the entire biolink)' could help address any unnecessary removal of trees and vegetation caused by urban development.	No change
There are increasing numbers of the invasive Indian Myna bird in many parts of Maroondah, including in the Biolink area. It is interesting that the ACT and SA state governments declare them as pests but the Victorian state government does not - I think it would be a huge missed opportunity to further encourage native bird life if the Biolink Action Plan did not aim to reduce the Indian Myna population - in fact there would even be a risk that without some form of control that the newly created habitat proposed in the plan might in fact lead to a surge in population of Indian Mynas, which may outcompete the native focal species. Furthermore, given how prevalent and noticeable this invasive species is, not taking action to reduce their numbers will make it harder for local residents to observe any improvement in native bird species.	Indian Mynah's have a preference for open areas where there is little tree cover, such as suburban open parks and gardens. The protection and restoration of riparian vegetation along the creek is expected to create conditions more favourable to indigenous species, and less favourable for the Indian Mynah.	No change