



# FOR ALL OF US

Advancing the interests of local residents and businesses  
through better government collaboration



City of  
DAREBIN

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to live

# From the Chief Executive:

## **Darebin Council and the Victorian Government have an opportunity to advance the interests of residents and businesses through a closer program of collaboration.**

On behalf of the Darebin Council, I present *For All of Us*: a framework to build closer ties with the Victorian Government and tackle the most pressing challenges facing our community. *For All of Us* outlines key Council advocacy priorities for 2022 to 2026, and sets out the vast opportunity available to the different tiers of government to advance policies, develop projects and improve the delivery of services to meet the needs of our growing community. On the eve of a new Victorian parliamentary cycle, the City of Darebin is pleased to present our 2022 State Advocacy Platform, *For All of Us*.

Within this document is Council's plan to advance the interests of Darebin residents and businesses through a suite of policies, projects and services delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government.

*For All of Us* comes at a critical time. The City of Darebin is not only one of the fastest-growing municipalities in Australia – it's also one of the most diverse. Darebin's growth and diversity have been underpinned by a comprehensive program of Council services. More than 100 targeted schemes and initiatives are funded by the City of Darebin to help our residents live healthy, happy and socially connected lives.

During the pandemic, these services were stretched to the limit. Many aspects of community life were hit hard, from the economy to our collective sense of health and well-being. Darebin residents continue to need support as life returns to normal. There is much that Council has done, is doing and can do.

But we can't do it alone.

We saw first-hand during the COVID response how a meaningful partnership between different levels of government can protect and enhance our lives. In this spirit of working together, Darebin has identified a carefully developed program of funding initiatives for the State Government. From small but important local traffic projects to groundbreaking sport and health facilities, these investments would have a transformative impact on our community.

At Darebin, we're committed to putting the community first. That means striving to ensure our services continue to support all our residents, no matter their background. And it means working with the State Government to help deliver the services that Victoria needs, targeted to those who need them.

Peter Smith  
Chief Executive Officer,  
City of Darebin





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# Health, Education and Wellbeing

**From early childhood learning to aged care, a growing demand for council-run services makes collaboration between the City of Darebin and other levels of government more important than ever.**

Together with the Victorian Government, Darebin is committed to improving facilities in the north of our municipality to provide childcare, kindergarten, pre-prep and other services to provide children with the best possible start to their education.

In addition to vital infrastructure upgrades, Council is advocating for additional funding for measures to improve the mental health of Darebin's residents. This includes programs that promote positive mental wellbeing for children in the middle years, as well as resources to expand the effective Local Adult Mental Health service to serve communities in the Darebin area.

The City of Darebin also asks the next Victorian Government to use its powers to reduce harm from gambling, both through policy reforms and new initiatives delivered in partnership with Council.

## What we need:

- Capital investment in integrated childcare centres in the north of Darebin
- Funding for early intervention and prevention programs to promote positive mental wellbeing for children in the middle years (from grade three to year seven), through this key developmental phase of their lives.
- Expanded Local Adult Mental Health services.
- Opening hours for electronic gaming machines be restricted to 14 hours per day maximum, and all poker machines required to be switched off between midnight and 10am.
- New harm minimisation measures implemented via the Royal Commission into the Casino Operator License at Crown Casino be extended across Darebin and Greater Melbourne EGM venues.
- Partner with Darebin Council on targeted local initiatives, services and programs to respond to, address and prevent harm associated with alcohol and gambling across the municipality.

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# Housing and homelessness

**As the cost of living rises, a growing number of Darebin residents are struggling to afford a safe and comfortable place to call home.**

This is resulting in low-income individuals and families being priced out of our community due to a lack of affordable housing, as government rental housing subsidies fail to keep up with the cost of living.

For members of our community living in housing stress, this creates impossible decisions, forcing people to choose between housing and essentials like food, education and health.

The City of Darebin, together with the community-housing sector, is working to increase the availability of affordable accommodation and grow the volume of affordable 'bricks and mortar' accommodation across the city.

Recognising that Council cannot solve all of the problems alone, the City of Darebin seeks to partner with the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments to grow investment in effective programs, and advocate for important policy reforms.

## What we need:

- Continued investment in social housing and introduction of mandatory inclusionary zones to ensure social housing is built near transport, services and open space.
- Investment in targeted homelessness prevention programs and support services for groups at heightened risk of homelessness, notably young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people living with a disability and women over 55.
- Investment in specialist assertive outreach and case management services to assist people who have experienced homelessness to move into social and affordable housing.
- The High-Risk Accommodation Program (HRAR) to be expanded to ensure people experiencing homelessness are no longer subject to the risk of harm when residing in high risk accommodation.
- Reforms to the social housing system to ensure there is sustainable funding to meet demand and to operate housing effectively.
- Reforms to make it easier for co-ownership and intergenerational living arrangements to occur by addressing planning and financial barriers.



# Renewable energy and the circular economy

**The City of Darebin has a proud history of leadership on the climate and environment. Since becoming the first government in the world to declare a climate emergency in 2016, Darebin Council has reduced emissions locally and improved the sustainability of our community, while also advocating to other levels of government to take action.**

In 2017, Darebin Council adopted the Climate Emergency Plan 2017- 2022, outlining a commitment to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions for our Council and community, with emissions reductions measures embedded throughout the 2021-25 Council Plan. This work has been complemented by a Waste and Recycling Strategy adopted in 2022, which sets out long-term objectives to reduce waste and improve resource recovery.

While Council is delivering on its pledges, there are opportunities to accelerate progress through partnerships with the State Government.

## What we need:

- A \$2 million investment to develop a regional circular economy hub in the City of Darebin, including the development of a business case to consider opportunities through the Darebin Resource and Recovery Centre.
- Commitment to establish an Urban Renewable Energy and Circular Economy precinct through a partnership with Federal, State and Local Governments. As well as helping to scale up waste recovery capability, the precinct could power the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster.
- Designate Darebin as Victoria's first "Urban Renewable Energy Precinct", with Federal, State and Local Government collaboration to deploy an urban solar farm, network of community batteries, advanced IT systems to connect distributed energy assets to turn solar, batteries and electric vehicles into a Virtual Power Plant.
- Establish an enquiry into the State Government's management of graffiti and dumped rubbish on state government land.
- Significantly increase funding for graffiti removal and collection of dumped rubbish on land owned by the state government, including rail corridors.



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# Road safety upgrades

**Providing safe streets for all different forms of transportation is paramount, but Council can only control the management of roads that fall under its jurisdiction.**

To deliver badly-needed improvements, Darebin Council asks the Victorian Government to partner on the following priority projects that will make it safer for everybody to move around our municipality.



## What we need:

- Upgrade the Boldewood Parade and Broadway intersection in Reservoir to address current safety issues (indicative cost - \$5 million with full signage).
- Improve the design of the Bell Street commuter car park to provide access from the west.
- Renewal of the Kendal-Harding bridge (indicative cost - \$4 million).
- Traffic signal phasing changes at the intersection of Miller Street, High Street, Plenty Street and Dundas Street in response to serious ongoing safety concerns (indicative cost - \$150,000).
- Fund and install safety improvements in Fairfield, including a new pedestrian crossing on Station Street at Wingrove Street.
- Lower default speed limits around schools and in residential streets through the introduction of traffic calming and other measures.
- Support the implementation of actions from the “Your Street Your Say” program, particularly in relation to improved freight operations (indicative cost - \$500,000).
- Address hooning with a greater police presence and focus.

# Public and sustainable transport

## Public Transport

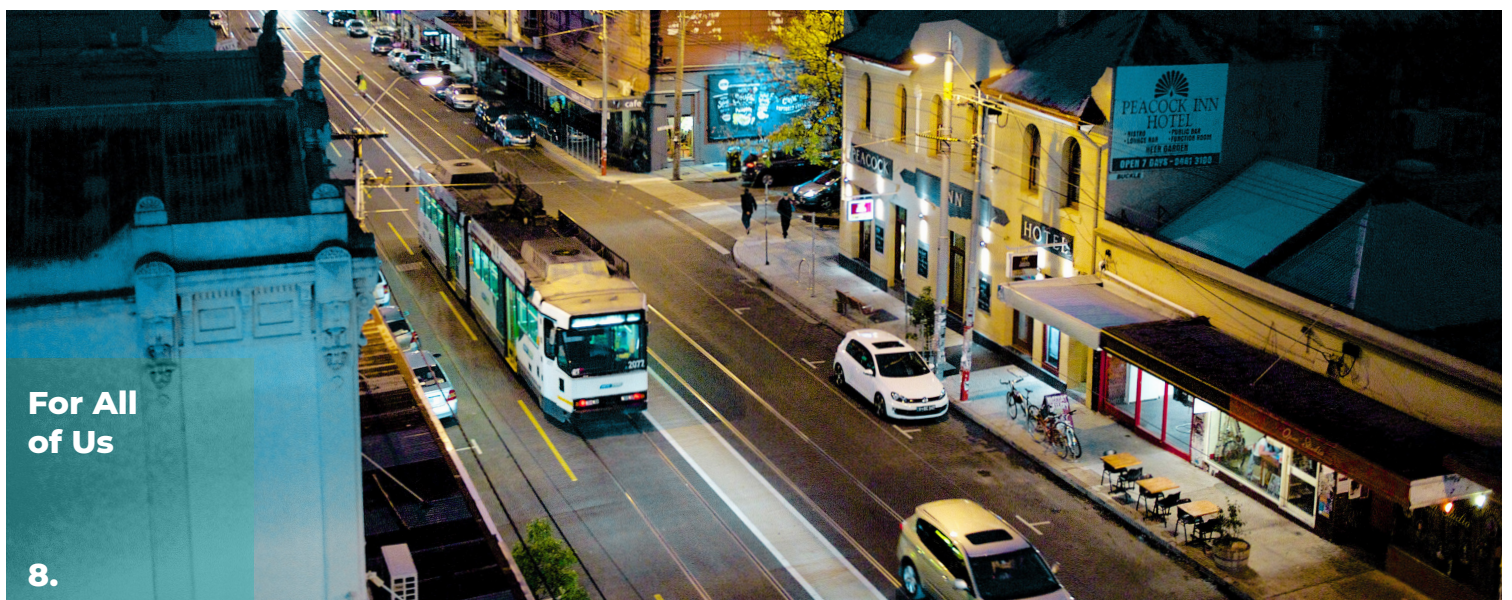
**Darebin's population is predicted to grow by 40 per cent over the next twenty years, putting more pressure on the public transport services that people rely on, worsening road traffic and increasing competition for parking.**

By improving access to public and active transport, we can unlock new ways for people to reach Darebin's shopping precincts, services and employment, while also helping to achieve net zero emissions targets by reducing reliance on private vehicles.

The transport proposals listed below will have been developed to improve the reliability and frequency of public transport, while also making cycling and walking safer and more enjoyable.

### What we need:

- An interim electric orbital bus route along the proposed Suburban Rail Loop corridor, connecting Reservoir to Sunshine, Melbourne Airport, Fawkner, La Trobe University and National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC).
- A new 'Chandler Bus Highway' route and express bus lane should be created to connect La Trobe University to Burnley Station via the Chandler Highway.
- More frequent train, tram and bus services, along with bus routes improvements.
- Targets for accessible trams and tram stops across the tram network should be fulfilled, including 14 stops along route the 86 tram route through Darebin.
- Commit to extending the number 11 tram route to Edwardes Street Reservoir, and provide an interim electric bus service along the proposed route.
- Funding to modify the Miller Street and Gilbert Road tram roundabout to improve safety (indicative cost \$1 million).



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# Public and sustainable transport

## Cycling and active transport

**Darebin Council is investing in infrastructure to make cycling and walking safer, which is taking cars off local streets and promoting healthier lifestyles.**

In addition to the Council-led projects being delivered, there is an opportunity for the next Victorian Government to invest in projects that will provide more choices for people to travel across our municipality.

### What we need:

- A safe cycling corridor linking Preston with the CBD via St Georges Road (indicative cost - \$4 million).
- Infrastructure improvements to provide safer cycling options on VicRoads managed roads.
- Improvements to the Elizabeth Street, Bell Street and Nicholson Street intersection in Preston to make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists (indicative cost of \$1 million to \$5 million).
- Construction of a new Alphington Rail Spur shared use path, with the provision of open space, and direct pedestrian and cycling connections between the Fairfield Activity Centre, Fairfield Railway Station and the Alphington Paper Mill precinct.



# Community wellbeing infrastructure

**The City of Darebin has been proud to invest in community and sporting infrastructure for our growing population. With almost two-thirds of sporting facilities across the municipality at capacity and participation forecast to grow significantly - particularly amongst women and girls - over the next 15 years, Council recognises there will be a need for ongoing investment.**

To meet the growing demand for community sporting and wellbeing facilities, Council has advocated to both Federal and State governments to partner on priority projects. Over the next term of the Victorian Government, the City of Darebin asks that the following projects be prioritised.

## What we need:

- Commitments from the state and federal governments to invest between \$30 and \$60 million in the Reservoir Leisure Centre and Wellbeing Hub, which aims to address inequality and local socio-economic challenges.
- A \$10 million contribution to the \$60 million Northcote Aquatic Centre redevelopment.
- Preston City Oval - Pavilion and lighting upgrades (indicative cost - \$10 million).
- John Hall Pavilion (indicative cost - \$3 million).
- Donath East Pavilion (indicative cost - \$3 million).
- KP Hardiman Pavilion (indicative cost - \$3 million).
- Blake Reserve Pavilion (indicative cost - \$3 million).
- GE Robinson Park – fitness equipment upgrade (indicative cost - \$50,000).
- TW Blake Park upgrade (indicative cost - \$500,000).
- Support to help Darebin Council create shared access to Northcote Golf for golfers and the community.
- Extended support for gender inclusive sports infrastructure.



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# Protecting the Preston Market

**Preston Market is the heart and soul of the Darebin community, providing a welcoming, affordable and diverse destination for people from all walks of life to do their weekly shop, meet with friends and socialise.**

Council has developed 'The Heart of Preston', a plan to protect the things we all love about the market, while supporting a sensitive rejuvenation for the precinct that unlocks new open spaces, better pedestrian and cycling connections and more affordable housing. The plan retains the fabric of the market and protects its unique features that are at risk.

In partnership with the Victorian Government, we can achieve this vision and ensure that future generations can enjoy the unique Preston Market experience.

## What we need:

- Adopt the 'Heart of Preston' Plan to protect the Preston Market and create a housing precinct around it which focuses on community and liveability
- A new Preston Revitalisation Board that builds on the success of the Reservoir model. The new board would support local economic and community development and local job, skill and training opportunities.
- Reinvigorate High Street Preston with streetscape improvements that include a footpath upgrade, kerb extensions with tree planting, public realm enhancements and more.
- Redevelop the Council-owned building at 421 High Street, Preston to activate High Street.



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# Revitalising Reservoir

Stretching across the City of Darebin's north, Reservoir is one of Melbourne's largest suburbs. It is home to a vibrant, diverse population, where residents share a proud sense of community.

In 2021, Reservoir was selected for investment through the Victorian Government's Suburban Revitalisation program, with the aim of boosting the local economy, creating inviting and safe public spaces and celebrating the area's rich cultural experiences.

In partnership, Darebin Council and the Victorian Government have delivered a number of initiatives, including safer on-road bike lanes, grants to local businesses to improve their shopfronts, a Reservoir-themed recipe book, and an urban planting program.

Now, to grow the impact of this program, Darebin Council is advocating for it to be extended through the following actions, which will support local economic and community development and create jobs, skills and training opportunities.

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# Revitalising Reservoir

## What we need:

- State and federal investment of between \$30 million up to \$60 million to support a major redevelopment of the Reservoir Leisure Centre and Wellbeing Hub.
- Funding to support the delivery of local recreation, parks and environment projects, including:
  - John Hall Pavillion (indicative cost - \$3 million)
  - Construction of the Edwards Lake Playspace (indicative cost - \$500,000)
  - Donath East Pavillion (indicative cost - \$3 million)
  - KP Hardiman Reserve (indicative cost - \$3 million)
  - Blake Reserve Pavillion (indicative cost - \$3 million)
  - Construct the Ruthven Wetland (indicative cost - \$1 million)
  - Rewild Cheddar Road with 500,000 plants, shrubs and grasses
  - CH Sullivan playspace renewal (indicative cost - \$80,000)
  - GE Robinson Park fitness equipment upgrade (indicative cost - \$50,000)
- Local transport improvements, including:
  - Upgrade the Boldrewood Parade and Broadway intersection in Reservoir to address current safety issues
  - An interim electric orbital bus route along the proposed SRL corridor, connecting Reservoir to Sunshine, Melbourne Airport, Fawkner, La Trobe University and National Employment and Innovation Cluster (NEIC)
  - A new ‘Chandler Bus Highway’ route and express bus lane be created to connect La Trobe University to Burnley Station via the Chandler Highway
  - Targets for accessible trams and tram stops across the tram network to be fulfilled, including 14 stops along route the 86 tram route through Darebin
  - Commitment to extend the number 11 tram route to Edwardes Street Reservoir, and provide an interim electric bus service along the proposed route.
  - More frequent bus services, particularly east-west routes.
  - Investment in cycling network improvements, including in the Streets for People corridors, the Strategic cycling corridors and the Regional trails network which connects Darebin with the wider region.



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# Our Plan for Preston

Preston is undergoing a major transformation. With forecasts that the suburb will expand by 40 per cent within two decades, there is an urgent need for investment in infrastructure and services to support the booming population.

With above average employment, less access to open space, vulnerability to the changing climate and no local health and wellbeing precinct, the City of Darebin is looking to partner with the Victorian Government on a program of initiatives across Preston that respond to these significant challenges.

Building on the success of the Reservoir Revitalisation Board, Darebin Council asks the Victorian Government to establish a Preston Board to support projects that develop local economic and community opportunities, and create new jobs, skills and training opportunities.

Together with a shortlist of initiatives that can be commenced immediately, our plan for Preston will help to foster a fairer Darebin.

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# Our Plan for Preston

## What we need:

- Establish a new Preston Revitalisation Board to replicate the success of the Reservoir Revitalisation program.
- Protect the historical, cultural and social value of the Preston Market for future generations to enjoy.
- Reinvigorate High Street through a program of streetscape improvements..
- Activate High Street through the redevelopment of the Council-owned building at 421 High Street, Preston.
- Funding to support the delivery of the Intercultural Centre, where members of the community can meet in a safe place that celebrates Darebin's cultural heritage.
- Funding to support the delivery of the Preston Global Learning Hub.
- Funding to support local park, recreation and environment projects, including:
  - Redevelopment of the pavilion and lighting at Preston City Oval (indicative cost - \$10 million)
  - TW Blake Park upgrade (indicative cost - \$500,000)
  - HP Zwar playspace renewal (indicative cost - \$100,000)
  - AG Davis playspace renewal (indicative cost - \$150,000)
- Local transport improvements, including:
  - Improve the design of the Bell Street commuter car park to provide access from the west.
  - Renewal of the Kendal-Harding bridge (indicative cost - \$4 million).
  - Targets for accessible trams and tram stops across the tram network should be fulfilled, including 14 stops along route the 86 tram route through Darebin.
  - A safe cycling corridor linking Preston with the CBD via St Georges Road (indicative cost - \$4 million).
  - Traffic signal phasing changes at the intersection of Miller Street, High Street, Plenty Street and Dundas Street in response to serious ongoing safety concerns (indicative cost - \$150,000).
  - Funding to modify the Miller Street and Gilbert Road tram roundabout to improve safety (indicative cost \$1 million).
  - More frequent train, tram and bus services, along with bus routes improvements.
  - Improvements to the Elizabeth Street, Bell Street and Nicholson Street intersection in Preston to make the area safer for pedestrians and cyclists (indicative cost of \$1 million to \$5 million).



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## CITY OF DAREBIN

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