

# Response to Submissions

*Asset Plan 2022-2032 and Asset Management Policy 2022*

Submitted to

**Council**

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report presents the feedback received from the community on the Draft Asset Plan 2022-2032 and Draft Asset Management Policy 2022 which was published for community feedback on the Shaping Yarra Ranges Asset Plan webpage on Wednesday 27 April 2022 for a four-week period until Wednesday 25 May 2022.

Feedback received from Councillors and Council Staff has been addressed separately in internal Council reports.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY

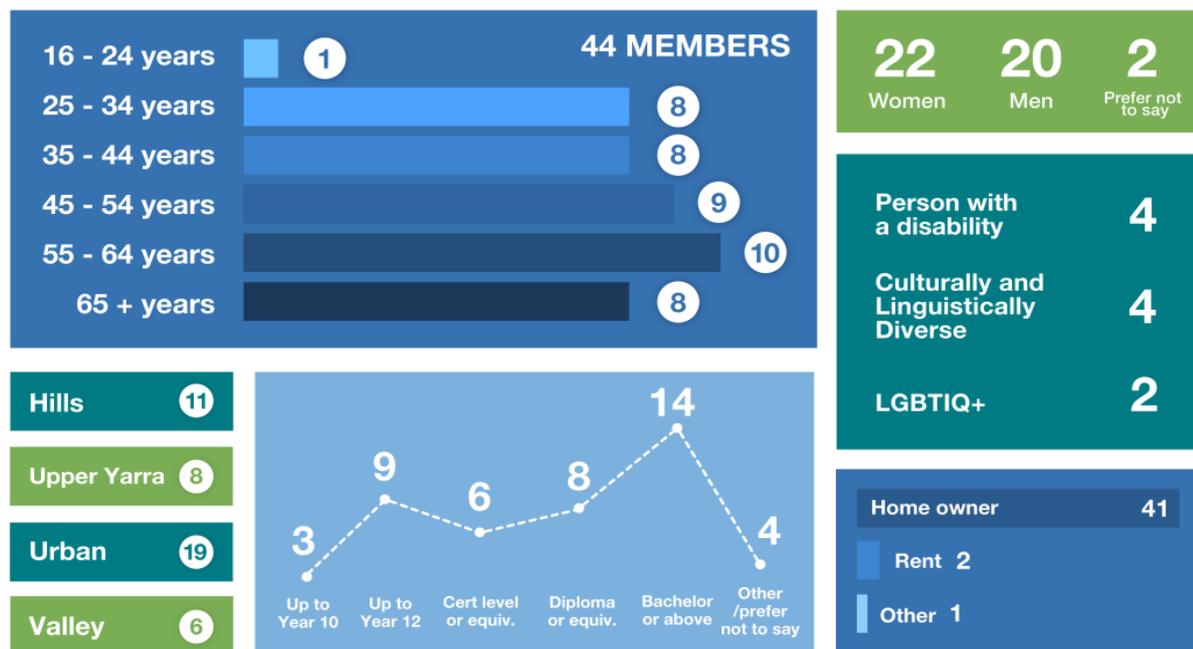
Community engagement for the development of the Asset Plan and Policy has been undertaken in line with Council's Engagement Policy, through the establishment of a diverse deliberative panel, and by continuing to report back to the community to demonstrate how their feedback is being used. The engagement activities comprised the following:

- Deliberative engagement through the Asset Plan Panel, with six sessions held in February and March 2022. Further details of the panel recruitment and deliberative process were presented to Forum on 19 April 2022.
- An additional panel feedback session was held on 12 May 2022
- The Asset Plan and Policy was open for public feedback for a period of four weeks in April and May 2022 with promotion of the draft documents and panel experience video on social media, through Council's Community Update newsletter and via Community Development Officers to community groups.

The panel composition is presented in Figure 1. Details of the deliberative engagement process are reported in the Process Report – Yarra Ranges Asset Management Deliberative Panel v0.6.

# Yarra Ranges Asset Plan Deliberative Panel

The Deliberative Panel was randomly selected and stratified to reflect the diversity of our community.



Recruitment and stratification undertaken by Deliberately Engaging.

**Figure 1: Panel Composition**

The request for feedback on the draft documents was communicated through a number of channels including:

- A media release and news story on Council's website, linking people to the Shaping Yarra Ranges page. There was a total of 858 visits to this page. (<https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Latest-news/Draft-Asset-Plan-and-Asset-Management-Policy-released-for-community-feedback>)
- A social media post that included a link back to the Shaping Yarra Ranges page. This post reached 5,120 people (<https://www.facebook.com/yrcouncil/posts/361046746065534>)
- A video published on Facebook that featured participants from the asset panel sharing their experience in the process. This video attracted 1,100 views. (<https://fb.watch/dfSVLyIXOZ/>)
- A story in the Disability Inclusion Newsletter and Yarra Ranges Business e-newsletter.
- A story in the April YR Local e-newsletter
- Emails from Community Development Officers to their township networks.

Subscribers to the Shaping Yarra Ranges page were automatically notified of the request for feedback on the draft documents.

Examples of the communications for draft document engagement are provided in APPENDIX B.

### 3.0 RESPONSE TO SUBMISSIONS

Council asked the following question on the Shaping Yarra Ranges Asset Plan page to prompt feedback on the draft report and plan:

#### **Did we miss anything in the Asset Plan or Policy?**

Is there anything you would like to see more of in the Asset Plan? Is there anything missing that you would expect to see?

Feedback received that is directly relevant to the questions posed is presented in Table 1 along with how the feedback has been addressed in the Asset Plan and Policy documents.

Feedback received that is not directly relevant to the scope of the report and policy is presented APPENDIX A.

**Table 1: Response to Submissions**

Submission No.	Comments Received	Response – Asset Plan	Response - Policy
1 Asset Panel (via email)	We were told we were living in the biggest shire/council in the state with the most natural environment yet this natural environment was not discussed adequately. It is surely one of our biggest assets and yet was given little to no discussion. It was all about the human elements – buildings, roads, pools, parks, etc. Is the shire measuring the natural environment as an asset, irrespective of whether it is a manufactured park or natural? If not this is truly disappointing as the natural environment is one of the most important assets any shire has especially given the challenges we face with a changing climate. I would be interested in a response please.	Discussion of natural assets and climate change expanded in the Executive Summary.	Additions to policy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 2, natural assets listed</li> <li>- Section 3 para 1: natural assets listed.</li> <li>- Section 5 – sustainability principles separated to list environmental sustainability separately.</li> </ul> Section 6 – Point 4 added to Sustainability section.
2 Email	<p>I'd like to extend the scope of this plan in a few specific areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TREE REPLACEMENT – surely, in an area where our natural environment is so deeply appreciated, tree replacement on road verges and such (or new plantings altogether) should be a priority. In my area of the Southern Dandenongs, tree planting is woefully neglected! Given how the extensive valuations of YRC assets has completely ignored the immense (and priceless, admittedly) value of trees, this should come as no surprise.</li> <li>• WHAT HAPPENED TO YRC's DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY? Resultant environmental costs are grossly ignored in this methodology, which can only result in unmeasured, "hidden" environmental costs, at a point in time when the planet can least afford it.</li> </ul>	Discussion of natural assets and climate change expanded in the Executive Summary.	<p>Natural assets added to the policy (see response to submission 1 above). Management of specific assets such as trees is beyond the scope of the policy, and falls to specific asset management plans.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges Liveable Climate Plan 2020-2030 added to Section 2 Supporting Materials.</p> <p>Climate change is already noted in the policy as a significant challenge facing Council (Section 3 para 5).</p> <p>Climate change added to Section 5, Safety and Resilience paragraph.</p> <p>Reference to Council's Liveable Climate Plan 2020-2030 added to Section 6 Safety and Resilience paragraph.</p>

Submission No.	Comments Received	Response – Asset Plan	Response - Policy
3 Shaping Yarra Ranges page	There is no mention of wildlife - plant and animal - in the plan. Yet they are of great value to the community's sense of well-being.	Discussion of natural assets and climate change expanded in the Executive Summary.	Refer response to submission 2 on natural assets.
4 Shaping Yarra Ranges page	Why natural assets like >Trees (street and park trees); > Open space and green fields; and > Bushland are not being considered?	Discussion of natural assets and climate change expanded in the Executive Summary.	- Section 5 – sustainability principals separated to list environmental sustainability separately.
5 Shaping Yarra Ranges page	Little to no mention of environmental responsibility and education in the plan - waste management, energy saving to address Climate Change.	Discussion of natural assets and climate change expanded in the Executive Summary.	Refer response to submission 2 on climate change.
6 Shaping Yarra Ranges page	Increase focus on maintenance of assets including cleaning instead of creating large new assets without long term maintenance funding	No changes made.	No changes made. Funding throughout the asset lifecycle is included in Asset Policy as part of the decision making principles for sustainability. Levels of Service are also discussed in the Asset Policy.
7 Handwritten comments on draft documents	<p>Policy comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 2 Scope – list Councillors first in paragraph 2</li> <li>- Figure 1 – Asset Acquisition not consistent with p10 Creation/Acquisition</li> <li>- Add policy review date to front page</li> </ul> <p>Asset Plan comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Executive summary: How does Council manage its assets, para.6 – add improvement safety requirements and environmental protection, requirement to provide accessible public facilities, climate change, solar etc.</li> <li>- Para 7 – note even stronger awareness of the natural environment in recent decades</li> <li>- Figure 1 – Asset Creation/Acquisition per policy comment</li> </ul>	Policy comments adopted in sections listed.	Asset Plan comments adopted in sections listed.

Submission No.	Comments Received	Response – Asset Plan	Response - Policy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Section 2.2 – user feedback also an indicator of asset performance</li><li>- Section 2.2 para 3 – different ages <i>and abilities</i>.</li><li>- Section 3 para 1 – add <i>or poor value for money</i> to end of first sentence.</li><li>- Section 4.1 para 2 – add <i>and higher operating costs</i> for pools with delayed renewal.</li><li>- Figure 5 – consider adding previous 5 years of renewal for context</li><li>- Section 4.2 – for grant funding – <i>either part or fully funded</i></li></ul>		

**APPENDIX A**

**Submissions Received**

**Table 2: Submissions received not directly related to Asset Plan or Asset Management Policy documents**

Date	Submission
May 22, 2022, 12:19 PM	It's getting hotter, we don't want our kids to get sunburn, the Lilydale swimming pool needs to be upgraded, under cover, operating every day
May 22, 2022, 09:10 AM	Just worried that there might be a sneaky plan to run down Kallista Community House and Hall? Say it isn't So! Missing the monthly market!!
May 19, 2022, 07:11 AM	Adequate lighting in bus shelters in Wesburn and Millgrove Dedicated council cleanup along Warburton Hwy for general rubbish
May 17, 2022, 08:06 PM	Mooroolbark Terrace is an eyesore
May 17, 2022, 08:05 PM	Mooroolbark has a parking section opposite the library. No marked parking bays. People park where they want. It's a disgrace
May 13, 2022, 01:15 PM	Strong advocacy for Lilydale Bypass. There will be ever increasing traffic flow causing safety issues, noise pollution and 0 ambience.
May 13, 2022, 01:11 PM	It's important for new or upgraded community buildings to be multi-purpose so that it's useful to more than one or two types of users.
May 10, 2022, 07:05 PM	More maintenance of boundary vegetation along warburton trail
May 05, 2022, 12:55 PM	Residential streets to be reviewed for no standing areas as cars are parking on both sides of the street, leaving no room for traffic to pas
May 04, 2022, 07:57 PM	44 trucks and tractors -do we have other vehicles (rangers ute) or do we call that a truck. I seem to see heaps of shire duel cab Utes
May 04, 2022, 07:46 PM	Our street had old diseased ridden trees on the nature strip. Well done shire replacing the bad ones - for the greenies we got an extra tree
May 04, 2022, 07:38 PM	There are some local streets where people park both sides of the street. Large emergency vehicle etc may struggle to use the streets.
May 02, 2022, 06:29 PM	Footpath on Arkarra Court, Mooroolbark on the uneven side it is very hard to walk on this side, most people walk on the road,
May 02, 2022, 01:44 PM	The pound -Nelson RD Lilydale is on valuable land better use would be housing. Or .....
May 02, 2022, 01:37 PM	yes I get confused what roads shire maintains and the ones the state government maintains. Are we criticising the wrong government
May 02, 2022, 01:33 PM	rstan01 - add state govt road but Maroondah Hwy to Victoria Rd - 3 lanes @ 80 kph goes to 1 lane at 50 kph with in 200 m. Near misses
May 02, 2022, 11:45 AM	Mt Evelyn is getting a new football pavilion. Does it cater for the future needs - does it have a female umpire changing room.
May 02, 2022, 08:58 AM	We would like to know when will our council planning to seal / upgrade the old Emerald Road?

May 01, 2022, 08:26 AM	Could Healesville Lakes be added for future consideration? Similar to Lillydale Lake, located both sides of Maroondah Hwy, along Yarra River.
Apr 30, 2022, 09:24 PM	Please, please fix the Main Street road in Lilydale underneath the new train line. Two lanes merging into one is an absolute shambles.
Apr 30, 2022, 04:53 PM	Traffic would flow better if there was a bridge linking the 2 Nelson Rds in Lilydale - over the Olinda Creek
Apr 30, 2022, 04:42 PM	Traffic black spots - like Clarke st (shire side of Main st) entering Main Street needs to be looked at. Or highlight to Vicroads
Apr 30, 2022, 04:35 PM	The market place was evacuated a few years ago. It was a shambles. . Cars still entering the car park while trying to get others out etc
Apr 30, 2022, 01:20 PM	When will Gleghorn Rd Kallista be sealed and properly upgraded? We have endured many years 19th century conditions, band aid fixes and promises
Apr 30, 2022, 12:41 PM	Are the 2 new swimming pools being built within the new shire office complex open to the public as with the 3 new bars as well?
Apr 30, 2022, 12:20 PM	Healesville Main Street needs to be our benchmark - love shopping there. They have seats, shade, good toilet block, parking behind the shops
Apr 30, 2022, 11:53 AM	Would love a footpath between Landscape drive & Manchester Road. No Access for residence on this side.
Apr 30, 2022, 11:04 AM	STOP BURNING OFF on burn off days the air quality on the mountain is unacceptable. Mulch or compost to help the environment- every bit helps
Apr 30, 2022, 10:53 AM	Asset plan difficult to read as wording over wording! Healesville main street footpaths need covered as very uneven due to tree roots/ patching
Apr 30, 2022, 09:11 AM	FOOTPATHS: Three decades of waiting, still no mention of a footpath between Olinda and Sassafras to allow safe passage for pedestrians.
Apr 30, 2022, 08:45 AM	It may be beneficial to include some specifics regarding pathways and trails specifically catering for horses.
Apr 30, 2022, 04:51 AM	How frustrating to live on a dirt road that turns into a potholed mud and slush track when it rains, then dust when it's dry - It needs seal
Apr 29, 2022, 11:28 PM	Lilydale Lake is one of the most utilised tourist locations in the district, but it lacks parking bays forcing visitors to park illegally.
Apr 29, 2022, 09:44 PM	As a Selby resident, I have to drive to Clematis to access the nearest decent pet friendly walking trail! Walking on roads is a death trap!!
Apr 29, 2022, 09:37 PM	Where is all the \$ going in this Council? Look at Cardinia Shire Council & what they offer residents & visitors!! We don't have walk paths!!
Apr 29, 2022, 09:25 PM	The Eastern Dandenong Ranges Trail (EDRT) needs to be extended from Clematis to Belgrave! Residents in Belgrave/Selby need walking trails!!!
Apr 29, 2022, 08:08 PM	Toilets near the Olinda Creek Lilydale were a mistake (design).

Apr 29, 2022, 07:59 PM	Govts want oldies to downsize. A new block of units should have at least 1 single story unit - oldies don't like steps.
Apr 29, 2022, 07:37 PM	To the shires credit Lilydale, Mt Evelyn and Mooroolbark Library is first class
Apr 29, 2022, 07:30 PM	Frustrating watching huge new council offices built yet we do not have basic footpaths in the local areas. Locals been waiting for years.
Apr 29, 2022, 07:29 PM	Add to John Cooks comment. Banksia is not the only park that lacks play equipment. Look how popular Lillydale Lake is - it amuses kids
Apr 29, 2022, 07:19 PM	Traffic lights promised in Coldstream is a must. Maroondah highway gets very busy. Please lobby the state government.
Apr 29, 2022, 07:15 PM	Would anyone like a mobile Library ? If so, where? Some older people have mobility problems.
Apr 29, 2022, 07:14 PM	Mount Dandenong has only one footpath that's runs on the tourist road, we need to join this century with safe ways for our pedestrians
Apr 29, 2022, 07:13 PM	I would like to see a draft bushfire plan be put up on the shire website. This way people have a reference point and can expand on it
Apr 29, 2022, 07:08 PM	In June 2021 power was cut off for days due to the storm. What is planned for future storms and with climate change - there will be more.
Apr 29, 2022, 07:05 PM	I do not shop in the Lilydale Main Street, due to lack of parking spaces. We need to look at parking.
Apr 29, 2022, 05:49 PM	Would like to see more road improvements (Council roads); esp. expanding footpaths, NOT bike lanes!
Apr 29, 2022, 04:54 PM	Stop making equestrian user groups at Wesburn Park pay for the surface on the arena for the public to use. Equestrians are plentiful in YR
Apr 29, 2022, 04:29 PM	death trap, Belgrave Hallam Road, no footpaths, no gutters, high traffic, including trucks, potholes, accidents, nowhere to walk
Apr 29, 2022, 04:24 PM	Please revisit the utility of Banksia Reserve in Montrose. You've added a path and parking, it abuts a kinder but has zero play equipment
Apr 29, 2022, 03:57 PM	Dixons Creek reserve is a good example of bad management. The public toilets have been designed poorly & fail often. An important facility.
Apr 28, 2022, 07:22 PM	Inordinate focus on girls' football (highlighted), over passive engagement and protection of nature or developing libraries/education.
Apr 28, 2022, 03:38 PM	How it is going to manage environmental sustainability into the future. E.g. making new/upgraded facilities less carbon dependent.

**APPENDIX B**

# Engagement Promotion Materials

## Media Release and News Story

Available at: <https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Council/Latest-news/Draft-Asset-Plan-and-Asset-Management-Policy-released-for-community-feedback>

### Draft Asset Plan and Asset Management Policy Released for Feedback

Published on 28 April 2022



Council's *Draft Asset Management Policy 2022*, and *Draft Asset Plan 2022-2031* have been released for community feedback following last night's Council Meeting.

These documents have been developed following a deliberative engagement process where a community panel was established. Panel members explored questions and shared their views on Council's approach to asset management for a range of asset categories.

Feedback and insights collected through the engagement process has helped shape the Draft Asset Management Policy and Draft Asset Plan, and will inform Council on its future asset management practices.

Yarra Ranges Council manages around \$1.5 billion worth of assets, and needs to set funding aside each year to maintain and upgrade them as necessary.

The draft policy and plan cover how Council intends to manage its assets, including infrastructure such as roads, footpaths, drainage, community buildings, lights, parks, open spaces and playgrounds.

The balance of shutting down or 'retiring' unused or not-fit-for-purpose assets, along with the creation of new assets that better suit the changing needs of the community, is another key consideration that these documents address.

Yarra Ranges Mayor, Cr Jim Child, said that the feedback received from the community panel had gone a long way to shaping the draft plan and policy.

“The input from the panel was terrific as it helped us better understand how our community views the way we currently manage our assets, and how we can combat the challenges we face in managing them,” Cr Child said.

“Eight key principles towards effective asset management have been developed, with two of those, sustainability and health and wellbeing, coming directly from the work of the residents who were part of the community panel.

“One of the other running themes that we heard from the community was that they wanted to see more evidence-based and transparent decision making applied to the way we manage our assets.

“We feel like we have captured this sentiment in these documents, which will help guide our asset management practices into the future.

“Panel members represented their community well, thinking not just about assets in their local areas, but more broadly across the municipality.

“Their contributions were highly valued, and I’d like to offer a huge thank you to everyone who was involved.

“The next step now is to turn these draft documents back over to the community so they can check to see if there’s anything we’ve missed, or anything they’d like to see more of in either the policy or plan.”

The management of Council’s assets requires a lot of money and future planning, and given they support the delivery of many services to the community, effective management of them is vital.

To assist with this, Council must adopt a ‘Lifecycle Asset Management’ approach, which essentially means maintaining assets to keep them in good shape, replacing assets that are no longer of use, or upgrading and providing new assets that meet changing community needs.

An example of changing community need is the large-scale increase of female participation in sports such as football, which means provisions are required to make appropriate changeroom and pavilion upgrades to accommodate this increase.

Other challenges Council faces include the balancing act of providing adequate assets for both community members and visitors to the region, while also keeping in check the natural environment that the Yarra Ranges is famous for, and doing so in a financially stable way.

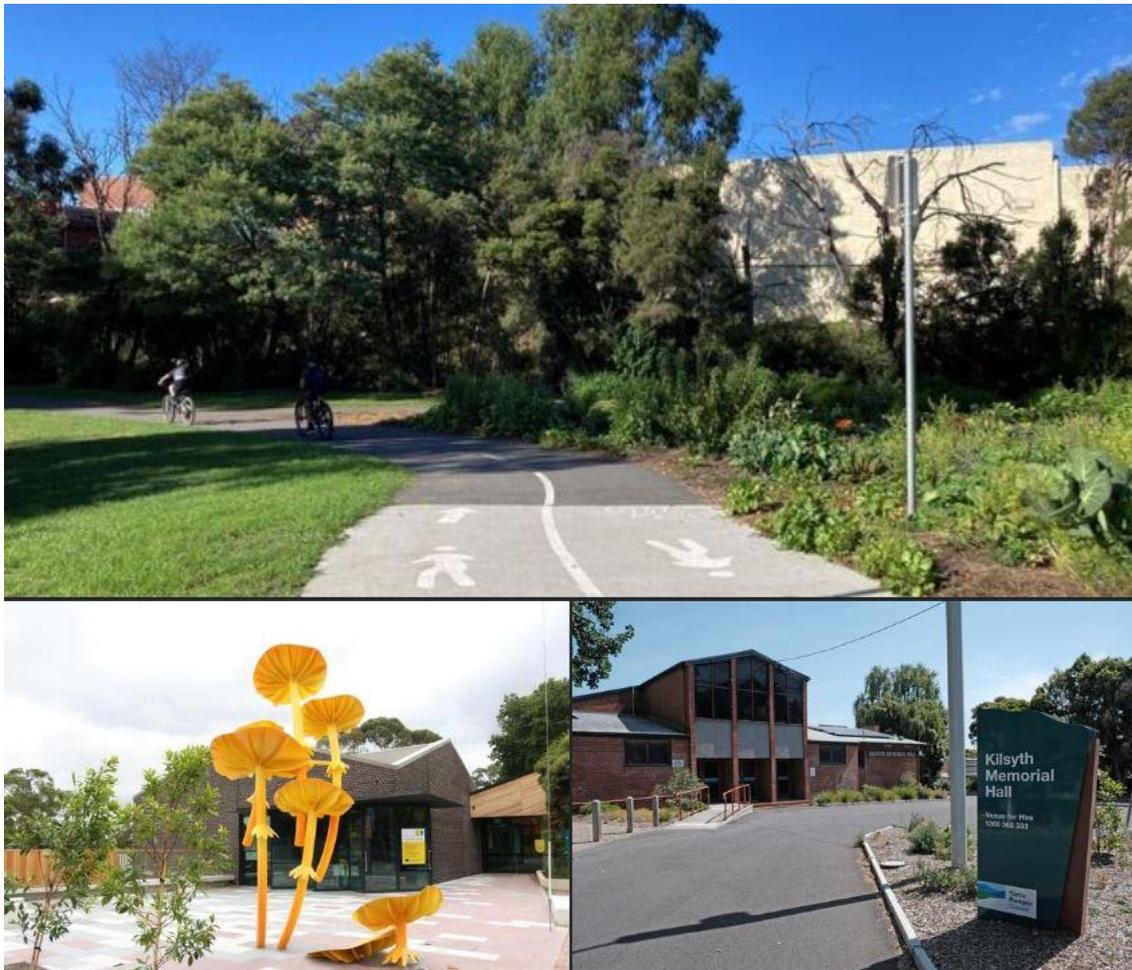
Council’s Asset Plan and Policy is tied closely to the five key objectives outlined in its [Council Plan](#).

The 10-year Asset Plan undergoes a review process every four years, to ensure it still represents and is in line with changing community needs as well as the Council Plan.

Community members are encouraged to view the draft policy and plan at <https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/asset-plan>, and have until Wednesday, 25 May to leave their feedback.

## Email Newsletter – Community Update 29 April 2022

Draft Asset Plan open for feedback



Want to have a say in how your roads, playgrounds, community buildings and open spaces are managed? Our Draft Asset Plan has now been released for community feedback!

The Draft Asset Plan outlines the way we will manage a wide range of infrastructure from roads, footpaths, parks and more.

The plan has been developed through an engagement process with

community members. Is there anything you want to see more of in the plan?  
Have we missed something you were expecting to see?

[Read the Draft Asset Plan](#)

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### **Social Media Promotion of Drafts for Feedback**

Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/yrCouncil/posts/361046746065534>



**Yarra Ranges Council**

29 April at 10:53 · 🌐



📄 Want to have a say in how your roads, playgrounds, community buildings and open spaces are managed? Our Draft Asset Plan has now been released for community feedback!

📌 The Draft Asset Plan outlines the way we will manage a wide range of infrastructure from roads, footpaths, parks and more.

💬 The plan has been developed through an engagement process with community members. Is there anything you want to see more of in the plan? Have we missed something you were expecting to see?

📄 Read the plan and have your say at <https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/asset-plan>



👍 10

1 comment 6 shares

Available at: <https://fb.watch/dfSVLyIX0Z/>



Yarra Ranges Council

12 May at 15:58 · 🌐



🗣️ Over the last six months, we've worked with the community to develop our Draft Asset Plan, which will guide how we manage our roads, open spaces, buildings, and all of the assets we use to deliver services to the community.

🗣️ We had the pleasure of hosting a community panel where 44 people across the Yarra Ranges from varying backgrounds worked with us to provide their feedback on the plan.

🗣️ In the video below, you'll hear from some of our panelists about their experiences participating.

📄 To find out more about the Draft Asset Plan and have your say visit <https://shaping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/asset-plan>



Johanna Skelton for Lyster Ward and 24 others

3 comments 2 shares

