

**DRAFT**

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# What is a Council Action Plan?

This Council Action Plan contains the activities that Council will complete to deliver on the Council Plan 2021-25. The activities include major initiatives, projects Council has identified as the most critical to delivering on our five strategic objectives, as well as other projects to support the achievement of the long-term vision for the municipality. This Action Plan is an attachment to the Council Plan 2021-25. It is reviewed annually to ensure our plans reflect the changing needs and priorities of our community.

# Acknowledgement of Country

We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners, The Wurundjeri People as the Custodians of this land. We also pay respect to all Aboriginal community Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.

# What we want to achieve

Council has identified five important goals to describe what we are working towards – how we want Yarra Ranges to be in the future. These goals, and the activities we will complete over the coming four years, have been developed in response to our community’s priorities and the big issues facing Yarra Ranges. All activities completed by the organisation contribute to one or more of these goals.

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# How we will achieve what is most important

The voices of the community have played a critical role in identifying and determining the priorities for the coming four years through the Council Plan Community Panel and broader community engagement. The following pages outline in detail the full list of activities we will complete to work towards achieving our goals during the 2021-25 period.

The most important initiatives and projects that Council will prioritise over the next four years include:

| Major Initiatives for 2021-25 |
| --- |
| **Improve Aboriginal health and wellbeing by providing a range of supports to Oonah Health and Community Services Aboriginal Corporation to establish the Healesville Belonging Place, an integrated Aboriginal health facility.** |
| **Become a world class trails and eco-tourism destination through project development, delivery, advocacy and partnerships, including the delivery of the Rivers and Ridges projects.** |
| **Ensure the plants, animals and ecologies of Yarra Ranges that our community value so much are supported and retained alongside us in healthy landscapes, by preparing and implementing a Biodiversity Plan that provides renewed focus for Council, the community, and partners.** |
| **Reduce our ecological footprint through our commitment to source renewable energy generated by Council and extend benefits to community through advocating and securing funding to deliver on initiatives including Council’s Solar Farm project.** |
| **Improve mental health outcomes for the community, strengthen social connections, and advocate for equitable and accessible mental health services across the municipality.** |
| **Undertake and deliver integrated place planning for priority activity centres and town centres to achieve coordinated community outcomes across Yarra Ranges, in accordance with the Living Places Framework.** |
| **Build community resilience by working together to achieve greater emergency planning and preparedness with a focus on traditional cultural burning practices. This will include the development a firestick program across public, private land and local training hubs.** |

**Comments by Councillors**

**Solar Farms**

* Electric buses Dandenongs
  + Eco Tourism
  + Destinations stops
  + Connect regions
* Road to community
* The natural environment is better in 4 years (Biodiversity Plan)
* Local Food Plan
* Tree Canopy Strategy
* Council Messaging and advocacy on what it can do to support ALL community
* Streamline Council processes and software
* Reducing our environmental footprint, and enhance sustainability
* A better community plan for Lilydale



## Connected and Healthy Communities

Communities are safe, resilient, healthy, inclusive and socially well connected. Quality services are accessible to everyone.

Council Plan Actions

| **No** | **Council Plan 2021-25 Actions** | **The desired community outcomes** | **How will Council achieve this** | **Partners**  **involved** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Implement priority actions arising from the Health and Wellbeing Plan. | A much healthier community overall with a focus in areas including: -   * Mental health * Physical activity * Social Recovery * Climate change and impacts on health * Reduce harm from alcohol * Health impacts of emergencies * Gender Equity | Identify the specific short, and long, term activities to implement as part of the Health and Wellbeing Plan | Council/ State Agencies/ Businesses/Volunteers |
| **2** | Implement Council’s Healthy and Active Ageing Plan to increase the age and dementia friendliness of the municipality and improve social connection. | A municipality that works well for elderly people | Consult with age care providers and older residents to inform future activity and build social connection, challenge ageism, increasing age friendly housing, improve dementia awareness, and activities to reduce and prevent accidents | Council/ Federal Government/ State Agencies |
| **3** | Implement the Pandemic Recovery and Resilience Framework and other key recovery actions to support the rebuilding of community resilience. | A community that has fully recovered from the pandemic | For realistic recovery from the pandemic, identify the specifics needed for the various sectors of the community | Council/ State and Federal Government/ State Agencies |
| **4** | Update the Aquatics Strategy to strategically plan for the provision of aquatic facilities across the municipality that are inclusive, sustainable, well designed and positioned to improve community health and wellness. | An updated aquatics plan to make sure the right type of facilities are accessible to cater for the needs of the community across the municipality | Work to provide aquatic facilities that are sustainable and well designed and will improve community health and wellness. | Council / State Government |
| **5** | Revise and implement key actions of the Recreation and Open Space Strategy to increase community access, support community connections and activate Council’s community facilities and open space network. | A community that has better access to, and better involvement in, Council’s community facilities | Review Council’s Open Spaces approach to ensure residents can enjoy and benefit from Council facilities | Council/ State Agencies/ State and Federal Government/ Sporting Groups |
| **6** | Implementing key actions in the Integrated Transport Strategy 2040 with a focus on people’s localised movements and advocating for a cohesive public transport network that connects people with services, employment and to each other. | A better public transport network | Advocate more strongly for a cohesive and convenient public transport network that people can use easily to get them where they want to go | Council/ State Agencies/ State and Federal Government/ Businesses |



Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places

*Quality facilities and infrastructure meets current and future needs. Places are well planned hubs of activity that foster wellbeing, creativity and innovation.*

Council Plan Actions

| **No.** | **Council Plan 2021-25 Actions** | **The desired community outcome** | **How will Council achieve this** | **Partners included** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Improve our social infrastructure planning by working across council to integrate place, service and infrastructure planning to meet the needs of our diverse communities and improve the unique places they live. | The community are connected, have flexible and multipurpose facilities that cater for all abilities and ages | Develop an accepted standard for service planning, place planning, open space and infrastructure planning | Council/ State Agencies/ State and Federal Government/ |
| **2** | Develop and implement a strategic approach for activating and providing functional and affordable community assets and spaces that are welcoming to all and support the wellbeing and connectedness of the community. | The community benefits from the way Council properties are managed and used | Develop a plan so that all Council properties are measured against community benefit | Council |
| **3** | Continue to evolve the maturity and sophistication of Council’s Asset Management planning to ensure existing community infrastructure is renewed and maintained for the benefit of future generations. | Council puts the focus on projects that meet current and future needs of the community | All projects to be checked against community needs | Council/ State Government |
| **4** | Activate, develop and construct significant community facility projects across the municipality to respond to current and future community and social needs. | Community facilities are accessible and used by the community and cater for the varied needs of the community | Engage with community to determine the needs and ensure current and future facilities are fit for purpose and accessible for all. | Council / State Government/ Community Groups/ Residents |
| **5** | Seal gravel roads in townships across the municipality enabled through funding provided by the Federal Government combined with landowner contributions to improve local amenity and liveability for the community. | Council seal gravel roads wherever possible with the funding supplied by the Federal Government | Ensure Council teams and equipment are ready to seal roads as funds become available | Council / Federal Government / Residents |
| **6** | Integrate and strengthen the planning, maintenance and management of community assets to ensure the needs and priorities of current and future communities are balanced against investment requirements and Council’s ability to pay for them. | Within budget constraints, Council does as much as possible to manage all public assets for the benefit of the community | Develop an inventory of assets and assess what improvements are needed | Council / State and Federal Council |
| **7** | Complete the Lilydale Structure Plan and incorporate key actions into the Planning Scheme through an amendment to provide clear direction of the future land use, urban design, transport and access and landscaping forms for Lilydale. | The Lilydale Structure Plan completed to give clear direction for the future of Lilydale.  Fostering investment and local employment while preserving the character of Lilydale. | Work collaboratively across Council and ensure resources are available for this plan to be completed | Council / State Government / Businesses/ State Agencies |
| **8** | Amend the planning scheme by using the outcomes of the reviewed Housing Strategy to ensure housing needs of the community are met, new housing is well designed, provides for housing choice and improve neighbourhood character outcomes in residential areas. | Overall housing needs of the community are met with appropriate design, plenty of choice and improved neighbourhood character | Actively liaise with building and architectural bodies to strongly put forward Council views | Council / State Government / Businesses/ State Agencies |
| **9** | Plan, facilitate and develop urban renewal projects, including Lilydale Revitalisation project, Kinley re-development and Level Crossing Removal to facilitate the revitalisation of Lilydale. Ensuring alignment with Council’s place making objectives of encouraging a vibrant, attractive, sustainable, healthy and connected community. | Complete all necessary planning for the redevelopment of the Lilydale Quarry | Actively engage with relevant bodies to ensure planning work is completed | Council / State Government / Businesses |
| **10** | Maximise the benefits of the level crossing removal projects in Mooroolbark and Lilydale through value adding projects including the repurposing of the Lilydale Heritage Station, provision of public art and new community spaces, and improving the shared path network. | Ensure the community gets maximum benefit from the level crossing removal project | Work closely with the relevant local communities and the State Government to make sure the level crossing removal advantages the community as completely as possible | Council / State Government / Historical Society |
| **11** | Establish a municipal wide Development Contributions Plan to provide funds for new infrastructure to support future growth and development. | Development Contributions Plan established for funding new infrastructure | Make sure resources are available for this plan to be completed | Council / Developers |

**Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment**

*A healthier environment for future generations.*

Council Plan Actions

| **No.** | **Council Plan 2021-25 Actions** | **The desired community outcome** | **How will Council achieve this** | **Partners involved** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Implement actions of the Liveable Climate Plan and shift to low carbon and renewable energy sources across all facilities, buildings, plant and fleet to reduce Council’s climate impact. | Climate footprint reduced due to Council action | Produce an inventory of the major tasks and work on completing them all. | Council / State and Federal Government/ Environmental Volunteers Groups/ Businesses |
| **2** | Deliver actions of the Urban Tree Canopy Strategy and deliver the parks and reserves improvement program to enhance amenity, access and participation in public spaces and places. | Streets, public parks and gardens generally improved for greater community amenity | Ensure the relevant departments on the ground, focus on community amenity. | Council |
| **3** | Develop a Municipal Waste Plan, education programs and pursue innovative waste processing technologies to maximise waste resource recovery for a more sustainable future. | Sustainability improvement with better waste technologies and continuing community education | Dedicate appropriate resources to ensure the Municipal Waste Plan is completed | Council / State Government/ |
| **4** | Continue to develop and support the capability of Environmental Volunteer Groups including seeking funding support to invest in our shared environment. | Local biodiversity is secured, and communities are supported to be more sustainable | Deliver the sustainable gardens program including Gardens for Harvest and Gardens for Wildlife in collaboration | Council / State Government/ Volunteers / local communities. |
| **5** | Prepare and implement a Biodiversity Plan to provide renewed focus for Council, the community and partners, to ensure the plants, animals and ecologies of Yarra Ranges that our community value, are supported and retained alongside us, in healthy landscapes. | Biodiversity plan in place in order to have a healthier environment for all members of the community | Council to ensure all relevant staff are committed to biodiversity and to an achievable plan and that the new plan is completed | Council / State Government/ State Agencies / Environmental Volunteer Groups / Businesses |

## Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism

*Our tourism, agriculture, health, manufacturing and other industries are leading and dynamic. Strong investment and attraction underpins sustainable economic growth and job creation.*

Council Plan Actions

| **No.** | **Council Plan 2021-25 Actions** | **The desired outcome** | **How will Council achieve this** | **Partners involved** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Implement a plan that improves employment and mental health outcomes for everyone. | A better life for everyone in terms of employment and mental health | Employment: work with local employment offices and highlight work opportunities  Better mental health: implement and promote appropriate online programs | Council / State Government/ State Agencies / Youth Ambassadors/ Businesses |
| **2** | Develop and deliver improvements to Council’s network of recreational trails across the municipality to support improved recreational, health, social, and economic needs of the community and become a world class trails, agritourism and eco-tourism destination. | Yarra Ranges recognised as a world class trails and eco-tourism destination | Work closely with relevant local providers and, as well, channel sufficient funding into the required initiatives  Progress of the delivery of the River and Ridges Project  Growth and development of ecotourism in Yarra Ranges | Council / State Government/ State Agencies / Tourism Board |
| **3** | Review and develop a new Economic Development Strategy and Investment Attraction Plan, to create local jobs, business, and investment to deliver positive and sustainable economic community outcomes. | An Economic Development Strategy that gives the community a major economic boost | Ensure sufficient resources are devoted to this Plan to ensure it is not delayed and that it is effective  Continued support for existing businesses.  Growth in Small to Medium Businesses. | Council / State and Federal Government/ State Agencies / Businesses/ Tourism Board |
| **4** | Deliver key initiatives outlined in the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy that create jobs, attracts future investment and progresses the revitalisation of the Precinct, in association with Knox and Maroondah Councils. | Measurable economic benefits gained from delivering carefully chosen recommendations of the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy | For the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy select the key initiatives and get steps underway for delivering these initiatives without delay.  Leverage the Bayswater Business District to create and grow jobs in the areas and wider Yarra Ranges. | Council / State and Federal Government/ State Agencies / Businesses |
| **5** | Identify and develop a cultural and creative brand for the Yarra Ranges to attract and retain creative professionals, creative businesses and cultural tourism spend. | Yarra Ranges viewed as a creative hub for professionals, businesses and cultural tourism | Identify actions Council can take to develop a cultural and creative brand and implement those actions without delay | Council / State and Federal Government/ State Agencies/ Businesses/ Tourism Board |
| **6** | Develop a destination management Plan with Yarra Ranges Tourism Board to support the right eco-tourism, infrastructure growth that also protects our natural environment. | Yarra Ranges is natural environment is values and supported by the right eco-tourism | Develop a plan for appropriate eco-tourism opportunities | Council / State and Federal Government/ Businesses/ Tourism Board |



## High Performing Organisation

*An innovative, responsive organisation that listens and delivers quality, value for money services to our community.*

Council Plan Actions

| **No.** | **Council Plan 2021-25 Actions** | **The desired organisational outcomes** | **How will Council achieve this** | **Partners involved** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | Ensure Council's workforce reflects the community it serves by embedding the principles of diversity and inclusion in our day-to-day leadership and share our experience and knowledge with the community. | Council leadership and workforce reflect the total diversity within the community | Introduce appropriate training for relevant staff to ensure our leadership understands, respects and reflects the diversity of the community | Council / State Government |
| **2** | Improve the community’s trust and connection with Council through more meaningful and inclusive community engagement and innovative approaches to communication. | Innovative Council approach to communication and engagement improves community trust and, therefore, connection | Research and explore ways that Council can build trust through communication | Council |
| **3** | Develop and grow an organisational culture committed to delivering exceptional customer experience. | The whole of Council committed to and delivering exceptional customer service | Research and explore ways that Council can become more customer focused, identify any departments that need to improve and introduce the necessary training | Council |
| **4** | Streamline internal Council processes and improve systems to deliver more efficient services and improved interactions with our community. | All Council processes and systems improved for added efficiencies | Identify any Council processes and systems that are not performing optimally and make the necessary changes | Council |
| **5** | Increase the community’s visibility, understanding of and access toCouncil’s information and performance to improve accountability to the community. | Council is more upfront about all aspects of performance | Introduce a KPI related to the transparency of Council performance against commitments | Council / State Government |
| **6** | Consolidate and strengthen advocacy through evidence and stronger relationships to ensure other levels of government are effectively and efficiently engaged to support local services and programs. | Council effectively engages state and federal governments to gain all relevant support | Develop stronger links with state and federal government representatives in order to ensure Yarra Ranges is front of mind when decisions are made by these decision makers | Council/ State and Federal Government |
| **7** | Adapt and improve our service delivery to ensure the measurable provision of services that are supporting our municipality to rebuild resilience. | Overall improved services from Council for the benefit of the community generally | Investigate where Council service delivery is outstanding and where it falls down and make the necessary changes | Council |
| **8** | Strengthen relationships and networks to support local community groups and build their capacity to be active in achieving community outcomes. | Stronger community networks who are supported to achieve great community outcomes | Identify and develop key relationships in the local community and provide support to build local capacity | Council / community networks |

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| **Community Links**  **Lilydale**  15 Anderson Street  **Healesville**  110 River Street  **Monbulk**  21 Main Road | **Yarra Junction**  2442-2444 Warburton Highway    **Upwey**  40 Main Street | |  |

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[yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/)

A picture containing shape

Description automatically generated