

Yarra Ranges Council

Hills Budget at a Glance



Cr Sophie Todorov
Mayor of Yarra Ranges

Our annual budget is one of the most important things we do in Local Government. to improve our communities while delivering value-for-money for the people who live, work and play here.

From playgrounds to planning, grants to growing our suburbs with footpaths and roadworks, to nature and sustainability work, everything we do has to be accounted for in this budget.

This year, due to strained finances across government and in household budgets, we're focussing on maintaining and improving existing assets, continuing significant multi-year projects, and increasing our investment in improved drainage across the region.

The Essential Services Commission and the Victorian State Government have set the final rate cap this year at 2.75 per cent, which we will apply to our rates revenue.

This is below the rate of inflation and reflects the rising cost of living while allowing Council to continue delivering essential services.

However, the increasing costs in delivering services is rapidly outpacing the rate cap, and having funding cut from the State and Federal Governments mean we need to figure out how to do more with less, adapt to tighter circumstances, and find new sources of income.

We're doing all of this while continuing to deliver more than 120 services – everything from libraries to pools, immunisations to health inspections - in one of the largest and most diverse Local Government Areas in Victoria, with 55 individual townships.

There aren't many flashy projects in this year's budget – we've held or reduced our investment level in several areas to ensure that we can continue to provide services and maintain our important infrastructure, to meet our priorities but balance spending in a tight financial environment.

Budget highlights

Here's a snapshot of the budget highlights across the whole municipality and for the Hills region. If you would like to have your say on our Draft Budget scan the QR code to contribute on Council's www.shapping.yarraranges.vic.gov.au page.



Sign-up to get your rates notice delivered electronically

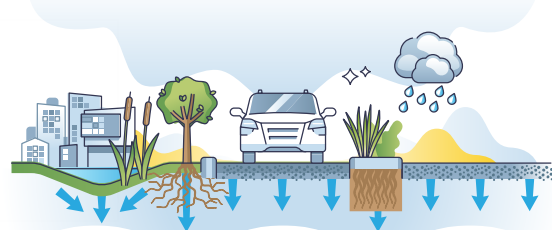


\$5.3m

Road re-sealing and re-surfacing across Yarra Ranges

\$3.4m

Drainage upgrades and maintenance to prevent flooding



\$3.2m

Maintenance of existing assets, such as footpaths, street furniture and lighting



\$17.8m

Sportsfields, playspaces, parks and reserves



\$10.4m

Protecting and enhancing our natural environment, with tree plantings and switching to renewable energy



Projects being funded in the Hills areas in 2024-25 include:



\$384,000
Belgrave

Renew fencing and lighting for two courts at tennis facility and renew upper court surfaces for broader community use



\$275,000
Ferny Creek

Construction of a path to connect existing path with One Tree Hill Car Park



\$250,000
Monbulk

Electrifying Monbulk Aquatic Centre Stage 1 - planning and design



\$500,000
Sassafras

Renewal of Public Toilet facilities



\$211,000
Upwey

Footpath rehabilitation to Burwood Highway



\$100,000
Upwey

Stage 1 drainage improvement design to address flooding issues on Main Street



\$161,000
Monbulk

Energy Resilience Upgrades including solar PV system for Community Sports Pavilion (Federal Government Funding)



\$50,000
Belgrave

Design of new drainage outfall pipe on Dalkeith Crescent

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