

2024-25 DRAFT BUDGET COMMUNITY FEEDBACK - WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

Submission Process Overview:

Councils FY 2024-25 draft budget (and associated documents) were made available for community exhibition and feedback for a three-week period (21 days) between 30th April – 20th May 2024. 102 individual submissions were received.

The below table provides a summary of the written submissions received with corresponding management responses. It should be noted the written submissions contained in this document have been edited & summarised for clarity purposes, removing private & confidential information as well as removal of offensive and disrespectful language where necessary.

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
THEME: ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES					
<p><u>Local Laws / Litter Prevention Officers – Weekend Patrols</u></p> <p>Budget to be allocate to fund 2 roles for Local Laws / Litter Prevention Officers that exclusively patrol on the weekends throughout all of Darebin Open Spaces to provide education and enforcement when need about issues such as littering, dogs of leads, parking, use of council assets etc.</p> <p>We are currently seeing and hearing about much anti-social behaviour across Darebin that can only be resolved by having authorised officers that are patrolling on weekends.</p>		Draft Operating Projects List	No	2 x Litter Prevention Officer or Local Laws Officer weekends only - \$160k	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>The Local Laws Team currently conducts park patrols on weekends and runs multiple educational programs to promote responsible pet ownership within the municipality, with more initiatives planned for the upcoming year.</p> <p>Anti-social behaviours fall under the jurisdiction of Victoria Police, who are equipped with the necessary training, tools, and authority to handle such matters. Council will continue to collaborate with the police to ensure community safety and well-being.</p>
<p><u>Gas to Electric</u></p> <p>Increased resources needed to help residents switch from gas to electric. Please see attached document</p>		Draft 4 Year Budget; Draft Council Plan Action Plan; Draft Operating Projects List	Yes	\$150k annually	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>The draft Climate Emergency Plan has recently been through the second round of community consultation to seek feedback on the proposed actions. The draft Plan has an action to support households to electrify.</p>
<p><u>Biodiversity: Darebin lacks a comprehensive biodiversity or nature plan.</u></p> <p>Biodiversity: Darebin lacks a comprehensive biodiversity or nature plan. The existing nature plan is light on and simplistic. The bulk of biodiversity discussion in the budget and CAP is directed to Edwardes Lake. The Edwardes Lake project is great however this is hardly representative of the greater need across Darebin.</p>		Multiple	No	\$70,000	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>While it is not all contained in the Council Plan documents, Darebin City Council has established clear direction as to how it will improve biodiversity over time and additional planning work is not needed. Investing in implementation of existing plans is recommended as a priority over undertaking additional planning work. Darebin City Council has in place a Natural Heritage Plan (2015-2025). This is a comprehensive plan that aims to protect and enhance Darebin’s biodiversity values. Breathing Space: Darebin’s Open Space Strategy, has a key direction and action plan to improve Biodiversity across Darebin. The Current Council Plan has a focus on Edwardes Lake which includes establishing and resourcing a Task Force to improve water quality as Edwardes Lake.</p> <p>The 2024-25 Budget has included funding to expand habitat via Council’s Rewilding program. The program will progressively increase areas with habitat over time.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
THEME: PARKS, OPEN SPACE & RESERVES					
<p><u>Floodlights:</u></p> <p>Floodlights Installation at Edwards Lake Track</p> <p>During the darker months when daylight savings time is not in effect, specifically between the hours of 6:00 PM and 8:30 PM.</p> <p>The addition of floodlights to the track would greatly enhance safety for those utilizing the space during evening hours. It would also increase the accessibility and usage of this recreational area, benefiting the mental and physical health of our community members.</p> <p>Research shows that access to well-lit outdoor spaces can significantly contribute to improving mental well-being by providing opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities.</p> <p>Given the importance of outdoor recreation for our community's health and well-being, I urge the City Council to consider this request seriously.</p> <p>The installation of floodlights at the Edwards Lake track would be a valuable investment in the safety and wellness of Darebin residents.</p> <p><u>Upgrade to LED lighting around synthetic track at Edwards Lake Park</u></p> <p>Request that the lights surrounding the 400m synthetic track at Edwards Lake Park be upgraded to LED lights.</p> <p>Seeking Darebin City Council to consider allocating funds in the 2024-25 budget to conduct a feasibility assessment of the existing lighting infrastructure in order to determine the options available to upgrade the lighting in future budgets.</p>		Draft 4 Year Budget	No	\$15-20k to scope, design and identify upgrade cost	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response.</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback. Council recognises the benefits of improved lighting at Edwardes Lake Park Athletics track, however, it is listed as a medium priority in the Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework, which was updated in 2022. As there are higher priority sites with identified lighting improvements and Council can only fund a few new lighting projects every 10 years, no funding has been included in the 2024-25 Council budget.</p>
<p><u>Cricket Practice Nets and Cages:</u></p> <p>Capital works program identifies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket Practice Nets and Cages TW Blake Cricket Nets 250,000 Reservoir <p>Is this meant to be TW Blake Park in Preston?</p> <p>Note the Project Enhancing TW Blake Park - Stage 2 was completed last year however many of the features of the concept plan were not installed with only one of them being the cricket nets.</p> <p>The other key feature was a playground which has not been installed. On the project website page (https://yoursay.darebin.vic.gov.au/TWBlake) it says the playground will be delivered in stages.</p> <p>Will the playground be included in the budget?</p> <p>Additionally, the park is still far below the quality of other parks within Melbourne and requires urgent investment by the council,</p>		Draft 4 Year capital Works Program	Yes - Year 1 Draft 2024/25 Capital Works Program: \$250k for Cricket Practice Nets and Cages	\$50,000 - \$150,000	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Yes, this line item is for TW Blake Reserve located in Preston.</p> <p>TW Blake Cricket Nets funding in the 2024-25 budget is specifically to deliver new cricket practice nets and cages at the site. These are in very poor condition and are next in the Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework priority list.</p> <p>The park has received significant investment over the past three years including a pavilion and toilet refurbishment, large scale plantings, new synthetic cricket wickets on the oval, new seating, new outdoor gym equipment, a new BBQ and drink fountain.</p> <p>The playground is not planned for next year's budget. Council is focusing on renewing playgrounds and assets around the city that are reaching end of life and there are a number of playgrounds in need. The TW Blake playground will be considered for future Capital Works Open Space Improvements Programs, although it is likely to be several years at least before this site would be assessed as the highest priority considering the number of parks and playgrounds across the city.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>particularly the inclusion of vegetation, toilets, safe walking track and fencing.</p> <p>The park needs improvement before in order for locals to enjoy its amenities.</p> <p>Note - Some of the works completed last year were of a very poor standard. The running track which is widely used by locals was badly damaged from construction vehicles and apart from some minor temporary repair there has been no effort to reinstate the track to its condition prior to the 2023 construction works commencing.</p> <p>Budget should be allocated to improve TW Blake Park and the project council set out to complete for TW Blake is completed and not left as it is.</p>					<p>The track around the park is a granitic sand track and the metal perimeter fence is quite aged. Both assets require ongoing maintenance to keep them performing to meet current needs which will be funded through maintenance budgets until renewed through future capital investment.</p>
<p><u>Pitcher Park Alphington Drainage - Northern End</u></p> <p>The Pitcher Park northern playing surface drains are blocked as a result of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the northern playing surface area being uneven / low in areas / no camber at the northern end and therefore satisfactory water run off simply cannot occur. as a result of community sport usage on the field there has been a transfer of soft/muddy soil onto/over/into the sand drain channels which has resulted in blockages of the sub-surface drainage pipe slits Apparently, it is common on grounds such as Pitcher Park that are earth based and not sand based and it requires regular turf management with top dressing and ground shaping to prevent this occurring <p>In summary, due to high usage and inadequate ground upkeep/maintenance by the DCC since the drainage was installed +/-8 years ago the ground has blocked drains and water pools across the northern end playing surface.</p> <p>Proposed Solution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requires the northern end effected = blocked drainage channels to be exposed/dug up and unblocked. re-lay / replace the sand grass channels above the drainage lines. Top dress, level & reshape the northern playing surface area so that water runs off to the external ground perimeter (95%+) and the drains filter off the balance of residual water (~5%) 		<p>Draft 4 Year capital Works Program</p>	<p>Yes – Draft 4-year Capital Works Program – Sportsground Sub-surface Drainage.</p> <p>Year 2 2025/26 \$320,000</p>	<p>\$50,000 to \$150,000</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer response:</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>We recognise the northern end of the Pitcher Park oval requires more investment in ground shaping and drainage cleaning to increase water runoff. Unfortunately, when we assessed the drainage project priorities, this site was not the highest priority.</p> <p>Top dressing the area has assisted in the past and this practice will be undertaken again after this year's football season to further assist, however, we recognise it will not completely resolve the issue.</p> <p>Officers will seek to include works to address the northern end drainage issues in the 2025-26 Council Budget. These works are subject to approval through Council's annual budget process and can't not be guaranteed until the budget is considered and endorsed by Council in June 2025.</p>
<p><u>Tree replacement fee (due to development)</u></p> <p>Return the Tree Replacement due to development - High retention fee to the ""City of Melbourne amenity value"" formula (last used in 20/21).</p>	<p>Speaker: Carly Demont</p>	<p>Draft fees and Charges</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for the submission, the \$1200 Tree Replacement Fee is the minimum cost and Darebin uses a Tree amenity valuation method (TAVM) to</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>With this formula La Trobe university would have been charged 6 figures for the privilege to remove the large volume of 80+ year old gum trees on the corner of Plenty Rd & Kingsbury Drive. But with your new per application set fee they only paid \$1,200.</p> <p>The previous fee could have dissuaded the university from making such a terrible decision in removing those trees and they would have found a better solution for their solar panel placement.</p> <p>Return the fee to the formula to ensure that any developer or organization that removes trees and adds to the urban heat island affect is appropriately charged for doing so."</p>					<p>calculate the charge. This has been clarified in the adopted Budget in the fees and charges documentation.</p> <p>A monetary value will be placed on healthy trees, to discourage their removal in all instances including major developments on both public and private land, construction of crossovers and works by utility companies. However, in cases where Council has approved the removal of a healthy tree for development or capital works purposes, it is likely that the applicant or developer will be required to reimburse Council for the loss of the tree. Where possible, off-set tree planting is carried out as well.</p> <p>Please note that Darebin City Council has no authority over land owned by La Trobe University and would not have collected any fees relating to the recent tree removal by the University, irrespective of the way the formula is set.</p>
<p><u>Wat Ganbo Park - Rewilding and Ephemeral Wetland</u></p> <p>The Reimagining Ruthven Master Plan was adopted in June 2020, around four years after the site was purchased from the State Government, off the back of a community campaign. Implementation of the Masterplan includes the need to run a program of continuous indigenous tree, shrub and flower planting.</p> <p>Yet, Wat Ganbo Park has not been given a budget line for rewilding, other than previously for the area around the playground. In recent years it has had to be gifted plants from Friends of Edwards Park Lake, and Darebin Council's Street Tree planting program instead of having access to its own supplies. It is unclear whether anyone is referring to the planting guides which were provided by Darebin Nature Trust.</p> <p>There does not appear to be any reference to any ongoing indigenous planting in the budget papers in relation to Wat Ganbo Park. The Capital Works Budget has allocated a tiny sum of \$120,000 for rewilding to more than a dozen *other* parks, as follows:</p> <p>"Native planting in second year to establish the Rewilding at Edwardes Lake Park, All Nations Park, Clements Reserve, Merri and Edgars Creek Corridors, K.P. Hardiman, Scott Reserve, John Cain Memorial Park, Ray Brahman Gardens, Newman Reserve, Keon Park Childrens Hub, Cypress Court Macleod, Springthorpe, A.G. Davis Reserve, TW Blake Reserve, Turner Reserve, W.K. Larkins Reserve, Environmental Volunteer sirtes and Cheddar Road Median."</p> <p>Ephemeral wetlands</p> <p>In addition, Darebin Council received a \$50,000 State Government grant towards a concept plan for an ephemeral wetland which was agreed to be brought forward in the Master Plan. This concept plan was completed in March 2023.</p> <p>After Friends of Wat Ganbo Park asked numerous questions about the changed scope of the proposed wetlands in the Master Plan, we were suddenly informed that another concept plan would be developed so that Darebin councillors would have two different models to choose from. Despite follow up inquiries we have not</p>	<p>Speaker: Serena O'Meley</p>	<p>Draft 4 Year capital Works Program</p>	<p>No funds allocated for Ephemeral Wetland</p> <p>\$10k for rewilding at Wat Ganbo Park</p> <p>Open space Improvements Program across all years.</p>	<p>Unknow for Ephemeral Wetland</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>In its final Budget, Council decided to increase the program budget for establishing new rewilding areas to \$300,000. Council's budget also includes some funding for maintenance of bushland areas including for 25,000 new plants to be added to the 22 hectares of rewilding already completed.</p> <p>This will enable further rewilding to be undertaken at Wat Ganbo to a value of \$10,000. Council intends to undertake the rewilding planting works in partnership with "Friends of Wat Ganbo". Council has met onsite with a representative from the Friends group, to consult with and plan for the first weeding and planting day, likely to be held in July 2024. Council has no plans for wider consultation beyond the Friend's Group active at the site at this stage.</p> <p>All the plants used in the rewilding program are indigenous plants. Council uses the Master Plan for the site as guidance and also uses the guides provided by the Darebin Nature Trust as a guide, although at times it does not always follow all aspects of this specifically. Officers are able to discuss the reasons for this if you would like.</p> <p>Areas of Wat Ganbo Park have been rewilded in prior years. Council has a clear commitment to improving biodiversity and rewilding over time and its work will progressively increase this. As new rewilding areas are added, Council will also need to identify how to increase maintenance for these areas and this challenge will need to be addressed in future budgets. In the tight financial circumstances this remains a difficult challenge.</p> <p>Ephemeral Wetland:</p> <p>Council received a \$50,000 grant from DECCA to develop a wetland design at Wat Ganbo Park, which was matched by Council. This grant aimed to meet environmental targets for improved integrated water management. The funds were used to explore the best ways to treat urban runoff and analyse how water flows through the area via catchment analysis. The initial concept plan was completed in 2023, and we are currently incorporating community feedback into an ephemeral version of the design. We expect to complete the updated design shortly. Implementation of this would be considered alongside other priorities across the City via Council's Annual budget development process and within the Open Space improvements program. As yet the construction works have not been specifically scheduled for a future year.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>been told the status of the additional concept plan or when it will be released onto the Council agenda.</p> <p>However, it is noticeable that there is no budget line item in the Capital Works program for the Wat Ganbo Park ephemeral wetlands.</p> <p>Budget request</p> <p>Seek the following amounts be added to the budget for 2024/2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1 million dollars to be allocated to the various parks listed above for their rewilding efforts • \$50,000 be allocated to Wat Ganbo Park for its rewilding efforts. • \$50,000 be allocated towards community consultation and a planting day to discuss the Wat Ganbo ephemeral wetland concept plans before they are formally adopted by Council. • \$2-4 million to be budgeted towards the initial capital works projects for the ephemeral wetland. 					
<p>Tree Planting</p> <p>Open Space Improvements program - Native planting in second year to establish the Rewilding at Edwardes Lake Park, All Nations Park, Clements Reserve, Merri and Edgars Creek Corridors, K.P. Hardiman, Scott Reserve, John Cain Memorial Park, Ray Brahma Gardens, Newman Reserve, Keon Park Childrens Hub, Cypress Court Macleod, Springthorpe, A.G. Davis Reserve, TW Blake Reserve, Turner Reserve, W.K. Larkins Reserve, Environmental Volunteer sites and Cheddar Road Median</p> <p>It is disappointing to see the reduction in budget from \$300,00 in the previous year to \$120,000 in this budget for 24/25. If Darebin is going to fight climate change, care for country and meet its goals in the open space strategy then we must continue to plant indigenous plants. We would like to see the budget for re-wilding remain at \$300,000 to continue that good work that will need to continue.</p>		Draft Operating Projects List	<p>Yes - \$300,000 for rewilding in 2024/25.</p> <p>Open space Improvements Program across all years.</p>	\$180,000	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>In its final Budget, Council decided to increase the program budget for establishing new rewilding areas to \$300,000. Council's budget also includes some funding for maintenance of bushland areas including for 25,000 new plants to be added to the 22 hectares of rewilding already completed.</p> <p>Council has a clear commitment to improving biodiversity and rewilding over time and its work will progressively increase this.</p> <p>As new rewilding areas are added, Council will also need to identify how to increase maintenance for these areas and this challenge will need to be addressed in future budgets. In the tight financial circumstances this remains a difficult challenge.</p> <p>The budget includes substantial funding for new tree planting to increase shade in parks, streetscapes and across the municipality to mitigate urban heat island effects.</p>
<p>Bins in Edgars Creek Wetlands</p> <p>Two bins in the Edgars Creek Wetlands (located at the orange crosses in map in attachment) were installed in November 2021 to see if it could encourage visitors to put their litter in the bins (mainly dog bag in bags) rather than throwing it in the indigenous vegetation which is very time consuming to collect and presents hazards when climbing in the bushes for workers and volunteers.</p> <p>Happy to report that visitors have been using the bins and we are hardly picking anything up out of the indigenous vegetation. Before we installed the bins we were picking up over a 100 bags of dog poos and 100s of drink containers out of the indigenous vegetation every week.</p> <p>Would it be possible to install small wheelie bins at the red crossed in the map that are emptied / managed by Darebin once a week or fortnight now that it has been proven that people will use them?</p>		Draft Operating Projects List	No – not for this site specifically.	\$13,200 (\$3,300 per bin)	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>This idea has merit, however there are higher priorities at this time.</p> <p>In principle, bin installation would support council priorities and outcomes. Reduction of dog poo and litter would support cleaner water from the Edgars Creek Wetlands which feeds the Edwards Park Lake. It is estimated four waste bin enclosures could be installed at the suggested location for \$3300 each for a total of \$13,200. There would also be annual collection costs for each bin that would need to be covered by Council's Operating Budget.</p> <p>This idea will be registered and assessed along with other priorities for future years budgets.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>This will free up volunteers to work on other tasks.</p> <p>This is long overdue as I have requested it a few times from operational staff at Darebin.</p>					
<p>Improvements at AG Davis (Wood St) Park</p> <p>An active group of residents seeking Darebin Council to commit to improvements at AG Davis (Wood St) Park.</p> <p>Making these commitments would support Darebin Council to meet Action 3 of its "10 Big Actions" because residents currently drive their cars to access quality park facilities - including outside of Darebin.</p> <p>It would also support delivery of the Darebin Council vision and pillars by "creating vibrant and dynamic spaces and amenities" and ensuring "one Darebin, with no suburb left behind" - which is currently not an accurate reflection of the distribution of quality parks and playgrounds which are mainly congregated south of Bell St.</p> <p>This issue is only becoming more urgent as Darebin Council approves additional densification of housing in the area, particularly in the activity zones, but does not appear to be reinvesting into creating appropriate and quality park amenities and facilities.</p> <p>AG Davis Park has the biggest footprint in Preston and should be redeveloped to provide quality amenities, particularly given the quickly densifying population.</p> <p>The draft 4 Year capital works program does not outline any clear commitment to which parks will receive funding for open space, play space or park asset renewals. Council needs to commit publicly to this forward pipeline.</p> <p>Recently, 149 people signed a petition asking for ongoing investment in green spaces/ play spaces north of Bell Street. More specifically, through the 2024-25 Council Budget we are seeking the following improvements at AG Davis Park:</p> <p>Short Term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community consultation to understand what this local community wants - Additional shade until the plants grow to a sufficient height to provide natural shade making the park a safe and enjoyable place to play <p>Long term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construct appropriate equipment for older children (not met by recent playground replacement) - Additional nature play elements - Additional planting - Additional shelter / covered structures for picnics - Revamp of the toilets (updated and gender neutral) 	<p>Speaker: Rebecca Gray</p>	<p>Multiple</p>	<p>Yes – various totalling \$26,000 plus funds for nature play elements and rewilding</p>	<p>\$50,000 - \$150,000</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The following items are included in the budget for AG Davis Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rewilding – 1000 plants and trees including near nature play features and public toilet area. • Nature Play elements – installation of 1 or 2 additional logs and mulch to continue to build this area. • Rubber will be widened behind the swings to extend this area and improve access by creating a path (\$15,000) • The drinking fountain will be replaced (\$8,000) • The basketball backboard and ring will be replaced (\$3,000) <p>We are keen to understand community feedback about the forward plan for playground improvements and when Council consults on its 2025-26 budget, it will also share its proposed priority list for the upcoming four year Council term.</p> <p>Council has a tight budget in the current year and most of it is focused on keeping community infrastructure in its current condition. This includes funds for playgrounds which are focused on renewing playgrounds at end of life. There are no major playground improvements projects currently planned.</p> <p>Generally, AG Davies Park as it is has a good mix of facilities for a District Park consistent with Council's Open Space Strategy. While there are some newer parks in Darebin, there are also many older and smaller parks which are currently planned for improvements sooner. There are a few assets onsite that older children use including the Miracle (Clown) Swing, Basket Swing, other swings and basketball court. We hope the Natureplay area will become a place for all ages to gather and utilise as well.</p> <p>In line with the Darebin Open Space Strategy, artificial shade is not recommended until natural shade has been established. Instead, Council is planting trees which will provide natural shade as they grow. Council previously had plans to replace this toilet, however it is still functioning quite well due to its simple design. When this facility is upgraded in the future, all genders will be considered as part of the design as highlighted in the Public Toilet Strategy.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>Cuts to Rewilding and Open Space investment</p> <p>The Friends of Merri Creek were disappointed to see in the Darebin draft budget a reduction of \$180,000 for Rewilding Darebin. Darebin's Rewilding scheme has provided critical support for revegetation efforts in the municipality and leveraged the engaged local community to effectively deliver rewilding over the past 4 years. These successes were recognised with a Premier's Sustainability Award in 2022 in addition to supporting strategic outcomes in areas including the Nature Plan, Open Space strategy, Natural Heritage strategy and Watershed (WSUD strategy). Furthermore, rewilding contributes positively to Council's strong focus on mitigating the climate emergency and valuing Country by providing opportunities for residents to directly contribute and connect with their local environment.</p> <p>Cutting funding now risks losing the momentum provided by an engaged and supported community and will cripple the abilities of groups across Darebin (like the Friends of Merri Creek and Friends of Edgars Creek) to continue the transformative works. We call on council to reinstate the former budget of \$300,000 and consider how further funding for rewilding can deliver a diverse range of benefits to the Darebin community.</p> <p>We also note that this is part of a million dollars in scope being ripped out of the Open Space line item for the Capital Plan for FY24/25 - a 50% reduction in scope, in addition to another million over the forward estimates.</p> <p>The overall Capital Plan has not reduced in cost, nor have any new initiatives been launched - rather, it reads as an attempt at budget repair by short-changing the people of Darebin. It gives the impression that all the Capital Works talk about sustainability and biodiversity - a core part of the 10-year Capital Works Plan - are merely paying lip service to ensure we don't look at the numbers.</p>		Multiple	Yes - \$300,000 for rewilding in 2024/25	\$180,000	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>In its final Budget, Council decided to increase the program budget by \$180,000 for establishing new rewilding areas to \$300,000. Council's budget also includes some funding for maintenance of bushland areas including for 25,000 new plants to be added to the 22 hectares of rewilding already completed.</p> <p>Council has a clear commitment to improving biodiversity and rewilding over time and its work will progressively increase this.</p> <p>As new rewilding areas are added, Council will also need to identify how to increase maintenance for these areas and this challenge will need to be addressed in future budgets. In the tight financial circumstances this remains a difficult challenge.</p> <p>The budget includes substantial funding for new tree planting to increase shade in parks, streetscapes and across the municipality to mitigate urban heat island effects.</p> <p>There are three main elements that have resulted in some changes to budgets at sub-program level:</p> <p>There are new budget pressures. Construction costs have increased by 25% over the three years to end December 2023. This means that it costs more than it used to just to keep Council's assets at their current standards and this has meant that Council has had to adjust some of its budget envelopes to keep current assets as they are (such as existing trees or footpaths). This has reduced the available funding for improvements of any type, not just in open space areas. Council has to work within its budget envelop including making hard choices about what is most important to fund.</p> <p>In 2024-25 Officers also identified that some of the projects listed within the previous year's Open Space Improvements Program were better categorised as renewal projects in line with standard asset management definitions. The Parks Asset Renewal program budget has increased which offsets some of the reduction in the Open space Improvements Program.</p> <p>The Open Space Improvements Program is generally intended to be funded through the Open Space Levy which is collected when land is subdivided to help provide for improvements that support a growing population. Further analysis has been undertaken and identified that there are a number of other programs and projects that deliver open space improvements that qualify for funding via the levy. This includes pavilion redevelopments, some tree planting, civic spaces improvements.</p>
THEME: WASTE MANAGEMENT					
<p>Recycling</p> <p>In England, every week it is free to drop off a range of recyclable goods to a council depot, no charges need to be paid. Includes, Tires, Cardboard, Bottles, Chemicals, Paints, Glass, Metal, Green Waste etc all 100% free. It can only be a boot load, but no charge!</p>		Draft fees and Charges	No	Detailed financial analysis required to assess this.	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>There are challenges with dumping in Darebin, however we also offer free drop off of many of the items in the submission at The Darebin Resource Recovery Centre, as well as Hard Rubbish collections from the front of residents' houses.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
Darebin has loads of dumped rubbish – perhaps because the cost to dump these items in Darebin is too expensive and it’s easier to just dump it.					<p>Council also uses enforcement – and this can be particularly useful in remote areas with repeated dumping.</p> <p>We are preparing to change in 2025 to a booked hard rubbish collection which will provide more flexibility to households about when to arrange for a pickup of hard rubbish. We hope this reduces dumping associated with end of tenancies.</p> <p>Officers recommend reviewing this further after the transition to a booked Hard Rubbish service has been made when we understand if this has improved the outcomes.</p> <p>Darebin currently accepts many of the items listed for free including cardboard, bottles, paint, glass packaging, clothing, batteries, cooking oil, light globes, and metals. Council charges for tyres, chemicals and green waste as they incur a substantial cost for removal and recycling, which would need to be offset if offered for free as well. A detailed cost analysis would be required to understand the financial implications and benefits of accepting these items for free.</p>
THEME: GENERAL MATTERS					
<p><u>Intuitive Community Engagement</u></p> <p>Community engagement options are not initiative. Community shouldn’t have to read hundreds of pages of downloaded documents to know what projects you’re planning, or to participate in a council meeting.</p>		Multiple	N/A		<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>We have taken your concerns on board as we continue to look at how we can make engaging with Council a more simplified and user-friendly experience. This is often a delicate balance when we have complex large-scale projects like the budget that involve the adoption of six Council documents as we need to provide community with all of the information - hence the need to share all six draft documents.</p> <p>We understand the budget and its associated documents are complex in nature. In this instance we provided a high-level summary of the key budget highlights and FAQs on the page to support community to understand this project. In future we will consider the possibility of summarising the content of each document and bringing across some of our more engaging and user-friendly content from our social media channels into the Your Say page.</p> <p>Usually for an engagement we provide contact details, and, in this instance, the Finance Team’s contact details were provided for community to ask any specific questions about the engagement.</p> <p>We appreciate you taking the time to provide your feedback and will work to improve to make it easier for you to connect and engage with Council moving forward.</p>
<p><u>Edwardes Lake + surrounds</u></p> <p>Invest in the Edwardes Lake Boathouse in Reservoir to support a long-term lease arrangement.</p> <p>484 signatures have been obtained via a petition.</p> <p>Establish and adequately resource the Edwardes Lake Taskforce to significantly improve the water quality and amenity of Edwardes Lake in Reservoir</p>		Draft Operating Projects List	\$15,000	\$400k+	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your interest in improving the amenity of Edwardes Lake and more particularly, the Boathouse.</p> <p>In 2024-25 Council will run an Expressions of Interest process seeking proposals from community and/or commercial partners to help understand what’s possible at the site. In parallel with this process, Council will let local residents and park users know and invite any feedback about the future of the</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>We are already beginning to see increases to biodiversity and improvement in water quality but there are many more years of work ahead to see significant improvements.</p> <p>Edwardes Lake Boathouse</p> <p>A Cafe/bar/restaurant would be amazing at the boathouse. Having nearby access to a child friendly cafe would be amazing.</p> <p>We welcome the investment into the Edwardes Lake Boathouse planned for the FY25/26 period. As a community asset in an increasingly rewilded nature area, we believe the Friends of Edwardes Lake's Vision, which seeks to have the area used as a bookable community space north of Bell Street, to be the best path forward, and a far more appropriate use than anything more commercial.</p>					<p>boathouse. When Council considers the outcomes of the Expression of Interest process it will also consider feedback from community.</p>
<p>Improved kindergartens.</p> <p>Disappointed there are no nearby Council 3–4-year kindergartens near us.</p> <p>We pay Darebin rates however have minimal Darebin services available to us. Further as we live in Darebin, we can't use other Council kindergarten services. This is unfair and inequitable and directly impacts our financial stability.</p>		Multiple	No	Not known at this stage.	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Darebin City Council does not directly operate kindergarten services.</p> <p>Darebin provides a wide variety of support for early years services including lease of Council buildings, management of the Kindergarten and Child Care Registration System with participating services and professional development for sector leaders and educators.</p> <p>While there are no kindergarten programs in the Darebin zone of Macleod, there are services close by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maryborough Avenue is the closest community run service to Macleod. Darebin Council is currently investing in the expansion of the service with an additional 38 places (subject to budget approval). • There are a number of integrated kindergarten programs in the local area, including La Trobe University Community Children's Centre, Paisley Park Early Learning Centre and Good Start Early Learning in Bundoora. • Reservoir East Primary School Kindergarten is a new community run service which opened in 2023. It provides up to 66 kindergarten places providing 15 hours of 3-year-old kindergarten and co-located community and family services. <p>Council's Kindergartens and Childcare Registration team can assist with information about the centres in Darebin as well as those located in other LGAs.</p>
<p>Darebin City Youth Festival</p> <p>Proposes to integrate the City of Darebin events with targeted leadership and development opportunities for Darebin's diverse young people.</p> <p>This project aims to enhance young people's capacity in the City of Darebin by teaching them how to develop and deliver a community</p>		Draft Council Plan Action Plan; Draft 4 Year Budget	Yes	\$0	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer response:</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback.</p> <p>Youth Services currently receives funding from the Victorian State Government to deliver the FReeZA program in Darebin. FReeZA is a youth development and capacity building program that provides young people aged 12-25 across metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria with opportunities to lead and access</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
festival using concepts of social entrepreneurship and human-centred design thinking.					<p>live music events and other cultural, recreational and artistic events that are drug, alcohol and smoke-free in supervised and safe venues. These events are community focused and are led by young people in Darebin.</p> <p>In 24/25 Youth Services will also be delivering the services successful KickFlip!! Festival which is a large outdoor youth event planned and delivered by young people associated with Darebin Youth Services.</p> <p>The event is a celebration of and for young people within Darebin and is a chance for young people to lead and participate in all aspects of the event. Design thinking could be introduced in future iterations of this program.</p>
<p>Improved Darebin Council Livestream</p> <p>Issue:</p> <p>The current Darebin Council livestream system offers a poor-quality experience for residents, hindering transparency and accessibility which are core values of local government.</p> <p>Proposed Solution: Allocate funds to investigate and implement a new webcasting platform for council meetings.</p> <p>Benefits:</p> <p>Improved resident engagement with council meetings through features like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simultaneous display of motions and councillors as they engage in debate. • Linked table of contents for easy navigation between agenda items and the matching chapter in archived meetings. • Recording directly on the council website (meeting statutory requirements). <p>Examples:</p> <p>Many Victorian councils utilise webcasting solutions offering these features (e.g., City of Yarra). An archive of past City of Yarra meetings can be accessed here: http://webcast.yarracity.vic.gov.au/archive.php to enable you to assess the superior service which their residents receive.</p> <p>Request:</p> <p>Propose an investigation into the costs and benefits of adopting the webcasting platforms offered by the same company used by the City of Yarra, with the goal of enhancing the livestream experience for Darebin residents. I understand the company they use is Interstream and that the platform is very cost-effective.</p>	Speaker: Serena O'Meley	Multiple	\$0	Unknown at this stage	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Submission Supported</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Governance and Information Services teams are currently reviewing the options for improving the Council meeting live streaming. Costs are unknown at this stage.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p><u>Planning ESD and Heritage development</u></p> <p>Lack of planning enforcement, including enforcement of ESD and heritage measures. Given the rate of development in Darebin and efforts to achieve ESD in the private realm, additional planning enforcement is required or private development.</p>		Draft 4 Year Budget; Draft Council Plan Action Plan	No	No	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>As the Responsible Authority, Council undertakes planning enforcement to meet community objectives.</p> <p>This includes proactive enforcement programs; recent examples include the Tree Protection and Industrial Precinct Enhancement Programs to ensure development aligns with environmental standards.</p>
<p><u>Cat Management</u></p> <p>More funding is required to enforce the cat curfew and quarterly reporting on the program.</p> <p>Darebin should implement a mandatory desexing program for all cats that are picked up by Darebin or taken to Darebin affiliated facilities.</p> <p>Darebin should establish and fund a similar program to Banyal for discounted or free desexing and microchipping of cats.</p> <p>Additional finding for after hours park patrols for dogs off lease before a child ends up dead at the hands of dogs that run free in playgrounds.</p> <p>Quadrupling of proposed fees for dogs and cats that are not following the rules in relation to being outside beyond certain hours or in on leash areas</p>		Draft 4 Year Budget; Draft fees and Charges	No	No	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Council's Local Laws and Animal Management Unit conducts regular patrols and provide 24/7 on-call services for priority animal-related issues, ensuring responsible pet ownership and compliance.</p>
<p><u>Public Acquisition of Preston Market:</u></p> <p>The community over the last couple of years has been clear that the Preston Market must be saved. So far we have achieved state govt imposed planning controls aimed at substantially protecting the market with a heritage overlay but the Market still remains at risk because the 5 year leases that were promised from the owners have not occurred and quite simply they have no intentions of leasing with many stalls currently empty with no For Lease signs up. Council has a responsibility to the community to ensure that all avenues are investigated to ensure that the Market remains the icon of Preston, Darebin and our northern corridor.</p> <p>There should be a commitment from council in the budget to set aside funds to investigate and advocate for compulsory public acquisition to create greater certainty over the future of the market by putting it public hands. The Council budget should include adequate funds to produce a comprehensive report that properly considers how compulsory public acquisition could be achieved, possible public governance structures (similar to Victoria Market or other publicly owned markets), return on investment and options on financial models involving the help of State, Federal, Traders and Council funds.</p> <p>Democracy fundamentally involves enacting the will of the people. In a representative democracy, this means politicians must prioritise and work towards the community's interests. Budgets should reflect this will, as proper funding is essential. Councils and governments</p>	Speaker: Hunter Cullen	Not Specified	No	\$200,000	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response</p> <p>Council successfully advocated for permanent heritage protection in the planning scheme for Preston Market, whereby the building must be substantially protected in situ in any future redevelopment. The planning controls also provide for the continuing use of a market in this location with a minimum area of 12,700m2. These are comprehensive planning controls to ensure the market is retained while the precinct is being redeveloped.</p> <p>A compulsory acquisition process is a significant imposition on private landowner interests and therefore there is a rigorous regulatory framework around this, which ultimately must be decided by the Planning Minister.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>are meant to use taxpayer money to fulfil the community's wishes. Any action contrary to the people's will is inherently anti-democratic. The greater the mismatch between community sentiment and political action, the more anti-democratic the government becomes.</p> <p>Preserving the Preston Market is clearly the issue with the greatest consensus among the wider community. This was proven when 30,000 signatures were collected in support of the Preston Market's preservation and its becoming increasingly clear that the most effective pathway for achieving this long-lasting and community beneficial protection of the market is through public acquisition.</p> <p>Despite the significant importance of Preston Market to the community no funding has been allocated to public acquisition. If the budget was democratic and reflected community will, this would be the council's highest priority.</p> <p>Of course such a big investment requires equally large sacrifices to achieve in other parts of the budget. This is where our leader's need to show transformational leadership and making the case that our community will sacrifice together to achieve our joint community aim of public acquisition.</p> <p>Even if it were the case that the Preston Market is a large financial investment, its also because The Market makes money! I haven't seen any case studies specifically looking at the financial opportunities of the Preston Market in its value to returning profits back into the community.</p>					
<p>Consolidated feedback from community members</p> <p><u>What's important to the community:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing stress, particularly for renters. • Cost of living pressures including supermarket and energy prices. • Climate Crisis. • Public Housing (esp concerns about plans to demolish the Holmes St tower). • Better infrastructure for pedestrians, bikes and other forms of active transport. • Women's safety. • Protecting Preston Market. • Traffic and congestion. • Employment insecurity. • Underfunded public schools. • NDIS <p>Feedback on Council Operations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quicker graffiti removal. 		Multiple	No	N/A	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Climate Crisis – The new Darebin Climate Emergency Plan is in the final stages of development. The draft Plan that has recently been out to the second round of community consultation seeks to; accelerate the transition from greenhouse gas emitting gas appliances, support the community to stay safe in a changing climate and deliver actions to heal country.</p> <p>Infrastructure for Active Travel / Traffic Congestion – The Darebin 4-year capital works plan has identified funding to progressively deliver road safety and access changes that will support the community to choose active travel. Higher numbers of people choosing active travel also means fewer cars driving on the local roads. Changes to Darebin's roads are identified using the Your Street, Your Say program with extensive community involvement. Projects are prioritised for delivery at locations that need them most.</p> <p>Infrastructure and maintenance – The budget provides operating and capital budgets that are generally regarded as suitable for maintaining and cleaning Council's public spaces including footpaths and streets. There have been some operational challenges in the 2023-24 year which are being resolved operationally and which have at times resulted in lower service levels that Council aims for. The aim is for these services to operate as expected and the budget is generally sufficient for this.</p> <p>Graffiti</p> <p>The budget includes a similar budget for graffiti removal as prior years. This is sufficient to remove graffiti from council managed assets and to assist households and small businesses with free graffiti removal kits. Other property</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved processes and resourcing for residents' interactions with council staff. Maintain and expand green spaces. Expanding the solar savers program. Support for Darebin's Climate Emergency Plan. Cleaning and maintenance of local streets. Dissatisfaction with the parking strategy. Better infrastructure for pedestrians, bikes and other forms of active transport. Traffic and congestion incl more speed humps esp in local 'rat runs'. Homelessness. Mental health. Local hubs for disability support Concerns about the reduction from 2 to 1 scheduled hard rubbish collection a year. 					<p>owners in the City would remain responsible for removing graffiti from their own property, including utilities, state Government departments and private property owners. Council plans to trial an annual one-off removal at 1 of its main shopping streets.</p> <p>Some councils regularly remove graffiti from private property as a service. This is not a service that Council provides – it has prioritised delivery of other community services.</p>
THEME: PUBLIC PLACES					
<p><u>Graffiti Removal</u></p> <p>Funds to be allocated to reduce unsightly graffiti by vandals. Invest toward cameras that would help to catch perpetrators and make an example and change the culture.</p>		Draft 4 Year Budget	Yes	N/A	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>The budget includes a similar budget for graffiti removal as prior years. This is sufficient to remove graffiti from council managed assets and to assist households and small businesses with free graffiti removal kits. Other property owners in the City would remain responsible for removing graffiti from their own property, including utilities, state Government departments and private property owners. Council plans to trial an annual one-off removal at 1 of its main shopping streets.</p> <p>Some councils regularly remove graffiti from private property as a service. This is not a service that Council provides – it has prioritised delivery of other community services.</p> <p>VicPol is responsible for catching perpetrators and Council can't undertake this function.</p>
THEME: FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE / GRANTS					
<p><u>Youth Services and Youth Organisation Funding:</u></p> <p>Looking for greater potential funding for Youth Services based on the work that's been done by Youth Jury over the last year and it shows in these documents there's a whole range of activities missing.</p> <p>Maybe Youth Services isn't a top priority but as can be seen there's work to be done.</p>	Speaker: Hunter Cullen	Not Specified	Yes	\$15,000	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback and active participation in the Youth Jury. Co-design, and acting upon the voices of young people, are integral to Council's Youth Services and the Young Citizen Jury and have underpinned the development of the draft Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy (which has now been considered by Council and distributed for community feedback). Identifying current and future needs of young people in our</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
					<p>community has been a priority of the community engagement phase of the Strategy.</p> <p>The draft Strategy currently identifies seven high level, key themes and a number of focus areas and aims that have been identified as priorities for Darebin's children, young people and their families. The information and feedback received through this engagement will support and guide Council and its partners to identify, plan and develop services to young people that respond to the key themes, focus areas and aims of the Strategy. The strategy provides the framework for the future development of a collective action plan. It is at this stage that the actions, role of council and its partners and any financial investment/resourcing required will be identified.</p> <p>In addition, as part of the 24/25 draft operational budget \$15,000 has been allocated to support the delivery of the Young Citizens Jury and any associated projects.</p>
<p>Project Stationery</p> <p>Project Stationery would like to provide feedback on the councils Draft 4 Year Budget. We note that under the councils Strategic Direction 3: Climate, Green and Sustainable that the council has an allocated budget to support community led programs under the Climate Emergency and Environment Service Area.</p> <p>Project Stationery is one such community program, established by concerned residents in the City of Darebin in 2023 to address the issue of stationery wastage in schools.</p> <p>It is a 100 % volunteer-run non-for-profit initiative which seeks to generate greater shared concern about the issue and contribute to more sustainable practices to help reduce landfill and influence a more circular economy.</p> <p>In 2023/2024, Project Stationery partnered with the community to coordinate the collection of excess stationery from schools and families in the local area. Donated supplies were sorted by a team of volunteers and then rehomed with various charities and families embarking on the new school year.</p> <p>The initiative was run out of a self-funded rental space in the vicinity of The Alphington Farmers Market. Having demonstrated proof of concept and witnessed massive community interest via more than 40,000 stationery items being donated (please refer to Pilot Project Report for more information), we plan to repeat the initiative at the end of the 2024 school year.</p> <p>In order to do so, we will require a suitable rental space to enable us to coordinate the drop off, sorting and distribution of donated stationery supplies.</p> <p>We would like to request Darebin Council support with rental assistance (and administrative cost assistance) of \$7000 for a suitable space from November 2024 to February 2025.</p> <p>We are seeking funds to pay for a facility (approx. 15m x 10m) in the Alphington/Fairfield area as this is where the initiative has built a community profile and generated a strong local volunteer base,</p>	<p>Speaker: Amelia Trompf</p>	<p>Draft 4 Year Budget</p>	<p>Rent fees for supporting local not-for-profit organisations is not currently budgeted</p>	<p>\$7,000</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>The new Climate Emergency Plan is in the final stages of development and will set out the priority actions that Council will deliver to address the climate emergency.</p> <p>Community grants are an alternative funding pathway, and applications are now open, and close on 31 May. There are two streams that could be considered: The medium grant program Environment & Sustainability, and the Venue Hire Support Grant Venue hire support.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>which will be essential for the continued success of Project Stationery.</p> <p>In addition, we have developed a strong partnership with Fairfield PS among other local schools and would like to capitalise and build on this.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your consideration of our request. We would be very happy to speak about our work at a council meeting if there is an opportunity to do so.</p>					
<p><u>DIVRS and Reservoir Neighbourhood House</u></p> <p>Joint submission to the 2024-25 budget for Council to continue to partner with DIVRS and Reservoir Neighbourhood House to deliver the Complex Support Program in Darebin</p>	<p>Speaker: Christina DiPierdomenico</p>	<p>Draft 4 Year Budget</p>		<p>\$50,000 - 60,000</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission and the important work you do in supporting the Darebin community.</p> <p>DIVRS and Reservoir Neighbourhood House (and all Neighbourhood Houses) play a significant role within the community providing support services to many of the most vulnerable in Darebin. Council provided funding for the Complex Support Program as a recovery project as part of the Community and Business covid-19 Recovery Package as a temporary measure ending in January 2025.</p> <p>While a very worthy program and initiative, it was a temporary measure associated with COVID-19 recovery, and Council has a range of community needs and aspirations it needs to respond to with limited financial resources available. Unfortunately, Council was not able to continue funding this project as requested.</p>
<p><u>Housing Crises</u></p> <p>Portable Housing Project to Address Crisis Accommodation for Small Families.</p>	<p>Speaker: Mark Goodie</p>	<p>Draft 4 Year Budget</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your feedback and for the work that you do in supporting those in need in the Darebin community.</p> <p>Council currently has one site leased for similar temporary housing in Preston. Council will assess if it has another suitable location for this type of project and if so, will run an Expression of Interest process to identify a tenant or partner organisation that may wish to use the site for a similar purpose as the submission. An EOI process would be expected to run in around February or March 2025 and will be communicated through Council's communication channels around that time.</p>
<p>THEME: LEISURE & RECREATION</p>					
<p><u>KP Hardiman Pavilion Project – Positive Feedback</u></p> <p>Excited to see that the completion of KP Hardiman Pavilion listed as a major initiative. At present, the clubrooms are not safe.</p> <p>Current facilities are out of date and unsafe.</p> <p>Facilities do not support the club's capacity to recruit new members, as other clubs can offer more safe and inclusive facilities.</p>		<p>Multiple</p>	<p>2024-25: \$1,020,000</p> <p>2025-26: \$1,980,000</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission. Council is delighted to confirm that it has allocated funding in the 2024-25 and 2025-26 Capital Works Programs to support the construction of a new KP Hardiman Reserve pavilion. The tender for construction is being prepared and once awarded, Council anticipates construction to commence in 2024-25.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>To be able to sustain this valuable community club, we need to be able to provide facilities that meet modern demand and inclusivity of all identified genders.</p> <p>The new pavilion will improve player safety and also help create a greater sense of community at the club by offering space to stay and watch games and socialise.</p> <p>The improvements will allow both home/away teams their own area to talk and change before and after games.</p> <p>I would hope that the budget will contain funding to support necessary facilities and allow this great club to thrive in our community.</p>					
<p><u>Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre Access</u></p> <p>Equity and wellness concern in relation to the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre.</p> <p>Fitness Passport is a program that offers reduced rate access to fitness centres across Australia and New Zealand for health and public sector workers. This includes police officers, nurses, paramedics, social workers and others in hospital-based and educational settings. Fitness Passport is available at Reservoir Leisure Centre and, prior to the renovation of NARC, was available at Northcote.</p> <p>Advice received from Council Officers is no immediate plan to reinstate Fitness Passport, but that it may be assessed in the future.</p> <p>Given that the Council and Clublinks have had a full summer to gauge statistics of centre usage, I believe this time to assess has come around.</p>		Not Specified	No	May be an income impact but unsure until review undertaken	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission. Officers will undertake a review of the Fitness Passport program and its applicability and suitability in relation to NARC in 2024-25.</p>
<p><u>Bill Lawry Oval Masterplan</u></p> <p>In 2017 the Northcote Cricket Club worked with the then number 1 ticket holder and obtained a grant of \$500,000 from the Victorian Government to commence the planning and build of female friendly facilities at Bill Lawry Oval.</p> <p>Since that time, we have had numerous stops and starts, and the project is currently on hold and we have needed to hand back the \$500,000 to the Victorian Government.</p> <p>It is understood that there is an allocation of \$70,000 in the draft 25/26 budget and our ask is we bring this amount forward to this budget 24/25 to commence the Masterplan process in the coming financial year.</p> <p>Please include Bill Larry Oval's completion of the grandstand. Your initial engineering reports highlighted it was unsafe and needed removal? Now nothing has been done but funding was given for it.</p> <p>Don't start it in 2028. Start it in 2024.</p> <p>We are currently seeing talented girls and boys need to travel to clubs outside of our council and region to play cricket in the Premier</p>	Speaker: Matt Heafield	Draft 4 Year Budget, Draft 4 Year capital Works Program	2026-27: \$700,000 2027-28: \$3,200,000 2028-29 [further construction funding allocation in 10-year CWP]	Requesting funding to be brought forward	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission. Council recognises the impact project delays are having on the Northcote Cricket Club and Northcote Park Football Club and are mindful of the condition of the facility.</p> <p>Council is delighted to let you know funding has been allocated in 2024-25 for initial works on the Bill Lawry Oval pavilion redevelopment which will assess and consider whether to use the current design to re-tender the project or whether it would be beneficial to set a new budget envelope considering the heritage overlay requirements and commence a new design process to deliver to sporting clubs' needs, state sporting association and gender inclusive guidelines.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
Competition and we would like to work closely with the Darebin City Council and Counsellors to keep these players within our community.					
<p>Reservoir Leisure Centre Redevelopment</p> <p>Reservoir Leisure Centre is falling apart and needs redevelopment ASAP.</p> <p>It is inequitable that other parts of Darebin have new facilities, but the residents of the fastest growing part of Darebin need to drive out of Darebin to Coburg or Thomastown to access quality facilities.</p> <p>Centre is in a dire need for a redevelopment. It is in a dilapidated condition which undergoes frequent repairs. This creates dangers for leisure centre users and makes for an unsafe working environment for staff. It requires a complete overhaul and is not fit for purpose to meet the needs of the northern part of the City of Darebin.</p> <p>City of Darebin needs to commit funds to plan, develop and build a new state of the art leisure centre in order to service the needs of the growing population in the largest suburb in the city of Darebin. Part of a new leisure centre should include a new 50 metre pool so as to meet the needs of young families in Reservoir, Bundoora, Kingsbury and students in surrounding schools.</p> <p>Much of Reservoir is without adequate tree coverage and covered in concrete which creates heat sinks. Having a fifty-metre external pool and inside pools will help to provide relief and refuge from the heat during the summer, for Reservoir residents.</p> <p>There are higher health needs in the northern part of the Darebin. Reservoir, compared to other parts of the municipality, has residents that come from lower socio-economic backgrounds and higher concentration of CALD communities. They often face barriers to active participation in society and access to services.</p> <p>Those with chronic health needs that require therapeutic services like hydrotherapy have to travel to Northcote, Thomastown or Coburg due to the dilapidated condition of the Reservoir Leisure Centre. This creates an unfair burden on Reservoir residents.</p> <p>Part of Council's mission is to reduce barriers to active participation in society, improve access to services and contribute to the health and wellbeing of residents. Committing funds to plan and build new, purpose-built facilities in Reservoir would help improve health, wellbeing and promote more active participation for those in lower socio economic backgrounds in the City of Darebin.</p> <p>Council plan stated that the Reservoir Leisure Centre would be a priority of the Council but to date very little to date has been done to progress this.</p> <p>Council should consider more than just maintenance of the Reservoir Leisure Centre. Reservoir residents should have the same facilities as provided to Northcote and have a centre like NARC.</p>	Speaker: Mathew Guglielmi	Draft 4 Year capital Works Program; Draft 4 Year Budget	2024-25: \$200,000 + carry forward to undertake RLC Scoping Study 2025-26: \$200,000 2026-27: \$200,000 2027-28: \$500,000	\$60M-\$124M	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission. Reservoir Leisure Centre is an important community facility. Renewal works are continuing while Council undertakes further scoping of the long-term options for the redevelopment of RLC to enhance health, wellbeing and socioeconomic outcomes. Council looks forward to seeking community feedback in the next few months to progress this work.</p> <p>Council considered the High-Level Costs, Funding Strategy Options and Next Steps at its 25 March 2024 meeting. The Council Report can be found here: https://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/About-council/Council-structure-and-performance/Council-and-Committee-Meetings/Council-meetings/Meeting-agendas-and-minutes/2024-Council-meeting-agendas-and-minutes</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p><u>Sensory Spaces in libraries/leisure centres/youth services</u></p> <p>Currently there are no actions set out to support neurodivergent people in Darebin. This is a huge oversight as based on national estimates around 1% of Darebin citizens (over 1.5k people) are autistic, and around 5% have ADHD. To demonstrate the importance of creating supports for autistic citizens, findings of one study that calculated the average age of death for autistic people at 36 years and notes that suicide is one of the leading causes of death for autistic people.</p> <p>Creating sensory spaces in council-owned businesses (libraries, leisure centres and youth services) would be an effective support for neurodivergent citizens and would follow some of the progress Darebin libraries have made by creating sensory maps and social stories for autistic visitors.</p> <p>A sensory space is a room accessible for neurodivergent people that has dimmed lighting, low-noise and is a safe space to recover from overstimulation. Sensory spaces can also include supports like bean bags, sensory lighting and sensory tools. Adding sensory spaces to libraries, leisure centres and youth spaces could be as simple as adapting small rooms by dimming or covering lights, adding comfortable places to sit and providing some sensory tools.</p> <p>Suggest engaging a small group of autistic individuals and carers for consultation when creating these spaces. Sensory rooms have many documented benefits including reducing distress, preventing autistic meltdowns and being a safe space for autistic people and carers.</p> <p>Northland shopping centre's initiative of creating an autism friendly 'Quiet Room' in 2014. Supported by Amaze and created based on an estimate that 120,000 autistic shoppers visit the centre each year, this space demonstrates the possibilities for council to engage in a similar initiative.</p> <p>Experienced firsthand the challenges of having an autistic meltdown in council buildings and having nowhere safe to go. Encourage council to consider options for embracing neurodiversity support as an action going forward.</p>	<p>Speaker: Max Taylor</p>	<p>Draft Council Plan Action Plan</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Unknown</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission, your thoughtful feedback and the contribution you make through Darebin's Youth Jury. Council will ask officers to look at opportunities to discuss this matter further at an upcoming Youth Jury session.</p> <p>The Libraries and Learning Strategy has outcomes and actions to provide inclusive and welcoming spaces for diverse community needs. An action that has been addressed recently to better meet the needs of neurodivergent people and broader community needs for quiet spaces, has resulted in permanent quiet spaces following recent trials at Preston and Northcote Libraries. Between the hours of 1 and 3pm, Monday to Friday during school terms at the seating area at the back of Preston Library is now a designated Quiet Zone. The enclosed working space to the left of the entrance to Northcote Library is also now a designated Quiet Zone during all opening hours.</p> <p>While providing a separate sensory space within our libraries is hampered by the layout and configuration of our current buildings, it is certainly something we will consider as opportunities for renovation of libraries arise, and we will consider these needs as part of our program of replacement of library furniture. We are eager to improve the accessibility of our spaces, value this feedback and will continue to seek community feedback on how we can make our existing multifunctional spaces best meet neurodivergent needs, particularly when there are plans for renovations.</p> <p>The library service delivers a range of services and programs for neurodivergent people. Examples of some of these across the last twelve months have included: Noise cancelling headphones for loan in branch, Neurodiverse storytime in recognition of Neurodiversity Celebration Week, film screenings, booklists and displays for Autism Awareness Week, exhibition by neurodiverse artists, multi-sensory storytimes with Vision Australia, Social stories and sensory maps to support people when visiting the library, and work experience placements. The library will continue to provide a range of programs during the 2024/25 year, as part of our program delivery.</p> <p>Preston Library has previously been audited by Amaze and achieved accreditation as being Autism Friendly. More info about library accessibility can be found at:</p> <p>https://libraries.darebin.vic.gov.au/Services/Accessibility</p> <p>https://libraries.darebin.vic.gov.au/Services/Accessibility/Neurodiverse-visitors</p> <p>Most new-build leisure centres will include a sensory space that is strategically located away from high-traffic and high-noise areas. At RLC, there is not an adequate space to accommodate the needs required for this type of space. However, it will be considered as part of the RLC redevelopment. A dedicated quiet space has been established at NARC to meet a variety of needs which includes seating and a range of sensory toys. More information can be found at: Accessibility at Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre. At Narrandjeri Stadium, this need has been recognised. A room has been identified for use as a quiet space; however, work is required to ensure it is suitable for this purpose.</p> <p>Feedback was received as part of the community engagement phase for the Darebin Families, Youth and Children Strategy regarding the needs of</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
					<p>neurodivergent young people who access Darebin's community facilities and spaces. As part of the draft strategy this need has been included in the Inclusion & belonging theme, as part of the focus area "Welcoming and inclusive places and services for all".</p> <p>Youth Services undertook a Cultural Safety Site Audit in 2023/24 for all youth spaces. This included assessing the needs of neurodivergent young people in the services spaces. Work continues to address these needs by reconfiguring the physical spaces with existing and new furniture and fittings as part of the Youth Services Asset Renewal Program which is budgeted through the 24/25 capital works program.</p> <p>As part of the 24/25 youth services operational budget specific programming for neurodivergent young people has been prioritised and will be delivered.</p> <p>Whilst funding has not specifically been allocated, changes are being implemented within operational resourcing.</p>
<p><u>New lighting and LED upgrades - Lakeview Tennis Club</u></p> <p>Lakeview Tennis Club is a culturally diverse club located in Reservoir. We writing to request council support and funding to install new lighting on 2 courts which currently don't have any as well as an upgrade of our existing halogen lighting to LED.</p> <p>Our club has experienced phenomenal growth of over 200% in our competition and coaching numbers in the last 12 months particularly in our numbers of girls and women playing tennis from a diverse range of ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds.</p> <p>Unfortunately, 2 of our courts are unusable for night tennis as they have no lighting which is seriously hampering our efforts to provide coaching and competition.</p> <p>Further to this we are also hoping to upgrade our existing lighting on courts 1-4 to LED lighting, not only bringing us into line with other sporting facilities in Darebin but also meeting Tennis Victoria requirements that clubs switch to LED lighting by 2025.</p> <p>The current halogen lighting is not only outdated, expensive and environmentally unfriendly but also dangerous as it doesn't illuminate the courts properly. Further to this it isn't possible to purchase new halogen globes anymore so if any of our current ones die we will be left with even less courts at night.</p> <p>We have sourced several quotes for the work which amounts to roughly \$200,000 dollars for lighting on courts 5 and 6 and the LED upgrades to existing lighting. The club also stands ready to make a financial contribution towards the cost of these upgrades of up to \$30,000 and a \$40,000 rebate is also available from tennis Australia should our application be successful.</p>	<p>Speaker: Richard Cosway</p>	<p>Draft 4 Year Budget</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Unknown – suggest listing this for investigation & design in 2025-26 subject to funding</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission and kind offer of a financial contribution. Council recognises the need for improved lighting at Lakeview Tennis Club and it is listed as the fourth priority in the Outdoor Sports Infrastructure Framework, updated in 2022. As there are higher priority sites with identified lighting improvements and Council can only fund a few new lighting projects every 10 years, unfortunately Council has not been able to include funding for this project in the 2024-25 Council budget.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>Replace cricket pitch at C.H. Sullivan Park East</p> <p>Seeking to replace cricket pitch at C.H Sullivan Park East.</p>	<p>Speaker: Shandil Bhan</p>	<p>Draft 4 Year Budget</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>\$50K to design & prepare sportsground renewal (rugby field – not East where cricket ground is)</p>	<p>\$80K+ to replace the synthetic cricket pitches x 2</p> <p>Fully renew the sportsgrounds (\$1-1.2M)</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission. Council recognises the need to replace the cricket pitches at CH Sullivan Reserve, as one of many synthetic cricket pitches requiring renewal.</p> <p>Funding has been allocated to commence the design and planning to renew the rugby sportsground in 2024-25 which also includes one cricket pitch. Pending future budget processes, these works would be considered by Council for completion in a future year.</p>
<p>Lighting at Preston City Oval</p> <p>Northern Bullants Football Club has been working with Council for some time now with respect to the upgrade of sports field lighting at Preston City Oval. The state of the lighting at Preston City Oval is a significant concern for the safety and wellbeing of our players, coaches and staff.</p> <p>Our key issue remains our obligation to provide our players, coaches and staff with a safe environment which we aren't able to at this point.</p> <p>We understand from Council Officers that a lighting consultant has recently delivered a detailed field lighting design for Preston City Oval that will deliver 300 lux level lighting that would meet the AFL/state level (VFL/VFLW) competition match requirements. The next step would be constructing the lighting, the indicative opinion of cost from the consultant was approximately \$900,000 including electrical authority costs, contingencies and project management.</p> <p>This submission is two-fold:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to seek support for investment in replacement lighting infrastructure at Preston City Oval 2. acknowledging that any investment in replacement lighting infrastructure will take some time, the club has an immediate need for financial support for temporary lighting for the 2024 season (in the form of lighting tower hire) 	<p>Speaker: Zak Gruevski</p>	<p>Draft 4 Year Budget; Draft 4 Year capital Works Program</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>\$700K in 2029-30</p>	<p>\$900K to construct 300lux lights</p> <p>\$700K to construct 100lux lights (community standard)</p> <p>\$25-30K per year for temporary lights</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission. Council recognises the need for improved lighting at Preston City Oval and has invested in a lighting design. Unfortunately, this project requires significant funding in a constrained budget environment and no funding has been included in the 2024-25 Council budget.</p> <p>Council has made no allocation in its 2024-25 operational budgets to accommodate your request to fund temporary lighting. Further operational savings, by reducing or altering services, would be required to fund this.</p> <p>Council understands that during discussions with officers that you requested access to an alternative training venue for Wednesday nights (the main time the lights are required) and the Leisure Team have offered, and you have accepted Bill Lawry Oval as an alternative training venue to accommodate this need.</p>
<p>Aboriginal Women's & Girls Sports & Wellness Centre</p> <p>\$1M funding to support completion of the Centre.</p>		<p>Draft 4 Year Budget</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Up to \$1M</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Council recognises the importance of the work being undertaken to construct the Aboriginal Women and Girls Sport and Wellness Centre at Sir Doug Nicholls Oval. Council contributed \$200,000 in 2021 and has supported this project by auspicing a \$3.9million Community Sports Infrastructure Stimulus grant with Sport and Recreation Victoria and participating on the Project Steering Committee.</p> <p>Unfortunately, as this project requires significant funding in a constrained budget environment, no funding has been included in the 2024-25 Council</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
					budget. We encourage you to continue to liaise with Council officers to explore alternative support opportunities.
THEME: ACTIVE TRANSPORT / SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT					
<p>More cycling Infrastructure</p> <p>A number of items in Strategic Direction 2.2 relate to improving the cycling infrastructure without any specific items cited.</p> <p>Funds should be invested in adding specific projects such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> further separated east-west and circular cycling routes in Darebin. upgrade of major cycling highways such as the St George's Road bike path <p>Particularly interested in the latter noting that there are often accidents or close calls along the path between people, bicycles, cars and trams.</p> <p>There are so many projects (big and small), in the local area (Reservoir), that would greatly improve cycling and pedestrian access.</p> <p>Many have been previously suggested to council. Of particular concern are school routes.</p> <p>In the almost \$40 million allocated for 'Transport, footpaths & streetscapes' over the next 4 years, not a single project that would help improve bicycle transport.</p> <p>Can council please show some progress on improving sustainable transport options. We live locally and want to ride and walk as much as possible, but the facilities are poor and often unsafe.</p> <p>There have been very little improvements that council have made in the 9 years we have been living in Reservoir.</p>		Multiple	Yes	No	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>New cycling infrastructure, including separated bike lanes and improvements to the road network to support bike riding are considered and prioritised through Council's Your Street Your Say program.</p> <p>West Reservoir was investigated in the 2021/22 financial year and the East Reservoir will be investigated in 2024/25 financial year. Residents will be encouraged to participate in the project when it next comes to their area.</p>
<p>E scooter trial</p> <p>Spending \$500,000 on this seems like an awful waste, with the only ones likely to get much benefit being the scooter company. The council only has to look at bordering Yarra city to see scooters causing a danger to cycling commuters and littering footpaths (making wheelchair access to footpaths a nightmare). The scooters will inevitably end up in the Merri Creek.</p> <p>The council should reassess why they are proposing this "trial", who really seeks to benefit and consider allocating the funds to a project that while actually make the community more accessible, Thayer then lining the pockets of Uber/Lime</p>		Draft Operating Projects List	Yes, funding for e-scooter has been included in the draft Council budget as an operating project	No funds required to deliver the feedback as the request is questioning the trial.	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Feedback from councils participating the trial indicates there are economic, environmental and social benefits to e-scooters, and it can help reduce traffic congestion and parking pressure.</p>
<p>Bike Path</p> <p>Propose that the Darebin Council extend the bike lanes on Darebin Rd from Station St to the Darebin Creek Bike path.</p>	Speaker: Janine Adam	Draft 4 Year capital Works Program	No	\$300k	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>It would be great if more people could ride to this stadium as it is difficult to get parking on Saturdays and it takes a long time to exit the parking due to the congestion of cars. And also ride to ride the Darebin Creek path to Northland.</p> <p>Believe this submission is more important than removing off-street parking to extend the bike lanes on Victoria Rd.</p> <p>Currently use the Victoria Rd bike lanes and find them as excellent because they are well marked and wide enough.</p> <p>Also, these bike lanes enable easy travel to the Northcote Aquatic Centre and the Fairfield Boathouse or Yarra Bend Park.</p> <p>Please don't change something that works well, as I'm concerned that parking on side streets will become quite difficult.</p> <p>Also, more cars may use the bike lane if it becomes wider for cars, and it is difficult to barricade off when there are so many driveways on Victoria Rd.</p> <p>Please make more bike lanes across Darebin Council like the current Victoria Rd.</p>					<p>New cycling infrastructure, including bike lanes and improvements to the road network to support bike riding are considered and prioritised through Council's Your Street Your Say program.</p> <p>The Your Street Your Say program provides an opportunity for each suburb in Darebin to be investigated on a rotating basis. All types of transport projects are considered, including projects to improve access and safety for people riding.</p> <p>Future continuation of a bike path to Darebin Creek along Darebin Road will need to be progressed and funded by Department of Transport and Planning who manage Darebin Road.</p>
<p><u>Connecting St Georges Rd path to Capital city trail</u></p> <p>Suggest Darebin Council put resources towards working with other stakeholders to make the connection between the path down the middle of St Georges Rd and the Merri Creek and Capital City trail safer and smoother for pedestrians, cyclists and other active transport users.</p> <p>Heading north on a bike is currently particularly messy and dangerous.</p> <p>Cyclists coming off the creek trail and wanting to get on to the bike path have to stop at the St Georges Rd bridge, cross the pedestrian crossing, ride along the footpath, cross Elizabeth St, cross another pedestrian crossing then navigate around the tram stop.</p> <p>It's tricky at the best of times. Even worse when the high school students are coming or going.</p> <p>One simple solution might be to re-sequence the lights so that every cycle, or when cyclists/pedestrians hit the button, there is a period of time when all traffic stops and pedestrians and cyclists can cross in any direction. This would allow cyclists and pedestrians to cross safely and directly between the paths.</p>		<p>Draft 4 Year Budget; Draft Council Plan Action Plan; Draft Revenue and Rating Plan; Draft 4 Year capital Works Program; Draft Operating Projects List; Draft fees and Charges</p>	<p>Not in 2024/25 of future budgets</p>	<p>\$250k - \$1M</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>The St Georges Road bike connections across St Georges Road Bridge into Yarra is part of the Preston to CBD strategic cycling corridor. The idea of creating efficient and comfortable connections between safe cycling infrastructure routes is supported. However, the intersection traffic signals at Merri Parade / St Georges Road are managed by the Department of Transport and Planning. This limits the ability Council has on making changes.</p> <p>Darebin will continue to advocate for change that improves safety and removes barriers to active travel, including at this intersection and corridor that connects the St Georges Road path to the active travel routes towards the CBD.</p>
<p>THEME: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT</p>					
<p><u>Safe pedestrian crossing- Gilbert/Henty and Gilbert/Edwards Roundabouts Road Safety in Reservoir</u></p> <p>The roundabouts at the corner of Gilbert and Henty and Gilbert and Edwardes were identified as particular concerns for safe pedestrian crossing in particularly busy intersections where parents with children and mothers with prams especially find it difficult to cross safely.</p>		<p>Draft Council Plan Action Plan</p>	<p>Yes, in a future year when considering these projects against competing priorities around the City.</p>	<p>\$ 50k design intersection of Gilbert / Edwardes, \$500k+ for construction. \$300k for introduction of</p>	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>These two projects were identified in the top 20 projects for delivery in the Your Street, Your Say Group A project. Both projects will continue to be considered for funding in a future year.</p>

Submission - summarised	Hearing of Submission Speakers (3 June 2024)	Related Document	Has budget been allocated in 2024-25 or the forward years? (Yes/No)	New or additional funds required to implement the feedback. (Approximate only)	Management Response
<p>Speed limits and additional road safety measures to be implemented on roads where there is frequent speeding, unsafe driving and near misses including Henty St Reservoir.</p> <p>Clearer pedestrian crossing around Edwardes Lake. Safer crossing options for parents and children accessing the childcare centre on Henty Street, local shops on Gilbert Road and Edwardes Lake.</p> <p>This proposal should be funded to fruition using the budget for this year.</p>				safe crossings at Gilbert/Henty roundabout	
<p><u>Streets Alive Darebin</u></p> <p>Streets Alive Darebin is a resident & ratepayer action group with a vision for thriving neighbourhoods where streets are used by people of all ages, irrespective of whether they choose to walk, cycle, use public transport or drive.</p> <p>We exist to create the Darebin of the future, that is fit for purpose for high-density living to accommodate future population growth, centred around the concept of the 20-minute city.</p> <p>We believe that, to achieve this, infrastructure investment should focus on social, health and environmental benefits of living in the City of Darebin.</p>	Speaker: Ruth Jelley	Draft 4 Year Budget; Draft 4 Year capital Works Program	Yes, there is budget in next and future years for supporting road safety, active travel and for street tree planting	Undefined. More funding would allow additional design and construction of road safety, active travel and emissions reduction projects.	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>There are several policies and actions within the Darebin Transport Strategy that guides action, advocacy and investment in active transport and public transport, while reducing the dependency on private motor vehicle trips. The Your Street, Your Say program considers all types of transport projects, including those from the Streets for People corridor work, to prioritise transport investment.</p> <p>Darebin's draft Climate Emergency Plan aims to support the community so that it is connected, safe and resilient to the changing climate and has safe places to live, work and play.</p> <p>Council is working with the Department of Transport and Planning on their project to improve safety at intersections and equitable access to trams along route 86.</p>
<p><u>Transport Safety</u></p> <p>Can Darebin Council please urgently consider in this budget transport safety for Hughes Parade.</p> <p>Many vehicles use Hughes Parade, especially in the morning and afternoons.</p> <p>There are many families who need to cross Hughes Parade to either get to St Joseph the Worker on Wilson Boulevard or if they are crossing to get to William Ruthven Primary and Secondary schools.</p> <p>The local community would benefit by having a pedestrian crossing on Hughes Parade in order to safely walk and/or cycle to school. It's only a matter of time before an accident takes place here.</p> <p>Council also should consider introducing speed bumps on Hughes Parade to slow down the traffic which is often in excessive of 50KM.</p> <p>Boathouse.</p>		Draft 4 Year capital Works Program	Yes, Group A will be revisited to investigate the priority locations for safety changes in 2025/26.	\$50 - 100k	<p>Feedback Noted</p> <p>Officer Response:</p> <p>Road safety changes within Darebin are identified and prioritised through Council's Your Street, Your Say program. This program investigated the Group A area - where Hughes Parade is located - in 2021/22 year and it's planned to revisit the area in 2025/26. The 2021/22 investigation did not identify a crossing or speed humps on the Wilson Boulevard section of Hughes Parade as a priority.</p> <p>Officers will continue to work with the local Police to target speeding vehicles and placing the speed trailer along Hughes Parade to encourage driving within the speed limit.</p>