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# AGENDA OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

To be held on Monday 24 May 2021 at 6.00pm

**This Council Meeting will be held at the Northcote Town Hall, 189 High Street, Northcote.**

**This meeting will be open to the public in line with current health restrictions. The number of people in the public gallery will be restricted to ensure attendees can social distance. Where social distancing cannot be achieved the wearing of masks is recommended. This meeting will also be livestreamed and may be accessed from Councils website [www.darebin.vic.gov.au](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au).**

Persons wishing to submit a 'Public Question' may do so online by 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting via the Question, Submissions and Petitions to Council page on Councils website.



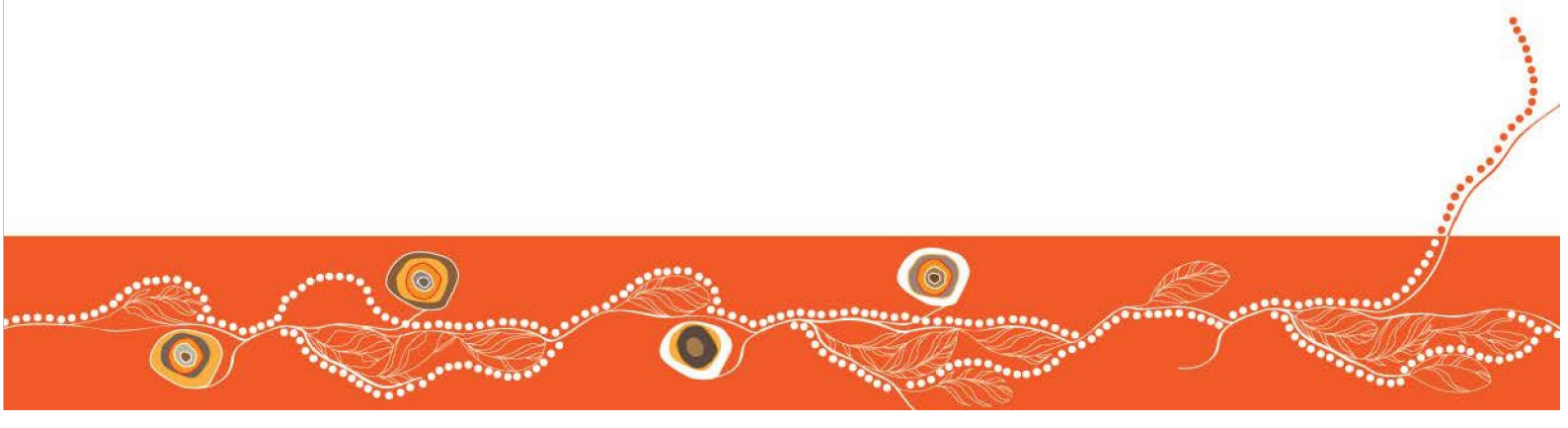
## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN**

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



### English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

### Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

### Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

### Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

### Hindi

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### Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

### Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

### Nepali

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### Punjabi

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### Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriir 8470 8888.

### Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

### Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کا ایجنڈا ہے۔ ایجنڈے کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

### Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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# Agenda

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## **1. OPENING OF MEETING AND MEMBERSHIP**

Cr. Lina Messina (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Gaetano Greco (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Emily Dimitriadis

Cr. Tom Hannan

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Susanne Newton

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams

## **2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS**

## **3. APOLOGIES**

## **4. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

## **5. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS**

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 26 April 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

## 6. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME

Members of the public can lodge questions for Council to answer or make a Comment or Submission prior to a specific item listed on the Agenda of an Ordinary Council meeting.

**Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis and associated requirements residents and interested persons are strongly encouraged to view this Council meeting online. Any persons attending this meeting will be required to observe appropriate social distancing and adhere to the directions of Council Officers in relation to public question time and the making of submissions on items on the agenda.**

### QUESTIONS

Members of the public can ask up to three (3) questions at an Ordinary Council meeting.

Questions submitted online will be responded to in the first instance. If you are not present at the meeting, the Chairperson will read the question and provide a response. The Chairperson may then take questions from members in the gallery.

Questions from the gallery must be submitted in writing to the Council Officer in attendance in the gallery prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Any question not answered at the meeting will be taken on notice and a written response will be provided to the person asking the question.

In accordance with the Council Governance Rules 2020, the Chairperson may disallow a question if it:

- a) relates to a matter outside the duties, functions or powers of Council;
- b) is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance;
- c) may lead to a breach of Council's statutory obligations;
- d) relates to a Notice of Motion, Petition or item of urgent business;
- e) deals with a subject matter already answered;
- f) is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or an Officer; or
- g) deals with a matter that should be, or has been, considered as a confidential matter or relates to any matter in respect of which Council may close the Meeting to the public under section 66 of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

No questions directed at an individual Councillor or Officer will be allowed

### SUBMISSIONS OR COMMENTS

Members of the public may make a comment or 2 minute submission on a report listed on the Agenda (unless not permitted pursuant to the Councils Governance Rules) prior to the item being debated.

A person who is unable to stay at the meeting until the Agenda item is heard, may make their comment or submission during Question Time. If a person or their representative is not present in the gallery when the agenda item is considered, their submission will not be read out.

**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION OR MAKE A COMMENT OR SUBMISSION**

Members of the public who wish to ask a question, or make a comment or submission to an agenda item, at an Ordinary Council Meeting may register their question or submission before 12.00 noon on the day of the meeting in one of the following ways:

- (a) online at [darebin.vic.gov.au/questionsandsubmissions](https://darebin.vic.gov.au/questionsandsubmissions); or
- (b) by mail to PO Box 91, Preston 3072.

Council meetings can be viewed at the Watch Council and Planning Committee meetings page.

Agenda's will be available for viewing on Council's website at the 'Meeting Agendas and Minutes' page by 5pm, up to 6 days prior to the date of the meeting.

**7. PETITIONS**

## 8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 8.1 RUTHVEN PLAYSACE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OUTCOMES

**Author:** Senior Transport Planner & Urban Designer

**Reviewed By:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A draft concept design for the Ruthven Park Playspace has been developed and was released for public consultation between 8 February and 28 February 2021. The proposed Ruthven Park Playspace has been designed to form a key focal point in the heart of the new park. It has been designed to bring to life the directions in Council's Master Plan which was developed with community feedback between 2017 and 2019.

Community feedback has been used to update the concept designs and this is now proposed for Council consideration. The Ruthven Park Playspace site includes an informal nature play area, play equipment that emphasises natural materials and colours, indigenous plantings and robust native species, seating, and a waste bin to support all park users.

If Council endorses the concept designs proposed in this report, construction is expected to start in September 2021.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That Council;**

- (1) Thanks the community and stakeholders for their involvement in the engagement and consultation process
  - (2) Endorses the final concept designs for the Ruthven Park Playspace
-



## BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION



Figure 1: Former Ruthven Primary School at 74-76 Glasgow Street Reservoir

### Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 29 June 2020 (minute number 20-105), Council resolved:

**That Council:**

- (1) *Adopts the Reimagining Ruthven Master Plan.*
- (2) *Congratulates and thanks the members of the Ruthven Community Reference Group, community members and stakeholders for their effort, time, feedback and advice in developing the Reimagining Ruthven Master Plan.*
- (3) *Notes the formation of the Friends of Ruthven park by CRG members.*
- (4) *Endorses the draft Ruthven Playspace concept design for community consultation.*

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### Consultation

The Ruthven Park Playspace design concept was developed in response to the feedback received from the community during the master planning process from 2017-2019, which included 25 comments specifically relating to the Playspace. A summary of the results of the feedback can be found in **Appendix A**.

The community engagement on the draft concept design was undertaken in accordance with the approved Community Engagement Plan for Playspace Designs. This included sharing the results of the past consultation and the concept design on the dedicated Ruthven Park Playspace Design. The key engagement activities were:

- Within 500m of the Ruthven Park letter box drop and local advertising to promote the various engagement activities
- Dedicated Your Say page which includes a community survey to test the draft concept designs and invite feedback

- A community onsite drop-in session - Saturday, 20 February 2021 – for participants to engage with the proposed concepts and ask questions
- A scheduled online forum which was cancelled due to low interest.

### ***Whole of project engagement summary***

Communication and consultation were planned and delivered throughout the course of the project as follows:

- Through a dedicated project page located on Darebin's Your Say website: [Ruthven Playspace](#)
- A letter box drop to almost 600 households was undertaken at the beginning of February.
- Posters were displayed in nearby play spaces and local businesses and were sent to nearby schools, childcare centres, kindergartens, and community centres.
- Through Darebin's website and via social media. Social media posts are automatically translated to suit the language in the browser settings of the individual. In total, there were four Facebook posts and four Instagram posts over the course of the February engagement.
- Feedback for the project was collected through online surveys, direct emails, hard copies of surveys at the drop-in sessions, face-to face feedback at the drop-in sessions and street champion workshops, and via the comments function of the Your Say page.
- The face-to-face engagement session had a large visual display with diagrammatic 1800mm wide posters and other display materials for ease of communicating the project
- The design concept was also discussed externally with a Cultural Consultant from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal corporation prior to the broader community consultation release.
- The former Ruthven CRG and the Darebin Nature Trust were also separately consulted with a specific focus in relation to the plant species to be used in the play space.

Internal consultation was also undertaken in the development of the Ruthven Park Playspace concept, the team involved in this consultation included:

- City Design
- Parks and Open Space Department (Open Space & Horticulture, Tree Management, Playground Maintenance, Bushland)
- Recreation & Leisure, including Recreation Planning and Participation
- Equity and Wellbeing, including Community Safety.
- Project Management
- Access and Inclusion

### ***Reaching diverse communities***

The consultation was designed to be accessible for our diverse community including people not proficient in English or with other communication barriers. In this local area approximately 53% of residents identify as speaking a language other than English, and around 12% identify as being not fluent in English.

Consultation sought to make information accessible and create opportunities for all residents to take part. This was achieved by:

- All information mailed out included information in 12 languages about how to access translation services as well as information about how to access the national relay service.
- Translated materials were provided on the Your Say page in 12 languages (in the Document Library)
- Social media promotion ensured that residents could quickly access translated information about the project through online translations that are available in social media platforms.
- Diagrams were an important part of project communications materials and designed to communicate universally.
- The drop-in session was centrally located. Materials were visual and designed to communicate universally.

Overall, 19% of survey respondents identified themselves as speaking a language other than English at home.

#### *Overall level of responses and engagement*

The Your Say page received 838 visits during the February 2021 engagement with 158 views on 17 February 2021. There were 172 recorded responses to the draft concept designs (see Discussion section for further breakdown). Approximately 45 people attended the drop-in session and provided face-to-face feedback on 20 February 2021.

### **Communications**

Council's communications and advocacy approach is based on the recently adopted Darebin Community Engagement Policy. This specific engagement had the following key objectives:

- Build trust with the community to achieve best outcomes.
- Deliver on adopted Ruthven Master Plan direction, and
- Gain input from the community to influence and enhance play space design.

Communication materials provided a summary of previous community feedback in relation to the Playspace, and how this was integrated into the design.

### **ANALYSIS**

#### **Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy**

Goal 1 - A sustainable city

Council Plan Goal 1.3 – We will expand and improve our network of open and green spaces, parks, and natural environments to provide the lungs for our city and reduce the impacts of climate change.

Goal 2 - Opportunities to live well

Council Plan Goal 2.1 – 'Create a new park, playground, oval and children's hub\* on the site of the old Ruthven primary school in Reservoir.

*\*noting Council's resolution from 7 November 2018, which supports the entire three hectares of the site being developed as a natural park.*

## Environmental Sustainability Considerations

The Ruthven Park Playspace has been designed in accordance with the directions of the Reimagining Ruthven Master Plan, which includes a vision for creating a bushland and biodiverse sanctuary in the park.

### Climate Emergency

This program has a clear alignment with Key direction 7 of the Climate Emergency Plan 2017-2022, in particular Objective 3 “Create public open space that meets the diverse needs of the community and incorporates climate and water sensitive vegetation, healthy ecosystems and biodiversity.”

## Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

Equity, inclusion, and wellbeing considerations in the master plan *Reimagining Ruthven* are supported by *A Park for All* and *Access & Safety Design Directions* and include actions and play space design that will:

- Create community spaces and seating areas which are inviting and foster community interactions.
- Creating a community focal point and provide opportunities for the general community and families to connect and gather with others, and to feel a sense of home and make connections with their local neighbours and broader Darebin population.
- Recognise Reservoir’s migration history and diversity through subtle design gestures in the park. This may include heritage interpretation, design features/pattern in paving or furniture design.
- Include accessible elements within the Ruthven Park Playspace, including an inclusive spinner, basket swing and low play decks to be accessed from a future path.
- Utilise Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to ensure that play equipment, landscaping and planting creates a safe public space for all members of the community and allows for passive surveillance of the Ruthven Park Playspace.
- Continue to engage with the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee on applying a cultural lens to the implementation of the Master Plan.

## Cultural Considerations

Ruthven will offer the community a space to meet and opportunities for cultural activities. The design concept was also discussed externally with a Cultural Consultant from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrong Cultural Heritage Aboriginal corporation prior to the broader community consultation release. Opportunities to include indigenous motifs in the design will continue to be investigated.

## Economic Development Considerations

Increasing amenity, usability and accessibility of public open space will have a positive impact on the community by creating places for communities to gather and make vital connections. The play space is a key first step in achieving this and will provide an important focal point for the community. High quality public spaces support the renewal efforts of local government to help attract and retain residential and business populations in Darebin.

## Financial and Resource Implications

The State Government has committed \$150,000 to assist in the delivery of park improvements to Ruthven, with a grant provided through the Local Parks Improvement Program, administered by DELWP. Council has also committed \$50,000 towards this project in 2020/21, which would be carried forward to the next financial year in part to fit the timeline for construction in accordance with the DELWP funding agreement.

The highest priority elements of the Ruthven Park Playspace design will be delivered first. These have been assessed through consultation with the stakeholder groups, and to fit within existing budget. This includes elements of the junior and senior play areas, garden beds and tree planting, and the informal nature play area. Remaining elements will be referred to future budget processes and would need to be considered against priorities for investment across the City and across a range of services.

## Legal and Risk Implications

There are no factors in this report which impact on Legal and Risk implications.

## Operational Impacts

Ongoing maintenance and servicing would be provided for in Council's operating budget.

## DISCUSSION

The concept designs in **Appendix B** include play elements proposed to be constructed in 2021 (subject to Council's consideration of its 2021-22 budget, and a future tender process) to make the space more attractive and welcoming for all ages. These include:

- A toddler/junior play area with inclusive and accessible features
- An adventure rope climbing play unit catering for ages 5 to 12+
- Garden beds and tree planting with a focus on indigenous plantings which will provide interesting and tactile elements to engage children in the environment
- Seating, community meeting spaces and amenities to support all park users
- An informal nature play area adjacent to the play space

## Engagement on the concept plans has found strong support overall

Feedback from the development of the *Reimagining Ruthven Master Plan* was reported at the Council meeting of 29 June 2020, and is attached to this report in **Appendix C**. This feedback informed the draft concept plans presented for feedback during engagement in February 2021.

The following table represents the input Council received from the community on the draft Ruthven Park Playspace concept design during the engagement period (2-28 February 2021):

Table 1: community engagement during the consultation period				
	visits to site	voted on equipment preferences	voted on colour schemes	additional feedback
Your Say	838	52	13	62
Onsite Drop in	45	30	4	
Emails/comments			13	

The online forum originally planned was cancelled due to low registered interest, however the two individuals that did register were contacted directly and presented with the design and given opportunity to comment. Additional comments and voting on preferred colour schemes were also received through the City Design inbox.

Support for the concept designs for each of the areas, and additional feedback was as follows:

### Mixed views on play Equipment Priorities

Community members were asked to **rank** how important the seven various elements were from 1 - being the most important to 7 - being the least important item to deliver, to help prioritise the budget allocation for the Ruthven Park Playspace and deliver best value to the community.

The feedback shows that there were mixed views about what was highest priority. The three most important items online and onsite site were:

<b>Priority</b>	<b>Your Say - 52 participants</b>	<b>Onsite Drop in (total of 90 dots)</b>
<b>1</b>	23% of participant thought the <b>Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)</b> was the most important item to include in delivery.	22% of participants thought the <b>Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)</b> was the most important item to include in delivery (20 dots)
<b>2</b>	21% of participant ranked the <b>Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)</b> as the second highest in priority and	18% of participants that the <b>Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)</b> as the second highest in priority (17 dots) and
<b>3</b>	25% of participants ranked the <b>Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)</b> as the third highest priority.	15% <b>Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)</b> as the third highest priority (14 dots)
<b>least preferred</b>	The <b>Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games</b> ranked the lowest with around 53% of participant ranked it in the 6 or 7 <sup>th</sup> position of priority.	<b>Junior/toddler play, Inclusive Spinner</b> and the <b>Line marking</b> all receive the least preference at 1% each (9 dots each).

#### Officer response:

Council will request quotes for the delivery of the entire scope of works.

In the case that the budget does not allow for the delivery of the project in full, the prioritisation list will be used to determine the most important elements for construction in 2021. Any elements not built would be referred to future budgets.

## Colour Scheme Preferences

While the number of respondents in regard to preferred colour was low, there was preference for forest (see below).

<b>Table 3: Summary community feedback – Colour Scheme</b>			
<b>Colour scheme</b>	<b>your say - 13 votes</b>	<b>on site - 4 votes</b>	<b>email/comments – 13 votes</b>
Option 1 Earth and Sky Scheme	15% (2 votes)	25% (1 votes)	7% (1 votes)
Option 2 Forest Colour Scheme	46% (6 votes)	0% (0 votes)	69% (9 votes)
Option 3 Bush Colour Scheme	38% (5 votes)	75% (3 votes)	23% (3 votes)

### Officer response:

50% of respondents voted for Option 2 Forest Colour Scheme, followed by 37% for Option 3 (Bush) and 13% for Option 1 (Earth and Sky). The Forest Colour Scheme will be used in the design.

### **Additional comments and preferences:**

#### **Shade**

42% talk about shade; the importance of shade for play equipment and for seating/picnic areas. Shade structures were viewed by some as essential for shade provision. Several comments related to ensuring wind protection as well.

### Officer response:

Canopy trees will be provided in every available space between the fall zones within the Ruthven Park Playspace design, to ensure future shading. Constructed shade is too expensive for the small total project budget of \$200,000 and would compromise the outcome of the Playspace if a disproportionate amount of the budget was diverted away from the provision of play opportunities. The focus will instead be on the use of trees, including making the most of existing shade. The proposed BBQ and picnic shelter adjacent to the Playspace in the adopted Master Plan will provide a shade structure in future years. Mounds will be used where possible to provide additional wind protection.

#### **Seating**

23% comments were based on the need for seating and seating areas to be included, both informal and formal within the area.

### Officer response:

Additional seating opportunities will be provided, with a focus on natural seating such as on logs and boulders (due to budget constraints).

#### **Toilet facilities**

13 % commented on the need for toilet facilities to be included within this site.

Officer response:

Public toilet facilities are outside the scope of the Ruthven Park Playspace project, however, are included in the Master Plan for future consideration.

**Water play**

7.7% commented on the need to incorporate waterplay into the Playspace.

Officer response:

There is insufficient budget for water play, which is expensive and difficult to maintain, and carries additional requirements in terms of ensuring public safety. Waterplay should be prioritised in parks with high visitation and good accessibility, and Ruthven Park is not considered an appropriate location for this.

**Dog areas**

Dogs were included in 4 comments. Three respondents would like an area for dogs, one respondent preferred dogs to be on leash at all times and two respondents referred to the importance of adequate signage about dog on and off leash areas.

Officer response:

This is outside the scope of the Ruthven Park Playspace design and has been previously addressed through the master planning process. A sign/bollard showing the requirements for dogs will be placed at the Playspace.

**Other feedback**

The following additional changes have been made in response to community feedback, including from the former Community Reference Group and the Darebin Nature Trust:

- There will be an increased focus on nature play, including providing play elements leading out of the core space and back again, allowing for circularity of play.
- Tree and plant species will be selected from a list has been finalised to incorporate all the species adjustments and alternatives recommended by the Darebin Nature Trust, which officers support. This will focus almost exclusively on local indigenous plantings, with some native plants as suggested by the DNT.
- Playspace design and planting will ensure good sightlines are provided to enable passive surveillance and maintain a sense of safety.
- The scooter trail line marking will not be undertaken.

Please see **Appendix A** for the individual comments and feedback received from all participants.

**OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**Option 1 (recommended):

That Council endorses the final concept designs for the Ruthven Park Playspace.



**Option 2 (not recommended)**

Council could leave the space as-is or seek further information to make a decision about how to progress with this project in future. This would halt or delay works and risk non-compliance with the DELWP funding agreement. It would also result in reputational risk due to high community expectations around delivery of this project.

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY****Details****Construction of priority treatments in 2021**

If Council endorses the proposed concept designs, detailed design and construction of the priority treatments will take place in 2021, as per Table 2. The Ruthven Park Playspace design concept will undergo detailed design and documentation, to deliver the best value Playspace for the local community, including the elements that were seen as having the highest priority by the community.

**Communication**

Following the finalisation of the design, the community, the former Community Reference Group, and the Darebin Nature Trust will be updated on the outcome of the community engagement process, including a letter to 500m radius around the park, updating of the Your Say page, and email to registered email addresses.

The Darebin Nature Trust will continue to be involved in the planting selection for future works within Ruthven Park.

**Timeline**

The final design will go out for tender in mid-2021, for construction of the Ruthven Park Playspace in late 2021.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Nil

**Attachments**

- Feedback on the Ruthven Playspace Design Concept (all sources) (**Appendix A**)
- Final Ruthven Playspace Design Concept (**Appendix B**)
- Community Feedback to draft Ruthven Master Plan.pdf (**Appendix C**)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any general or material interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

# Project Report

31 January 2021 - 01 March 2021

# Your Say Darebin

## Ruthven Playspace Design



### Visitors Summary



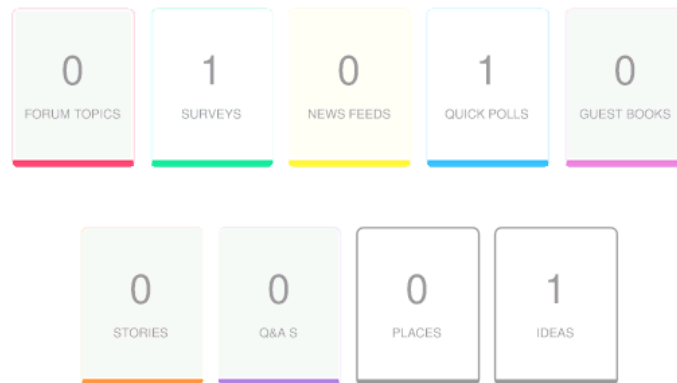
### Highlights

TOTAL VISITS	838	MAX VISITORS PER DAY	158
NEW REGISTRATIONS	7	ENGAGED VISITORS	60
		INFORMED VISITORS	231
		AWARE VISITORS	586

<b>Aware Participants</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>Engaged Participants</b>	<b>60</b>		
Aware Actions Performed	Participants	Engaged Actions Performed	Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Visited a Project or Tool Page	586	Contributed on Forums	0	0	0
<b>Informed Participants</b>	<b>231</b>	Participated in Surveys	49	0	0
Informed Actions Performed	Participants	Contributed to Newsfeeds	0	0	0
Viewed a video	0	Participated in Quick Polls	13	0	0
Viewed a photo	0	Posted on Guestbooks	0	0	0
Downloaded a document	134	Contributed to Stories	0	0	0
Visited the Key Dates page	0	Asked Questions	0	0	0
Visited an FAQ list Page	0	Placed Pins on Places	0	0	0
Visited Instagram Page	0	Contributed to Ideas	37	0	0
Visited Multiple Project Pages	154				
Contributed to a tool (engaged)	60				

Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

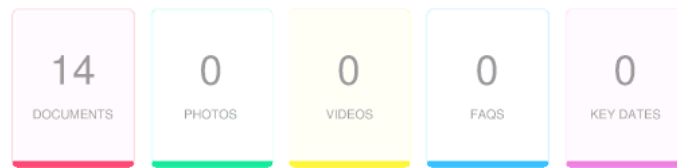
## ENGAGEMENT TOOLS SUMMARY



Tool Type	Engagement Tool Name	Tool Status	Visitors	Contributors		
				Registered	Unverified	Anonymous
Survey Tool	Answer this quick survey to let us know what you think of...	Published	102	49	0	0
Quick Poll	Vote for your favourite colour scheme for the play equipm...	Published	14	13	0	0
Ideas	Please provide your comments on the Ruthven playspace design	Published	179	37	0	0

Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

### INFORMATION WIDGET SUMMARY



Widget Type	Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Views/Downloads
Document	Ruthven Playspace Concept February 2021.pdf	118	141
Document	Reimagining Ruthven Masterplan.pdf	31	34
Document	deleted document from	1	1
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Punjabi.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Somali.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Spanish.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Urdu.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Vietnamese.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Nepali.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Macedonian.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Italian.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Hindi.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven-Playspace-Community-Engagement - Greek.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Arabic.pdf	0	0
Document	Ruthven Playspace Community Engagement - Simplified Chinese.pdf	0	0

Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

## ENGAGEMENT TOOL: SURVEY TOOL

Answer this quick survey to let us know what you think of the new Ruthven playspace design

Visitors	102	Contributors	49	CONTRIBUTIONS	49
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Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 i...

OPTIONS	AVG. RANK
Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)	3.04
Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)	3.17
Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds) Tree and shrub planting	3.54
Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)	3.94
Tree and shrub planting	4.24
Inclusive spinner	4.85
Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games	5.11

Optional question (49 response(s), 0 skipped)

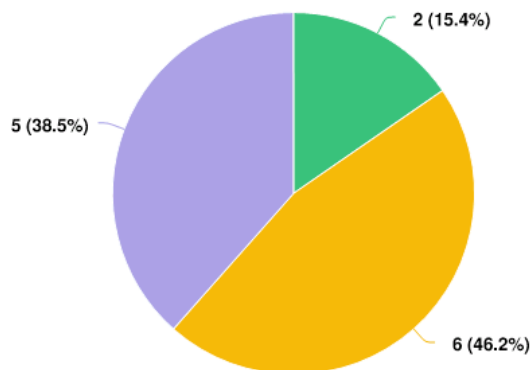
Question type: Ranking Question

### ENGAGEMENT TOOL: QUICK POLL

Vote for your favourite colour scheme for the play equipment.

Visitors <b>14</b>	Contributors <b>13</b>	CONTRIBUTIONS <b>13</b>
--------------------	------------------------	-------------------------

Vote for your favourite colour scheme for the play equipment! The colour scheme that is voted most popular will be used for...



**Question options**

- 1. Earth & Sky Colour Scheme
- 2. Forest Colour Scheme
- 3. Bush Colour Scheme

Mandatory Question (13 response(s))

Question type: Radio Button Question

Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

## IDEAS

Please provide your comments on the Ruthven playspace design

Visitors	Contributors	CONTRIBUTIONS				
179	37	157				
<p>08 February 21</p> <p>Sammy davidson</p> <p><b>Sun shade</b></p> <p>Please add some sun shades so the equipment dose not get to hot, also to help prote ct our kids</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>VOTES</td> <td>UNVOTES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>			VOTES	UNVOTES	8	0
VOTES	UNVOTES					
8	0					
<p>08 February 21</p> <p>Chrisreza</p> <p><b>Second the sun shade, it's super important</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>VOTES</td> <td>UNVOTES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>			VOTES	UNVOTES	5	0
VOTES	UNVOTES					
5	0					
<p>09 February 21</p> <p>Maria G</p> <p><b>Will there be water play ?</b></p> <p>I like option two for the material being used</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>VOTES</td> <td>UNVOTES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>			VOTES	UNVOTES	4	0
VOTES	UNVOTES					
4	0					
<p>09 February 21</p> <p>Maria G</p> <p><b>Re- evaluate once completed and in place</b></p> <p>Once up and running always a good idea to get feedback on what is working well and what needs further change ... is helpful</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>VOTES</td> <td>UNVOTES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>			VOTES	UNVOTES	1	0
VOTES	UNVOTES					
1	0					
<p>09 February 21</p> <p>Sofia78</p> <p><b>I personally think Reservoir has enough parks alrea dy the space could have been utilised for some muc h needed retail and services.</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>VOTES</td> <td>UNVOTES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </table>			VOTES	UNVOTES	0	0
VOTES	UNVOTES					
0	0					

Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

## IDEAS

Please provide your comments on the Ruthven playspace design

09 February 21 Sofia78	Sorry for being off topic but for an increasingly ageing population I don't think an extra park was necessary.
VOTES 0	UNVOTES 0
10 February 21 Ruthven play space	Require shade to cover children from the sun, seats for parents to sit on and ample rubbish bins.
VOTES 8	UNVOTES 0
14 February 21 Elena	Seating and pram access Some seating (even if just big logs) in the play space for tired mums to sit or to rest a little one's lunch box. I love the nature play space and think it is super super important but please make sure parents can get their prams close to this play area with some smooth easy access.
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0
14 February 21 Elena	Think about mums with multiple kids of various ages One of the worst things about Norrish Bank park which is a great park is that when we go with our toddlers and preppies it is really hard to keep sight of all the kids. Please consider that the play space will often be used by one parent supervising multiple kids of various ages so don't make this task too stressful by spreading everything far apart and having a huge structure in the middle that we can't see through! Thanks
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0
16 February 21 Lauren11	Please please please add shade for playing and around seating. So many playgrounds have inadequate shade in Darebin.
VOTES 6	UNVOTES 0
16 February 21 Lauren11	More sensory options such as a water play, sounds, visual things and interesting safe plants...like the Ian Potter garden
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0



Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

**IDEAS**

Please provide your comments on the Ruthven playspace design

16 February 21		<p>Shade! I just visited a playground yesterday with my two kids in City of D. The slides were burning! No kids were there playing.</p> <p>When my younger child was a crawler - lack of shade was a massive problem because his hands would get burnt had I let him play in non shaded parks. Looks great though. Also think about site lines across the park for people keeping an eye on multiple children. Sounds great that you're thinking about different ages and abilities.</p>
Cilla		
VOTES 4	UNVOTES 0	
16 February 21		<p>There seems to be lack of seating and shade</p>
Anthony Morris		
VOTES 1	UNVOTES 0	
16 February 21		<p>The nature play space is the BEST part of the design. It needs to be linked to the playground with log steps, and rocks to jump and hop</p>
Anthony Morris		
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0	
16 February 21		<p>Play areas for crawling / non walking children</p> <p>Hopefully there are some large non-tan barked areas that have opportunities for crawlers/early walkers to pull themselves up and climb onto. We went to a park today and the rope ladders were short enough for the crawlers to reach, but they were covered in and eating the mulch</p>
Rebecca89		
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0	
16 February 21		<p>Toilet and change facilities</p>
Rebecca89		
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0	
16 February 21		<p>Shade, Trees, Seating, Toilets, Accessible paths &amp; playground, BBQs, Lots of bins, for recycling too. CCTV cameras. Lighting 4 safety @ night</p>
NKR		
VOTES 5	UNVOTES 0	
16 February 21		<p>D</p>
NKR		
VOTES 0	UNVOTES 0	

Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

## IDEAS

Please provide your comments on the Ruthven playspace design

16 February 21		<p>More shaded area is needed. Adequate toilets, seats, rubbish/recycling bins and drink taps. Accessible for prams.</p>
Louise.kenneyshen		
VOTES 5	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		<p><b>Fences</b></p> <p>Having the park fenced in adds a little more security that kids cannot run off onto the road..so an enclosed park would be fantastic</p>
Mumma3boys		
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		<p>More shade &amp; seating, please.</p>
Imo		
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		<p>Spacious enclosed dog off leash area with shade, seats, water tap, bin. CCTV cam and night time light for security.</p>
Nor		
VOTES 4	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		<p><b>Fenced dog park</b></p> <p>Please consider adding a fenced dog park to the design, as it appears there are no dedicated fenced dog parks anywhere in Reservoir. This makes things safer for everyone, and means that the park can also be used by dog owners.</p>
Whitecat		
VOTES 5	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		<p>Please allow for permanent shade structures with plenty of seating.</p>
Penelope		
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		<p><b>Shade please!</b></p> <p>Please address the need for active shade provision - darebin needs to update its approach to shade in playgrounds to meet requirements of accessibility, sun-safe spaces. Plus toilets, more seating ...</p>
CLayden		
VOTES 1	UNVOTES 0	

Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

**IDEAS**

Please provide your comments on the Ruthven playspace design

17 February 21		Shade and seating are vital. A water play area like the one at the Royal Park Nature Playground and a sensory garden would be wonderful.
Jenn		
VOTES 1	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		More shade for the playground throughout the entire day not just early morning or late afternoon
Becca		
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		Shade, Parent/child toilet, signage  Important to me: Clear signage about where dogs are and aren't allowed. Shade, particularly over play equipment and picnic tables. Toilets with a large and small toilet in the one cubicle. Sufficient rubbish bins. I'd also love some signage with local aboriginal knowledge like language, seasons, plants.
JoR		
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		I think a shaded play area would be invaluable. Seating would also be useful. Water play would be excellent and kids art incorporated  kids art could be incorporated by mosaic tiles in the path facilitated by a local artist
Amanda Dz		
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		Shade please, seating, water areas - maybe a developing wetland.
EmmaP		
VOTES 1	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		Shade examples
EmmaP		
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		Shade example - hays paddock Kew
EmmaP		
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0	

Your Say Darebin : Summary Report for 31 January 2021 to 01 March 2021

**IDEAS**

Please provide your comments on the Ruthven playspace design

17 February 21		Shade, seating, toilets, bbq area
Kri		
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		Toilets, shade, adventure playground, bbqs, water play, outdoor bush kitchen play, bike track/traffic school style, cubby house
LauraN		
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		I would love to see a water play area, some more shaded areas as well as more seating. Toilets are pretty much essential.
Sbutterfly		
VOTES 3	UNVOTES 0	
17 February 21		More seating, toilet facilities and shade. Covered BBQ's would also be great to really make this space. Water play for kids!!  More shade and seating!
Mel2017		
VOTES 2	UNVOTES 0	
22 February 21		Please add shelter, the playspace at Eltham Adventure playground, is a well thought out example of a play space for kids of all ages.
darebinresident47		
VOTES 1	UNVOTES 0	
23 February 21		Parks in Darebin are missing Waterplay and Shade  I have to travel to Donnybrook and Hadfield park in Wallen as these municipalities offer waterplay within their parkspace. Most parks in darebin dont offer decent shelter from the heat over the playspaces and for seniors to sit down during summer months
Sofia		
VOTES 1	UNVOTES 0	
23 February 21		Shade, Shade, Shade  Please add shade to the childrens playground and seating areas for the elderly. Darebin can get so hot because its flat and there are lack of large trees. Waterplay would be exceptional
Sofia		
VOTES 0	UNVOTES 0	

## IDEAS

Please provide your comments on the Ruthven playspace design

24 February 21		<h3>Tweens and Teens need something too</h3> <p>Need more for the kids/teens in the area. They are forgotten. Heaps of stuff for the little ones and seniors but the youth are forgotten. 1. A mini soccer pitch would be great. The one at the lake is always busy. 2. A skate dome or mini skate run would be good too. Norris Bank Park is a good example. 3. A small contained area for dogs to run around and off lead. No where local to do that now. 4. Shaded seating and BBQ areas. Edwardes Lake Park is always too busy. 5. A basketball section would be great too. 6. The playspace concept so far looks great except for needing more seating and shade. Currently, we need to drive anywhere (most times outside of Darebin) to get any of these for our tween/teen. Being around the corner would be fabulous. Taking our dog at the same time even better.</p>
AP		
VOTES 0	UNVOTES 0	
27 February 21		<h3>Seating, shaded areas, more inclusive equipment, bathroom maybe?</h3> <p>Oh, and something (I don't know what) that will really put this park on the map, something more than an emphasis on 'nature play' any way - water play maybe? We travel to Wallan as the water park equipment is fantastic</p>
Poots		
VOTES 0	UNVOTES 0	

Survey Responses  
03 July 2013 - 07 April 2021

Answer this quick survey to let us know  
what you think of the new Ruthven  
playspace design

**Your Say Darebin**  
Project: Ruthven Playspace Design



VISITORS <b>107</b>					
CONTRIBUTORS <b>52</b>			RESPONSES <b>52</b>		
<b>52</b> Registered	<b>0</b> Unverified	<b>0</b> Anonymous	<b>52</b> Registered	<b>0</b> Unverified	<b>0</b> Anonymous



**Respondent No:** 1  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 08, 2021 10:47:23 am  
**Last Seen:** Apr 08, 2021 04:53:47 am  
**IP Address:** 203.213.40.188

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Tree and shrub planting
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

test

**Respondent No:** 2**Login:** Email:**Responded At:** Feb 08, 2021 19:51:26 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 08, 2021 08:47:27 am**IP Address:** 101.181.161.114

Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Inclusive spinner
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

Q2. Do you have any other comments?

Sun shade please



**Respondent No:** 3**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 08, 2021 20:53:50 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 08, 2021 09:51:35 am**IP Address:** 220.244.95.251

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
5. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Water play is so needed in darebin playgrounds - there are basically no options for this in darebin



**Respondent No:** 4

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 08, 2021 21:26:21 pm

**Last Seen:** Feb 08, 2021 10:23:22 am

**IP Address:** 49.193.65.213

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Tree and shrub planting
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

No dogs please



**Respondent No:** 5  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 08, 2021 22:41:30 pm  
**Last Seen:** Feb 08, 2021 11:40:14 am  
**IP Address:** 101.117.0.65

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Tree and shrub planting
5. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

It would be great to have a fenced off leash area for dogs



**Respondent No:** 6  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 09, 2021 08:27:06 am  
**Last Seen:** Feb 08, 2021 21:24:20 pm  
**IP Address:** 1.136.28.86

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Inclusive spinner
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
4. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
5. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 7  
**Login:** Email:

**Responded At:** Feb 10, 2021 10:20:57 am  
**Last Seen:** Feb 09, 2021 23:18:53 pm  
**IP Address:** 49.192.21.80

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
4. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
5. Tree and shrub planting
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered

**Respondent No:** 8**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 11, 2021 07:41:55 am**Last Seen:** Feb 10, 2021 20:40:08 pm**IP Address:** 202.53.44.145

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Tree and shrub planting
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
6. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

What shade will there be of equipment? There is no shade at the Tracey St playground making it impossible to use in sunny days

**Respondent No:** 9**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 11, 2021 17:14:18 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 11, 2021 06:08:49 am**IP Address:** 202.53.32.16

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Tree and shrub planting
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

PLEASE DO NOT, I am begging you DO NOT put a basket ball hoop in this space. It is so not necessary. I live opposite the park in Tracey Street and we have enough issue with noise pollution, with kids on monkey bikes on the Weekends, A basketball hoop would only encourage more bored teenagers to the park. Enough is enough. Not to mention it would be ruined in weeks. Also it is an eyesore and would ruin the aesthetics of the park. As a rate payer, I do not and want to be subjected to more bored teenagers abusing the park.



**Respondent No:** 10

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 12, 2021 07:26:27 am

**Last Seen:** Feb 11, 2021 20:25:35 pm

**IP Address:** 49.184.192.113

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Inclusive spinner
5. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered





**Respondent No:** 11  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 12, 2021 20:11:53 pm  
**Last Seen:** Feb 12, 2021 09:08:17 am  
**IP Address:** 49.193.63.108

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Inclusive spinner
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 12

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 14, 2021 07:57:30 am

**Last Seen:** Feb 13, 2021 20:53:48 pm

**IP Address:** 118.208.115.19

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Inclusive spinner
5. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Please reconsider the idea to have a fenced dog park. Now that we are in lockdown once again, it becomes increasingly obvious there is no fenced dog park in the area.



**Respondent No:** 13  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 14, 2021 12:00:57 pm  
**Last Seen:** Feb 14, 2021 00:59:25 am  
**IP Address:** 1.136.31.252

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
4. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
5. Tree and shrub planting
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

A shade sail would be awesome

**Respondent No:** 14**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 14, 2021 13:31:22 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 14, 2021 02:27:34 am**IP Address:** 124.187.193.48

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
5. Tree and shrub planting
6. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Please ensure some seats (even if just big logs) for mums in the play space as well as easy pram access.



**Respondent No:** 15  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 14, 2021 14:00:35 pm  
**Last Seen:** Feb 14, 2021 02:59:28 am  
**IP Address:** 123.3.82.6

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Inclusive spinner
4. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
7. Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 16

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 15, 2021 01:31:32 am

**Last Seen:** Feb 14, 2021 14:30:20 pm

**IP Address:** 49.193.47.34

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Inclusive spinner
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Tree and shrub planting
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Please have toilets and shade over equipment

**Respondent No:** 17**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 15, 2021 20:43:56 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 15, 2021 09:40:13 am**IP Address:** 180.150.37.45

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
2. Tree and shrub planting
3. Inclusive spinner
4. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
7. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

All abilities and ages should be considered. Often it's too hard or too easy. Opportunities for creative play; bonfires, play shop, pipe tunnels, balancing logs. And your playgroups really really need shade. We're outside with young children and often the playgrounds are completely in the sun. The youngest kids use these parks and need to be shaded.

**Respondent No:** 18**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 13:37:20 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 02:31:06 am**IP Address:** 118.211.120.70

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Tree and shrub planting
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Option 2 would be the most user friendly. Dark surfaces in summer would make the slides too hot and unusable. Large gum trees for natural shade would be ideal.



**Respondent No:** 19**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 20:14:04 pm**Last Seen:** Apr 08, 2021 00:38:47 am**IP Address:** 124.168.200.39

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Tree and shrub planting
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

There is a need fog shade structures to make the play space safely accessible. In the interim while trees are gaping sufficiently to provide shade (many years).

**Respondent No:** 20**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 20:37:30 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 08:48:21 am**IP Address:** 124.148.129.119

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Tree and shrub planting
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Inclusive spinner
6. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

The nature play area is the most important aspect of this design, as this is offered NO WHERE else in Darebin. Sufficient provision of branches thick (>5cm) enough and long (>1.8m) enough to build cubbies/forts/dens is paramount, as is the ongoing replenishment of said branches. Log steppers, rock/boulders and mounds should surround the whole playground and connect it to the nature play area. They are a low cost option that allow for children to increase their physical development and play.

**Respondent No:** 21**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 22:26:17 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 11:24:07 am**IP Address:** 180.150.38.163

Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
4. Tree and shrub planting
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

Q2. Do you have any other comments?

A Basketball court



**Respondent No:** 22

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 22:35:10 pm

**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 11:33:10 am

**IP Address:** 115.64.190.13

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Tree and shrub planting
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
4. Inclusive spinner
5. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
6. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
7. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Adequate seating, picnic tables and rubbish bins would be ideal.



**Respondent No:** 23

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 22:38:15 pm

**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 11:36:37 am

**IP Address:** 211.27.111.94

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Inclusive spinner
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Tree and shrub planting
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered

**Respondent No:** 24**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 22:53:28 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 11:51:47 am**IP Address:** 120.21.8.195

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
2. Tree and shrub planting
3. Inclusive spinner
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
6. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
7. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

More seating, more shade, bbq and toilet facilities would be great

**Respondent No:** 25**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 23:00:12 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 12:06:18 pm**IP Address:** 60.224.224.21

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Inclusive spinner
5. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Please add water play to this park and ensure that there are lots of swings. One type of each swing is not enough. LE Cotchin has a few swings, this large park needs a lot more than drafted

**Respondent No:** 26**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 23:20:15 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 12:14:38 pm**IP Address:** 49.192.149.194

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Inclusive spinner
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

This is not a very accessible easy survey. The numbers are getting stuck on my iPhone. Happy to do this survey on phone. Pls call me.



**Respondent No:** 27**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 16, 2021 23:33:12 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 12:31:39 pm**IP Address:** 120.21.44.49

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Inclusive spinner
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Tree and shrub planting
6. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Adequate shading, toilets and drink taps.

**Respondent No:** 28**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 02:10:15 am**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 15:07:46 pm**IP Address:** 110.140.141.53

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Inclusive spinner
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Need more shade & seating, please.



**Respondent No:** 29  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 07:01:23 am  
**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 19:59:40 pm  
**IP Address:** 1.159.38.142

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
5. Inclusive spinner
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Please consider more shade structures and more seating. This would allow families to spend extended periods of time at the park.



**Respondent No:** 30 **Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 07:21:42 am  
**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 20:20:28 pm  
**IP Address:** 110.144.27.117

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Tree and shrub planting
6. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

The park needs shade cloth or shelter



**Respondent No:** 31

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 07:38:06 am

**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 20:36:03 pm

**IP Address:** 27.253.52.122

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Inclusive spinner
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
5. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
6. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
7. Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Must include shade & toilets, ideally a BBQ as well



**Respondent No:** 32  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 07:44:59 am  
**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 20:43:13 pm  
**IP Address:** 1.136.109.7

Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.

1. Tree and shrub planting

Q2. Do you have any other comments?

Include a fenced dog park (one for big dogs and one for small dogs) with water fountain and free dog waste bags.

**Respondent No:** 33**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 08:39:11 am**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 21:48:02 pm**IP Address:** 180.150.36.204

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Tree and shrub planting
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

There's no mention here of seating/shade areas. Both are important.



**Respondent No:** 34

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 09:19:17 am

**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 22:17:41 pm

**IP Address:** 110.22.27.203

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Inclusive spinner
4. Tree and shrub planting
5. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 35**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 10:57:32 am**Last Seen:** Feb 16, 2021 23:54:10 pm**IP Address:** 118.210.59.134

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Tree and shrub planting
4. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
5. Inclusive spinner
6. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

There also seems to be a lack of shade. A shaded play area for the children is INVALUABLE and would be a HUGE drawcard for so many families. There also seems to be a lack of seating too. A children made mosaic that could incorporate even simple tiles into the paths could be a fun community involvement that could employ a local artist to assist.

**Respondent No:** 36**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 11:05:38 am**Last Seen:** Mar 11, 2021 23:03:41 pm**IP Address:** 165.225.226.185

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
2. Tree and shrub planting
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

I feel we really need a safe place for our children to learn and ride their scooters and bikes. The roads around the park are too busy and not safe for our children, especially when learning.



**Respondent No:** 37

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 11:57:31 am

**Last Seen:** Feb 17, 2021 00:55:44 am

**IP Address:** 118.211.125.108

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Tree and shrub planting
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Lots of shade over equipment and seating area.



**Respondent No:** 38

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 12:45:23 pm

**Last Seen:** Feb 17, 2021 01:42:32 am

**IP Address:** 14.2.45.10

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Inclusive spinner
5. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Please provide space for teenagers- skate park, basketball rings, ball rebound wall etc

**Respondent No:** 39**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 13:54:56 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 17, 2021 02:52:01 am**IP Address:** 14.137.210.200

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

A nice natural play space for our children especially school ages as it is across the road to St Joseph. Also toilets should be another priority PLEASE! Also fenced off play spaces as parents prefer that for safety and can relax

**Respondent No:** 40**Login****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 14:01:08 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 17, 2021 02:58:39 am**IP Address:** 59.102.23.184

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Tree and shrub planting
5. Inclusive spinner
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

It is imperative there is shade over playground and shelter over some seating to make this a safe and usable space for all ages.

**Respondent No:** 41**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 15:40:34 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 17, 2021 04:39:04 am**IP Address:** 110.140.133.185

Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.

1. Tree and shrub planting
2. Inclusive spinner
3. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
4. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
5. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
6. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
7. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)

Q2. Do you have any other comments?

We need Shade Seating Toilets BBQ area



**Respondent No:** 42  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 17, 2021 22:42:25 pm  
**Last Seen:** Feb 17, 2021 11:40:20 am  
**IP Address:** 175.34.101.191

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
4. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered





**Respondent No:** 43

**Login**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Feb 18, 2021 12:02:29 pm

**Last Seen:** Feb 18, 2021 00:57:16 am

**IP Address:** 121.223.193.165

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Tree and shrub planting
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

It looks like there is no shading structures as such. With the climate only getting warmer would this not be considered a very important factor to be included for people using this park. Also more seating and bins would great appreciated!

**Respondent No:** 44**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 21, 2021 14:04:49 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 21, 2021 03:03:27 am**IP Address:** 1.152.30.182

Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
3. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
4. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
5. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Tree and shrub planting

Q2. Do you have any other comments?

Toilets & water tap please

**Respondent No:** 45**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 23, 2021 13:03:41 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 23, 2021 01:59:24 am**IP Address:** 165.225.114.212

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
4. Tree and shrub planting
5. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
6. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

This space can get very hot during the summer months. In the last proposal before covid i mentioned that it would be good to incorporate water play in this area. We often travel to Wallen - Hadfield Park and Donnybrook - cloverton park to enjoy the water play offered during the hotter times of the year. City of Darebin has not installed ANY water play spaces at any park around this area but yet its so flat, dry and hot. I also think this play space requires additional undercover areas with seating

**Respondent No:** 46 **Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 23, 2021 20:55:50 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 23, 2021 09:44:50 am**IP Address:** 144.138.170.184

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
4. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
5. Inclusive spinner
6. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
7. Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Looks a good design for play area. Would like to see more flexibility for youth play in asphalt space such as half court basketball, couple of goals for casual futsal play etc around the scooter track. Or extending that space.

**Respondent No:** 47**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 24, 2021 15:07:16 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 24, 2021 03:34:25 am**IP Address:** 110.22.206.234

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
4. Inclusive spinner
5. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
6. Tree and shrub planting
7. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

I like option 1: earth and sky colour scheme. Needs more seating and shade too. Otherwise, looks good.

**Respondent No:** 48**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 27, 2021 12:42:30 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 27, 2021 01:18:36 am**IP Address:** 101.117.145.36

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Tree and shrub planting
2. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
3. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
4. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Inclusive spinner
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

I'd like to see more activities based around nature play, since the community asked that this open space be dedicated to biodiversity. Including a Discovery Circuit where people of all ages can immerse themselves in nature and learn. Knowledge boards that explain elements of nature

**Respondent No:** 49**Login:****Email:****Responded At:** Feb 27, 2021 16:07:00 pm**Last Seen:** Feb 27, 2021 04:56:56 am**IP Address:** 14.203.79.150

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Inclusive spinner
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
6. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
7. Tree and shrub planting

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

The lack of inclusive play equipment is disappointing, especially with such a large space to work with and, from what I've seen, not many parks in the immediate area that cater to kids with mixed abilities - there are some great examples in other LGA's, a park in Eltham being a good example; one that I take kids I work with to as I know they can participate and have fun. Not just inclusive play equipment, but equipment in general - again, the space is huge and a great opportunity to create a space families will want to travel to, not just those who live in the area and are familiar with the space. The emphasis on nature play - which, frankly, feels tantamount to "play with sticks" - feels a cheap way out as well. Further, the design looks to offer limited seating & no covered areas which is a let down as well.



**Respondent No:** 50  
**Login:**  
**Email:**

**Responded At:** Mar 03, 2021 19:35:48 pm  
**Last Seen:** Mar 03, 2021 08:31:33 am  
**IP Address:** 172.197.33.215

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
2. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
3. Tree and shrub planting
4. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
5. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
6. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
7. Inclusive spinner

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

I think you should have a few skate ramps.





**Respondent No:** 51

**Login:**

**Email:**

**Responded At:** Mar 15, 2021 14:26:30 pm

**Last Seen:** Mar 15, 2021 03:25:21 am

**IP Address:** 165.228.132.150

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Tree and shrub planting
2. Inclusive spinner
3. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
6. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
7. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

not answered



**Respondent No:** 52  
**Login:** Email:

**Responded At:** Mar 19, 2021 14:27:13 pm  
**Last Seen:** Mar 19, 2021 03:25:20 am  
**IP Address:** 1.152.107.177

**Q1. Please rank how important it is for you have the items below included in the design in order of importance to you where 1 is most important and 7 is least important.**

1. Line marking on existing asphalt surface for scooters and games
2. Swings (nest/basket swing, toddler swing, senior swing)
3. Inclusive spinner
4. Junior/toddler play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for younger children)
5. Tree and shrub planting
6. Nature play (cubbies, rocks and logs, loose parts play, mounds)  
Tree and shrub planting
7. Senior play equipment (timber and rope climbing unit with slide for older children)

**Q2. Do you have any other comments?**

Some kind of water park would be good too

## Ruthven Park Pop-Up Summary Form

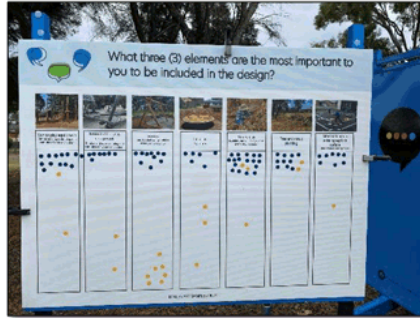


<b>DATE:</b>	20 February 2021
<b>TIME:</b>	10am-12pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Ruthven Park
<b>WEATHER:</b>	Overcast and warm
<b>CHATTERBOX STAFF</b>	Sam
<b>COUNCIL STAFF:</b>	Jacqui, Anika
Participation	
<b>Number of feedback forms completed at pop-up</b>	17
<b>Number of voting pod participants?</b>	23
<b>Number of dotmocracy participants?</b>	30
<b>Number of comments on Chatboard 1: What do you love about the concept designs?</b>	0
<b>Number of creative response drawings?</b>	1
<b>Number of General Customer Request forms filled in?</b>	3
<b>Approximate number of people engaged overall? (Approx..)</b>	40-45

ChatterBox observations	
<b>Sentiment of engagement?</b>	The sentiment of feedback was positive with families the keenest to see the playspace developed. A couple of local residents came to put in requests about other local issues which can viewed on the 3 Customer Request forms.
<b>Improvement suggestions for repeat activity ...</b>	
<b>In general, how would you rate the engagement level – and why? 1=poor, 2=fair, 3=average, 4=good, 5=excellent</b>	4- Great engagement but low numbers of local residents in attendance.

ChatterBox observations																				
Any specific comments or feedback to be noted?						A representative from the Darebin Nature Trust and ? came along.														
Any items or specific people requiring follow up? (record name and contact details if applicable)						3 customer request forms														
VOTING POD																				
How much do you like the Ruthven Playspace concept designs?																				
Love it		Like it		Like it a little		Don't like it		I really don't like it		Unsure										
Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18									
3	7	7	5	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0									
10		12		1		0		0		0										
<b>TOTAL: 23</b>																				
<b>Please note:</b> young children see Like it a lot higher than Love it.																				
Dotmocracy Results																				
What three elements are the most important to you to be included in the design?																				
Senior Play equipment			Junior/toddler play equipment			Swings			Inclusive spinner			Nature play			Tree and shrub planting			Line marking		
U 12	13-17	18+	U 12	13-17	18+	U 12	13-17	18+	U 12	13-17	18+	U 12	13-17	18+	U 12	13-17	18+	U 12	13-17	18+
2	0	12	2	0	7	7	0	10	3	0	6	3	0	17	2	0	10	1	0	8
14			9			17			9			20			12			9		





Ruthven Park Playspace		
Received via:	Date:	Comments:
Email to City Design inbox	15/02/2021	Hi Jacqui, as per your letter dated 5th February in respect to the design of Ruthven Park, Reservoir, which I think is wonderful, just want to Vote for Option 2: Forest Colour Scheme colour for the play equipment. I would also be interested in knowing whether any plans are in place for the fencing around the park or if the intention is to leave that fence permanently.
Email to City Design inbox	18/02/2021	To whom it might concern. The playground and use of those area looks great from what it currently is. It would be great if the scooter track was something a bit more interesting such as a pump track. Just going around a square flat track is pretty boring. It would be great to also get some bigger dirt jumps for older riders . Plenty of bins to spaced around as Edwardes lake shows how lazy people are if they have yo walk too far for a bin. Please consider these suggestions esp. the pump track as it is a perfect location.
Email to City Design inbox	9/02/2021	Hi Jacqui. Just wanted to provide some ideas on the play space proposed for Ruthvern Park at Reservoir. Having the read the on-line document Reimagining Ruthven master Plan 2020, as part of the play space design my thoughts include:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Make provision for a sand/play pit areas for the kids. (For example, visit Harmony Park in Coburg)</li> <li>•Make allowance for shade sails to cover some of the play equipment. I do find, the numerous parks that we visit with our son lack shade/shetlter to protect the kids.</li> <li>•Ensure adequate seating is in place for kids and adults so that they can sit down when watching there children.</li> <li>•A x double swing set would not be adequate. (as shown on the brochure booklet)</li> <li>•Having a low level boardwalk/timber rope suspended bridge is a great play equipment to have. (For example, visit Queens Park in Moone Ponds)</li> <li>•Have pegs/bells in place in a walkway so that kids can press down and listen to the chimes when they walk over the them.</li> <li>•Have recessed in ground kids size trampolines. ((For example, visit Jack Roper Reserve park in Broadmeadows.)</li> </ul> <p>With the overall master design, if you require building services design consultants feel free to reach out to Form Engineers. My expertise is Hydraulic Engineering, (eg sewer/stormwater/rainwater/gas/cold/hotwater, rainwater harvesting.....etc, hence i happy to help out with free design advice given i live 5 minutes walk away from the park.</p>
Email to City Design inbox	10/02/2021	Jacqui - I live at 3 Rice Street = a block north of Ruthven Park area. All looks good, but I would like to see park bench type seating so that parents & minders could sit while keeping an eye on children playing.
Email to City Design inbox	10/02/2021	Hi, As a local parent of 3, and an Early Childhood Educator, I'm really keen to be involved in the remaining process of the park development. Is the public engagement event still happening this weekend? (Obviously pending Lockdown restrictions) Thanks for your time,

Email to City Design inbox	27/02/2021	After viewing the proposed plans for the old Ruthven primary I feel many errors have been made . The local community that you tried to consult with have not had input due to their age and ethnicity. I live opposite the proposed park at present and was in the first intake of kids that went to Ruthven Primary so you could assume I have spent more time there than anyone. I think the play park for kids is a great idea and have no issues with that but you have failed to recognise the people that have lived in close proximity to the school for 50years . I notice that the older residents that use the park do so during the day until about 5pm. As most know my face I have chatted to them about the park and their use . Most use the area to let their dog have exercise and feel safe doing so because of its openness. Their family's have grown and moved away and now share their time with a dog and feel the school is a safe place , as most are from their 60s to Late 80s . These people have fair English at best and won't answer surveys or use a computer so have not given input into the parks future. Safety is the main issue for them and having somewhere they can safely exercise their dog is important. There is no provision in the park for them to continue this activity. The knew planting layout will also make it an unsafe area. EG the old school entrance on Glasgow Avenue is now being used to deal and take drugs. I have witnessed this many times as I live opposite. The reason it is used is the heavy shrubbery around the seats which conceals there activities. Keep the park opened up so all activities can be seen. The knew residents in the area also seem drawn to the park because of its openness and let their dogs exercise there. For some reason an off leash area has been ignored along with the existing residents who raised their families there and made it the place it is . The only thing that was also evident was the elder residents weren't keen on a basketball ring as the old ones were used all hours of the day and were quite loud at night when being used . I hope this gives you an insight into the feelings of the locals who live close the the proposed park.
Yoursay	8/02/2021	Please add some sun shades so the equipment dose not get to hot, also to help protect our kids
Yoursay	8/02/2021	Second the sun shade, it's super important
Yoursay	9/02/2021	Will there be water play? I like option two for the material being used
Yoursay	9/02/2021	Re-evaluate once completed and in place. Once up and running always a good idea to get feedback on what is working well and what needs further change ... is helpful
Yoursay	10/02/2021	Require shade to cover children from the sun, seats for parents to sit on and ample rubbish bins.
Yoursay	14/02/2021	Seating and pram access. Some seating (even if just big logs) in the play space for tired mums to sit or to rest a little one's lunch box. I love the nature play space and think it is super super important but please make sure parents can get their prams close to this play area with some smooth easy access.
Yoursay	14/02/2021	Think about mums with multiple kids of various ages. One of the worst things about Norris Bank park which is a great park is that when we go with our toddlers and preppies it is really hard to keep sight of all the kids. Please consider that the play space will often be used by one parent supervising multiple kids of various ages so don't make this task too stressful by spreading everything far apart and having a huge structure in the middle that we can't see through! Thanks
Yoursay	14/02/2021	Yes, this! Norris Park is such an awesome park, but the equipment is so spread out, definitely hard to keep track of all kids!!
Yoursay	14/02/2021	Will there be water play on your site? I like option two for the material being used
Yoursay	14/02/2021	Oooh water play would be fantastic!
Yoursay	16/02/2021	Please please please add shade for playing and around seating. So many playgrounds have inadequate shade in Darebin.
Yoursay	16/02/2021	More sensory options such as a water play, sounds, visual things and interesting safe plants...like the lan Potter garden

Yoursay	16/02/2021	Shade! I just visited a playground yesterday with my two kids in City of D. The slides were burning! No kids were there playing. When my younger child was a crawler - lack of shade was a massive problem because his hands would get burnt had I let him play in non shaded parks. Looks great though. Also think about site lines across the park for people keeping an eye on multiple children. Sounds great that you're thinking about different ages and abilities.
Yoursay	16/02/2021	There seems to be lack of seating and shade
Yoursay	16/02/2021	The nature play space is the BEST part of the design. It needs to be linked to the playground with log steppers, and rocks to jump and hop
Yoursay	16/02/2021	Play areas for crawling / non walking children  Hopefully there are some largest non-tan barked areas that have opportunities for crawlers/early walkers to pull themselves up and climb onto. We went to a park today and the rope ladders were short enough for the crawlers to reach, but they were covered in and eating the mulch
Yoursay	16/02/2021	Toilet and change facilities
Yoursay	16/02/2021	Shade,Trees, Seating,Toilets, Accessible paths & playground, BBQs, Lots of bins, for recycling too. CCTV cameras. Lighting & safety @ night
Yoursay	16/02/2021	More shaded area is needed. Adequate toilets, seats, rubbish/recycling bins and drink taps. Accessible for prams.
Yoursay	17/02/2021	Fences. Having the park fenced in adds a little more security that kids cannot run off onto the road..so an enclosed park would be fantastic
Yoursay	17/02/2021	More shade & seating, please.
Yoursay	17/02/2021	Please allow for permanent shade structures with plenty of seating.
Yoursay	17/02/2021	Shade please! Please address the need for active shade provision - darebin needs to update its approach to shade in playgrounds to meet requirements of accessibility, sun-safe spaces. Plus toilets, more seating ...
Yoursay	17/02/2021	Shade and seating are vital. A water play area like the one at the Royal Park Nature Playground and a sensory garden would be wonderful.
Yoursay	17/02/2021	More shade for the playground throughout the entire day not just early morning or late afternoon
Yoursay	17/02/2021	Shade, Parent/child toilet, signage. Important to me: Clear signage about where dogs are and aren't allowed. Shade, particularly over play equipment and picnic tables. Toilets with a large and small toilet in the one cubicle. Sufficient rubbish bins. I'd also love some signage with local aboriginal knowledge like language, seasons, plants.
Yoursay	17/02/2021	I think a shaded play area would be invaluable. Seating would also be useful. Water play would be excellent and kids art incorporated. kids art could be incorporated by mosaic tiles in the path facilitated by a local artist
Yoursay	17/02/2021	Shade please, seating, water areas - maybe a developing wetland.
Yoursay	17/02/2021	Shade, seating, toilets, bbq area
Yoursay	17/02/2021	Toilets, shade, adventure playground, bbqs, water play, outdoor bush kitchen play, bike track/traffic school style, cubby house
Yoursay	17/02/2021	I would love to see a water play area, some more shaded areas as well as more seating. Toilets are pretty much essential.
Yoursay	17/02/2021	More seating, toilet facilities and shade. Covered BBQ's would also be great to really make this space. Water play for kids!!
Yoursay	22/02/2021	Please add shelter, the playspace at Eltham Adventure playground, is a well thought out example of a play space for kids of all ages.



Yoursay	23/02/2021	Parks in Darebin are missing Waterplay and Shade  I have to travel to Donnybrook and Hadfield park in Wallen as these municipalities offer waterplay within their parkspace. Most parks in darebin dont offer decent shelter from the heat over the playspaces and for seniors to sit down during summer months
Yoursay	23/02/2021	Shade, Shade, Shade - Please add shade to the childrens playground and seating areas for the elderly. Darebin can get so hot because its flat and there are lack of large trees. Waterplay would be exceptional
Yoursay	24/02/2021	Tweens and Teens need something too. Need more for the kids/teens in the area. They are forgotten. Heaps of stuff for the little ones and seniors but the youth are forgotten. 1. A mini soccer pitch would be great. The one at the lake is always busy. 2. A skate dome or mini skate run would be good too. Norris Bank Park is a good example. 3. A small contained area for dogs to run around off lead. No where local to do that now. 4. Shaded seating and BBQ areas. Edwardes Lake Park is always too busy. 5. A basketball section would be great too. 6. The playspace concept so far looks great except for needing more seating and shade. Currently, we need to drive anywhere (most times outside of Darebin) to get any of these for our tween/teen. Being around the corner would be fabulous. Taking our dog at the same time even better.
Yoursay	24/02/2021	Seating, shaded areas, more inclusive equipment, bathroom maybe? Oh, and something (I don't know what) that will really put this park on the map, something more than an emphasis on 'nature play' any way - water play maybe? We travel to Wallan as the water park equipment is fantastic
Feedback forms		Would be great to have a dog area
Feedback forms		Would be great to have a dog area
Feedback forms		Design looks great
Feedback forms		All good. Absolutely great
Feedback forms		Would like to see bbq's and seats for the elderly
Feedback forms		Basketball court with a net. Gym equipment
Feedback forms		Rubber instead of tan bark in play area. Great place for community market
Feedback forms		No comment
Feedback forms		From experience with my kids, they got the most enjoyment from park and swings between ages 3-10, so would like to see facilities for them
Feedback forms		Interactive timber puzzle. Waterplay - timber dam, water pump. Indigenous themes/murals
Feedback forms		No comment
Feedback forms		No comment
Feedback forms		Love it
Feedback forms		Yes, looks good
Feedback forms		Dogs to be onlead. Signs need to be put up as soon as possible
Feedback forms		No comment
Feedback forms		To build a basketball stadium



# APPENDIX B: FINAL RUTHVEN PLAYSPACE DESIGN CONCEPT (MAY 2021)



**Key elements of the playspace design concept (refer to numbers on plan)**

1. Custom designed senior rope climbing and recycled timber pole play unit with fibreglass wave slide (for ages 5-12+)
2. Custom designed junior/toddler play unit with fibreglass slide, using similar materials to the senior unit
3. Swing set with nest swing, baby/toddler seat and senior seat.
4. Some elements will be made accessible from the future path network, including the nest swing, spinner and part of the toddler unit
5. Rocks, logs and log steppers for balancing and sitting
6. Cubby building areas with branches on mulched surface, informal gathering spaces
7. Mounds for climbing (mulched mounds with areas of planting and trees)
8. Gravel path through the sheoak grove (some



9. Standard seat with back and armrests
10. Waste bin (next to entrance from Tracey Street)
11. Inclusive spinner
12. Rubber surface for babies and accessibility

13. Mounded garden beds and tree planting within core playspace (all areas shown green)
14. Melaleuca trees will be retained and pruned to ensure safety, and will be removed in coming years as they reach the end of their lives and the new trees grow.

**FINAL CONCEPT PLAN**

**An indicative layout is shown above. This concept will undergo a detailed design phase prior to construction and the final outcome will be budget-dependent. The community priority rankings will be used to determine the best outcome.**

**APPENDIX C - COMMUNITY FEEDBACK TO THE RUTHVEN MASTER PLAN**

Community feedback collected at the drop in sessions	
<b>#</b>	<b>Drop in Session 1</b>
1	Two names for the park
2	Ruthven name to be referenced
3	Bollards to address dirt bikes
4	Carparking can be managed on street
5	Dogs on lead in park is ok
6	Ensure park is maintained.
7	Car parking issues.
8	Car parking on site
	<b>Drop in Session 2</b>
9	To close proposed opening on Hurley and Wilson
10	Careful of allergenic plants - try to avoid please
11	Like shade for seating areas
12	Overall think its pretty good
13	Bocce ground
14	Angle parking along Hurley Street
15	Lighting-security - surveillance
16	Public vegetable garden
18	Interactive play
19	Different species? Shade Trees
20	Great to have a park and BBQ area
21	Timber park
22	decent public toilet please
23	No basket ball- swimming pool
24	BBQ and playground - then people use it
25	Good keep old gum and other trees
26	Large shade structures
27	Agree keep fence around edge
28	Keep existing play at Hurley Street- build adventure play for teenagers at Ruthven
29	Quicker than 20 years
30	Don't duplicate on kids playground - there's another one nearby, so have different type or one for different ages
31	Farmers market would be nice here
32	Free exercise programs- e.g. tai chi (understand not part of this design).
33	Space, even small, for women's cricket and football, maybe junior -ask relevant bodies
34	Man shed - women's shed
35	Gym at the same time of playground
36	Indigenous community garden
37	Teaching kids and community about bush tucker.
38	Would be good to have oval for women's cricket/football area
39	Love the paths
40	Greensborough Timber Park - lots of timber adventure play & Climbing elements
41	Love the idea of wetland
42	Concerns around sightlines and density of planting regarding safety of people
43	Like the park - will be good for exercise and walks
44	Dog off lead timed areas - for example in the mornings?
45	Suggest a small dog off leash area at different times
46	Local Scout and Venturer groups to get invited to take part in planting etc (1st reservoir at Edwardes Lake)
47	Acknowledge the Indigenous history of the park
48	Work with schools to realise vision- Similar to the 'Green Team" at Northcote High
49	Indigenous references in park
50	Loose parts for Play Area
51	Small fenced off - leash dog area
52	keep it Dog on lead
53	The park needs a cricket/football net/goals
54	Love the park. Make it happen quickly!
55	Changes in topography - mounds
56	Norris Bank Adventure Play - great example of challenging tall elements for kids

<b>57</b>	Keep some of the fencing
<b>58</b>	Wombat Bend Nature Based Play. Great examples for Ruthven
<b>59</b>	I love the new vision of the park
<b>60</b>	Great idea re wetland/water catchment area
<b>61</b>	Fenced off lead dog area
<b>62</b>	Materials to build cubby houses
<b>63</b>	Good leave fence
<b>64</b>	BBQ is in right area
<b>65</b>	Like plan - toilets locked up at night please
<b>66</b>	Large gum tree at entrance near Wilson and Glasgow (?) and needs a tree doctor- branches might fall
<b>67</b>	Outdoor gym first
<b>67</b>	Playground first please
<b>68</b>	Basketball yes - don't need a skate park
<b>69</b>	Lighting, security & patrols

Community feedback from Postcards	
<b>1</b>	Let the community take some ownership of the delivery of the master plan through community planting days.
<b>2</b>	It would be great to 'elect some custodians for the park with the functions of telling the story of the park to younger generations.
<b>3</b>	A playground like at Norris Bank Reserve. We need waterplay are on this side of Reservoir I need get a table at Edwardes Lake Park. Always too busy.
<b>4</b>	I would hope that the name of the VC winner William Ruthven could be placed somewhere in the park as it was on the school.
<b>5</b>	I love the look of the park, but I am genuinely confused by its 'dog-on lead' status. The vast majority of the park users are currently dog walkers. There is a shortage of off-leash areas around and this is a very important use for the 'park' currently. Why ostracise its main group of user for potential people who have plenty of alternatives.

Community feedback - 'Have you Say Page'		
#	Feedback	Officer Comment
1	No disrespect to the environment but I feel that Reservoir has ENOUGH parks. What we really need is more shops and services to cater for both a growing and ageing population because what we have in Edwardes Street is not enough!!	The school was purchased to fill a gap in Darebin's open space network and move towards achieving Council's goal of ensuring that all residents live within a 500m walking distance of public open space. This gap was identified in Darebin's 2009-2019 Open Space Strategy.
2	<p>Well done on the progress you have made with our community to date. I noted that buildings were contentious however in reviewing the feedback, only 7 out of 12 comments were against it which tells me that it was a balanced preference. I completely support having an integrated, eco-friendly, sustainable studio building where people can gather and use this as a community space. Whether that be for educational workshops, studio for exercise (yoga etc) and events especially if it's weather contingent. It would be a shame to not have a central point for gathering groups. The purpose of the Ruthven space is to 'bring people together' and a building meets that objective, it completes the space. It would be a half baked experience without a sheltered event space and would inhibit delivery of the pillars of "A Park for All, Contemplation, Education &amp; Appreciation, Creating Play and Sustainability, Resilience &amp; Future."</p> <p>Please reconsider as a 58% vote against the building does not rule out the idea. Similar to a lead free dog zone, more context is required to see how it can work such as the suggestion of it having fenced.</p> <p>I support the native garden but what is missing is a community garden as that does bring people together. In addition, research shows that our kids don't even know where fruits and vegetables come from. Some think they come from a supermarket. Education is key and kinetic learning helps as having something tangible, drives the learning home. Again, having this would also help achieve the pillars of Play, Sustainability, Future and Education mentioned above.</p> <p>It looks like a 'nice' space but it's very disengaging to a local as there is no connection yet. Two things that connect people no matter what background is food and music. While we can't have a music studio, we can at least start with food, especially with the high migrant population. We need to talk their language that surpasses words and phrases.</p>	<p>Council resolved to create a natural park only at its November 2019 Council meeting, following feedback received from the local community and Ruthven Community Reference Group, who did not support the development of community facilities or buildings at this site. However the suggestion for a space which can 'bring people together' can be delivered in other initiatives highlighted in the master plan. For example, the picnic sheltered space and a sheltered seating area can be design so that it considered many community gathering opportunities.</p> <p>As Ruthven will have a biodiverse function, allowing dogs off their lead, compromises this vision. This is reinforced in Darebin's Open Space Strategy Breathing Space.</p>
3	It is great to see more wild areas and indigenous plantings. I grew up in the Eastern suburbs where there was always plenty of bush - with logs, creeks, birdlife, large gums, dense places for kids to play and hide and be in nature. Lovely to see habitat for wildlife. Lighting for safety is very important too.	Support for the master plan is noted.
4	I am wondering if dogs are going to be allowed as I take my dogs there twice a day and there was no mention on the planning board there.	Ruthven is proposed to be a dog-on lead park. As Ruthven will have a biodiverse function, allowing dogs off their lead, compromises this vision. This is reinforced in Darebin's Open Space Strategy Breathing Space.
5	<p>The plan looks pretty good, but I (and others) would like to see the wetland brought forward to very early in the proposal - suggested over a period of the first three years works. This was discussed at a meeting of the Darebin Nature Trust on 22/10/19, attended by Jennifer Louie. It was pointed out at the meeting that it would be easier, cheaper and involve much less upheaval to create the wetland earlier rather than later. The main issue for scheduling it later was to do with budgets and this could be resolved by funding through the Open Space Levy.</p> <p>I believe the suggestion to create the wetland early on and to fund it through the Open Space Levy had the support of the Darebin Nature Trust meeting.</p>	<p>Support for the master plan is noted.</p> <p>Darebin prioritises its stormwater management projects based on evidence outlined in Darebin's Integrated Water Strategy (2017) and the Priority Stormwater Projects for Water Sensitive Design (2017). Ruthven Park is not highlighted as a priority site and will be considered in the future for wetland creation.</p>
6	Looks terrific. Support dog on-lead areas, will need enforcement to make sure that people don't let their dogs off lead and endanger/scare small children, elderly people, etc. Some areas of the park should also prohibit dogs, especially in ecologically sensitive areas. Dogs destroy ground nests and disturb vegetation. Support keeping the park trees and other design features to make it a natural feel.	Support for the master plan is noted.

<p><b>7</b></p>	<p>The plan does not seem to address the issue of parking. Car parking. Tracey Street is already used as a race track due to the lack of speed humps. There is no regard for the 40km speed limit since the old school building was removed. I had daily "discussions" with parents of children at the school who ignored the 5 min parking "rule" when the school was in use. They did not even mind parking across my driveway when I was trying to leave for work. Tracey St is not wide enough for parking on both sides. It would be completely unworkable to restrict parking on the housing side of Tracey St between Glasgow Ave and Hurley St. I can see a huge issue in regard to parking with the plan. Even if you do put up posts with limits on parking, no one will take any notice as it won't be policed. Wasn't before when the school was in use, so no doubt it won't be when a park.</p> <p>I absolutely condemn the placement of netball or basketball hoops. NO NO NO. The idea of Reservoir youth bouncing balls night and day is not appealing. AT ALL. I beg you NOT to build those. Never ever.</p> <p>A green space is what it should be and remain to be, with the native and bee friendly planting you speak of. With a dog section off lead or on who cares. People will let their dogs off the leash regardless. Seats and covered areas is brilliant. Make it a reflective space more so than an action space. I also reject wholeheartedly the placing gym equipment. Edward's Lake park has them, and it's only a stone's throw away. When planting, think about making it impossible for motor bike and monkey bike riders to have any length of space to race up and down like they love to do every Saturday and Sunday now. I totally support renaming the park in the Woiwurrong language. I would love to see a Woiwurrong welcome to country ceremony when the new green space is ready to roll. BBQ areas and picnic space and grass underfoot to walk barefoot and embrace a serene community space is brilliant. I applaud it.</p>	<p>Support for the bushland vision of the master plan is noted. Support for renaming the park in Woiwurrong language, BBQ area, open lawn areas, shaded seating areas and it being a reflective space is noted.</p> <p>Carparking and traffic conditions will be regularly monitored as the master plan is implemented over a 20 year period.</p> <p>The intergenerational play area will be subject to a detailed design and consultation process, where the proposed function and activities of this play area can be determined with the local community. All local residents and park users will have an opportunity to shape this play area.</p> <p>An outdoor gym was highlighted by the local community as a top idea during the initial phase of consultation. Again the detailed design of this will help determine how this use looks and functions.</p> <p>Support noted for renaming the park in the Woiwurrong language and will consider a 'Welcome to Country' ceremony for future community events.</p>



Community feedback - EMAIL		
#	Feedback	Officer Comment
1	Great to see that something is going to be done with the old Ruthven school area. This is a great opportunity to create something wonderful for the residents and we thank you! For the remainder of the space somewhere for families to go and relax, gated play ground for the kids, BBQ area, seating, covered area for parties to be held. Lots of trees for shade and maybe a walking track around the outside. My suggestion for part of it would be to make a kids bike traffic school/path. Hopefully with working traffic lights, but somewhere safe and fun for the kids to ride their bikes that isn't on the road. I lived near one as a child and it was wonderful.	Support for the master plan is noted. Feedback in relation to the playspace will be used to inform the concept design of this area.
2	I've grown up in Reservoir and live just around the corner in Lawley street. I used to go to Ruthven primary school, so the land has lots of sentimental value to me (as it would to many other locals who've grown up in the area). I think it's an absolutely wonderful idea to create a bush land sanctuary! Great choice!	Support for the master plan is noted.
3	I like the plan. Very keen on play ground and nature play spaces and the BBQ picnic area. Wondering if bikes will be allowed to cycle around main path? Concerned about the noise during construction to the main gate close to our house and the increased level of traffic in front? Very excited to see this plan and hope it gets built sooner than the 17 years on the Billboard.	Support for the master plan is noted. The main path will be a pedestrian focussed path. However young families and children under 12yrs will be able to cycle on this path. Future construction will need to adhere to Government regulations.
4	Need more for the kids/teens in the area. They are forgotten. Heaps of stuff for the little ones and seniors but the youth are forgotten. The locals are really looking forward to a lovely usable space and the kids/teens really need something for them, it would be a shame if they were overlooked again. I know our family can't wait for it to begin. A small contained area for dogs to run around off lead. No where local to do that now. A mini soccer pitch would be great. The one at the lake is always busy. A skate dome or mini skate run would be good too. Norris Bank Park is a good example. How about a bocce court? Also a couple of years before any works start and 20 to 30 years for it to be completed.	Support for the master plan is noted. The draft plan nominates an intergenerational play area, which will include activities for young people and teenagers. This idea will go through a more detailed design process, including more opportunity for the local community to help shape the function and design of this space. The timeframe for delivering the master plan is subject to the annual council budget process, ensuring we balance the open space needs across the municipality.
5	<b>Pathways - Materials:</b> We remain concerned about the large amount of concrete that is being proposed for the site. The reason that was given to the Community Reference Group for having such extensive concrete pathways was to ensure that the park would be accessible to users of all abilities. Concrete is one of the highest producers of greenhouse gasses in the world. There is, however, an alternative to concrete which could be explored such as an earthen pathway like this one in Ocean Grove, only somewhat narrower to suit the site. Now, the new track will mean that everyone can enjoy the Ocean Grove Nature Reserve Terry spent six years in the past regularly using a wheelchair and walking sticks. He found earthen pathways to be quite adequate, with the added benefit of not being slippery for the walking sticks in rain, compared with when leaves or grass and other debris falls onto concrete pathways. <b>Location:</b> We would like to see the layout of pathways at the Southern end retained as it is well-established and leads naturally to the raised area that overlooks the site. The general idea of the layout for the rest of the paths looks fine, though it might be worth trying to map them out before they are laid by keeping in mind the principles of desire lines. The two green metal seats at this end of the park should be retained and refurbished. Ephemeral wetland Darebin Nature Trust has recommended that the ephemeral wetland be established earlier in the evolution of the park. If there is going to be earthmoving and disturbance it may as well be done at the same time as concrete removal from the rest of the site. <b>Zone planning and shelter</b> Each zone of the park will need a detailed plan and the key issues that need to be kept in mind are shelter from the sun and from wind, especially in the conversation corners and play areas. Whether this could be done with some mounded areas as suggested by DNT or some other way needs further discussion. However, we do not support using rubble from the concrete removal for use in the landscaping - there are enough issues with contamination in Darebin's parks. There are some good examples of shelters in the draft Master Plan. This shelter, which Serena found in a park in Epping, is interesting because it is spacious and also has a slat wall towards the end that would protect people from wind. The slat design allows for planting underneath the structure. <b>Soil issues</b> Serena recently visited Michael Brennan, the former deputy principal of the former Ruthven Primary School, to give him an update on the Master Planning process for the new park. When the school was newly established (circa 1968) he said they would have to ring a bell so that the children would run indoors when there was blasting of the volcanic rock in the area. The blasting took place so the sewerage system for the new estate near the school could be installed. Similar rock under the Ruthven site may be something that will need to be thought about in relation to water and sewerage for the park. He then told her that the kids would be sent out at playtime with magnets to collect metal out of the cricket pitch. He said they made a few hundred dollars from the collection. Metal?! It turns out that the area was landscaped using foundry sand - a foot or two deep, with a few inches of top soil from the Merri Creek spread on top. This was the first we have heard of it, and we doubt that Darebin Council has done any soil testing. There may be low level contaminants to consider and also the salt content of the sand.	<b>Path network materials:</b> Will look into the design of the all ability gravel track and reference this in the master plan. The material of the pathway network will be subject to detailed design and additional consultation with our parks maintenance and Age and Disability team, ensuring that we have the right material to suit the location in the park.  Path layout in the south and green metallic seats will remain. The site will be future proof to allow for the future development of the wetlands, and will include a 10m wetland buffer, ensuring that no trees or substantial landscapes are built here.  <b>Zone planning &amp; shelter:</b> Each project will be subject to detailed site assessments to help inform the design, where wind and shade will be explored in detail and then appropriate landscape response provided (ie mound, planting plan etc)  Image of shelter has been included in the master plan.  <b>Soils issues:</b> Soil and Geotechnical surveys will be undertaken through the detailed design of each project.
	<b>Biodiversity Plan</b> The site will need a detailed Biodiversity Plan which would usefully be designed in conjunction with Darebin Nature Trust and other groups with specialist expertise. Getting this plan right is critical to the overall project. Spotted gums are listed as a possible tree for the site when 1) there are already spotted gums on the site (which will be retained) and 2) they are not species of local provenance. A suitable alternative from the region would be yellow gums. That spotted gums could have slipped into a Master Plan that promotes indigenous plants is an example of why we need expert input into the Biodiversity Plan. The significance of using species of local provenance is well known for the importance of preserving genetic diversity and is aptly summed up by Connecting Country (Mount Alexander Region) Inc as follows: "Indigenous species provide habitat for native wildlife and birds and can improve the condition of soils and water. Indigenous plants will generally grow with little assistance, will be most likely to withstand the prevailing conditions of your site, and over time are likely to begin regenerating themselves." We note with concern that Darebin Council has started planting on the nature strips around the park without consulting the people responsible for designing the new park. If the park is going to have an integrated appearance then the nature strips need to be part of the overall design. Planting should be done from seedlings for two reasons: 1) they are vastly cheaper and can be sourced from several indigenous nurseries such as the one run by nearby La Trobe University; 2) they will quite quickly outstrip more mature trees in terms of height and will be more robust in the long term. Areas that are planted out may need to be fenced off while trees are getting established, due to the possibility of attack by vandals. The biodiversity plan will need detailed work on the location of flowers so that they are not overlooked in favour of trees and shrubs. <b>Bike Racks</b> The worst choice for bike racks for park would be the big, individual metal hoops that are concreted into the ground. They take up a lot of space, are imposing and are quite hard to tie a bike up to - especially an electric bike. Ideally it would be a great project to get a bike rack that is also a piece of public art such as the following installation by artists Marianne Lovink and Scott Eunson. If this is not possible then at least some bike racks with a lower profile than the metal hoops would be good.	Comments noted for the Biodiversity Plan and bike racks.  The biodiversity plan is being finalised and will be shared with DNT and Ruthven CRG for feedback during June-July and help inform Stage 1 planting for the 2020 planting season.  Bike Rack image supplied has been included in the master plan.

<p>6</p>	<p><b>1. Masterplan?</b> Let's focus on the important elements of an agreed concept. There is probably little point in arguing the toss about whether the draft Masterplan fulfills the essence of its title. Rather, the most important initial function of the document is to provide a vehicle to achieve agreement about an overall concept for the site, as well as concepts for specific site functions. However, importantly, this role of the Masterplan would be better reinforced if additional clarity about the planning steps to follow could be provided. Without this clarity, there is doubt about whether these still yet-to-be-confirmed concepts can be taken forward. There is some appearance that the Masterplan will remain as the key planning tool for the site, when it should be seen as just a first step along a planning path to enable implementation. Nonetheless, at this stage, it would appear that a number of key elements have achieved some level of agreement. It would appear that the park should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an overall and primary function as passive parkland with no accommodation of organised sport and only a minor degree of informal sports facilities;</li> <li>• a strong emphasis on provision of a biodiversity function with predominant (perhaps even exclusive) use of indigenous species and removal of exotic weed species;</li> <li>• provision of a playground designed for children and perhaps another with a more natural or 'wild play' feel;</li> <li>• provision of walking trails throughout, either via more formal hard surface paths (a range of surfaces are possible including porous) or informal "bush tracks";</li> <li>• a community use area where social activities within the site could be focused with provision of services such as BBQs, shelter, seating, tables, drinking fountains, toilets, etc.;</li> <li>• provision of one or two conversation pits or more contemplative areas;</li> <li>• at least one significant grassed area of a more open nature that allows for activities such as kite flying and offers a vegetative contrast with the remainder of the site that would be more heavily vegetated; and</li> <li>• an ephemeral wetland fed by local stormwater.</li> </ul> <p>While the staging of works at this stage may lower the priority of some of these elements, they are nevertheless still recognised as important park features. Figure 6 in the Masterplan lists 29 elements as proposed for inclusion across the park. However, it is these eight elements that are fundamental features and appear to have achieved a reasonable level of agreement. Hence the Masterplan seems to offer a basis for settling on an overall concept and a number of conceptual parts. These can now be taken forward into additional stages of design and will continue to be the components that the park needs to be shaped around. If the Masterplan does nothing else, it could be judged to have succeeded if it simply performs this conceptualisation role, which it clearly has.</p>	<p>As highlighted on 4 of <i>Remagining Ruthven</i>, it states that the master plan provides a clear long term vision for the park. Each project will be subject to further site assessments, community consultation and detailed design, prior to any construction.</p> <p>A new section called ' what happens next!' on page 4 has been included to clarify these next steps for the implementation of the master plan.</p>
	<p><b>2. Next Steps? The Need for Functional and Detailed Design Phases</b> If we accept that the Masterplan has played an important role in achieving agreement about initial conceptual elements, then the setting out of the way forward becomes equally important. The Masterplan contains a short section (see p. 42-3) at its end that briefly outlines "next steps". The first dot point makes mention of: "detail design of spaces within the park" as part of the next steps. This perhaps doesn't completely fill the reader with confidence that subsequent design is to be tackled systematically and for the whole of the site. Instead, what is required is an unequivocal commitment by Council to both functional and detailed design phases. These two critical steps are conventional components of any larger scale project and critical for projects to succeed in meeting their objectives. The functional phase delivers a bridge between the concept and the detailed design. It tests concepts and ensures feasibility. Detailed design enables implementation via a thorough detailed of works. It provides a near-complete understanding of costs and is a basis upon which jobs can be tendered. Both phases are very different but both are essential. Undertaking both these steps will enable proper project budgeting and sensible staging over a number of financial years. Their preparation will also deliver potential cost savings as inadequate investigation of project elements will be avoided and risks and cost blow-outs minimised. It will also avoid re-work. This might especially apply to the ephemeral wetland where the site for its establishment will be subject to certain uses should it be delayed for 20 years. It could potentially be difficult to undo these uses should the wetland then be constructed. Similarly, the removal of asphalt and concrete from the site could be avoided with thorough planning. Such material could be buried under earthen mounds once their location and dimensions are confirmed. This would avoid transport and disposal costs with the remaining cost factored into initial site earthworks to shape the site. Earthworks must also not be under-estimated out of poor planning. The best vegetation outcomes will result from ripping and application of gypsum and green compost to planting areas. For a park of this size and with the intended scope of new planting, significant earthworks will therefore be required whether earthen mounds are created or not. Darebin would be foolish to avoid this two-phase design work to confirm the park's design and enable smooth implementation. In terms of other aspects of vegetation design, the functional design phase would examine a number of key issues including: • weed management, with <i>Romulea</i> a massive problem; • the comparative economics of scalping, alongside incremental control with chemicals and the staging of indigenous grassland re-establishment; • species selection for planting within the drip zone of the site's large established <i>Eucalypts/Corymbias</i>; • incremental removal of non-indigenous trees and shrubs; • staged removal or retention of deciduous exotic trees on the east and north side including control of Desert Ash; and • the extent to which conventional mowing of an exotic grass sward is to be employed, if at all. The previous submission from the DNT community members argued that tree and shrub planting at the southern end of the site (on the leeward side of the mound), could be more varied and form a more gardenesque style with emphasis on areas of smaller, showy shrubs and groundcovers. It could also include elements such as a butterfly garden and a small bird garden. Further investigation of these issues would be part of the functional design phase. The functional design phase also presents the opportunity to resolve issues around trails through the park, their surfacing, the extent of different surface types and the timing of construction. The ephemeral wetland would also be investigated and its feasibility and design approaches confirmed (see further below). The basic layout of the community use area and its associated facilities and services would also be investigated and issues resolved.</p>	<p>Page 4 of the master plan has been updated to include a diagram outlining next steps.</p> <p>Comments notes regarding site future site management considerations.</p>

<p><b>3. Earthen Mounds for Wind Protection.</b> These must be more extensive and can meet safety concerns more than just dense shrub planting. While Figure 6 is not entirely clear, it would appear that the extent of earthen mounds for wind protection is very limited in the draft Masterplan. The reason cited is the need to meet safety requirements. CPTED is mentioned in this regard. Though an internationally recognised concept since the 1970s, CPTED in a Victorian context is supported by Victoria Police and is aimed at businesses and households to prevent break-ins. This would appear to have little relationship to open space environments, though its principles could be applied to open space design. The challenge then is to design earthen mounds that perform the function of site windbreaks (see: <a href="http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/soil-and-water/erosion/shelterbelt-design">http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/soil-and-water/erosion/shelterbelt-design</a>), but don't unduly compromise safety. Firstly, it should be remembered that the earthen mounds as outlined in the previous DNT submission were proposed to be 1.6m. high as an approximate average but with some points higher (and some lower) to avoid uniformity and perhaps contain lookout areas. The importance of the mounds would be to generally provide a solid barrier to wind at the height of a human. This would be added to with vegetation on the windward side to deflect wind upward, away from the ground and people. The higher the vegetation, the greater the distance protection can be provided on the leeward side. Tall trees would therefore be best used near the top of the earthen mound. It is important to note that the shrub layer on the windward side would not need to be dense to facilitate deflection up into canopy trees that would then perform the main function of wind deflection. It is also critical to note that the most effective windbreaks are those that have a reasonable degree of porosity. It is recommended that design should aim for a medium density of planting at around 40-60%. By contrast, a very dense windbreak forces wind to be pulled down on the leeward side creating turbulence, but as the density of the windbreak is reduced, more air passes through the windbreak and reduces turbulence and leeward areas enjoy more protection. Similarly, the shrub layer on top of the mound would also not need to be overly dense, nor would vegetation on the leeward side where lower growing plants could mainly be used. The earthen mounds that need to provide protection both from northerly and southerly winds would have a similar shrub layer on both sides, but would not need to be dense as explained above. This would especially be so where a varied shrub layer was extended out some distance from the earthen mound – say 30m. although this could be less where required. Over this area, taller shrubs with denser foliage could be used comparatively sparsely to permit sight lines through and across the planted area. Occasional smaller trees could also be used. The main objective from a safety perspective would be to discourage the potential for the shrub layer to harbor and hide potential law-breakers. Prickly foliage would also be important in this regard. By contrast, the Masterplan appears to come down on the side of dense vegetation, rather than use of earthen mounds, to provide wind protection. This has the potential to offer less safety than mounds with less dense vegetation. It is therefore recommended that extensive areas of earthen mounding are incorporated into the functional design phase to optimise shelter from winds as they can be designed to address safety issues. The previous submission from DNT indicated locations for these mounds. They would also help define zones within the park for particular design needs and protect assets and human activities within those zones.</p>	<p>Earth mounds will be applied to select areas as identified through the detailed site investigations and design as the the master plan is implemented.</p> <p>A safety (and CPTED) lense will also be applied through the detailed design phase of each project.</p>
<p><b>4. Ephemeral Wetland</b> – Small Part of Total Earthworks for Site Shaping and Preparation of Planting Areas As indicated above, significant earthworks will be required to properly prepare planting areas. Given this, earthworks to create an ephemeral wetland area will only be a small addition to total earthworks. It would be cost-ineffective to avoid the creation of this comparatively small area in initial works and rather defer it to a later date. It is therefore recommended that the ephemeral wetland proceed to the functional design stage, as it can be a significant and valued feature within the park which should become part of the park at an early stage. <b>5. Planting Plan</b> – Functional and Detailed Design It is proposed that the design of planting be incorporated into each of the functional and detailed design phases. The functional design for vegetation would recommend a type of vegetation for the zone (or particular parts thereof) and a potential species list. Detailed design at the next stage would indicate detailed planting plans for each zone with species, numbers, densities etc. The functional design phase would resolve lingering issues such as extent of grassland re-establishment and their locations (currently 3 – could be better to have just one single area if so desired due to future management ease including burning). It would also resolve the extent to which adherence to the Grassy Dry Forest EVC was to be observed, or whether the site would be better managed into the future with an adaptation of the local flora to provide for visual and amenity ends, human needs and management objectives and not just faithfully replicate the EVC. <b>6. Recommendations</b> (i) That Council commit to the next stages of planning for the Ruthven site via functional and detailed design phases. (ii) That the budget allocation for funding a project of DNT's recommendation be directed to assisting functional and detailed design phases at Ruthven and that DNT community members be actively engaged, as far as possible, along with the CRG, in the design work with any appointed consultants. (iii) That DNT encourages Council to accept the Draft Masterplan as a first stage in planning for the development of the Ruthven site as a park and endorse it as a document that captures key concepts that will be subject to further planning and investigation.</p>	<p><u>Ephemeral wetland:</u></p> <p>Darebin prioritises its stormwater management projects based on evidence outlined in Darebin's Integrated Water Strategy (2017) and the Priority Stormwater Projects for Water Sensitive Design (2017). Ruthven Park is not highlighted as a priority site. The master plan seeks to future proof the wetlands, allowing it to be developed in future years. A 10m buffer will be applied to the future wetlands area, ensuring that no significant trees or capital work projects are planned for this area. This will be reflected in Councils internal GIS system and now reflected in the master plan.</p> <p><u>Planting plan</u> - comments noted. A planting plan is still being finalised and will be shared with the RUTHVEN CRG and DNT for further input, as part of the implementation of the master plan.</p> <p><u>Reccomendations</u> - noted.</p>

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**8.2 PROPOSED DESIGN OF THE DAREBIN INTERCULTURAL CENTRE****Author:** Manager, Assets & Capital Delivery**Reviewed By:** General Manager Operations and Capital

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In December 2019, Council resolved to move the Darebin Intercultural Centre from 59A Roseberry Avenue, Preston to the civic buildings on the corner of High and Gower Streets, Preston. At that time, Council tasked officers with the formation of a Community Reference Group (CRG) to provide advice on the concept design phase of the relocated centre ensuring it is a welcoming, inclusive, culturally safe and fit-for-purpose design that will meet community expectations.

Together with the CRG and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation (Wurundjeri), Sibling Architecture has developed a wholistic vision for the precinct that delivers on the community's aspirations for the centre. The precinct vision and design principles have formed the basis for the relocation project concept design that has been overall endorsed by the CRG and supported by Wurundjeri.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** Council:

- (1) Endorse the concept design (**Appendix A**) for the relocated Intercultural Centre and approve the project proceeding to tender
- (2) Note the recommendations of the Community Reference Group as supported by Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation:

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**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION****Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting on 16 December 2019 Council resolved to:

- 1) *Note the feedback and analysis from the community consultation.*
- 2) *Endorse the relocation of the Intercultural Centre to the Preston Town Hall municipal building at 350 High Street Preston (on the corner of High and Gower Streets).*
- 3) *Note that officers will establish a Co-design Reference Group with Terms of Reference that will oversee a co-design model between Council and the community to inform the relocation of the Intercultural Centre in 2021.*
- 4) *Receive a report in April 2020 outlining the Terms of Reference and membership of the Co-design Reference Group.*

At its meeting on 7 September 2020, Council resolved to:

- 1) *Endorse the eight (8) community members of the Darebin Intercultural Centre Community Reference Group*

- 2) *Endorse the Terms of Reference for the Darebin Intercultural Centre Community Reference Group*

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### Consultation

Sibling Architecture, in partnership with Indigenous landscape architect, Garawana Creative was engaged through an open tender process to complete design development, with the concept design to be developed in collaboration with the Wurundjeri and the CRG. The collaborative process between the CRG, Wurundjeri and the architectural team supports the approach of 'with us, not for us.'

### Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation

The internal working group has established a relationship with Wurundjeri that seeks cultural advice on the concept design, the precinct vision, naming of rooms and programming. This relationship will be long-lasting and ongoing. The intent is to ensure the "acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Owners of this land" is the anchor point from which the centre and its programs must be based.

In the short term, the working group committed to meeting with Wurundjeri in between each CRG meeting to seek feedback on what was discussed at each meeting, ensuring any advice provided by the CRG was culturally safe for Traditional Owners. Further considerations and cultural advice were also sought at these meetings.

### Community Reference Group

The purpose of the CRG was to provide advice and cultural considerations to the architectural team during the concept design phase of the Intercultural Centre Relocation Project. The CRG met a total of five times between November 2020 and March 2021 before the group dissolved. All CRG meetings were held in person with Covid-safe restrictions in place and all access needs were met.

The CRG itself had no formal delegated or project decision making authority. Rather, the role of the CRG was to:

- Provide input into the concept design phase of the centre ensuring it is a welcoming, inclusive, culturally safe and a fit-for-purpose design that will meet community expectations
- Provide independent, honest and constructive advice on key design elements of the vision, mission and approach, such as:
  1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners and First Nations communities
  2. A place of welcoming
  3. Open plan and connectivity
  4. Flexibility – adaptability and future proofing
  5. Access – including physical, emotional and cultural access, and identifying features
  6. Equity embedded in design
- Advise on how design principles may inform programming for the newly relocated centre
- Provide feedback at the fifth and final meeting on the CRG process, including key learnings to inform future projects

Wurundjeri Elder, Aunty Diane Kerr, was invited to attend all CRG meetings to provide cultural advice for the CRG to consider however offered her apologies which were accepted. Wurundjeri was able to provide input on the project at regular cultural consultations held with the working group.

**Your Say**

Following each CRG meeting, minutes were uploaded to the Darebin Your Say page providing an opportunity for broader community comment.

The community were directed to the Your Say page through promotions on Darebin social media and several Mailchimp e-newsletters.

A story about the CRG process and promoting the Your Say page was included in Darebin’s inaugural digital edition of the Darebin Community News, Your Darebin. A CRG member was profiled for the story.

The Future of the Darebin Intercultural Centre Your Say project page, published on 3 March 2020 has had 1000 total visits; 823 of those are visitors who have visited the page, 238 are informed visitors who have downloaded documents to read further information about the project, and 17 are engaged visitors who have responded in writing on the page to the statement, ‘Share your thoughts on the Darebin Intercultural Centre project’.

**Consultation Cycle**

The project’s cyclical consultative process allowed for a constant flow of input, discussion and feedback between each of the parties. Information gathered was incorporated into the design and then relayed to the CRG and Wurundjeri at their subsequent meetings.



**Advisory committees**

Throughout the concept design phase, officers offered to provide project updates at Council Advisory Committee meetings as well as to the DECC steering committee, Welcoming Cities steering committee and the Darebin Interfaith Council. Officers presented project updates at the following meetings:

- Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC) steering committee, 17 December 2020

- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee, 3 February 2021
- Darebin Interfaith Council, 4 February 2021
- Darebin Women's Advisory Committee, 25 February 2021

### **Key stakeholders**

Other communications included regular updates to existing stakeholders, and ongoing development of relationships across the local community and broader sector, including potential future participants and partners. Throughout the concept design phase, officers actively engaged with key sector stakeholders who have expressed their support for the project. Such stakeholders include:

- Victorian Multicultural Commission
- Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria
- Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Australian Human Rights Commission
- Scanlon Foundation
- Welcoming Cities

### **Key Messages included:**

- (1) The Darebin Intercultural Centre is moving from 59A Roseberry Street, Preston to 350 High Street, Preston
- (2) The relocated Darebin Intercultural Centre will be a visible and central expression of Council's commitment to a more just society and will be programmed for, by and with Darebin's diverse communities
- (3) The centre concept designs are based on input from Wurundjeri, the CRG, and the architect
- (4) Construction for the relocation of the Darebin Intercultural Centre will commence in quarter two 2021/2022
- (5) The Intercultural Centre is informed by, and aligned with, Darebin's commitment to be a Welcoming City and Refugee Welcome Zone, Darebin's Towards Equality, Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework and Council's Statement of Commitment to Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- (6) We are seeking partnerships and investment into this important community space

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy**

Goal 5 - Involving our diverse community

We will lead on equity and recognise our diverse community as our greatest asset for solving future challenges.

We will ensure our services, facilities and programs benefit all, including our most vulnerable.

This project also aligns with key actions in the new draft Council plan which seeks to help build an inclusive and empowered community where social cohesion and community harmony are fostered.

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

Environmental sustainability did not immediately influence the relocation of the Intercultural Centre. However, the scope to find a new home for the Intercultural Centre included environmental considerations, such as access to public transport and walkability. The design of the relocated Intercultural Centre will meet environmental standards as set by Council's current policies and includes an awareness of how environment influences vulnerable populations locally and globally. Considerations in design have included tree protection, Indigenous planting and material and fixture selection.

### **Climate Emergency**

The Climate Emergency did not immediately influence the relocation of the Intercultural Centre. However, the design of the relocated Intercultural Centre will meet energy and water efficiency standards as set by Council's current policies and includes an awareness of how the climate emergency influences vulnerable populations locally and globally. Considerations in design have included tree protection, Indigenous planting and material and fixture selection.

### **Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations**

Council's Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework, Towards Equality, is a key platform to guide the future of the Darebin Intercultural Centre. A renewed centre has provided the opportunity to put aspects of this framework into action in both the built form and social aspects (programming) of the space.

The Equity Impact Assessment (EIA) has been used as a key tool since the project's inception to apply a People, Place and Experience lens to design and programming of the centre and consider the how the centre can best respond to the diverse and varied needs of the Darebin community.

As a direct result of the EIAs, the following were included in the design:

- Accommodation for breastfeeding
- Flexible furniture to allow for floor seated meetings
- Colour contrast in furniture/surfaces for way finding
- Baby change facilities
- Crime and safety prevention considerations in design
- Accessible seating

Additionally, accessibility consultants were engaged as part of design team and included neurodiversity assessments.

Darebin's Intercultural Centre will enable connections between people from all cultural backgrounds and from all walks of life. It will be a welcoming, accessible and adaptable place where intercultural connections will happen accidentally and by design. We will examine our own bias and investigate how power and privilege can exclude individuals and groups in our local community. We will use this knowledge to break down barriers to participation in civic and community life.



Our programs will be co-designed with the local CALD community, with our migrant, refugee and recently arrived communities, and with others who are vulnerable, under-represented, or who are experiencing racism and discrimination because of their cultural background, their identity or their beliefs. Avenues for ideas that are generated by the community will be facilitated and kept open. Research and outreach will be a key to our approach, with a focus on issues and needs that are identified by the local CALD community.

In addition to this, the centre will consider how it can reflect Darebin's commitment to be a Welcoming City and integrate the six categories of the Welcoming Cities Standard across the centres programming, such as considering how the centre can provide a platform to enable social and cultural inclusion, civic participation, economic development amongst newly arrived and migrant communities, which is the specific remit of the standard.

The centre also provides a further opportunity to deliver on Council's health and wellbeing aspirations for multicultural and diverse community groups as part of the Draft Health and Wellbeing Plan, which is incorporated as part of the Draft Council Plan. For example, there will be a range of opportunities to consider how the centre could respond to increase social connection to reduce isolation, loneliness and support positive mental health.

In addition, the relocation of the Darebin Intercultural Centre within the civic buildings of central Preston and the reactivation of the south-west corner provides an opportunity to enhance broader community perceptions of safety. This can be achieved through the application of best practise Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design to the design of this precinct as part of future stages. This has benefit for centre users and the broader community.

Ongoing consultation with the Equity and Wellbeing department and external stakeholders will seek to ensure that the relocation and redefinition of the Darebin Intercultural Centre's design and programming continues to reflect Council's equity, inclusion and wellbeing commitments and importantly, consider and reflect intersectionality in both the built form of the centre and the programming.

How we choose to respond to discrimination in all its forms will define us as a City. We must confront fear and misunderstanding with opportunities to come together to debate, educate and connect. We will promote and create platforms where our shared values can be expressed, with courage and respect. In this new era and new prominent location, the Intercultural Centre will continue to ensure all people can enjoy the social, cultural and economic benefits of a dynamic and diverse society. The Darebin Intercultural Centre is the central meeting place for this vision to be achieved.

### **Cultural Considerations**

Critical to the Intercultural Centre model is recognition of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, as articulated in Council's Statement of Commitment. Cultural considerations also relate to experiences of discrimination, particularly racism. The future vision for the Intercultural Centre includes a recognition that culture can be a very broadly applied term. Attention is focused on migrant and receiving communities, refugee and recently arrived communities, our most vulnerable community members, and members of our community who experience discrimination because of their identity and/or their beliefs. Programming to respond to the community's experience of racism and discrimination will be responsive, co-designed and will incorporate evidence-based research.

### **Economic Development Considerations**

The community will reclaim this civic building and transform it from a bureaucratic fortress into a rich, life-filled community space. Increased activation of the precinct, both of the indoor and immediate outdoor spaces will be transformative. We will strengthen partnerships with local

organisations, service providers and cultural groups as well as establish strategic relationships with peak bodies and institutions based out of the renewed Town Hall precinct. In the heart of Preston, local, national and international agencies will work with Council to combat racism and discrimination at the cutting edge. The intended outcome is to be transformative and create renewed destination for a “new Town Hall”. The relocation of the Darebin Intercultural Centre to its new home in the heart of Preston will be a significant visible and central expression of our commitment to the pursuit of a more just society. Intentional design elements of the centre are to be a welcoming, inclusive, culturally safe and fit for purpose space driving increased visitation to the precinct.

## Financial and Resource Implications

### Budget Allocated

2020 – 2021	\$200,000 (design phase)
2021 – 2022	\$1.2M subject to Council approval (construction)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excludes operational / programming commitments.</li> </ul>
2022 – 2023	\$800,000 subject to Council approval (construction)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excludes operational / programming commitments.</li> </ul>

## Legal and Risk Implications

No legal or risk implications are present at this stage. A risk register and assessment process is incorporated in the project plan for the relocation and redesign of the Darebin Intercultural Centre.

## Operational Impacts

The existing community spaces will continue to support current users and promote new services to activate the precinct and maximise the potential of the asset. The Facilities Management team has been consulted during the design phase, there will be no uplift in the building services costs managing the facilities.

There will be some disruption to staff working in the High Street building during the construction period, however these will be temporary and managed as part of the construction management plan.

## DISCUSSION

### Design principles developed through separate workshops with CRG and Wurundjeri

Design principle	CRG comment	Example of design response
Be: Inclusive while Culturally Dynamic	“Create a distinct entrance experience”	Singular, intimate and approachable entrance
	“A narrative that country is of first nations people”	Educational signage, wayfinding & communication. Traditional Owners Words and Names to Place and stories, Wurundjeri chosen plants.
	“Welcome everyone”	New equitable facilities. Equal opportunity for diversity of use. Design response: Accessible entrance and toilet facilities, reflection (prayer) room, baby change facilities and breast-feeding considerations.
Unify: The Space Between Cultures	“Eating, kitchenette to be at the centre”	Celebrate rituals of sharing. Centralising rituals that encourage chance interactions between users.

Design principle	CRG comment	Example of design response
		Design response: Arrive and greeting opens. Kitchenette centre entrance, community notice board and resources all at central entrance.
	“Express nature” Universal element. Celebrate the unifying opportunity of elements.	Materials strategy uses a tapestry of natural colour and texture eg. Timber and cork flooring, concrete, natural fibre carpets, natural colour paint finishes.t
Create: Trans-formative Spaces	“Main floor space must be flexible space.”	no fixed program and flexible building technologies including operable walls and curtains
Enable: Light, Warmth and Transparency	“Create more natural light to interior”	New wall openings - new view lines and natural light

### Regarding the Intercultural Centre Relocation Project, the CRG recommend:

That Council:

- (1) Endorse and adopt the concept design for the Intercultural Centre project
- (2) Note a welcoming entrance is important for this project, and that the entrance should spark interest in the centre, inviting community into the space, encouraging participation
- (3) Note flexible spaces such as user operated walls and curtains allow agency of the spaces and are to be celebrated
- (4) Note the functionality of the concept design has been deliberately designed to ensure incidental, dynamic, intercultural interactions, participation and sharing are central to the centre’s programming
- (5) Note the flexibility and functionality of the concept design will service the anticipated long-term programming requirements of the Intercultural Centre
- (6) Note the structured co-design process between the CRG and Wurundjeri has proved a meaningful for the group and offers a strong format for future consultations
- (7) Note the cyclical consultation process has allowed the trust, time and space for all members to engage in a meaningful dialogue and for all voices to be heard

### Regarding the Preston Civic Precinct, the CRG recommend

That Council:

- (1) Note that the CRG has developed a wholistic vision for the precinct that should guide and inform any future redevelopment
- (2) Note that the wholistic vision for the precinct should be upheld as an integral part of the project that supports the centre’s intention of being welcoming, inclusive, cultural-safe and appropriately acknowledging Traditional Owners
- (3) Note that the CRG believe that the wholistic vision for the precinct should be considered for future development

### Wurundjeri

Wurundjeri is supportive of the recommendations provided by the CRG including those for the concept design of the relocation project as well as the wholistic vision for the precinct.

### OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Multiple options were previously considered in a feasibility study commissioned in 2019 informing the earlier Council Resolutions. At this stage, there are two viable options available for consideration by Council:

Option 1 – Recommended

Proceed with the relocation of the Intercultural Centre from the current location at 59A Roseberry Avenue, Preston, to 350 High Street Preston (on the corner of High and Gower Streets)

Option 2 – Not recommended

Do nothing and continue to run programs from the current site.

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY****Details**

The outcomes of the cultural consultations with Wurundjeri and the CRG meetings have been incorporated into the design for the relocated centre.

**Communication**

Ongoing communications throughout the Darebin Intercultural Centre Relocation Project include regular updates to existing stakeholders, a Stay Informed function on the Darebin 'Your Say' page, and ongoing development of relationships across the local community and broader sector, including potential future participants and partners.

Throughout the concept design phase, officers offered to provide project updates at all Council Advisory Committee meetings as well as to the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council (DECC) Steering Committee, the Welcoming Cities Steering Committee and the Darebin Interfaith Council. The following committees accepted the offer of receiving a project update: Darebin Interfaith Council, DECC Council Steering Committee, the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the Darebin Women's Advisory Committee.

CRG meeting minutes were uploaded to the Darebin 'Your Say' project page providing an opportunity for broader community comment. The community were directed to the 'Your Say' page through promotions on Darebin social media and several Mailchimp e-newsletters.

A story about the CRG process and promoting the 'Your Say' page was included in Darebin's inaugural digital edition of the Darebin Community News, 'Your Darebin'. A CRG member was profiled for the story.

The Future of the Darebin Intercultural Centre 'Your Say' project page, since 3 March 2020 has received a total of 1000 visits. Of those visits 823 are "aware" visitors and 238 are "informed" visitors who have downloaded documents to read further information about the project, and 17 are "engaged" visitors who have responded in writing on the page to the statement, 'Share your thoughts on the Darebin Intercultural Centre project'.

**Timeline**

DATE	ACTION
2020/2021 Quarter 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor briefing: Project update and present concept design</li> <li>• Councillor meeting: Endorse concept design and approve project team to proceed to tender pending budget decisions. Report on findings of CRG and consultation with Wurundjeri.</li> <li>• Consultation with Wurundjeri, determine next steps for engagement</li> </ul>
2021/2022 Quarter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction procurement</li> </ul>

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DATE	ACTION
2021/2022 Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 (and Quarter 1 2022/2023)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Construction of Relocation Project subject to Council budget</li></ul>
2022/2023 Quarter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Launch of programming in new Intercultural Centre</li></ul>

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Nil

### Attachments

- Darebin Intercultural Centre Concept Plan (**Appendix A**)

## DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

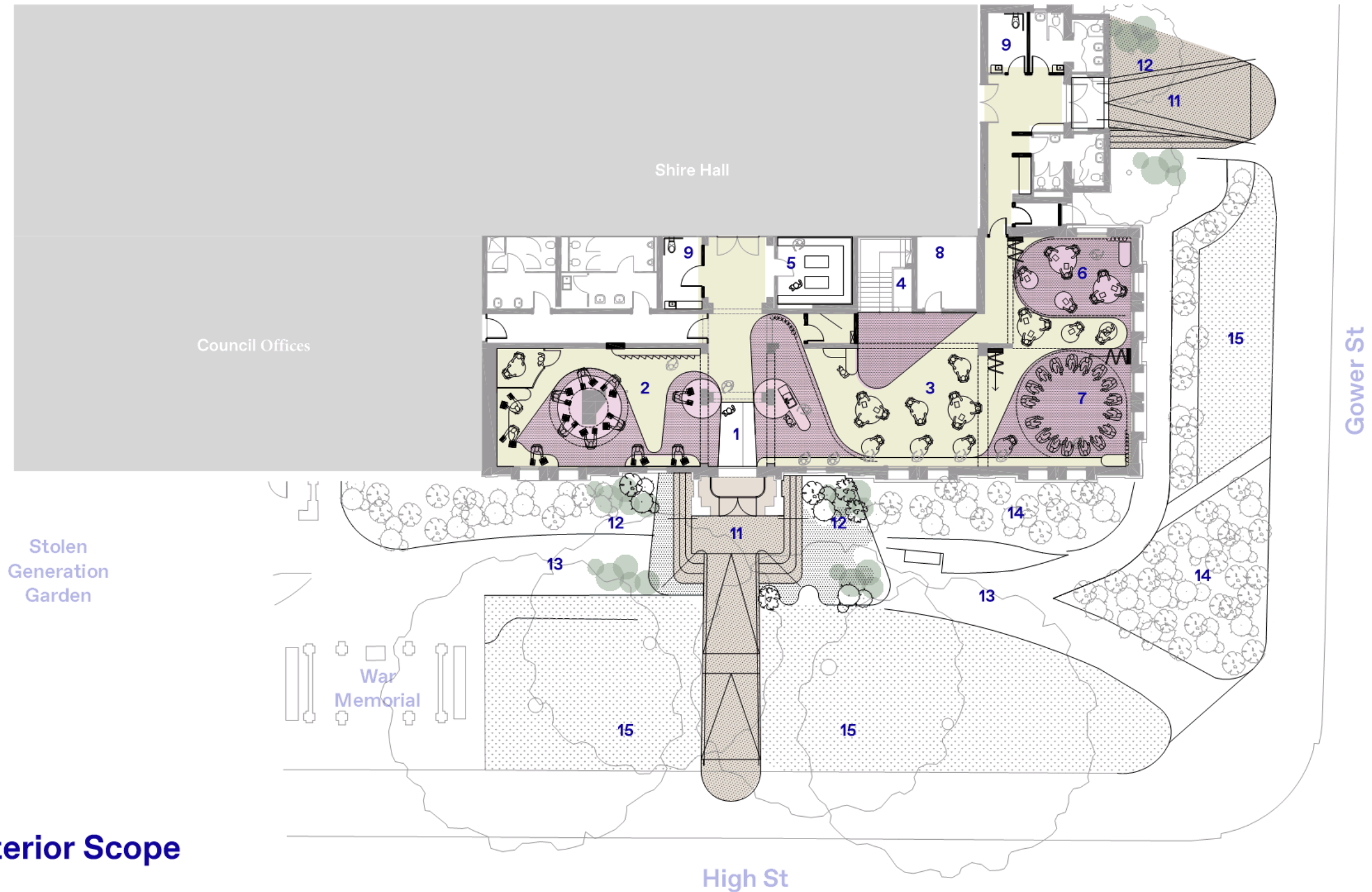
Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any general or material interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

# Intercultural Centre

- 1. Entrance
- 2. IC Co-Work
- 3. IC Lounge
- 4. Existing Stair Treatment
- 5. Reflection Room
- 6. Flexible Space A
- 7. Flexible Space B
- 8. Store
- 9. UA WC

- 11. Entrance Ramp & Stairs
- 12. Native Shrubs
- 13. Existing Pathway
- 14. Existing Plants
- 15. Existing Grass



## Interior & Exterior Scope

# Intercultural Centre

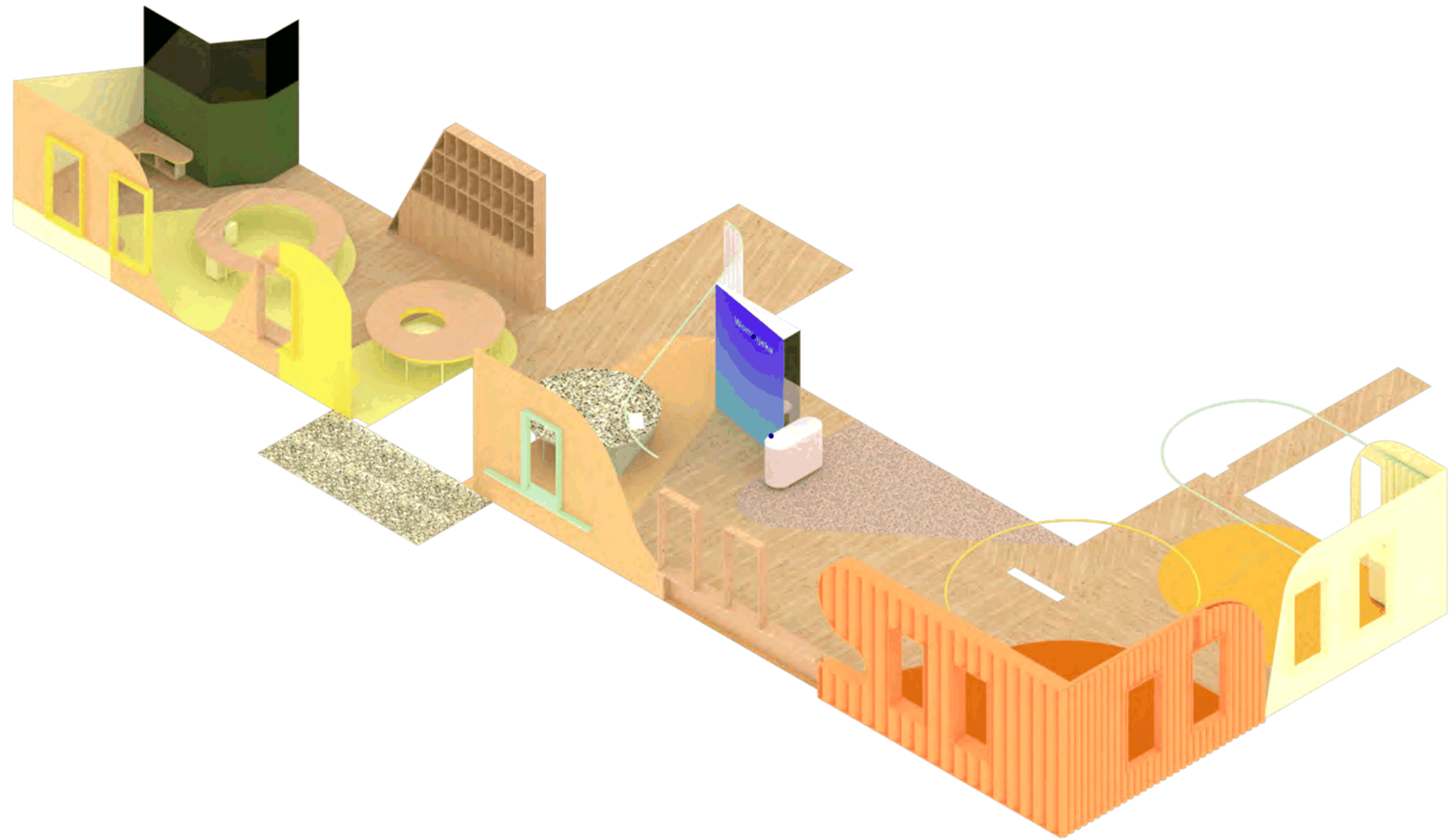
## Concept Design

- 1. Reception Desk / Entrance Experience
- 2. IC Co-Work
- 3. Resource Kiosks
- 4. Lockers
- 5. Quiet Space
- 6. Kitchenette & Coffee
- 7. IC Lounge
- 8. Existing Stair
- 9. IT Print / Server Room
- 10. Control / Presentation Booths
- 11. Reflection Room
- 12. Flexible Space A
- 13. Flexible Space B
- 14. Existing Shire Hall
- 15. Store
- 16. UA WC
- 17. Shower
- 18. Baby change
- 19. Operable Walls
- 20. Curtains
- 21. Secure Access



## Interior

## Concept Design - Materials





# Masterplan Stage 01



3d Exterior



**Entrance + Welcome Counter**



**Coworking**



Lounge



**Flexible Spaces**

**8.3 2020–21 QUARTER 3 COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN  
PROGRESS REPORT INCLUDING FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Author:** Acting Coordinator Corporate Planning  
Financial Accountant

**Reviewed By:** General Manager, Governance and Engagement

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**PURPOSE**

To report progress for the third quarter of the 2020-21 financial year (1 July 2020–31 March 2021) for Council Plan Action Plan implementation and to endorse the third quarter financial statements.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council is required by the *Local Government Act* (the Act) to prepare a Council Plan containing the strategic objectives of Council, strategies for achieving those objectives, and indicators to monitor the achievement of those objectives.

The attached report provides a comprehensive summary of Council's activities, including progress towards achieving agreed Council Plan actions, financial performance and the delivery of the capital works program for the nine months to 31 March 2021. The provision of an integrated report detailing outputs reflects Council's commitment to improved transparency.

The report also includes the following comparisons for the nine months ended 31 March 2021:

- Actual and budgeted operating revenues and expenses
- Actual and budgeted capital revenues and expenses
- Actual and budgeted movements in the balance sheet
- Actual and budgeted movements in the cash flow statement.

Based on the outcome of the mid-year budget review and report, the Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the Act 2020 is of the opinion a revised budget process is not required.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** Council:

- (1) Notes the 2020–21 Quarter 3 Council Plan Action Plan Progress Report at **Appendix A**.
  - (2) Notes the Financial Report (in **Appendix A**) for the 9 months ended 31 March 2021.
  - (3) Notes the Chief Executive Officer, as required under Section 97(3) of the *Local Government Act 2020* is of the opinion a revised budget is not required.
-

## **BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

Supporting the Council Plan is an annual action plan that outlines the principal activities that will be undertaken over the course of each financial year.

Under the Act, the Chief Executive Officer must also ensure that every three months a statement comparing the budgeted revenue and expenditure for the financial year with the actual revenue and expenditure to date is presented at a Council meeting which is open to the public.

### **Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting held on 22 June 2017, Council resolved:

*'That Council receive quarterly updates on progress of the Action Plan.'*

At its meeting held on 22 February 2021, Council resolved:

*'That Council notes the 2020–21 Quarter 2 Council Plan Action Plan Progress Report.'*

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **Consultation**

The preparation of the Third Quarter forecast review was supported by all senior leaders from across the organisation and involved detailed discussions with every Manager, Service Manager and Project Manager.

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy**

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

This is relevant to Council Plan Strategy 6.3: "We will communicate our progress on the actions in this Council Plan to residents, community leaders, community organisations, business, industry, and Victorian and Federal governments to ensure we can all act together."

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

The Council Plan has a specific goal that addresses Council's commitment to environmental Sustainability, which is a theme that runs through the goals of the plan.

### **Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations**

The Council Plan has a specific goal that addresses Council's commitment to equity and the development of programs that benefit all, including our most vulnerable.

## **Cultural Considerations**

The Council Plan has a specific goal that recognises that our diverse community is our greatest asset.

## **Economic Development Considerations**

The Council Plan has a specific goal that addresses Council's commitment to support and attract local businesses and industries.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

The report includes a financial report for the nine months ended 31 March 2021.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

Undertaking this Quarter three review allows the identification of issues and potential issues that may affect the delivery of Council's work plan and allows those issues to be addressed to minimise the impact on the community and Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

A detailed update on the Council Plan actions, status of Council resolutions, the capital works program and the financial statements for the nine months ending 31 March 2021 is attached. Key matters are discussed below.

### ***Council Plan Action Plan Activities***

The attached progress report includes updates on all 215 actions from the Council Plan Action Plan and the 16 Big Actions from the Council Plan. Highlights from the third quarter include the following:

- Asphaltting Contracts have been awarded. These include reclaimed waste products, such as steel slag (which is an industrial waste product), and recycled plastic in place of traditional bitumen products.
- At its meeting on 22 March 2021, Council updated its 'Heart of Preston' objectives and advocacy position to detail what is needed to ensure that the Preston Market flourishes.
- Construction of the multi-sports stadium has commenced. The building foundations have been completed and construction of the main building structure has commenced. The project is on target for completion by November 2021.
- Council has selected an affordable housing provider to develop and manage high-quality affordable housing at the former Council car park at Townhall Avenue.
- Council implemented a cat curfew from 1 January 2021 to protect native fauna.
- Council is developing a 20-year Community Vision in 2021. The Vision will guide Council's work across its services and programs, including planning, growth and development and will be adopted by 30 June 2021. A representative panel of community members met over the February - March 2021 period to formulate a draft Vision document. This draft will be released for extensive community engagement in April/May.
- Following extensive community feedback, the Community Engagement Policy was endorsed by Council on 22 February 2021.



- FUSE Autumn 2021 ended on 28 March 2021. The program included 16 events (13 of them free), featuring 160 artists at 18 locations across Darebin.
- Implementation of the Health and Wellbeing 2020/21 action plan continues, including planning for the next iteration of the Plan. Highlights included stage 2 of the Children's Voices project in partnership with local schools in East Reservoir and East Preston to understand children's experience of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This quarter saw the reopening of Darebin's cultural facilities following closures as a result of the pandemic, with events and performances at both Northcote Town Hall and Darebin Arts Centres.
- To date, over 1250+ additional outdoor dining seats have been approved through the outdoor dining project and 15 parklets have been installed.
- Twenty businesses have been supported to upgrade 800 lights through the Light\$mart program. Businesses will save on average \$1,000 a year on their electricity bills. The upgrades collectively reduce CO2 emissions by 95 tonnes a year, which equates to taking 26 cars off the road.
- Two approvals to install 40km/h areas in Darebin have recently been received from the Department of Transport, which means that approximately 28% of Darebin's local roads will now have a 40km/h speed limit.

The financial statements contain the following summaries:

Operating Performance

For the nine months ended 31 March 2021 Council has recorded a year-to-date operating surplus of \$42.64 million, which is \$5.95 million ahead of the year-to-date budget. After eliminating capital and other items, the adjusted underlying surplus is \$39.69 million, which is \$5.15 million ahead of budget.

Total revenue year to date is favourable by \$3.78 million and forecast to be \$11.93 million greater than budget for end of the year. The majority of the favourable variance is made up of an unbudgeted Operating Grant from Working for Victoria - \$5 million, an unbudgeted Capital Grant from Federal Government - Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Funding - \$4.7 million and an increase in Open Space Contributions. This additional revenue is all committed for either employee costs and expenses (Working for Victoria) or the capital work program so is not considered unrestricted or available to be allocated for other initiatives.

Offsetting these favourable variances, statutory fees and fines are still significantly impacted by COVID and have been forecast down by \$0.42 million due to traffic enforcement income tracking slower than budget.

Total expenditure year to date is favourable by \$2.17 million but forecast to be \$4.77 million unfavourable to budget at year end. The unfavourable variance is predominately due to employee costs and expenses relating to the Working for Victoria program that is funded by an Operational Grant, so the net cost to Council is zero. Other items contributing to the unfavourable annual variance is \$740K in Waste Operation costs, \$323K for the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre contract, \$818K for Leisure contracts and \$575K Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA). The PPA costs are offset by contributions received by the participating 46 Councils, with a net cost to Darebin of \$34K, which is its contribution to the agreement.

### Capital Performance

For the nine months ended 31 March 2021, Council has expended \$27.14 million on the capital works program, which is \$1.07 million behind the year to date budget. The variance is due mainly to timing in the purchase of plant, machinery & equipment.

To support the \$27.14 million expended as at 31 March 2021, a further \$30.87 million has been committed by way of issued purchase orders. Commitments are not reflected in the reported capital expenditure and indicates that many projects are well progressed.

The adopted capital budget has increased from \$40.09 million to an annual forecast of \$49.79 million. The increase in spend is due to unbudgeted Federal Grants for Footpath and Building Renewals \$4.70 million, Road Blackspot \$343K, the advanced progress of the Darebin Multi-Sports Stadium \$5 million (ahead of schedule) and \$400K allocated from 2019-20 operating surplus towards the Integrated Finance System project.

There is a projected carry over figure of \$1.91 million. The more significant projects include:

- Darebin Operations Centre retaining wall – Additional design consultation has delayed the project
- Bill Lawry Oval pavilion – Complex project requiring cultural heritage consultation
- Open Space - Penders Park stage 2 – Funding being sought from State Government to complete the project. Expected to be completed over two financial years.
- Cycling – Preston activity link – Project deferred in line with Preston Level Crossing Removal Project

### **Financial Position**

The financial position as at 31 March 2021 shows a cash and investment balance of \$71.67 million, which is \$43.61 million ahead of budget. The variance is due to a higher opening balance but predominately to the timing differences in receipt of rates.

The COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy was adopted on 27 March 2020 to provide temporary relief to all ratepayers and without the requirement to provide supporting evidence of financial hardship. Ratepayers could elect to defer all 2020/21 rate payments until 30 June 2021. As such, there was uncertainty and a significant risk that Council's closing monthly cash balance could fall below its restricted cash balance.

Three rate instalment payments have been issued so far, with the 4<sup>th</sup> and final instalment due 31 May. Over **77% of ratepayers** have paid their three instalments. This compares to the budget based on receiving 50% of payments. Although the year to date variance is ahead of budget by \$43.61 million, it is a timing variance and not additional or unbudgeted cash.

The cash and investment balance of \$71.67 million is sufficient to meet restricted cash and intended allocation obligations of \$35.65 million at the end of March. Restricted cash is the amount of cash holdings Council requires to meet external restrictions such as trust funds, statutory reserves and cash for intended allocations such as cash held to fund future capital works.

The forecast Financial Position as at 30 June 2021 shows a cash position of \$58.79 million and net current assets of \$33.23 million.

## OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

### Option 1 (recommended);

That Council notes the 2020–21 Quarter 3 Council Plan Action Plan Progress Report including the Financial Report for the nine months ended 31 March 2021.

### Option 2 (not recommended);

That Council determines not to note the report.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Communication

Once formally noted by Council, the 2020–21 Quarter 3 Council Plan Action Plan Progress Report will be promoted using a variety of communication channels.

### Timeline

- Implement the communications plan using the Darebin corporate website, and social media.
- The 2020–21 Quarter 4 Council Plan Action Plan Progress Report for the period ended 30 June 2021 will be presented in September 2021.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Plan 2017–21
- 2020–21 Council Plan Action Plan
- 2020–21 Annual Budget

## Attachments

- Council Plan Action Plan Q3 Progress Report (**Appendix A**)

## DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any general or material interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



# COUNCIL PLAN ACTION PLAN PROGRESS REPORT 2020—21

Quarter 3



# THIRD QUARTER 2020-21 PROGRESS REPORT

## Welcome

Darebin Council aspires to be a greener, bolder, more connected city. We are working hard to address the critical issues affecting our community including the climate emergency, unprecedented growth and change and growing inequality. We invite you to read on to see what we've done to meet these challenges in the third quarter of the 2020-21 financial year.

## How to Read This Report

This document outlines our progress in completing the Council Plan Action Plan 2020-21. The report comes in five sections:

1. The Big Action Progress Report covers the status of the 16 priority projects that Council has set in its Council Plan for 2017-21.
2. The Action Plan Update covers the 200 items from the 2020-21 Council Plan Action Plan. The actions are arranged by Council Plan goal and each action has a comment that outlines the progress against that action as at 31 March 2021.
3. The Capital Works Summary contains highlights from projects in our capital works program, as well as a dashboard that gives an update for each individual project.
4. The Status of Council Resolutions report provides a summary of the organisation's progress in implementing Council's decisions from the 2020-21 financial year.
5. The Financial Statement includes an executive summary and sections that detail our operating and capital works performance, along with other information.

## Darebin at a Glance

The City of Darebin is one of Australia's fastest growing areas, located in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, covering an area of around 53 square kilometres of land encompassing the areas of Bundoora, Kingsbury and Macleod, Keon Park, Fairfield and Alphington, Northcote, Preston, Reservoir, parts of Coburg and Thornbury. Darebin is changing as Melbourne's population grows and its suburbs are becoming highly sought-after places to live because of good transport, amenity and access to employment. The city's population is expected to grow by approximately 40 percent in the next 20 years.

We are home to one of the largest, most diverse communities in Victoria in terms of culture, language (around 140 languages are spoken), religion, socioeconomic background, employment status, occupation and housing need. We have one of the largest populations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents in metropolitan Melbourne. We know that one in five Darebin residents is affected by a disability of some kind and that almost one-third require assistance. Nearly 6 percent of our population, 16 years and over, identify as bisexual, gay, lesbian or 'other' sexuality. While the social and economic prosperity of Darebin is changing with more residents earning higher incomes, there are many people in Darebin who experience disadvantage and our unemployment rate (as at June 2019) of 5.4 percent is higher than the greater Melbourne figure of 4.7 percent.

## Our Services

Darebin City Council provides services to residents, businesses and community groups, from the early years – maternal and child health and family services – through to retirement and seniors activities.

Services are also available to support new businesses, maintain roads, footpaths and drains, provide waste collection, youth services, libraries, sports grounds, arts programs, festivals and more.

### **Our Plan for a Greener, Bolder, More Connected City**

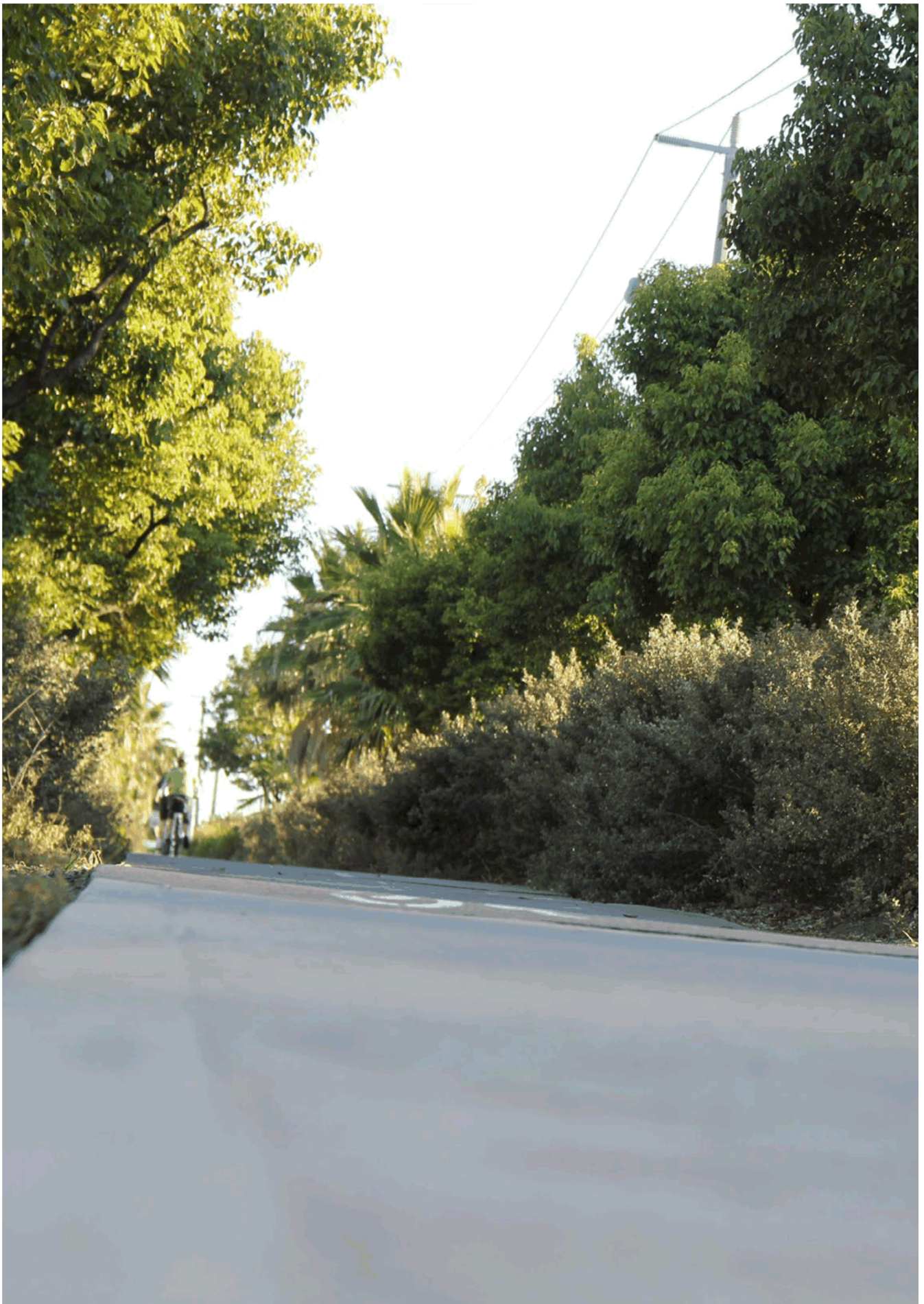
Guiding the way Council delivers its services and plans for the future is the Council Plan 2017–21. This plan was developed following the 2016 local council election and outlines the objectives and aims of Council over its four-year term. Development of the plan included significant community consultation at community forums, festivals and using social media.

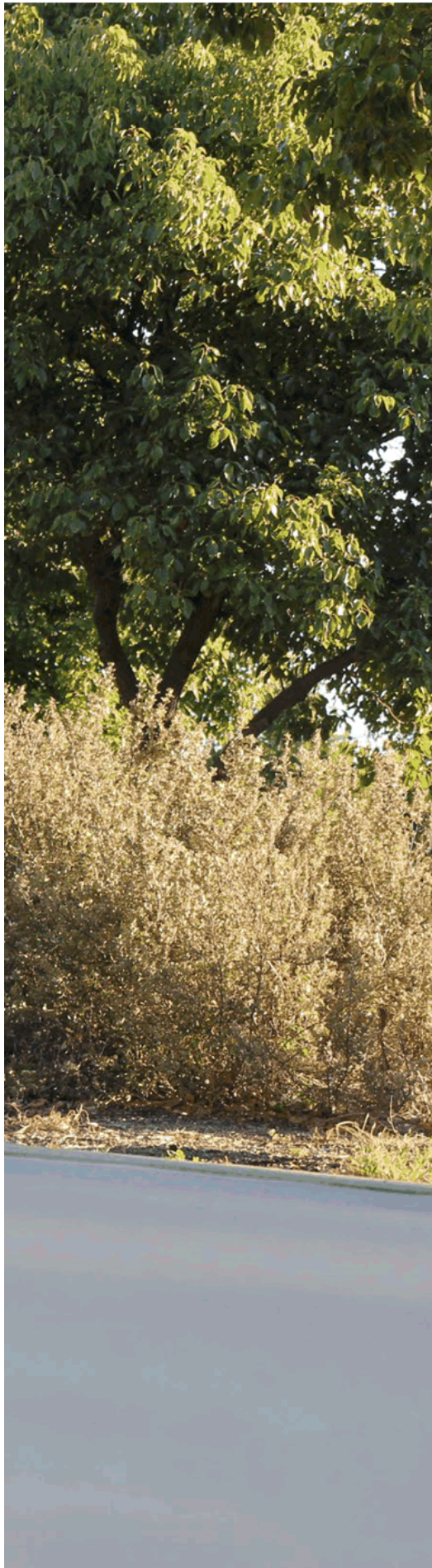
Council understands that there are a number of challenges facing our country and community and has outlined actions that will enable us to meet these head-on. To live our vision of being 'A greener, bolder, more connected city', Council's aspirations are:

1. We will be leaders in creating a sustainable city through local innovation projects that address climate change.
2. We will improve the wellbeing of people in our community by providing opportunities for them to live their lives well.

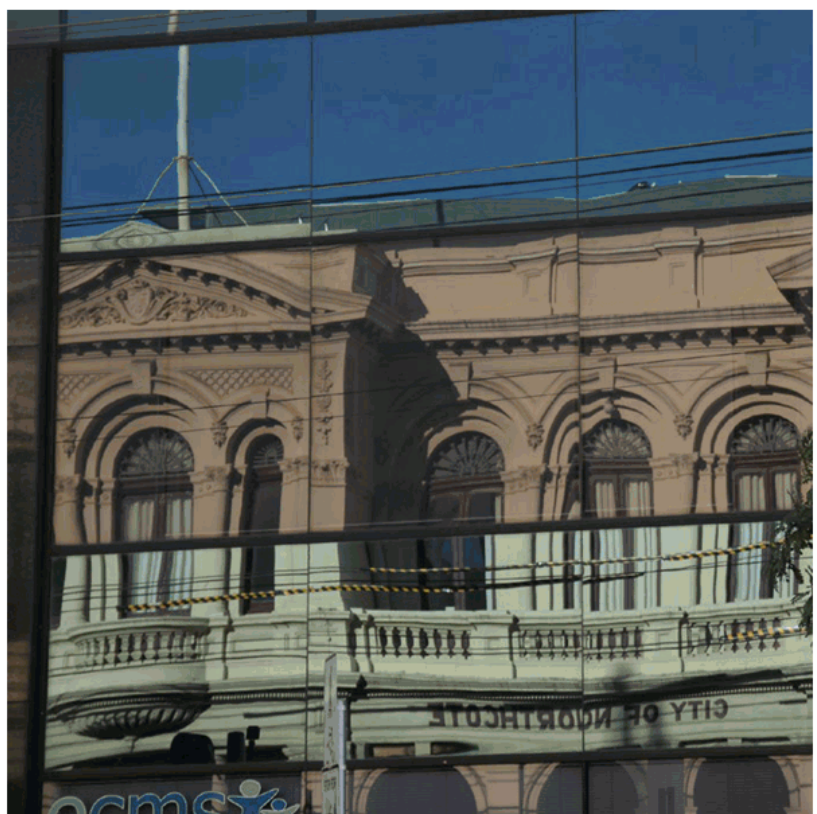
3. We will ensure our planning system facilitates high quality and sustainable development that extracts social, environmental and economic benefits for our community.
4. We will support and attract a diversity of local businesses and industries by fostering an environment in which they can thrive.
5. We will lead on equity and recognise our diverse community as our greatest asset for solving future challenges.
6. We will be a leading, modern and open council to meet our challenges, now and in the future.

Under each goal of the Council Plan, there are three strategies dictating how the organisation plans to meet these objectives. For more detail on the Council Plan, go to [www.darebin2021.org](http://www.darebin2021.org). Supporting the Council Plan is an annual Action Plan which sets out our work for the financial year to ensure that the objectives of the Council Plan are implemented.





# REPORT AGAINST OUR 16 BIG ACTIONS





# BIG ACTIONS — COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND PROGRESS

### Action 1: Double solar power

The Solar Saver program continues to inspire broad solar uptake across Darebin, with Council successfully meeting its 2016 goal of doubling the amount of solar power in Darebin in late 2019 – one year early. With Darebin residents being such strong solar supporters, the amount continued to grow, reaching 45,105 kW by January 2021. 1108 kW of solar generating power has been installed through the Solar Saver rates and Bulk Buy streams since July 2020.

**On track**

### Action 2: Create a new Darebin Energy Foundation (now the Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee) – a climate emergency think tank and initiative innovator – to address climate change

Council created the Climate Emergency Darebin (CED) Advisory Committee in 2018. Since then, CED have provided advice and feedback to Council to implement Council's Climate Emergency Plan. Highlights include: developing strategic advocacy in collaboration with national networks, providing advice that helped form the Climate Emergency Australia Network, and advising on climate mobilisation activities such as community leader workshops and reducing greenhouse emissions through Council operations.

**On track**

### Action 3: Dramatically improve walking and cycling

Traffic counts show cycling has significantly increased during COVID-19, up by 150-200%. Projects delivered include improved access at the Wood Street Bridge for walkers and cyclists, and bicycle lane safety improvements on Wingrove Street, Alphington. The pop-up bike lane on South Crescent was trialled and provided key information about cyclists needs. Cheddar Road and Dole Avenue traffic signals and path improvements are on track for delivery in early 2021.

**On track**

### Action 4: Advocate for better public transport

Following Council's advocacy, the State Government confirmed that 5 level crossings would be removed and announced additional tram services between Docklands and Preston to respond to COVID-19. Additional trains were also implemented on the Mernda and Hurstbridge Lines. Council also endorsed new advocacy positions for an electric bus between the Route 11 terminus and Reservoir Station as an interim solution until the Route 11 tram is extended, and to bring forward the northern section of the Suburban Rail Loop. Other ongoing public transport advocacy to the State Government includes accessible tram stops and bus network reform.

**On track**



**Action 5: Establish a Nature Trust to create more open space across Darebin**

Council has established the Darebin Nature Trust (DNT) Advisory Committee, which brings together a group of community members with a broad range of biodiversity expertise. The Committee has provided significant input and guidance on biodiversity aspects of Council's new Open Space Strategy: Breathing Space, and is currently providing strategic input to support development of the Gardens for Wildlife program and the Biodiversity Management Plan.

**On track**

**Action 6: Create a new park, playground, oval and children's hub on the site of the old Ruthven Primary School in Reservoir**

A Master Plan to create a nature-based and biodiverse park at the former Ruthven Primary School was adopted by Council on 29 June 2020. Based on community feedback, Council decided not to proceed with a children's hub at this location.

Draft playspace concept plans were presented to the community in February 2021. The outcomes of the community engagement process will be reported to Council in May 2021, including the changes that will be made to the design to reflect the feedback.

Construction has been delayed until the second half of 2021.

**Getting there - some obstacles**

**Action 7: Build a multi-sports stadium**

Construction of the outdoor court works has been completed, the building foundations have been completed and work has commenced on the main building structure. The construction of the Multi Sports Stadium is on target to be completed, as expected, by November 2021.

**On track**

**Action 8: Renew the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC)**

The Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre is in the final stages of the design phase. The Expression of Interest for the Principal Contractor short-listed four contractors for the tendering process to commence in March 2021.

**On track**



## BIG ACTIONS — COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND PROGRESS

### Action 9: Reimagine and revitalise seniors facilities

Whilst refurbishment of the six senior citizen centres is mostly complete, there remain minor outstanding works connected to the refurbishment. It is anticipated that these works are likely to be fully finalised by 30 June 2021. The refreshed and more modern look of the internal spaces at these centres will encourage opportunities for increased mixed use of these facilities by more diverse communities, not just seniors groups, which will support the revitalisation of the use of these facilities.

**On track**

### Action 10: Reinvigorate the Darebin Arts Centre

An upgrade to the Darebin Arts Centre's HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) was completed in June 2020. This upgrade significantly improved the service delivery and experience of patrons and artists at the venue, while also providing environmental sustainable improvements. Workforce planning has concluded as part of the new business model, which is in line with Council's endorsed five year strategy of transforming the facility into a dedicated Arts Centre.

**On track**

### Action 11: Increase our Tree Canopy and urban forest

Planting has been partially completed, with RAPID Canopy the main planting program being implemented this financial year for streetscape planting. All planting sites have been assessed with some tree planting completed before Stage 4 restrictions were enacted.

To date, 1200 trees have been planted in streetscapes. Preston West and Reservoir East have been planted.

Over 5000 Indigenous tube stock have been planted in bushland areas and over 120,000 tube stock have been planted as part of rewilding Darebin. 200 Park trees have been planted.

Approximately 4000 trees are being sourced to plant in streetscapes next planting season, commencing in April 2021. 2000 trees will be planted before 30 June 2021, with the remainder (2500) planted after June 2021.

A further 200 trees will be planted in parks this planting season.

Approximately 200,000 tube stock will be planted this planting season as part of the rewilding program.

**On track**

### Action 12: Expand our land subdivision levy

Council is currently preparing an Implementation Plan for the Open Space Strategy to support the planning scheme amendment process to increase the levy that developers contribute towards public open space. The community will be consulted on a draft of the Implementation Plan in mid-late 2021.

**On track**



**Action 13: Create a Developer Contributions Scheme**

The draft Development Contributions Plan (DCP) has been prepared to allow Council to collect funds from new development to contribute to the costs of infrastructure. After the planning scheme amendment was exhibited late last year, Council considered submissions at its meeting of 22 March 2021 and referred them to an independent Planning Panel scheduled to convene in May. The Panel will provide a report with recommendations about the amendment for Council to consider before a decision on the final steps – that is, adoption of the DCP amendment and requesting approval from the Minister for Planning.

**On track**

**Action 14: Create a new suburb for Northland**

Progress on the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct (NURP) planning has been disrupted due to significant changes in State Government policy in early 2020 which prioritises industrial uses in this area. Considering this change, and that slower population growth is now expected as a result of COVID-19, Council decided to put this project on hold in 2020-21 and will reconsider it at a later date.

**Discontinued**

**Action 15: Use the opportunity created by the Government’s removal of road and rail crossings**

The removal of the level crossings provides the potential to open up Preston creating a more connected suburb. To leverage this once-in-a-generation opportunity, Council continues to advocate for key community priorities such as usable green open space, local identity, biodiversity, design quality, liveability, avoiding increased traffic on local streets, and active transport connections, as outlined in Council’s adopted ‘Preston Reconnected’ document. Council is advocating for the carpark access at Bell Station to be moved to the west instead of (the state government current plan) to be via local roads on the east.

**On track**

**Action 16: Develop a plan for the revitalisation of central Preston**

Major projects underway in central Preston, particularly the Level Crossing Removal Project, and the State Government review of planning controls for the Preston Market precinct, create a once-in-a-generation opportunity to plan for Preston into the future. Council officers continue to strongly advocate for Council’s objectives in these two projects. In parallel, Council is developing a Structure Plan to strengthen town planning controls relating to land use, development, transport and public space in the centre but this has been delayed to ensure Council can factor in and focus on the Major Projects. The next step in developing the Structure Plan – to prepare a Built Form Framework – is currently underway.

**Getting there - some obstacles**







# PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 2020-21 ACTION PLAN



# GOAL 1

We will be leaders in creating a sustainable city through local innovation projects that address climate change.

1.1 We will become an energy and water efficient city and reduce waste.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Deliver the mobilisation strategy endorsed on 2 December 2019, with input from Climate Emergency Darebin and other community leaders, to strengthen existing community leadership and build a broader movement across Darebin to support the update of Climate Emergency action and initiatives</p>	<p>Key activities in this period included: a continuation of the Keep Cool in Darebin communications and engagement campaign, helping to support vulnerable households during heatwaves; Stories of Us digital series, profiling community members who are building resilience and connection through Covid and beyond. In February, Darebin, Yarra and Moreland asked community leaders to apply for a community skills series being run across the three municipalities (open to 25 residents from each). Also in February, a new 'Sustainable Darebin' Facebook group was launched for Darebin residents to share and post sustainability-related information and events.</p>
<p>Implement key projects from the Climate Emergency Plan including tendering for a supplier to provide renewable energy for Darebin and many other Victorian local governments</p>	<p>Implementation of key projects of the Climate Emergency Plan is underway, including tendering for a supplier of renewable energy. Darebin is the lead Council on behalf of 47 other local governments tendering for a supplier for renewable energy from 1 July 2021. The tender was released in September 2020 and closed on 29 October 2020. This key project is well on track to be delivered this financial year. This project is the largest emissions reduction project ever undertaken in the Australian local government sector. Victorian Councils have come together to drive investment in renewable energy, resulting in pooling 238GWh of electricity. This is equivalent to powering 44,500 homes with renewable energy or taking 82,800 cars off the road each year.</p>





2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Report on the progress of Council's delivery on the Climate Emergency Plan (2017–2021) and in consultation with the community and other stakeholders, develop a new plan for the following four years</p>	<p>Darebin continues to work across the following nine key directions: climate emergency mobilisation and leadership, energy efficiency, renewable energy and fuel switching, zero emissions transport, waste minimisation, fossil fuels divestment, adaptation and resilience, engaging the community, and the Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee.</p>
<p>Develop technical standards for future Council building projects to support energy efficiency including guidance material for LED lighting, solar panel installation and other energy efficient building improvements</p>	<p>Council is adopting best practice recommendations for energy efficiency in buildings, including LED lighting, solar panel installations and mechanical systems. All future building works will have energy efficiency equipment (as required) based on best practice and local conditions.</p> <p>Council is on target to develop technical guidelines to support prioritisation of sites for upgrades to LED and solar installation, for implementation in future year's Building Renewal Program.</p>
<p>Improve building energy performance monitoring</p>	<p>Council monitors building energy performance using its environmental data and monitoring platforms. These tools enable Council to identify opportunities for improvement, measure savings from renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives. Recently, monitoring tools have been used to identify issues and improve performance of solar systems, to identify high priority sites for future solar installations, lighting upgrades, as well as support the reduction of energy use during COVID facility shutdowns.</p> <p>Environmental monitoring enables Council to measure greenhouse gas emissions associated with our operations and calculate the required amount of offsets to achieve Carbon Neutrality.</p>
<p>Continue to purchase electric and hybrid vehicles in accordance with Council's Fleet Policy that includes operating within areas where appropriate alternatives exist. Progress the installation of EV charging stations at the Reservoir Operations Centre and additional charging station at the Preston Town Hall site.</p>	<p>Council placed an order for 9 hybrid vehicles as part of the fleet management process. The vehicles have arrived and been in use since mid-December 2020. Council is also awaiting the delivery of one fully EV van for our library teams, expected to be in operation within a month.</p>
<p>Install 500 solar panels (1,000kW) for 100–200 low income households through the Solar Saver program</p>	<p>Installations recommenced in late October, after COVID-19 stage 4 restrictions eased. The Solar Saver program has completed 158 solar installations from early 2020 to date, adding approximately 1108 kW to Darebin's solar network.</p>
<p>Launch the Solar Saver Bulk Buy to support at least 200 households and small businesses to access solar with reputable suppliers and products</p>	<p>The Solar Saver Bulk Buy program began in July 2020 and, by late March 2021, almost 600 households had expressed interest in the program, with installations having begun in late October. Seventy installations have been completed to date, equivalent to 353kW of solar, with another 20 more booked in and many more quotes awaiting decisions from participants. This program has progressed quickly since COVID restrictions eased.</p>



## GOAL 1

We will be leaders in creating a sustainable city through local innovation projects that address climate change.

### 1.1 We will become an energy and water efficient city and reduce waste.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Provide subsidised LED lighting to support businesses to reduce bills and carbon emissions	<p>Twenty businesses have been supported to upgrade 800 lights through the Light\$mart program. Businesses will save on average \$1,000 a year on their electricity bills. The upgrades collectively reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 95 tonnes a year, which equates to taking 26 cars off the road.</p> <p>Fifteen one-on-one Efficiency and Sustainability Health Checks have been undertaken with Darebin businesses, identifying opportunities to reduce on-going costs, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and waste to landfill.</p>
Develop technical standards for future Council building projects to support water efficiency including guidance material for water tank installation, storm water re-use and greater usage of non-portable water supply both within buildings and for irrigation	<p>Council is adopting best practice recommendations for water efficiency, including water collection, harvesting, use and reuse (tanks, taps, toilets showerheads etc.).</p> <p>All future building works will have water efficiency equipment installed (where necessary), based on best practice and local conditions.</p> <p>In Q4, Council will continue to develop technical guidelines to support prioritisation of sites for water tank installation, using rain water modelling (which has occurred at a number of locations), and building knowledge of water storage capacity and opportunities for use.</p>
Increase the amount of food waste collected from the Darebin community through promotion of the introduction of food waste recycling as part of the green waste service	<p>Continued education and promotion of the food and green waste recycling campaign. A trial was undertaken with multi-unit developments (MUDs) to identify opportunities for introducing food waste collection services to apartments.</p> <p>Darebin is leading a ten-Council grant submission for the Recycling Victoria Council Fund to expand upon the MUDs trial, to 60 MUDs across Melbourne (10 in Darebin).</p>
Deliver an ongoing program of recycling and waste education and communications focussing on 'Recycle Right'	<p>The Darebin Sustainable Map was further promoted, with recycling and waste education featured throughout social media campaigns and in our Sustainable Darebin newsletter. Collaborating with community-led Darebin Hard Rubbish Heroes (10,000 members) to promote collaborative share and repair events in the lead-up to Darebin's hard waste collection (to reduce waste to landfill). An increasing number of cafés are participating in the Wangim KeepCup trial, with one café having already reduced at least 1000 disposable single-use coffee cups from landfill.</p>
Implement Darebin's Waste Strategy to deliver on the aspirations of the Climate Emergency Plan 2017–22 by cutting emissions from waste, supporting elimination of single-use plastics and ensuring recycling systems are effective in the long run	<p>The following programs have been implemented to help the community reduce waste to landfill:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A waste and recycling behaviour change and education trial that identified opportunities for improving waste services for apartments</li> <li>- Sustainable Darebin Map. An interactive online map has been developed that showcases the sustainable initiatives and businesses in Darebin</li> <li>- Wangim cup program. This is a share KeepCup program for cafés across 10 cafés in Darebin. One café has already diverted at least 1000 disposable single-use coffee cups from landfill.</li> <li>- Circular economy initiatives at KP Hardiman Reserve. Council received a \$299,580 grant (max. \$300k per grant) through the Sustainable Infrastructure fund.</li> </ul>



**1.2 We will increase sustainable transport through safer streets for walking and cycling, and advocacy for public transport.**

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
60 car share bays are in place, in 2020–21 offer car share companies the opportunity to establish 40 or more bays. It is noted that car share companies are currently reviewing their plans in the context of COVID-19 and the final number of bays will be driven by their interest.	A round of car share space applications was completed in March that showed some interest from car share providers. There is likely to be 10 new car share spaces installed in Darebin by the end of April. Further rounds of applications will be progressed through May, with the potential for more spaces being added to Darebin’s transport network prior to the end of the financial year.
Work with Reservoir Views Primary as the third ‘Octopus School’ to improve safe travel to School	Reservoir Views Primary School had a Safe Travel Audit conducted and Council has engaged the school community through a parent and student travel preference survey. Active Travel Routes have been mapped and decals installed. The school has been provided with a new bike fleet and bike shed, and one staff member has been trained in Bike Education. The school has now commenced Bike Education for students grade 3–6. Draft designs for infrastructure road safety improvements are being finalised.
Promote and support cycling and walking during COVID-19 and beyond including through events (such as Ride2Work Day) and virtual events and promotions	Cycling has increased due to COVID-19. This autumn we offered low-cost bike skills workshops to the community and launched Free Monthly Bike Checks @WeCycle Bike Hub. The inaugural bike check event was fully subscribed for March and April and we have exciting plans to build on the success of this event in coming months. The autumn edition of Older and Active Darebin featured a lead story on seniors and e-bikes promoting an E-bike for Me? event this May. We completed a pop-up bike lane trial in South Crescent, Northcote.
Works to be constructed this year include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Four pedestrian and bike rider safety treatments along the Mernda Rail-line Streets for People corridor</li> <li>- Traffic signals and path improvements at the Cheddar Road and Dole Avenue intersection</li> <li>- Four treatments, including a temporary road closure/pocket park, along the Preston Activity Link Streets for People corridor</li> <li>- Three treatments in the Croxton West area along Leinster Grove and Woolhouse Street</li> </ul>	Detailed designs have progressed for the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safe crossing point on Boldrewood Parade north of Broadway</li> <li>- Miller Street/Bracken Ave Signalised Pedestrian Crossing</li> <li>- High/Pender/Blyth pedestrian crossing</li> <li>- High/Woolton pedestrian crossing</li> <li>- Preston Streets for People corridor (4 sites) James Street (x2) and Cramer Street (x2)</li> </ul> The contracts have been awarded for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- traffic signals and path improvements at the Cheddar Road and Dole Avenue intersection and were on track for construction commencement in Q3.</li> <li>- Preston Activity Link - James Street (x2) and Cramer Street (x2) were on track for construction commencement in Q3.</li> <li>- Northcote/Thornbury - 2 raised zebra crossings - Herbert/Hawthorn and Ethel Street were on track for construction commencement in Q3.</li> </ul> Construction has been completed on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Olive St/Edwards St, Reservoir</li> </ul>
Implement further speed limit reductions to 40km/h in the Northcote and Thornbury areas of Darebin to achieve over 35% of local roads operating at 40km/h	16% of local roads in Darebin have a 40km/h speed limit. Two approvals to install 40km/h areas in Darebin have recently been received from the Department of Transport. Delivery of these two areas through May and June will result in approximately 28% of Darebin’s local roads having a 40km/h speed limit.

# GOAL 1

We will be leaders in creating a sustainable city through local innovation projects that address climate change.

**1.2** We will increase **sustainable transport** through safer streets for walking and cycling, and advocacy for public transport.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Improve bike rider safety by delivering priority treatments along the Northcote and Preston Streets for People corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two road safety treatments on James Street and two on Cramer Street in Preston</li> <li>- Five wombat crossings: two on Ethel Street, one on Stott Street and one each on Herbert Street and Hawthorn Road, in Northcote to complete the Mernda Rail-line Streets for People project</li> </ul>	<p>Detailed designs have progressed for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bracken Avenue Crossings</li> <li>- Northern Reservoir Streets for People corridor - Broadhurst Avenue and Radford Road Reservoir. Roundabout, zebra crossings and shared user path.</li> <li>- Croxton West LAPM/SfP raised zebra crossings on Arthurton Road, Woolhouse Street and Leinster Grove.</li> <li>- Cheddar Road LAPM 2 locations - Strathmerton/Orrong and Broadway/Boldrewood.</li> </ul> <p>Construction has been completed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Northcote LAPM - priority location - Sharp St.</li> </ul>
<p>Continue to develop designs for the construction of priority treatments along the Reservoir and Preston Streets for People corridors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two speed reduction/safety treatments along Cramer Street between St Georges Road and Gilbert Road</li> <li>- Pedestrian and rider safety and access upgrades near the roundabout of Broadhurst Avenue and Radford Road</li> </ul>	<p>Design development work is complete for the Preston Activity Link and will continue until late April for the Northern Reservoir Streets for People corridor.</p>
<p>Deliver 100 percent of the Footpath Renewal Program and continue to improve on the satisfaction in the footpath network</p>	<p>This action has been completed in full, with \$1.1m spent to renew approximately 9116 square metres of concrete paths across the municipality.</p>
<p>Design and construct the shared path connection from the northern side of La Trobe University to Plenty Road</p>	<p>Detailed design work has commenced to construct this path to connect the proposed new pedestrian and bicycle path through La Trobe University. Concept designs have now been completed. Council has applied for funding from the Victorian Government through the Northern Trails Strategy to commence construction of the path.</p>
<p>Advocate to the State Government for improved east-west transport connections throughout Darebin</p>	<p>Council has continued to work with neighbouring local governments and the Department of Transport to advocate for improved bus connections through Darebin. The pop-up bicycle lanes on Heidelberg Road, installed in December 2020, have improved east-west bicycle connections through the south of Darebin. Council also endorsed an advocacy position to bring forward construction of the northern section of the Suburban Rail Loop to provide better public transport connections in the north of Darebin and neighbouring municipalities.</p>
<p>Advocate for more frequent services on all public transport in supporting the recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic</p>	<p>Following Council's advocacy, the State Government announced additional tram services to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic between Docklands and Preston and additional train services on the Mernda and Hurstbridge Lines. These have continued to run post-lockdown. Council will continue to advocate for auto-on signals at pedestrian crossings, fast-tracking of active and public transport projects and funding for walking and cycling projects to support the significant increases in usage.</p>



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Collaborate with the wider northern Melbourne region of councils for permanently improving bus services across Darebin	Council endorsed the advocacy position for an interim electric bus to connect the current Tram 11 terminus to Reservoir Station. Council is also advocating for interim bus service expansion to serve the northern suburbs ahead of the Suburban Rail Loop being delivered. Council continues to meet with stakeholders to progress advocacy for improved and electric buses, including through the Northern Councils Alliance and Metropolitan Transport Forum.
Work with other impacted local governments and the Metropolitan Transport Forum to advocate to the Victorian Government to commit to the delivery of the Melbourne Metro Two Project	Darebin continues to work with local government and other stakeholders to advance advocacy for constructing Melbourne Metro 2. This forms part of Council's COVID-19 recovery advocacy to stimulate local economies and provide sustainable transport connections.
Advocate to the State Government and relevant Ministers for the prioritisation of the delivery of accessible tram stops along tram route 86	As part of its COVID-19 advocacy package, Council is advocating for accessible tram stops along the Route 86 tram route to be fast-tracked. This would promote the revitalisation of High Street and support local businesses, residents and visitors and remove barriers to using public transport currently being experienced by people with a disability.
Advocate to the State Government and relevant Ministers for the fast delivery of safe infrastructure to improve safety of people choosing to ride and walk to work during and following the COVID-19 pandemic <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	Following successful advocacy from Council, the State Government installed new pop-up bicycle lanes on Heidelberg Road. Council continues to advocate for pop-up bicycle lanes on other key arterial roads in Darebin. Council will continue to work with neighbouring local governments, the State Government and the community on design and implementation, as well as further advocacy on cycling and walking infrastructure to support community need.
Continue to advocate for funding for walking improvements on arterial roads, including pedestrian crossings	As part of its COVID-19 advocacy package, Council is advocating for the State Government to fund and approve safety and infrastructure improvements for walking in Darebin. Some funds have been allocated to walking improvements in the recent 2020–21 State Budget. Darebin continues to work closely with other local governments to coordinate and implement advocacy efforts. Council has continued its delivery of safe walking infrastructure on local roads.



C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery

# GOAL 1

We will be leaders in creating a sustainable city through local innovation projects that address climate change.

**1.3** We will expand and improve our network of open and green spaces, parks and natural environments to provide the lungs for our city and reduce the impacts of climate change.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Support the Darebin Nature Trust (DNT) to provide advice to Council on biodiversity and open space matters, including advice on rewilding, community programs, advocacy, biodiversity management and the implementation of Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy	Council is working with Darebin Nature Trust (DNT) to support them in their role to provide expert advice in regard to biodiversity management, community programs, advocacy and the implementation of Breathing Space: The Open Space Strategy. Recent advice provided by DNT has helped to inform the Open Space Implementation Plan, a submission to the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into Biodiversity and Ecosystem Decline, the establishment of Gardens for Wildlife, and the Rewilding Program which has seen the planting of over 120,000 indigenous plants in 2020.
Monitor and manage sediment levels in Edwardes Lake and Leamington Street wetlands	Over the preceding three years, there has been no significant change to the sediment levels at Edwardes Lake. Officers continue to monitor the sediment levels as required.
At Donath Dole Reserve, extend the current footpath to increase community access to a larger area of the park	Construction of the shared path has commenced, with completion of works planned for May 2021, weather permitting.
Create a pocket park at Oakover as part of the implementation of the Junction Urban Master Plan (JUMP)	A contractor has been appointed to construct the new pocket park. The pocket park will contain seating areas, new street trees, garden beds and bike parking, as well as safer pedestrian crossings.
Rewild parks across Darebin including at Mayer Park; Donath Dole Reserve; Oldis Gardens; Robinson Capp Reserve; Hayes Park; Larkin Reserve; McDonnell Park; Ruthven Reserve	A total of 2,680 plants were planted mid-2020 throughout Oldis Gardens as part of the rewilding program. 100,000 indigenous tubestock were ordered for the first six months of 2021 planting season and an additional 100,000 tubestock will be ordered to meet the target of 200,000 new plants for 2021. In the cooler months of April/May, rewilding activities are programmed for Mayer Park, Donath and Dole Reserve, Robinson Capp Reserve, Hayes Park, Larkin Reserve, as well as TW Blake Reserve, Clements Reserve, Johnson Park and a number of smaller pocket parks. Rewilding works at McDonnell Park have been put on hold until the Northern Aquatic & Recreation Centre redevelopment works are completed.





2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Renew assets identified by the Park Asset Data collection process</p>	<p>All works have been identified and quotations have been sought, closing on 29 April. Works will see two medium sized combination units replaced at Johnson Park Northcote and one small combination unit will be replaced at SPAN Community Centre Thornbury.</p> <p>Works completed include: investigation, preparation and installation supply of water and drinking fountain at Penders Park Thornbury; supply and installation of fencing at Dole Avenue Reservoir; and, installation of irrigation at Edwardes Park Lake and grass replacement Reservoir.</p>
<p>Increase tree plantings and canopy in parks, streets and median strips to achieve coverage targets in line with Council's Urban Forest Strategy</p>	<p>To date, 1200 trees have been planted in streetscapes in Preston West and Reservoir East.</p> <p>Over 5000 Indigenous tube stock have been planted in bushland areas and over 120,000 tube stock have been planted as part of rewilding Darebin. 200 Park trees have been planted.</p> <p>Approximately 4000 trees are being sourced to plant in streetscapes next planting season, commencing in April 2021. An additional 200,000 tube stock will be planted this planting season as part of the rewilding program.</p>
<p>Investigate a scheme that would allow developers to voluntarily fund Water Sensitive Urban Design in the neighbourhood rather than installing WSUD on site as required by the Planning Scheme</p>	<p>Financial modelling has been completed to assess the feasibility of a voluntary contribution scheme. The options modelled would still require a significant proportion of the stormwater management requirements of the planning scheme to be met on-site, with a smaller proportion of these requirements to be met via voluntary monetary contributions to Council in lieu of constructing on-site Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) assets.</p>
<p>Undertake research into the use of permeable paving that will enable water to sink into the ground and water table leading to the improved condition of our waterways</p>	<p>Permeable pavement research is underway, including the investigation of pavement product options. We are currently exploring innovative products. Following discussions with Melbourne University – who have developed a new approach to permeable pavement – we are preparing a list of candidate sites to potentially trial their product.</p>
<p>Incorporate rain gardens/Water Sensitive Urban Design into civil works, where appropriate</p>	<p>Assets and Capital Delivery are designing site-specific rainwater management treatments to achieve operational effectiveness and reduce the maintenance cost and effort.</p> <p>Construction to date includes rain gardens at 13 sites, passively irrigated garden beds at 9 sites, and tree pits in 4 different sites/streets.</p>
<p>Ensure planning approvals require larger developments to construct and/or to contribute funds toward water-sensitive urban design installations</p>	<p>Processing of all major developments includes an Environmental Sustainable Design assessment and seeks opportunities to minimise water use and maximise water reuse and quality. This is a standard part of all application assessments for major developments and the team is continually seeking ways to ensure additional Water Sensitive Urban Design outcomes.</p>

## GOAL 2

We will improve the wellbeing of people in our community by **providing opportunities** for them to live their lives well.

**2.1** We will ensure health and social services meet our community's needs across their life-course.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Undertake surveys in the East Preston and East Reservoir neighbourhoods to inform community development and wellbeing priorities	The wellbeing surveys for East Preston and East Reservoir neighbourhoods were delayed due to COVID-19 and the survey will be undertaken next financial year. Planning and engagement is currently underway to ensure the health and wellbeing needs of East Preston and East Reservoir residents can still be incorporated into the Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–25.
Review the Health and Wellbeing Plan with learnings from COVID-19 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	Implementation of the Health and Wellbeing 2020–21 action plan continues, including planning for the next iteration of the Plan. Highlights included stage 2 of the Children's Voices project in partnership with local schools in East Reservoir and East Preston to understand children's experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council received funds to deliver stage two of the Art for Good Health project in partnership with Melbourne Polytechnic, Westside Circus (WSC) and Victorian Aboriginal Health Service. The project delivered eight African Drumming and Dancing workshops in East Preston and East Reservoir in February and March.
Continue to connect residents to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Council's Community Navigation Support and Social Connection Programs <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></li> <li>- Emergency relief agencies and wellbeing services <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></li> <li>- Partner with Darebin Information Volunteer Resource Service (DIVRS) and local services to support vulnerable young people and their families' access emergency relief, support and material aid. <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></li> </ul>	Council has responded to 162 requests via the COVID Recovery Community Navigation Support and Social Connection programs. Ongoing support has been provided to local emergency relief and wellbeing agencies through quarterly Darebin Emergency Relief Network and East Preston East Reservoir Food Security Group meetings. Council continues to provide funding to key emergency relief agencies, including Darebin Information, Volunteer and Resource Service to support approximately 200 households weekly with emergency relief; and the implementation of End of Year Emergency Relief grants to 11 community agencies.
In partnership with the Darebin Best Start Aboriginal Reference Group deliver the biennial 'Welcome Baby to Country' event to connect to welcome the new generation of Aboriginal babies and toddlers in Darebin to Wurundjeri Country	Council has sought advice and feedback from Darebin Best Start Aboriginal Reference Group regarding the delivery of the 'Welcome Baby to Country' in 2020–21. Due to COVID and the communities priority in protecting elders, the event will be postponed until the 2021–22 financial year. Ongoing planning and conversations with the Darebin Best Start Aboriginal Reference Group and the community continue to take place.
Deliver the Addressing Intergenerational Isolation COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery Project <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	Project purpose and scope has been revised with the aim of capturing all the programs and projects that address intergenerational isolation as one integrated approach across council and community. This included a scan of existing projects that have a component that fosters intergenerational social connections and the mapping of projects being delivered by partner agencies that align with the purpose of this project.
Review Council's Pandemic Sub-plan following the conclusion of COVID-19	Council's COVID Safe Plan has been updated to incorporate the State's COVID Safe directives. This document supports the Pandemic Sub-Plan that will be reviewed upon the lifting of the State of Emergency, currently extended to April 2021.

C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Increase immunisation rates through targeting Early Years services for vulnerable children</p>	<p>A total of 2003 vaccines were administered to 854 children under the age of 5 years at 41 immunisation sessions. Of the 854 children who received vaccines, 3 children received vaccines through the Enhanced Maternal and Child home visiting program. Data reflecting the City of Darebin Immunisation rates has not been provided to Darebin at the time of this report.</p>
<p>Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families accessing and remaining engaged with the Maternal and Child Health service through the employment of an Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health Nurse</p>	<p>The Maternal and Child Health service provided 42 Key Age and Stage (KAS) consultations to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. The service provided an additional 14 KAS consultations to babies under the age of 8 weeks compared to the previous quarter. COVID-19 restrictions eased during this period, allowing the Enhanced Maternal and Child Health home visiting program to provide an outreach service to families who did not respond to a consultation via telehealth and the universal nurses to see all older children. The service is in the process of employing an Aboriginal Maternal and Child Health nurse.</p>
<p>Increase the use of digital platforms such as social media and telehealth in the delivery of health checks and support services to children, young people and their families to improve social, health and wellbeing outcomes <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></p>	<p>Whilst the easing of COVID-19 restrictions has allowed many services for children, young people and their families to return to face-to-face service delivery, digital platforms continue to be widely used to reach people who either need or prefer to engage remotely. Digital platforms have been particularly useful for the delivery of group programs for new parents, such as the online Parent-Child Mother Goose Program for families with babies aged 0-18 months delivered in February to March. Youth Services continues to use social media channels to connect with young people and keep them updated about programs and activities.</p>
<p>Following the adoption of the Ruthven Masterplan, make improvements to the park on the site of the old Ruthven primary school to maximise its natural bushland character. This will include a new planting program for rewilding, and the design and construction of a new playspace. Progress plans to rename the park in consultation with the local Wurundjeri people.</p>	<p>Draft concept plans for a new nature based playspace have been completed, this was shared with the community in February 2021 and, after community feedback has been considered and incorporated. Designs will be finalised in May 2021. Construction has been delayed to the second half of 2021.</p> <p>A high level planting plan has been created to guide rewilding at Ruthven Park. This draft plan has been shared with the Darebin Nature Trust and former Ruthven Community Reference Group for input and will help inform next year's planting works.</p>



C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



## GOAL 2

We will improve the wellbeing of people in our community by **providing opportunities** for them to live their lives well.

**2.1** We will ensure health and social services meet our community's needs across their life-course.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Implement Council's Youth Services Strategy Action Plan 2019-21, in collaboration with the Youth Citizens Jury	Council, in partnership with the Young Citizen Jury, continues to support the implementation of priorities from the Youth Services Strategy. Due to COVID, actions and priorities have needed to be adjusted. Outcomes achieved have included: feedback provided regarding Council's Community Engagement Policy; design of the youth training calendar (to be delivered between April-June 2021); and, finalisation of several 'Youth Cheat Sheets' that are step-by-step guides for young people to access key local supports and information.
Deliver an additional five pre-employment skill development training programs, to young people to increase their job readiness and employability	Council is currently delivering five youth training and employment programs that target young people. These include: First Step employment support (interview preparation and resume building); one-to-one barista training; gig economy workshops; student placement; and, Indigenous Careers Day (Scheduled for Term 2). One-to-one employment support continues to take place on a needs basis with young people, while work is being finalised to deliver a youth training calendar between April-June 2021 now that COVID restrictions have been reduced.
Implement the Age Friendly Darebin Review Year Two actions	Age Friendly initiatives, many of which have been adapted in line with COVID-19 safe practices, have continued to be developed and delivered. This quarter saw the commencement of the Cafe Meals voucher trial with 20 residents. Bridging the Digital Divide work progressed from group approaches to individual skill-building for leisure, personal connection, health and daily living, in collaboration with Libraries, Your Community Health and via our Community Support Workers. There has been growing engagement with some Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander older women with interest in building their use of technology. The Lawnmowing trial concluded and is being evaluated. A survey of our current clients was undertaken seeking feedback on their social support needs to inform planning for our Individual Social Support service. Our local Homeshare provider has been collaboratively promoted as an affordable housing option. In the physical environment, Age Friendly considerations have influenced placement and design of outdoor seating and drinking fountains. Overall progress is solid, with the main activities delayed being those that required older community members' face-to-face consultation and participation, due to COVID restrictions and focus of attention.
Continue to support the community's recovery from COVID-19 impacts through the Community Navigation Support and Social Connection Programs	This quarter the Community Navigation service continued to decrease overall in demand, apart from a temporary rise in February around the five day lockdown. The focus has shifted more to post-Covid information rebuilding and supporting community confidence to resume social and daily living activities. This has included redefining and supporting safe use of facilities and spaces, and resuming outreach work for vulnerable communities in collaboration with our community partners.
Complete the construction of the Edwardes Lake Park changing place facility	The construction of the Edwardes Lake Park Changing Place Facility and Public Amenities was completed in November 2020 and has been operational since early December.
Ensure our food and health businesses maintain high standards of public health and safety	Council's Health Protection Unit completed a total of 348 assessments at registered businesses within the municipality.

**2.2 We will expand opportunities for participation and social connection through sport, physical activity, arts, culture and other leisure activities.**

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Design and construction of playspaces at Ruthven Reserve, Penders Park (stage 2), CH Sullivan Reserve and Vale Reserve	Vale Reserve upgrade works are scheduled to commence in April and be completed in May 2021, weather permitting. CH Sullivan Reserve playspace minor upgrade works are now complete. Construction of a playspace at Ruthven has been delayed to late 2021.
Complete new designs for the redevelopment of the pavilion and grandstand at Bill Lawry Oval, Northcote to maximise community access and participation	Design excellence is pursued through the design competition, which sought Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the project. Seven EOI submissions were received and evaluated by Council’s design jury, resulting in four architects being invited to participate in the next stage of the design competition. The architects have until mid-April to present their designs. The design jury will then evaluate submissions and appoint a preferred architect in June 2021.
Complete the KP Hardiman Reserve, Reservoir hockey pitch and lighting replacement project	The new synthetic hockey pitch and lighting has been installed. Final elements, such as completion of the coaches boxes, is in progress. Project finalisation is on track for completion by the end of April 2021.
Complete the soccer pavilion replacement at BT Conner Reserve, Reservoir	Construction of the BT Connor pavilion redevelopment has commenced, safety site fencing has been installed, and existing pavilion demolished, with an anticipated project completion date of October 2021.
Complete the planning and due diligence to identify the preferred re-development option for the Reservoir Leisure Centre to maximise the health, wellbeing and socio-economic outcomes of the surrounding community	The health and wellbeing study has been completed. The results will be reported to Council in the fourth quarter. COVID-19 has impacted on the delivery timelines and delayed the delivery of this project.



## GOAL 2

We will improve the wellbeing of people in our community by **providing opportunities** for them to live their lives well.

**2.2** We will expand **opportunities for participation and social connection** through sport, physical activity, arts, culture and other leisure activities.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Award the construction contract for the Multi-Sports Stadium (MSS) and commence construction	The MSS will be Council's largest capital outlay to date and one of the few public sporting buildings in Australia with a 5 Star Green Star rating. The Construction Contract was awarded in Q1. The stadium construction commenced in September 2020 and is progressing well. The building foundations are completed and work has commenced on the main building structure. The construction of the Multi Sports Stadium is on target to be completed, as expected, by November 2021
Determine and implement the optimal management model that will be utilised for the Multi-Sports Stadium (MSS) once it opens	The first draft of the new management contract specification for the external operation of the Multi Sports Stadium (MSS) has been completed and is now under review. The review will clarify how the MSS operations will achieve social and environmental outcomes in line with Council's procurement policy. The project is on track to put the MSS management out to public tender in June/July 2021, with a contract commencement date scheduled for late 2021.
Complete the construction of the outdoor courts at the Multi-Sports Stadium	The construction of the outdoor courts at the Multi-Sports Stadium is complete. The construction includes 4 outdoor courts, amenities building, solar lighting to service the adjacent road construction and new amenities, lighting for the new outdoor courts, new road construction, landscaping, outdoor tables and seating and coaches and players boxes.
Award the construction contract for the new 6-star green star rated Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre facility	The detailed design of the Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre Redevelopment is essentially complete and the PPR and Tender documents are on schedule to enable tendering for construction in April 2021.
Recommence the Reservoir Leisure Centre Seniors Exercise Program to support health and wellbeing in spaces where seniors meet <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	<p>The Living Longer Living Stronger program has been relaunched. Participation numbers are reduced due to covid restrictions (230 for the quarter compared to 380 for the same time last year).</p> <p>300 Staying Active memberships (for over 60's) have been reactivated. This is lower than for the same period last year which recorded 348 memberships.</p> <p>An outreach free fitness session was held at Bundoora Park as part of the seniors picnic, that brought together a group of seniors who had been keeping in touch over Zoom throughout the Covid restrictions.</p> <p>Programs that are suitable for all ages and abilities have been incorporated into the Get Active in Darebin free exercise program, which launched the Autumn program in March. This program offers a range of activities at both indoor and outdoor locations, including family friendly yoga at the Reservoir Seniors Centre.</p> <p>Virtual exercise programs offered during 2020 continue to be available online and include options for a range of ages and abilities including: Keep Strong, Gentle Yoga, Chair Yoga, Awareness through Movement and Meditation.</p>
Recommence the Community Gym Program for Reservoir Neighbourhood House members to increase participation, health and wellbeing <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	There are currently 51 (free) Community Gym memberships after reactivation in December 2020. The Reservoir Neighbourhood House continues to provide a referral pathway service for identification of suitable participants.

C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Review the outcomes of the 2010–20 Leisure Strategy and develop a new strategy that identifies programs and partnerships for increased physical activity	This project has been delayed due to COVID-19, has recently recommenced but will not be completed this year.
Recommence the Swim to 50 Program at Reservoir Leisure Centre to provide swim lessons for children from low income and new immigrant families in the community <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	This project was paused due to COVID-19 and the pool hall facility improvements program. Planning with stakeholders to engage participants has been undertaken to reactivate the program in the fourth quarter.
Continue to deliver the diverse range of online exercise programs developed during the COVID-19 restrictions to maximise access and participation in programs that support physical activity <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	A program of online live streamed classes were reinstated for the 5-day lock down period and a library of over 230 classes remain available online for free use.  Classes include a range of strength, cardio, older adults specific, child friendly, tai chi and mind/body specific sessions to suit a wide range of the community abilities.  The Darebin Get Active Autumn program was launched in March with a range of in-person and on-line activities throughout the municipality but with a provision focus on areas experiencing higher levels of disadvantage.
Implement the Getting Sports Clubs Back on Track Grants program as part of the COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience Package to enable Darebin’s Sport Clubs to restart activities once restrictions ease <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	The first round of the COVID-19 recovery grants for sports clubs has been completed, with 43 clubs approved for a total of \$99,000 in funding to support them to restart activities in 2021. Round two of the program has closed and applications have been assessed, resulting in \$42,000 in recovery grants being awarded to 13 successful recipients.
Review the Performance Subsidy Program to support Darebin’s community sports clubs to maximise equity participation outcomes	A draft of a new performance subsidy program has been developed with updated goals regarding participation and inclusion and alignment with other Council goals. This will be finalised and implemented for the summer season.



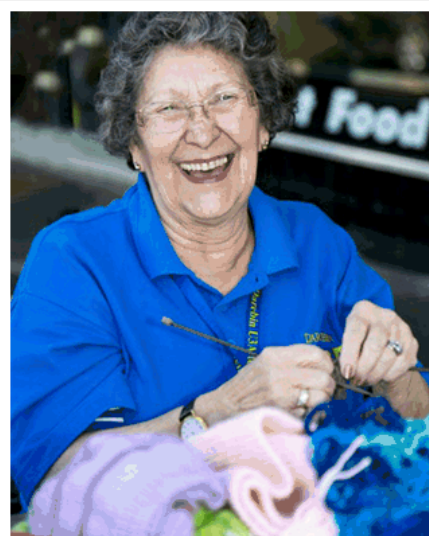
C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery

## GOAL 2

We will improve the wellbeing of people in our community by **providing opportunities** for them to live their lives well.

**2.2** We will expand **opportunities for participation and social connection** through sport, physical activity, arts, culture and other leisure activities.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Report on the second year of outcomes and achievements of the Promoting Women and Girls in Sport Partnership Agreement and use this evidence to determine the next phase of the partnership	<p>The second year outcomes report and the extension of the agreement for the final two years 2021 and 2022 was endorsed at the Council meeting in March 2021.</p> <p>Partnership outcomes include participation growth to 763 players across AFL, soccer and cricket and an expansion on the diversity of participation options available to facilitate girls and women to take on coaching and refereeing roles. Social inclusion programs include the cricket Pride Cup, the AFL Pride round, and the NAIDOC round.</p>
Review and implement new licence/seasonal agreements to assist Darebin’s sports clubs to maximise access, equity and participation outcomes	The review on how seasonal/annual license agreements can include equity and inclusion principles is progressing. Implementation has been delayed due to COVID-19 but is expected to start with annual agreements from June 2021.
Maximise access to the newly refurbished Senior Citizen Centres Work in collaboration with community groups	Eased COVID-19 restrictions have encouraged many seniors groups to return to using senior citizen centres albeit in smaller numbers. Community members and seniors groups have enjoyed using the centres during business hours. In coming weeks we will explore how to enable groups who access these centres after hours and weekends to also commence their use at these centres.
Design and deliver seasonal festivals aligned to COVID-19 safe festival and events protocols <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	<p>FUSE Autumn 2021 ended on 28 March 2021. The program included 16 events (13 of them free), featuring 160 artists at 18 locations across Darebin. The culmination was a great success, and all 16 events had live, face-to-face components to them, which were managed effectively in accordance with COVID-safe plans.</p> <p>20% of the events showcased First Nations artists, 16% showcased CALD artists, 16% showcased artists over 55 and 12.5% showcased artists with a disability.</p>



C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Support artists and festival producers through artistic commissions to deliver a range of initiatives as part of FUSE festival	Delivery of FUSE Spring 2020, FUSE Autumn 2021 and Council's Creative Recovery program led to 75 artistic commissions supporting over 400 artists, artistic producers and technicians, across mediums as varied as visual art, broadcast, performance, film, digital art and music. Additional work is being undertaken to support community-led events to remain COVID-safe through the Event Permit process.
<p>Through Darebin's Arts venues, provide opportunities to produce and deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An innovative and diverse season of production through the Speakeasy program at Northcote Town Hall Art Centre</li> <li>- A season of Arts productions directed at elderly citizens through our 'Morning Music' program at the Darebin Art Centre</li> <li>- A range of productions that engages local families and children</li> <li>- The Mayors Writing Awards</li> <li>- Support for artists and the development of new theatrical works</li> </ul>	<p>This quarter (Q3) saw the reopening of our cultural facilities with events and performances at both Northcote Town Hall and Darebin Arts Centres. COVID-safe work plans have delivered a safe environment for staff, artists and audiences to return to work, create and enjoy creative experiences.</p> <p>Some highlights have included: Raga series of outdoor early morning concerts in collaboration with Multi Cultural Arts Victoria; the launch of N-Scribe, our annual magazine featuring local writers; the opening of the Speakeasy performing arts program with the first production in this years program ("Enlightenment"); 10 young people taking over Northcote Town Hall for "Let's Take Over"; and, the launch of the autumn FUSE festival.</p>
Deliver an online and refocused version of the biennial Darebin's A1 Salon to support local visual artists of all ages across Darebin to exhibit new works	The biennial A1 Darebin Art Salon was delivered online between 10 July to 11 September 2020. Over 100 entries were received from Darebin artists, of which 33 applicants identified as culturally and linguistically diverse, 7 First Nations artists, and 22 entries by artists with a disability. This year's prize winners were selected by a 'People's Choice' voting system, with over 1600 votes received. An online closing event was held on Friday 11 September 2020.
Establish the newly formed Art and Heritage panel to support and inform Council's policies and initiatives aligned to its collections	<p>The first meeting of the Art &amp; Heritage advisory panel for 2021 was held on 16 February. The meeting was attended by the eight newly appointed community members and the existing 6 sitting members, as well as the Councillor representative Cr Susanne Newton. Discussions have been underway with Multicultural Arts Victoria regarding the appointment of one of their staff or board members onto the advisory panel. In early March 2021 Veronica Pardo, CEO of Multicultural Arts Victoria confirmed that she would be taking up the invitation to join the Art &amp; Heritage Advisory Panel, thereby completing the panel's full membership as endorsed by Council.</p> <p>Further panel meetings are scheduled to proceed throughout 2021, and a report to Council is scheduled for September to report on the outcomes and success measures of the first full year of the Art &amp; Heritage Advisory Panel's operations.</p>
Design and deliver an exhibition in partnership with Midsummer Festival to showcase the work of emerging artists who identify as LGBTIQ	EO Gill was selected as the winner of the Bundoora Homestead Art Centre Prize at the 2020 Midsumma Australia Post Art Prize. Their exhibition 'CLEAVE' will be presented in partnership with Midsumma Festival from 7 April – 27 June 2021. The work is complete and was installed by the Bundoora Homestead team together with the artist on Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 March 2021. The exhibition will be presented in The Mess Gallery and will be accompanied by a text by Sydney writer and artist Frances Barrett.

## GOAL 2

We will improve the wellbeing of people in our community by **providing opportunities** for them to live their lives well.

**2.2** We will expand **opportunities for participation and social connection** through sport, physical activity, arts, culture and other leisure activities.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Create COVID safe platforms and artistic experiences that support artists and audiences to return to presenting work in Darebin. <b>C-19</b>	A range of COVID-19 safe initiatives have been developed. Highlights include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Projects and initiatives delivered through the FUSE Spring 2020 program directly led to 62 artistic supporting close to 200 artists and artistic producers and technicians, across mediums as varied as visual art, broadcast, performance, film, digital art and music.</li> <li>2. Ten performance seasons have been rescheduled to 2021 in the Darebin Arts Speakeasy program.</li> <li>3. The Speakeasy Performance Development program supported 73 artists to develop future works.</li> <li>4. Darebin Arts portfolio is participating in regular meetings with industry peers in the sector to share methods and systems for returning to safe presenting practices and re-opening of cultural facilities.</li> </ol>
Run Backyard Harvest events within the FUSE festival to help community learn from and inspire each other in regards to local food production.	A seed-saving workshop was delivered to over 200 community members. Five seed libraries were installed at Darebin community houses inside the Northcote library. Council has been working with First Nations community members to integrate Indigenous foods into the seed libraries.
Increase the number of community gardens at the Bundoora Park Farm	The ten new gardens are full of vegetable plants and thriving. These garden beds have been completed using recycled corrugated iron from the Reservoir Crossing Removal Project. Planning for expanding the community food growing project is underway and is considering how key barriers to participation in urban agriculture and food production, such as equitable access to land, can be addressed.
Strengthen partnerships with agencies, the neighbourhood house network and not-for-profit organisations, to deliver programs and services, as part of a COVID recovery responding to current and emerging vulnerabilities. <b>C-19</b>	This quarter, as part of a COVID recovery responding to community vulnerabilities, Council delivered three Play Streets community events in East Preston and East reservoir in partnership with the Somali Australia Council of Victoria (SACOV), and continued the implementation of Neighbourhood emotional and social wellbeing project, in partnership with Victorian Transcultural Mental Health and Your Community Health.



**C-19** Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery

**2.3** We will expand **lifelong-learning** opportunities, to enable local people to learn, develop their interests, and secure good quality work.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Deliver an infrastructure, workforce and service review that responds to the introduction of government subsidised three-year-old kindergarten program and identify options that meet future community needs</p>	<p>Council has agreed to a Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan with the Department of Education and Training (DET), which outlines where additional infrastructure is expected to be needed to ensure all three- and four-year-olds in Darebin have access to a kindergarten place from 2022 to 2029 as funded three-year-old kindergarten is rolled out. Council is developing an Early Years Infrastructure Plan 2021-2041 which will outline a strategic approach to meeting future community infrastructure needs for kindergarten and other early years services.</p>
<p>Transition the East Preston Community Centre to a lead tenant model by June 2023, informed by engagement with East Preston communities</p>	<p>The East Preston Community Centre reopened in February 2021, with a scaled commencement of programs in line with COVID-safe practices. Engagement for the development of a three-year Centre plan to commence in the next quarter, reflecting the return of the community to the Centre and programs.</p>
<p>Review and implement revised library fines and charges to reduce barriers to use</p>	<p>Standard loan periods have been reintroduced following the reopening of all Darebin Libraries branches.</p> <p>Until further notice, overdue fines will not accrue and existing fines will not prevent customers from borrowing as part of Darebin's COVID Resilience and Recovery Package.</p> <p>Overdue loan and recovery activities remain suspended. Development of the business case continues, including benchmarking against other public libraries.</p>
<p>Increase the number of library events delivered in community languages</p>	<p>Darebin Libraries have delivered 5 events in community languages so far this year, with at least another two community language events being planned before 30 June 2021. In response to community consultation, purchase of a new Macedonian collection has commenced. This new collection will be launched with Macedonian community groups in the fourth quarter.</p>
<p>Implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander protocols for libraries, archives and information services, to increase partnerships with Aboriginal organisations and access and service relevance to Aboriginal people</p>	<p>Work has commenced but will not be completed in this financial year. A statement of intent has been developed and the discovery stage is underway focussing on understanding the perspectives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Current practices are being documented in preparation for a community-led review of those practices and protocol development.</p>





### GOAL 3

We will ensure our planning system facilitates high-quality and sustainable development that extracts social, environmental and economic benefits for our community.

**3.1** We will encourage and facilitate **appropriate high-quality development in identified areas** to create opportunities for living accessibly to public transport, infrastructure, open space and attractive, safe public areas.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Strengthen standard planning permit conditions to improve the quality of design and sustainability in planning applications	Planning permit conditions have been strengthened to improve the quality of design and sustainability in planning approvals. Customers are advised early of these requirements at pre-application meetings.
Assess the impact of COVID-19 particularly in regards to affordable housing and the economy	Officers have been networking with practitioners across the sector and attending industry seminars on topics including urban planning, the retail market, the housing market and affordable housing to understand the likely impacts of COVID-19. These findings are feeding into multiple council programs to support local business and the most vulnerable in the community.
Translate the local content of the Darebin planning scheme into the new state format (including a new Municipal Planning Strategy) for review by the Department of Environmental Land Water and Planning, and for Council to consider seeking an amendment to the local Planning Scheme	The translation of the Darebin Planning Scheme into the new format for Victorian planning schemes, and the update of local policy, is underway. Once adopted by Council, this will result in a new planning scheme amendment. The Municipal Planning Strategy will be updated in the next financial year following community engagement.
Release new residential design guidelines as a tool to improve the quality of design and sustainability in planning applications	Council adopted the Darebin Good Design Guide – Apartment Development and Darebin Good Design Guide – Medium Density Development at the 7 September 2020 Council Meeting. The guidelines were uploaded to the Council website on 11 September 2020.





2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Establish a long term 50-year Vision for the City, informed by extensive community and stakeholder engagement, to guide planning, growth and development	Council is developing a 20-year Community Vision in 2021. The Vision will guide Council's work across its services and programs, including planning, growth and development and will be adopted by 30 June 2021. A Community Vision is a requirement of the new Local Government Act 2020 and needs to be designed using deliberative engagement methodology. A representative jury of community members met over the February - March 2021 period to formulate a draft Vision document. This draft will be released for extensive community engagement in April 2021.
Achieve a median time taken to resolve planning compliance matters of 30 days and increase confidence in the Darebin Planning Scheme and planning decisions	The median resolution time for a representative sample of service requests has fallen to 10 days on account of improved efficiencies and resumption of inspections following end of Stage 4 restrictions.
Champion high standards for design excellence in private development in Darebin, through the City Designer who works with planning permit applicants and their designers to raise the quality of design in applications	Council's City Designer has continued working with the statutory planners and planning permit applicants through pre-application meetings and design referrals.  Darebin has been shortlisted to participate in the Future Homes Pilot project by Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and Office of the Victorian Government Architect to promote design quality in the inner city.
Develop a vision and built form guidelines for Heidelberg Road to guide high quality development, including consultation with the surrounding community	The project to develop a vision and planning controls for Heidelberg Road is a multi-year project. The technical assessments are now complete on land use, heritage and urban design. Preparation is now underway for community engagement, which is planned for mid 2021. Engagement will share the findings of the work to date, seeking community input, to further the development of appropriate planning controls.
Council has done significant planning towards a future suburb in the Northland precinct, however, the State Government has recently made some quite significant policy changes around industrial land, and the impacts on the local economy of COVID-19 also mean that this planning needs to be revisited. In 2020–21 the impact on the local economy will be assessed. Further specific planning relating to the Northland precinct will be considered in future years	Progress on the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct (NURP) planning has been disrupted due to significant changes in State Government policy in early 2020 which prioritises industrial uses in this area.  Considering this change, and that slower population growth is now expected as a result of COVID-19, Council decided to put this project on hold in 2020–21 and will reconsider it at a later date.
Complete the Preston Library Feasibility Study and determine the next steps	The Preston Library Feasibility Report work is now complete. A new or redeveloped Preston Library will be considered as part of the Preston Civic Precinct planning.
Advocate for good planning outcomes at the Preston Market Precinct through the Victorian Planning Authority's planning process	Council continues to call on the State Government and the developer to ensure that the planning controls and proposals for redevelopment protect what the community have told Council is important. At its meeting on 22 March Council updated its 'Heart of Preston' objectives and advocacy position to detail what is needed to ensure that the market flourishes.

## GOAL 3

We will ensure our planning system facilitates high-quality and sustainable development that extracts social, environmental and economic benefits for our community.

**3.1** We will encourage and facilitate **appropriate high-quality development in identified areas** to create opportunities for living accessibly to public transport, infrastructure, open space and attractive, safe public areas.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Seek community feedback on a draft Urban Design Framework for Central Preston as part of the Future Preston project, and prepare a Central Preston Structure Plan that provides a framework to guide future development in the area	Council has prepared a draft Future Preston Central Vision as well as background reports on urban design, land use, and transport. The preparation of a draft Built Form Framework is underway. Community engagement will take place in 2021-22.
Assist and establish a business led association for Preston Central	The newly formed Preston Central Business Association (PCBA) will hold its first AGM on Wednesday 21 April 2021. A new committee will be selected and rules of association endorsed at the AGM. Council continues to support committee members and promotional activities which included Lunar New Year celebrations.
Council successfully advocated for removal of four level crossings through the Preston area and in 2020–21 will advocate for excellent design and to ensure that construction is managed so it minimises disruption and supports business and community through that time. Council's work will include review of state government designs and plans and working with the state government to integrate creative outcomes in rail infrastructure projects at Preston Market and Bell Station.	Advocacy for better design, to minimise disruption and support traders during construction has been a key focus to date in 2021. Advocacy for access to the Bell commuter carpark to be from the West of the Station is ongoing and the State Government has not yet changed its plans. Council's advocacy has protected 29 trees that the state government had originally planned to remove, and has helped improve open space designs.
During any disruption from the Level Crossing Removals, Council will help traders and community minimise the impact and will encourage our community to shop locally	Council is advocating for minimal disruption and for substantial state support for traders affected, based on the objectives adopted in 'Preston Reconnected'. We are supporting local businesses with a range of economic initiatives, such as the 'Love Local' campaign to encourage residents to shop locally. Council is making new on-street parking available in Preston to ensure residents and visitors can support their local businesses even when construction is underway.





2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>In 2020–21 Council expects to further progress this multi-year project (public open space levy) to increase the open space levy. This year this is expected to include presentation to a Planning Panel and seeking authorisation from the Minister for Planning. It is expected to be completed in the 2021–22 financial year.</p>	<p>Council is preparing an Implementation Plan of the Open Space Strategy to support the planning scheme amendment process to increase the contribution that developers make towards public open space. The community will be consulted on the Implementation Plan in mid-late 2021, before the planning scheme amendment progresses to a Planning Panel later in the year.</p>
<p>In 2020–21 Council expects to seek authorisation from the Minister for Planning to consult on a proposal for new Developer Contributions Plan that would ensure that developers contribute financially to Council infrastructure as the population grows</p>	<p>Council consulted on its proposed new Developer Contributions Plan and considered submissions at its meeting of 22 March 2021. Council then referred them to an independent Planning Panel which is scheduled to convene in May 2021. The Panel will provide a report with recommendations about the amendment to consider before a decision on the final steps – adoption of the DCP amendment and requesting approval from the Minister for Planning.</p>
<p>This year of the program will investigate further sites that can be used for affordable housing and update the Darebin Housing Strategy and Neighbourhood Character guidelines</p>	<p>This quarter, Council endorsed a submission to the State Government's 10 Year Social and Affordable Housing Strategy. Council continues to work with the State and community housing providers on the delivery of the \$5.3 billion Big Housing Build. The Affordable Housing Feasibility Study is complete and will be considered by Council in the next quarter. The Neighbourhood Character Study is progressing, with engagement of an expert consultant.</p>
<p>Continue to implement the project to develop new social housing on a Council car park at Townhall Avenue, including lease execution, project management, consultancy and legal investigations to progress the project</p>	<p>Council has selected an affordable housing provider to develop and manage high-quality affordable housing at the former Council car park at Townhall Avenue. Recent activity has focussed on finalising the lease and planning advice.</p>



## GOAL 3

We will ensure our planning system facilitates high-quality and sustainable development that extracts social, environmental and economic benefits for our community.

**3.2** We will support our creative industries to ensure the city grows as a significant arts and creative centre.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Implement the following COVID-19 Recovery projects including: creative collaborations; cultural infrastructure grants, arts partnership support recovery program, online recovery program to support Darebin’s creative vibrancy by assisting artists to sustain their practice and connect to colleagues through web-based media</p> <p><b>C-19</b></p>	<p>There are four program components occurring as part of Council’s recovery program specifically designed to deliver cultural outcomes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Creative Collaboration in Isolation Program is in the acquittal phase.</li> <li>2. The Culture Online Initiative is providing creative opportunities to 33 artists to exhibit work on a digital platform and is available for viewing. The third series of works were launched in the reporting period.</li> <li>3. The Cultural Infrastructure grants are in the delivery phase and support local creative industries to adapt to the adverse impacts of COVID-19 restrictions. 50 artists will receive direct support from these grants with a further 227 benefiting from organisational improvements and opportunities created by this funding.</li> <li>4. The Arts Partnership initiative is in the delivery phase. The Arts Recovery Partnership Grants closed on 4 March 2021 and 39 applications were received. The total amount of funding requested was \$776,622. The Grant has been designed to support creative businesses in Darebin that have been heavily impacted by COVID-19 lockdowns, social distancing and reductions to venue capacities. Assessment is now complete and successful applicants are scheduled to be notified by end of March 2021.</li> </ol>
<p>Expand and consolidate the cultural licensee program at Northcote Town Hall Art Centre and Darebin Arts Centre</p>	<p>In Q3 negotiations have continued around the license arrangement for MAV (Multi Cultural Arts Victoria) at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre. Speak Percussion have commenced their license arrangement at Darebin Arts Centre and have occupied their new office space as of January 2021.</p>
<p>Provide virtual access to at least 100 percent of the Darebin Indoor and Outdoor Art Collection through the online catalogue</p>	<p>Council has begun relocation of the Darebin Art Collection online database from an outdated content management system to the Victorian Collections online website which is a State Government-funded, industry leading platform for collections management. Currently 65% of this relocation project is now complete and available for our community to access online.</p> <p>Due to the emergence of a number of public art maintenance matters that arose over the past three months, this project has been delayed. The project is still on track and will be completed in full by June 2021, with community having access to 100% of the Darebin Art Collection online.</p>



**C-19** Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery

**3.3 We will manage local roads, buildings and public spaces to make our city safer, cleaner and more attractive.**

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Complete up to three grant funding applications for local blackspot safety improvement projects and construct 10 traffic management measures to improve road safety</p>	<p>Six Federal blackspot funding applications have been submitted. There have been 5 traffic management measures installed to improve road safety. Work is underway to construct a further 9 traffic management treatments that will also benefit people walking and riding before the end of June 2021.</p>
<p>Ensure all road reconstruction and road reseal projects contain a maximum permissible recycled content to improve the sustainability of Council's civil construction practices</p>	<p>Two Asphaltting Contracts for 2020–21 have been awarded with work having commenced on one of the two contracts. Both contracts include reclaimed waste products, one uses steel slag (which is an industrial waste product) the other uses recycled plastic in place of traditional bitumen products. One Contract was completed in February, the second is near completion. A third contract was recently awarded following receipt of additional Commonwealth funding.</p>
<p>Protect and enhance urban character by regulating tree removal and pruning on private property within Darebin and completing replacement planting with species suitable to local vegetation and site constraints</p>	<p>Council has employed a tree protection arborist to oversee the implementation of the adopted local law (for protection of significant trees on private property) and protection measures under the planning scheme. The Tree Protection Arborist continues to work with Local Laws (and Planning Protection Officers) to process permits and investigate possible breaches.</p>
<p>Embed good streetscape design into any Council re-development projects, such as Streets for People. Undertake advocacy for good streetscape outcomes with State Government bodies, including the Level Crossing Removal Authority and VicTrack.</p>	<p>Council continues to advocate for good streetscape design outcomes through the State Government Level Crossing Removal Projects at Preston Station, Bell Station and the Preston Market precinct redevelopment – in line with adopted Council objectives – as well as Council-led projects such as the redevelopment of Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre and the new Multi-Sports Stadium.</p>
<p>Engage with local business associations and stakeholders on local improvements for activity centres</p>	<p>Council has continued engagement with business associations and stakeholders on local improvements. This has included revitalisation of Reservoir laneways, place-based murals and extended footpath trading across Darebin. To date, over 1250+ additional seats have been approved through the outdoor dining project and 15 parklets have been installed. Working with City Design, engagement with businesses in Oakhill, Miller and Gilbert Rd and Thornbury Village has been completed for planned Minor Streetscape Improvements to be delivered in Q4. Planning is underway for streetscape improvement, shopfront improvement and artwork placement for Crevelli Street East Preston. An audit of vacant commercial shopfronts conducted in major activity centres and retail precincts was completed.</p>
<p>Engage with local business associations and stakeholders on small scale targeted streetscape improvements to support activity centres to come back to life post COVID-19 including improvements at: Yarra Ave/Boldrewood, Reservoir, McMahn/Boldrewood, Reservoir and Plenty/Tyler, Reservoir <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></p>	<p>After a slight delay early on due to COVID-19, this project is now back on track. Intensive community consultation has been complete with both traders and business owners. A residential brochure informing the community (within 500m of the centre) of the works and celebrating the intended changes will be going out by the end of April.</p>

C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery

## GOAL 3

We will ensure our planning system facilitates high-quality and sustainable development that extracts social, environmental and economic benefits for our community.

**3.3** We will manage local roads, buildings and public spaces to make our city **safer, cleaner and more attractive.**

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Ensure new development within the activity centres funds the upgrade and improvement of adjacent streetscapes	Planning approvals for new development in activity centres fund the upgrade and improvement of adjacent streetscapes where necessary and can include street trees, street furniture, bicycle parking and footpath upgrades. This is achieved through the imposition of conditions on planning approvals.
Deliver two whole-of-place audits in Preston and Reservoir to identify actions that improve perceptions of safety and reduce the opportunity for crime	Two safety audits were undertaken this quarter. Railway Reserve Preston was completed to inform a grant application to Department of Justice and Community Safety, seeking funds to make amenity and safety improvements in the area. An audit was completed in Clarendon Street Thornbury (in collaboration with Youth Services, Victoria Police, local residents and businesses) to identify improvements to the area to address safety issues.
Deliver community safety infrastructure projects including Main Drive, Bundoora Lighting upgrade that respond to data about gendered experience in public spaces and improves perceptions of safety	The Community Safety Infrastructure project for Main Drive Bundoora is underway, with the lighting design completed and installation of lighting to commence in the next quarter. The project will enhance street lighting along Main Drive and seek to improve perceptions of safety.
Continue to provide a safe environment for school children walking and cycling to school and ensure that 90 percent of primary schools within the city participate in Council’s School Crossing Education program	Council’s school crossing program has supported schools throughout the pandemic, many of which remained open for key families. The service operated in a COVID safe way during the pandemic. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the School Crossing Education program is on hold for now.
Continue to implement the Graffiti Strategy 2019–23	A new graffiti removal contract will be entered into in early 2021 and a more proactive approach to graffiti removal will be a feature of this contract. Particular focus will be placed on business activity centres and shopping strips.





2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Complete 12 street art murals across the municipality to minimise graffiti occurring at hot-spot locations, while improving amenity	Sites have been identified for additional murals and negotiations are underway to engage artists to complete art works at these sites.
Reduce the number of domestic animals directed to re-homing programs and increase the number of domestic animals registered in the municipality and lost animals returned directly to their owner	Council returned 35% of all animals collected directly to their owner compared with 20.5% the previous reporting period, further reducing the requirement of re-homing. Council's 2021 animal registrations are 1666 higher than in 2020.
Incorporate signage and design into public spaces to support dog walking as well as other users in line with the updated Open Space Strategy and balance community needs	To respond to increased use of open spaces during COVID-19 restrictions, new temporary park signs have been created to help balance varied community needs. These have been installed at Johnson Park, Northcote and in all playgrounds across Darebin.
Deliver Year four actions identified in the Domestic Animal Management Plan and continue to encourage the responsible ownership of domestic animals	Council implemented a cat curfew from 1 January to protect native fauna. Council also engaged with pet owners through a number of social media posts and provided responsible pet ownership information with pet registration renewals.
Apply planning permit conditions that require better construction management in major developments and review opportunities to strengthen the local law in regard to disruption related construction matters	A planning permit condition has been developed that requires a construction management plan for major developments. Opportunities to strengthen the local law in regard to minimising disruption from construction is currently under investigation.
Assist the community and local business to plan for and manage disruption associated with the State Government's level crossing removal construction activity in Preston and Reservoir and advocate to State Government to minimise disruption	Council is advocating to the State Government's Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) to support businesses during this time and to minimise disruption to car parking, traffic movements and noise during the construction phase. Council is supporting businesses across the city with a range of activities to assist them to retain and attract customers throughout construction.
Conduct regular inspections and achieve swimming pool and boarding house compliance with regulations	Council sent out reminders to all known swimming pool owners to ensure registration by the due date of 1 November 2020. Of the known approximate 900 pools, 730 of them have now been registered with Council. This is substantially higher than the rates of registration for neighbouring municipalities. Over 2021 the Building Services Team are commencing follow up with the outstanding pool owners to ensure compliance and registration. Boarding house compliance continues through the registration program and regular inspections.
Support the Victorian Building Authority as the lead agency to respond to identified combustible cladding risks.	The responsibility to inspect and enforce identified cladding risks now sits with Council after the Victorian Building Authority (VBA) transferred responsibility to all local governments. The VBA is now the regulator. In response to this change, the Building Services Team is assembling the necessary resourcing to project manage a longer-term outcome for each identified site in relation to the cladding in conjunction with the land owners. However, the Building Services Team have in place immediate actions to ensure safety.



## GOAL 4

We will support and attract a diversity of local businesses and industries by fostering an environment in which they can thrive.

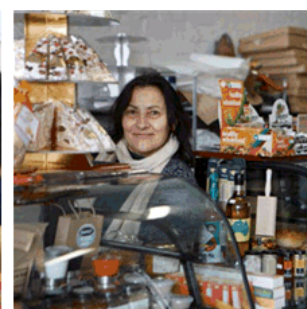
**4.1** We will foster an environment that ensures our local businesses succeed – from large industries to microbusiness and freelancers.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Support businesses through the COVID recovery including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continuation of the Business Support line until December (and possibly longer dependent on demand)</li> <li>- Deliver a range of business development and industry support programs <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></li> </ul>	<p>During the third quarter, calls to the Business Support line totalled 271, peaking in January, when there was an average of 30 per week, coinciding with business reopening and having increased capacity to trade. Information provided includes grant information, outdoor dining and connection to other forms of support.</p> <p>A Business Recovery Program commenced in February 2021 with 17 Darebin businesses from a range of industries and business sizes.</p> <p>As part of a Loyalty Program, Council is currently conducting (March 2021) a Customer Experience Survey to further understand retail consumer behaviour and why particular shopping precincts are preferred. Data from the survey will assist in the development and delivery of customer loyalty programs, marketing and promotional plans for Darebin's retail precincts.</p> <p>500 business visitations were undertaken, in person and via telephone, providing general business recovery information. 89 local businesses were provided with Council's recovery support including: a business "health check", assistance including online marketing support, guidance on resource funding and State and Federal business supports.</p>
<p>Undertake a promotional campaign and place-based activities which showcase Darebin businesses and retail precincts <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></p>	<p>Council launched the Love Local campaign which encourages people to support local restaurants and shops including a Customer Loyalty survey.</p> <p>Preston Central celebrated a COVID safe Lunar New Year with decorations outside the Town Hall and in the shopfront at 421 High Street.</p> <p>The WANGIM Cup project, led by the Darebin Business Zero Waste Network and supported by Darebin Council has commenced with seven local cafés now participating. These cafés are being profiled through social media channels, in Your Darebin and on our Sustainable Darebin Map. In addition to this, 800 single use cups were diverted from landfill in February 2021 from five of the participating cafés.</p>
<p>Support and promote the work of Darebin based social enterprises</p>	<p>To date, seven social enterprises have received Recovery Grants as part of council's COVID-19 recovery response.</p> <p>Good Samaritan Inn, which is operating a start up social enterprise, has been accepted into Darebin's Business Recovery program. Two local social enterprises will be profiled at the upcoming Sustainability Matters event – Reducing Our Footprint and Moon Rabbit.</p>
<p>Deliver food handler information sessions to support new and existing food businesses in food safety education</p>	<p>In person information sessions for businesses were cancelled as a result of COVID-19 restrictions and replaced with increased electronic communications on COVID-19 directives. Health Protection field staff continued throughout COVID-19 to assess businesses and assist owners on safe food practices.</p>

C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Assist businesses and employers to access employment services, support and create pathways for Darebin’s job seekers <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></p>	<p>110 staff were employed through the Working for Victoria program at Darebin Council. The focus for this quarter has been on ensuring that Darebin job seekers receive employment opportunities through this program.</p> <p>Council continues to promote online platforms for local employment – namely, Darebin Jobslink and Melbourne’s North Job Link.</p> <p>Council is working with Thrive Refugee Enterprises to run a pilot workshop program on self-employment. An information session was held on 24 March with four organisations to recruit refugees and asylum seekers with a connection to Darebin.</p> <p>Planning has commenced on a local jobs forum to be held in June 2021.</p> <p>Through Council’s website, a new Economic Impacts tool, developed by Economy ID, has been made publicly available. This contains up-to-the-minute local jobs data and forecasts of employment prospects in all industry sectors.</p>
<p>Deliver targeted support to Community Managed Kindergarten and Child Care Services COVID-19 Resilience and Recovery Package Project <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></p>	<p>Council has continued to support the Community Managed Kindergarten and Child Care Services by providing regular information on sector and guidelines changes. Work has commenced to review the network purpose and support structures to ensure sustainable and ongoing connections with all community managed services.</p>
<p>Deliver a series of workshops assisting businesses to improve their digital and financial capabilities in response to the impacts of COVID-19 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></p>	<p>Council continues to promote additional opportunities for businesses to build their digital skills and improve their financial capacity through the promotion of the Australian Small Business Advisory Service (ASBAS), Upskill my Business, Australian Taxation Office webinars and various resources and templates from Business Victoria. Council has also held two webinars on employer rights and responsibilities for when Jobkeeper ends, assisting businesses with financial issues linked to employment. This will also be made available online for future access.</p>
<p>Council has investigated high level technology options for sensors and signage to help people identify where parking is, however given the current drop in parking demand related to COVID-19, there are not plans to progress this further in the 2020–21 year <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></p>	<p>There are no plans to progress this further in the 2020–21 year.</p>



C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery

## GOAL 4

We will support and attract a diversity of local businesses and industries by fostering an environment in which they can thrive.

**4.2** We will enable and activate space, including vacant shopfronts and council facilities, to accommodate different businesses and industries.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Deliver the Active Space Program in partnership with landlords and real estate agents in vacant shops in Darebin to enable start-up businesses to trial their businesses and increase visual amenity and beautification through commissioning artwork from local artists in vacant shop windows <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	An audit of vacant commercial shopfronts conducted in retail precincts has been completed. This is an important step in planning for the delivery of the Active Space Program.
Support businesses operating in Council facilities, including the Melbourne Innovation Centre	Council has continued to build the relationship with organisations within Council facilities. Council has worked closely with Melbourne Innovation Centre to deliver a wide range of support for Darebin business and organisations – from one-on-one business mentoring to the Australian Small Business Advisory Service and Business Resilience Program.



C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery

**4.3** We will pursue **regionally significant economic opportunities** to drive growth and sustainability for our region.

**2020–2021 actions working towards targets:**

Advocate for regional economic growth through enhanced partnerships with regional economic bodies such as North Link, Northern Council Alliance, Metro Partnerships and La Trobe and implement regional strategies, such as the Melbourne’s North Food and Beverage Growth Plan

**Progress comments:**

Council continues to advocate for local outcomes within the North and West Melbourne City Deal which is proposed to assist in creating approximately 300,000 new jobs. Council also continues to actively participate in NORTH Link activities including: the Northern Business Achievement Awards, promotion of webinars and publications and the promotion of Melbourne’s North Food Group, which now numbers 152 members made up of food and beverage manufacturers and service providers across the north of Melbourne.



# GOAL 5

We will lead on equity and recognise our **diverse community as our greatest asset** for solving future challenges.

**5.1** We will ensure our services, facilities and programs **benefit all**, including our most vulnerable.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Deliver an Employment Forum in partnership with the Darebin Intercultural Centre and Welcoming Cities for local communities and organisations in Darebin (see 5.2 for Reference Group)	Due to COVID-19 the forum has been postponed until June 2021.
Update and implement the Darebin Welcoming Cities Action Plan to reflect impacts of COVID-19 to prioritise actions in the Welcoming Cities Standards	The Welcoming Cities Action Plan continues to be implemented. Activities include continuing engagement with the international student sector and local organisations and networks, such as the North East Region Services Network, with a focus on employment and training pathways for local communities.
Undertake at least 20 Equity Impact Assessments to ensure that Council services, facilities and programs address the needs of the most vulnerable cohorts as outlined in the Towards Equality Framework	This quarter, Equity Impact Assessments (EIA) were applied to fourteen projects, notably to a suite of Human Resources policies, Council's Risk Management Policy and advice on an Intercultural Centre masterplan. Ten EIAs were applied to a range of project bids ranging from IT to transport, communications and open space and undertaken as part of the annual budget process. EIAs were also applied to a range of Community Engagement plans.
Undertake Equity Impact Assessments of all projects within Council's COVID-19 Recovery Package to ensure that package is responsive to the diverse needs, experiences and human rights impacts <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	Over 20 Equity Impact Assessments (EIA) have been applied to Council's COVID-19 Recovery projects. There is also provision of ongoing EIA advice to support program delivery to ensure projects are responsive to community need and accessible.
Ensure that Council's policies, strategies and plans reflect and embed the goals and principles of the Towards Equality Framework	The Towards Equality Framework (TEF) continues to be applied through Council planning and advocacy. This quarter, the TEF was included in the development of the new staff induction process, so new staff across the organisation are aware of the goals and principles of the Framework to inform their work. The TEF was also used to guide the development of the next Council Plan, incorporating the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.



C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Ensure that our multicultural and multifaith communities are supported with reference to financial hardship, discrimination based on race/ culture and other forms of vulnerabilities</p>	<p>Activities this quarter included supporting the planning for Preston Mosque Eid celebrations and facilitating links for Muslim young people to participate in the youth Hub at Northland. Council also hosted an Interfaith Harmony Week event in partnership with Northern Community Church of Christ and delivered a range of activities for Harmony Week. Planning has commenced for a Darebin Healing Trail walk and Refugee Week activities.</p>
<p>Implement the Gender Equity and Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2019 – 2023 specific actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Focusing on Early Childhood – challenge rigid gender roles and stereotypes and promote respectful relationships</li> <li>- Incorporate targets for women’s participation in the development of the Leisure Strategy</li> <li>- Undertake a gender equity workforce audit</li> </ul>	<p>Council continues to implement the Gender Equity and Preventing Violence Against Women Action Plan 2019–2023. Key milestones this quarter included planning the Gender Equity in the Early Years training and preparation for the implementation of the Gender Equality Act. On the 26 February, Council held the final meeting of the current term for the Darebin Women’s Advisory Committee and recruitment for the next term is underway. Council recognised International Women’s Day with social media and internal staff communications.</p>
<p>Deliver a job ready program, in partnership with a local jobs provider organisation, for diverse community members from low socio-economic backgrounds who are unemployed, underemployed, or have a disability</p>	<p>Council’s Community Employment outcomes are being delivered through a collaboration across People and Culture, Equity and Inclusion and Economic Development and aim to improve outcomes for job seekers at risk of or experiencing long-term unemployment in Darebin. The Community Employment program of work has progressed with a partnership with the Brotherhood of St Laurence for six new trainees as part of the Given the Chance Program. The program is social enterprise designed to support disadvantaged job seekers into paid employment. The partnership aims to actively enable the appointment of candidates from underrepresented groups across the Darebin community. A further two trainees as part of a second partnership will be appointed in April. Further progress work is reflected in Council’s new Recruitment Policy and practice focused on key partnerships in identifying and reaching out to potential candidates whilst ensuring Darebin’s recruitment practices actively enable candidates from underrepresented groups.</p>



## GOAL 5

We will lead on equity and recognise our **diverse community** as our **greatest asset** for solving future challenges.

**5.1** We will ensure our services, facilities and programs **benefit all**, including our most vulnerable.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Implement project partnership to support and promote culturally diverse artists responding to the dominant culture in ways that builds empowerment and self-determination	Council's partnership with Multicultural Arts Victoria to deliver TAKEBACK continues to develop. Additional funding has been secured through Creative Victoria, and the closing weekend for FUSE Autumn 2021 on March 27–28, has expanded to include the culturally diverse Women of Soul, a FUSE Fund recipient project that culminates in a special ten-year anniversary event celebrating the strength and resilience of female artists in Darebin.  Both shows were presented at Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre over the final weekend of the festival, and all shows were sold out.
Develop and deliver age friendly focused AMPLIFY, as part of FUSE autumn 2020-21	AMPLIFY is a targeted professional development opportunity that seeks to address inequality in the music industry by supporting and amplifying lesser heard voices.  Applications for the 2021 program opened in November and selection is currently taking place, with the mentorship set to commence in late 2020. While the Autumn outcome shifted slightly once applications were received to remove the mentorship portion of the program, the successful producer delivered an event that engaged performers and audiences 55+.
Endorse and implement a new community-led Disability Access and Inclusion Plan for Darebin	The Disability Access and Inclusion plan is currently in the final stages of development. It is anticipated this community aspiration of Access and Inclusion will be presented to the Darebin community in the first half of 2021. Council teams will develop actions that support this vision over the next quarter. Teams will then be supported to complete these actions in 2021–2022.
Reach out to and prioritise disadvantaged and culturally and linguistically diverse communities for participation in the Solar Saver program	The Solar Saver Rates program is prioritising support for low income residents and pensioners. Ensuring support for CALD communities is a program priority.  The Solar Saver program has offered to its customers the chance to participate in the Energy Assistance Program delivered by The Brotherhood of St Laurence, Australian Energy Foundation and Uniting. Eligible participants will receive bespoke energy efficiency advice and assistance to access the Utility Relief Grant. To date, 71 Darebin residents have joined the Energy Assistance Program.
Construct up to three upgrades to existing disabled parking spaces serving activity centres or schools that improve user safety and accessibility. Install 5 new disabled parking spaces in residential areas in response to community needs	So far, parking spaces for people with a disability have been installed in the residential streets: Furzer Street and Jessie Street, Preston and Charles Street, Northcote. Many more parking spaces for people with a disability will be installed before the end of the financial year.
Establish a community reference group to inform the design and construction of a new home for the Darebin Intercultural Centre	A Community Reference Group was established to support the architect's work to produce a detailed and culturally fit-for-purpose design of the relocated Intercultural Centre. The Terms of Reference and proposed membership were endorsed by Council in July 2020. The last of five meetings was held in March 2021 before the group dissolved.



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Promote and communicate the Language Aide and Multilingual Service so residents can access our services and informant in different languages</p>	<p>The Language Aide and Multilingual Service continues to be promoted to the community, particularly through the Community Vision and Community Engagement Policy campaigns. Print and radio advertising in multiple languages was placed to promote the Multilingual Service during the Council Vision engagement process, as well as translated brochures with a call to action to the Multilingual Service. The Community Engagement Policy consultation process also involved translated materials with the Multilingual Service call to action. In person services commenced again in January with the opening of Preston Front counter, allowing customers to access the service in person.</p>
<p>Implement the Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and Action Plan 2018–2022 specific actions to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review Council's Planning Scheme to consider an EGM planning policy</li> <li>- Undertake communications that increase awareness of the gambling harm and losses to pokies</li> <li>- Work in partnership with others to support those who have reduced their gambling during COVID-19 <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span></li> </ul>	<p>Council officers continue to implement this policy and action plan. Planning commenced this quarter to host a series of events during the 2021 Preventing Gambling Harm Awareness Week to raise community awareness. These will be delivered in October 2021.</p>



C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



## GOAL 5

We will lead on equity and recognise our **diverse community** as our greatest asset for solving future challenges.

**5.1** We will ensure our services, facilities and programs **benefit all**, including our most vulnerable.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Continue to deliver human rights campaigns, events and programs protecting the rights of all people, to live without fear and with freedom, respect, equality and dignity	This quarter, Council focused on supporting asylum seekers who were released from detention into the local community. This included coordination with support agencies and provision of community transport, emergency relief and access to services and programs such as the Reservoir Leisure Centre. Human Rights workshops have been scheduled to recommence from May/June 2021 and will include engagement with the Victorian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and local communities.
Continue to advocate for changes in policy and funding with Federal and Victorian Governments relating to COVID-19 impacts <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	During this period, Mayor Messina met with the local Members of Parliament (State and Federal) to advocate for ongoing support for local businesses and disadvantaged residents, especially those no longer receiving JobSeeker income support. Council has also written to the Federal Government to ask for JobSeeker support to be extended.
Support community campaigns that are consistent with our goals and values in line with an approved advocacy strategy	The work is ongoing, with a particular focus in this period on support for residents affected by the removal of level crossings in Preston along the Mernda Line, and preparation for work to protect Preston Market in the redevelopment of the privately owned site.
Continue to implement the Local Diversity Through Inclusion (Pathways to Employment) Strategy. Minimise barriers to diversity in the workplace through the review of internal recruitment policies and processes. Identify and deliver programs that improve employment pathways for the community. Council's Community Employment Plan will also include a mentoring program for refugee and other diverse groups	Key initiatives progressed by the community to improve employment pathways include: 1) 11 Identified positions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people appointed since May 2020, including two Band 8 leadership positions; and, 2) Scoping and appointment of 6 new Darebin Trainees as part of the Victoria Apprenticeship Recovery Package program, partnering with Brotherhood of St Laurence's BSL 'Given the Chance program'. Two further trainees will be appointed in April. The Community Employment Strategy and Pathways to Employment initiatives will further progress late March 2021 for universal implementation in a collaboration between Council's People and Culture, Equity and Wellbeing and Economic Development units.
Develop and deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and refugee mentoring programs across Council and increase the number of employment opportunities within Council for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employees including selective use of special measures provisions within the Equal Opportunity Act 2010	Council has recruited Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people right across Council since May 2020, including two Band 8 leadership positions in Equity and Wellbeing and People and Culture. Each Division has developed a pipeline of upcoming recruitment for roles which are identified for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Guidelines for the recruitment of First Nations People were completed in March to fully support hiring managers across the organisation in the design and development of Identified positions. Mentoring programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and refugees are at scoping stage in support of existing recruitment and cultural safe workplace practices and Council's Community Employment Strategy.

C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



**5.2 We will bring the ideas of our diverse community into our decision-making.**

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Deliver a package of COVID-19 Recovery Grants across business, community, sporting groups and creative industries <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	The remaining grant stream from the Recovery Package 'Arts Partnership Grants' has been finalised with successful applicants being notified by the end of March. Eight successful organisations were awarded \$20,000 each for projects to stimulate and support creative practices and organisations.
Develop a child and youth engagement protocol to support engagement of children and young people across Council, in partnership with Melbourne University and the Young Citizens Jury	Council has continued to work with the University of Melbourne and members of the Young Citizens Jury to develop tools and methods to assess our current practice in engaging children and young people in decision-making, and to get input from children and young people on how they want to be engaged. This included a baseline assessment survey in March 2021 of current practice across the organisation in engaging children and young people in decision-making.  Over 50 children and young people contributed to the development of the organisation's new community engagement policy through participation in four child and youth workshops on the policy held in January.
Review, implement and monitor the Community Engagement Strategy and Framework to ensure it meets the community engagement requirements included in the new Local Government Act 2020	Following extensive community feedback, the Community Engagement Policy was endorsed by Council on 22 February 2021. The new policy features minimum standards of engagement for people groups, and is based upon the IAP2 spectrum. The new policy now supersedes the earlier Community Engagement Framework adopted in November 2019.
Support the implementation of new terms of reference for our community advisory committees to ensure consistency and clarity of purpose	A review of the current Advisory Committee terms of reference was undertaken during Aug-Sept 2020 and a generic, simplified Standard Terms of Reference was produced which was endorsed at an Officer level. These Terms of Reference were presented to Council in conjunction with the appointment of Councillor delegates to Advisory Committees on the 7 December 2020. Council extended the timeframe for feedback from Advisory Committees on the generic Terms of Reference from February 2021 to May 2021.
Provide community-focused facilitation and governance training to councillors as part of the councillor induction process after the 2020 election	The Induction Program for Councillors elected at the 24 October 2020 Elections commenced on 16 November 2020 and is continuing into early 2021.  A four day induction program was held 16–20 November 2020 and included governance training beyond that prescribed in the Local Government (Governance & Integrity) Regulations 2020. Key areas of focus included: the new Local Government Act 2020 (the Act), the principles of the Act, conduct and integrity matters, legal obligations and the role of a Councillor. This training was supported by sessions led by Mark Hayes (Partner, Maddocks Lawyers); David Wolf (Municipal Inspector, IBAC); and Chris Kotur (Leader in Residence, Leadership Victoria).  The final phase of the mandatory Councillor Induction Training will be delivered in April and will cover engagement and reconciliation with traditional owners and giving effect to gender equality, diversity and inclusiveness.

C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery

## GOAL 5

We will lead on equity and recognise our **diverse community** as our **greatest asset** for solving future challenges.

**5.2 We will bring the ideas of our diverse community** into our decision-making.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>The development and implementation of new Governance Rules and the Community Engagement Policy, as required by the Local Government Act 2020, are anticipated to incorporate processes for greater citizen participation in Council meetings. This will result in increased opportunities for those who may be impacted by a Council decision, to have their views heard.</p>	<p>Council has complied with the requirement of the Local Government Act 2020 to develop Governance Rules to regulate the conduct of its meetings and other associated matters. Council's Community Engagement Policy was adopted on 22 February 2021. Both the Governance Rules and Community Engagement Policy are actively being used to provide for increased participation in Council decision making.</p>
<p>Review report templates and provide training to staff to ensure reports are succinct, evidence based, supported by relevant policy and/or plans, and clearly explain recommendations and proposed outcomes</p>	<p>Work on this action has commenced with the first report writing training session being held in February and two further sessions scheduled in April. The review of the Council report template will commence in May 2021.</p>
<p>Implement and monitor the Advocacy Strategy to support key Council strategies and priority initiatives</p>	<p>An Advocacy Strategy and draft priorities were prepared and will be revisited once the Council Plan is adopted. This will see integration of the Council Plan into the Advocacy Priorities. The next steps will be the development of Advocacy Plans for Council's priorities for 2021-22, and the development of an Advocacy Plan for the next Federal Election, which highlights the issues most important to the community and Council.</p>



**5.3 We will be responsive and respectful to the current and emerging aspirations of Traditional Owners and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.**

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Continue to partner with the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee to identify and implement programs that improve outcomes for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders workforce and community</p>	<p>During this period, the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC) was influential in guiding and facilitating the narratives and content of Council’s “Ganbul Gulin – One Mob” film and advised on cultural matters related to the Darebin FUSE Festival. DAAC contributed to the development of the Darebin Council Aboriginal Cultural Protocols Guide and continued to be represented as Co-Chair on the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy Working Group, Welcoming Cities Reference Group and the Darebin Community Awards. The Committee provided feedback on the Draft Community Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.</p>
<p>Implement the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2017–2021 including specific actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Deliver a Darebin Schools Yarning Conference that celebrates the 2020 NAIDOC theme</li> <li>- Increase recognition and visibility of the Aboriginal culture through renaming Council meeting rooms in Woiwurrung language</li> </ul>	<p>Council continued to progress actions from the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2017–2021. Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Corporation have provided audio recordings of the Council room names in Woi Wurrung to guide pronunciation and phonetic spelling for signage and communications. A Cultural Protocols guide for Council employees was finalised and will be implemented from April 2021. Following the Darebin Schools Yarning Conference in 2020 on the NAIDOC theme ‘Always was, Always Will be’, engagement took place with three Darebin schools with participating students to enact ideas by about how their school could show further pride for Australia’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.</p>
<p>Implement Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy actions to achieve a minimum of 3% employment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people</p>	<p>This period saw Identified roles appointed and recruitment planned for Identified roles across Council business units, including Libraries, Open Space, Communications, Family and Early Years, Creative Culture and Events and City Works. Approximately 120 staff were trained in Aboriginal Cultural Awareness this quarter.</p>



## GOAL 6

We will be a **leading, modern, and open council** to meet our challenges, now and in the future

**6.1** We will implement **the best delivery models** to optimise efficiency and value.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Implement the new Asset Management Strategy to ensure that service delivery is provided in a financially sustainable, customer-centric and effective way	The Asset Management Strategy was presented to Council on 22 February 2021. Council decided to defer the Asset Management Strategy until early in the new financial year (June to September 2021) to enable its alignment with the new Council Plan following a community consultation process.
Continue to improve permit processes for businesses to make it simpler to do business in Darebin	<p>The Better Approvals team has continued to support local businesses through the Better Approvals Program, with 90+ businesses receiving support in this quarter.</p> <p>This program has also continued to deliver the expansion of outdoor dining, with an additional 1250+ seats provided and 15 parklets installed.</p>
Consider ongoing workplace efficiency, flexibility and service improvement opportunities that have emerged during the COVID-19 period and support the organisation’s implementation of relevant operating changes <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 0 2px;">C-19</span>	<p>The Business Improvement program has adapted to address current challenges and delivered quality improvement and enhanced effectiveness to key organisational processes through direct support to services and an online capacity building program. The training enables staff to address process inefficiencies and review service components effectively with the aim of creating a better customer experience and reduce risk to the organisation. The training supports the Policy Review Program and enhances the quality of Council procedures through the on-line mapping system for easy access.</p> <p>Improvement activities include digitisation of hard copy forms across the organisation.</p>



C-19 Indicates actions addressing COVID-19 challenges and/or recovery



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Review the Toy Library to ensure the service is flexible and responsive to Darebin’s diverse community</p>	<p>The toy library review reference group has met on a monthly basis to oversee and support the review. The group includes internal and external key stakeholders. A benchmarking exercise comparing Toy Libraries in Melbourne and interstate has been completed and the consultancy group ‘Beyond Foundations’ has been employed to conduct the community and key services engagement component of the Toy Library Review.</p>
<p>Deliver stage two of the Kindergarten and Childcare Centralised Registration Review and determine a future model that meets the diverse needs of the community</p>	<p>Due to the impact of COVID on the priorities of kindergarten and child care services, Council has revised the scope of this project. An updated project plan and delivery scheduled has been developed for 2020–21 and will also continue into the 2021–22 financial year. Feedback from community-managed child care and kinder services informed a number of changes to the registration system.</p>
<p>Undertake a homelessness and rough sleeper StreetCount that informs Council about people sleeping rough within Darebin</p>	<p>The StreetCount has been delayed due to COVID-19. Planning is underway to partner with Moreland and inner-Melbourne Councils to participate in the 2021 homelessness StreetCount. The 2021 date is yet to be scheduled and is being considered with reference to key state government homelessness policy and programs.</p>
<p>Analyse and respond to the results from the 2019–20 Annual Community Survey to understand the community perceptions and attitudes towards our Council services and programs, as well as the issues in the municipality that needs to be addressed</p>	<p>The 2020 Annual Community Survey report was presented Darebin’s Executive Management Team. Two internal workshops were conducted for Darebin leaders and four divisional meetings held as part of the roadshow to report the results to the organisation. The purpose of the workshops was to ensure leaders were aware of community perceptions and expectations in order to inform policies, initiatives and services. The workshops also required leaders to analyse the results and discuss ways to improve the survey for the following year, and the division meetings encouraged participants to think about the results and interrogate whether the right questions were being asked. The report was also sent to Councillors via an e-bulletin article which included a recorded presentation from the survey contractor. The survey results have also been made public on the Darebin website for the interest of community members.</p>
<p>Implement a continuous improvement process where engagement planning draws on the experience of previous engagements to expand our collection of data and avoid duplication</p>	<p>A temporary solution has been identified via the intranet for data collection to support all Darebin Council community engagement projects. This resource will be accessible by all business units across the organisation. As part of the roll-out of the new Community Engagement Policy, business units are required to submit their final reports to the Community Engagement and Demographics team where findings, learnings and success stories are collected and shared. This process will be improved through the implementation of the Community Engagement toolkit which is in the process of development.</p>

## GOAL 6

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**6.1** We will implement **the best delivery models** to optimise efficiency and value.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Finalise and implement the Workforce Planning Strategy and Workforce Diversity Strategy</p>	<p>The Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Strategy has been developed and will be launched in the next quarter. A number of actions are already in progress – specifically, the Recruitment and Selection Policy and practice, including recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Diversity and Inclusion Training, Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training and the Job Access Program.</p> <p>Requirements of the new Gender Equality Act have also been incorporated in 2021 actions.</p> <p>The Workforce Plan is at an early stage of development and focuses on data mapping and analysis in the context of Council’s strategic and policy direction to ensure a workforce able to delivery on Council’s key services and strategic projects to a changing community now and into the future, whilst aligning with the requirements of the new Local Government Act. The early work is being done in collaboration with a network of People and Culture leaders across Northern Councils.</p>
<p>Design and implement workplace culture and change programs and practices to ensure a modernised and skilled workforce readily able to cohesively deliver on Council’s key services and strategic projects</p>	<p>The Darebin Change Journey, Council’s flagship workplace and culture and change program, is progressively delivering over 30 projects which focus on: creating a great place to work; putting the community at the heart of everything we do; making our everyday work easier by streamlining our systems; and achieving community goals in our Council Plan – all working to ensure Council has a modernized and skilled workforce able to cohesively deliver on Council’s key services and projects.</p> <p>Key project deliverables over the past three months include: development of Council’s new Workforce Diversity and Inclusion Strategy; completion of a Capability Framework to enable the development of a contemporary and skilled workforce enabled to deliver on Council’s key services and policy direction; completion of Council’s new Recruitment and Selection Policy and practice, underpinned by values and Diversity and Inclusion principles including Guide to recruitment of First Nationals people; and, launch of the ‘Appreciate Great’ program to recognise the work of Council’s offices in serving the Darebin community with first round of Values in Action Awards.</p>
<p>Continue to implement and monitor Council’s Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy, framework and processes. Deliver better practice, improve compliance, value for money, more effective collaboration with other councils and service providers and improve service levels</p>	<p>Monthly meetings are in place with Kinaway Chamber of Commerce to discuss upcoming contracts. Draft new procurement forms were presented to the leadership group in March with a view to the implementation of Council’s Social and Sustainable Procurement Policy. A new suite of tendering/quoting schedules designed to align with the various types of procurement activity will be used. Project and Contract Managers will be required to include key performance indicators and outcomes to manage contracts and report the benefits.</p> <p>Project and Contact Managers will obtain advice from relevant business units to assist in developing key performance indicators. In April, Project and Contract Managers will attend information forums on the new suite of tendering/quoting schedules and the associated procedures.</p>



2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Collaborate with other northern metropolitan Council's and the Municipal Association of Victoria to advocate for improved operational guidelines for the proposed Environment Protection Act to ensure the effective use of Council resources in helping our community resolve amenity-based complaints</p>	<p>Council attended stakeholder consultation and provided a response to the Environment Protection Act Draft Local Government guidance document to ensure the changes best work for residential neighbourhoods.</p>
<p>Implement key technical functionality including: the digitisation of Council records (such as planning applications) to enable the online searching of information for faster and more comprehensive decision making, collaborative tools including webinar software, the digital signing of documents, as well as new cloud based platforms for publishing material on the Darebin website</p>	<p>The Archiving and Digitisation initiative aims to reduce the Council's archiving holdings by reviewing all stored records for currency, followed by digitising all paper-based documents.</p> <p>To date, the records team have reviewed over 4,089 archive boxes of records, leading to the destruction of 3,302 boxes (being obsolete) and 826 archive boxes being reviewed, updated and reconstituted back into the physical archive storage system.</p>
<p>Implement the Customer Complaint Policy and Procedure</p>	<p>The Complaint Handling Policy and Procedure went live on 30 November 2020. An audit is currently underway to obtain feedback about the process, which will be used to improve and enhance the policy.</p> <p>Ongoing activities are occurring to ensure the policy is embedded across the organisation.</p>
<p>Continue the re-design of the new Darebin website including the consolidation of up to 10 different Council websites into a single, easily searchable web presence that is secure, simplified, with easily accessed Council services</p>	<p>The website project has moved the current website and intranet onto a more secure and flexible cloud platform and is in the process of testing. This will now allow for the development of the new updated and contemporary website to be built, and enable the consolidations of the multiple existing Darebin websites into one. The public tender process to identify a supplier has been completed and web development of the new council corporate site has started.</p>
<p>Make key content on the Darebin website more accessible by increasing the legibility and readability of the information so it is aligned with disability standards and by translating the information into a variety of languages that reflect the Darebin community</p>	<p>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 defines how to make Web content more accessible to people with disabilities. Accessibility involves a wide range of disabilities, including visual, auditory, physical, speech, cognitive, language, learning, and neurological disabilities. The website project will ensure the new website will fully achieve the WCAG AA standards.</p> <p>In addition to Equity considerations, emphasis in the project is to ensure cultural considerations are uppermost regarding language availability for specific cultural groups. Currently there are eight languages supported on the website. This will increase to translation capability for more than 100 languages by incorporating Google translate into the new website. Also, the read aloud software (ReadSpeaker) provided on the corporate website will be extended to permit listening to website information in Spanish.</p>
<p>Review and update the website content for Planning and Development to improve access to information, interactivity and user-ability for Statutory Planning and Building Services</p>	<p>Website content relating to development applications is currently under review, with the goal of improving access to information.</p>



## GOAL 6

We will be a **leading, modern, and open council** to meet our challenges, now and in the future

**6.2** We will find new ways to deliver **long-term financial sustainability**.

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
<p>Progress priority projects that increase revenue. They include expanding our land subdivision levy to fund more open space (open space levy) and introducing a developer contributions scheme to ensure developers contribute financially to our infrastructure as population grows</p>	<p>This item is on track. This quarter, work has continued on the development of an implementation plan for the open space strategy which will support the open space levy.</p> <p>At its meeting of 22 March, Council considered submissions made to the proposed Development Contributions Plan planning scheme amendment. Council decided to refer the amendment to an independent Planning Panel, which is scheduled to convene in May.</p>
<p>Implement values-based leadership, management and practices underpinned by a robust capability framework. Implement the recommendations of the policy review project that will embed key strategic initiatives (such as 'Age Friendly Darebin' and 'Towards Equality') into officer decision-making processes and interactions with customers, residents, the community and each other</p>	<p>Council's 'Values in Action' program has embedded the new organisational values and behaviours in organisational systems and practices including: recruitment and induction, reward and recognition, performance management, policies and procedures, flexible work practices and Council's return to office plan.</p> <p>Council's Capability Framework has been completed, identifying a core set of capabilities, knowledge, skills, and other attributes that will enable Council staff to perform their jobs more effectively. The design of Council's Learning and Development Program, including Leadership Development, has been based on the new Capability Framework and organisational values – thereby ensuring both are embedded into officer management practices and decision making.</p>
<p>Develop a Financial Plan for a ten-year period that includes statements describing the financial resources required to give effect to the Council Plan and other strategic plans of Council</p>	<p>The development of the Financial Plan 2021–2031 has progressed through a coordinated approach with the development of the Budget 2021–22, Rating and Revenue Plan and the Community Vision to establish the long term resourcing requirements. The draft Financial Plan will be endorsed by Council in April, after which it will be presented for Deliberative Engagement to the panel over two sessions to be held in May 2021. The Financial Plan 2021–31 will be presented to Council for adoption on 28 June 2021.</p>



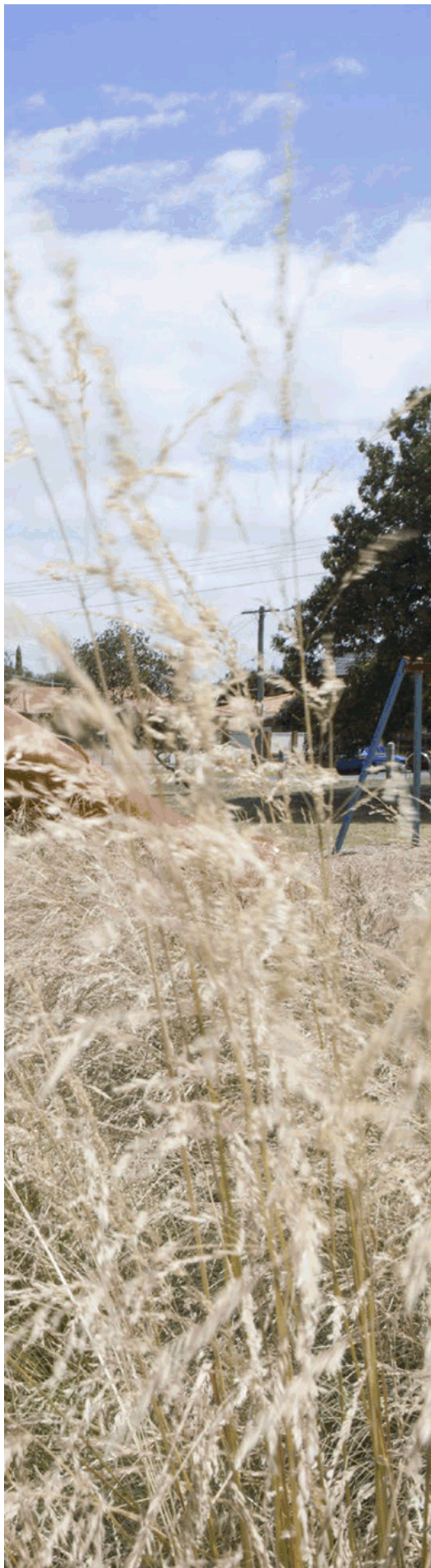


2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Review the preparation of the Annual Budget and mid-year financial review to ensure they provide Council with the relevant information to maintain its financial sustainability	The draft Budget 2020–21 has been developed in collaboration with Councillors over the past two months and is scheduled to be endorsed at a Council meeting in April. Following Council's endorsement, the budget will be put on display for 28 days where submissions on the draft budget will be received.
Undertake and implement a full review of fees and charges that considers equity, socio-economic factors, demographics, social wellbeing and environmental sustainability	The Fees and Charges review identified three types of subsidies that will form where, why and how fees should be charged – Full Cost Recovery, Partial Council Subsidy and Full Council Subsidy. Council officers were asked to review fees under their management to ensure the correct pricing method was correctly applied, with feedback confirming this to be correct. This work and these principles will inform the development of the Budget 2021–22 user fees revenue and the Rating and Revenue Plan.
Implement a Public Transparency Policy in accordance with the Local Government Act 2020	Work has commenced to embed Council's adopted Public Transparency Policy (July 2020) and the Public Transparency Principles of the Local Government Act 2020. Key activities through the quarter included internal communications and embedding into the policy framework and related procedures. An action plan is in development to program the required work.
Conduct a comprehensive review of the current risk management policy, related documents and risk assessment tools and implement the policy across the organisation	A review of all operational risks has been undertaken and the Operational Risk Register updated. This work has informed the approach to enterprise risk management. The Draft Risk Management Policy and Draft Risk Management Framework have been developed, incorporating guidance and tools that will build risk maturity and support implementation. The policy and framework will be presented for endorsement in the next quarter.

**6.3 We will communicate our progress on the actions in this council plan to residents, community leaders, community organisations, business, industry, and Victorian and Federal governments to ensure we can all act together.**

2020–2021 actions working towards targets:	Progress comments:
Progress of the Council Plan 2017–21 is reported quarterly and annual action plans developed for each year of the Council Plan. Quarterly progress reports and the annual action plans are listed on Council's website to keep the community informed	All reports have been presented to Council on time and are accessible on the Darebin website. The Fourth Quarter (end of financial year) Council Plan Action Plan Progress Report 2019–20 was presented to Council on 7 September 2020. The First Quarter Council Plan Progress Report for the 2020–21 financial year was presented to Council at the meeting on 7 December 2020. The Second Quarter Council Plan Progress Report for the 2020–21 financial year was presented to Council at the meeting on 22 February 2021. The Third Quarter report is booked for the Council Meeting in May 2021.





# CAPITAL WORKS



# CAPITAL WORKS PROGRESS REPORT

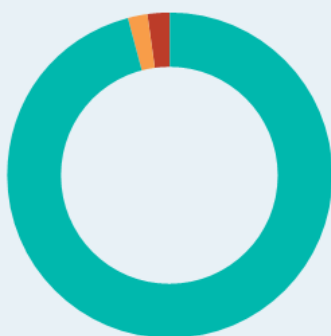
Third Quarter 2020-21

This is the fourth year of the Council Plan 2017-21. Darebin's capital works program continues Council's strong investment in new and renewed infrastructure. In the Annual Adjusted Budget 2020-21, Council committed \$52.47 million to its 2020-21 capital works program of 57 projects and programs of work.

As at 31 March 2021, 98% of projects are on track, 2% are at risk of missing target and 2% will not make their target and will be reconsidered in a future year. Council is working to ensure a successful delivery of these projects within the 2020-21 Financial Year. Some of these projects are being delivered over several financial years.

Actual spend on the capital works program to date is \$22.72 million. As at 31 March 2021, there is a further \$30.84 million of agreed and committed work under contract that is set to be delivered.

## Overall Performance



- 98% On Track
- 2% At risk of missing target
- 2% Will not meet target

### Bundoora Park Flood Mitigation

Total project budget: \$522,892  
Total year to date expenditure: \$256,394

To protect the nearby residential areas from possible flooding, works at Bundoora Park in Kingsbury have been undertaken. Drainage works on Plenty Rd and Curtain Ave have opened a 170m long swale drain, which is designed to slow and control the flow of water to prevent flooding. One of the benefits of this type of drainage system is it maintains the natural landscape of the area.

In addition to the swale drain, works included pouring 380m<sup>2</sup> of new footpath to the area, as well as planting 80 indigenous trees along the drain system.

Works were completed on schedule in March in preparation for winter.

### KP Hardiman Synthetic Hockey Pitch Redevelopment

Total project budget: \$2,412,001  
Total year to date expenditure: \$1,834,113

The existing hockey pitch at KP Hardiman Reserve has reached the end of its useful life and requires redevelopment. This project is intended to develop a new hybrid National Class 1 hockey pitch in line with Hockey Victoria guidelines.

During this quarter, the synthetic playing surface was installed on the asphalt surface. Line markings on the pitch are also complete. Around the new hockey pitch new footpaths and fencing is also being installed, which should be completed in April.

The installation of the player and spectator benches is progressing well with all works currently on track and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

### Urban Forest Strategy and Rewilding Darebin Programs

Total project budget: \$900,000  
Total year to date expenditure: \$366,905

The Rewilding Darebin Program seeks to change 'default' use for green space that is not utilised for other purposes (such as active recreation, sport, pedestrian access or active transport) to be native bushland. The planting season is just beginning, with a broad focus of sites across the municipality including: Edgars Creek Wetlands in Reservoir, Rubie Thomson Reserve in Northcote and Mt Cooper Dr in Bundoora.

Planting of new street trees is also progressing well, with native trees planted on residential nature strips. During Q3, trees were planted across Alphington and Bundoora, with the next suburb in the plan being Fairfield in early Q4.

### Open Space Playground Renewal Program

Total project budget: \$50,000  
Total year to date expenditure: \$44,679

The goal for this program is to revitalise playgrounds across the municipality. This year four sites were selected to replace the soft fall mulch to improve the usability of the playgrounds at Johnson Park in Northcote, Spencer reserve in Thornbury, Rubie Thomson in Northcote and L.W. Williams reserve in Preston. Across all playgrounds, 310m<sup>3</sup> of tired soft fall mulch was excavated and replaced. The removed fill has been stockpiled for new garden beds as part of the Rewilding Darebin Program.

Works at all four sites are now complete with the playgrounds open to the public.






























# CAPITAL WORKS REPORT

## Third Quarter 2020-21

- On track
- At risk of missing target
- On hold/will not meet target

Project by Asset Class	Total Budget	Progress comment
<b>Bridges</b>		
Bridge Upgrade - Installation of New Approach Guardrails	\$230,000	<span style="color: #C00000;">■</span> Project cancelled, to be reconsidered in a future year.
Bridge and Road Condition Survey	\$150,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Broadhurst Bridge	\$100,001	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Bridge Upgrade - Darebin Creek Trail 2019-20	\$156,850	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project has been completed
Beavers Road Bridge 2019-20	\$298,728	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project has been completed
Leamington St Bridge Repair	\$150,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project has been completed
<b>Building Improvements</b>		
Carbon Management Plan - Buildings	\$312,973	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Building ESM Program	\$100,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
<b>Buildings</b>		
Multi Sport Stadium	\$15,000,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Building Renewal Program	\$3,567,562	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre	\$2,000,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Catalyst Project - Preston Civic Precinct (includes Intercultural Centre)	\$940,002	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Bill Lawry Oval Pavilion	\$981,477	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Reservoir Leisure Centre	\$799,999	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
BT Connor Pavilion Redevelopment	\$499,999	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Toilet Strategy	\$250,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
JE Moore Park North Pavilion Female Changeroom Upgrade 2019-20	\$230,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project has been completed
Neighbourhood Activity Centre Renewal Program	\$110,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Darebin Arts Centre - DDA Compliance - Front and Rear Entry	\$109,310	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Darebin International Sports Centre (DISC) & Darebin Community Sports Stadium (DCSS) renewal	\$100,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Moon Rabbit - Food waste bio-dehydrator	\$50,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
<b>Drainage</b>		
Drainage System Renewal and Upgrade Program including WSUD and Reactive Works	\$1,064,449	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Stormwater Pipe Relining Program	\$193,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
<b>Footpaths and Cycleways</b>		
Footpath Renewal Program	\$5,383,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Cycling Program Detailed Design and Construction	\$590,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Walking Program Detailed Design and Construction	\$500,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Shared Path - Parks Renewal Program	\$250,000	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
<b>Information Technology</b>		
IT Infrastructure Implementation	\$2,082,895	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
IT Improvement Program	\$1,400,001	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track
Darebin Libraries Technology Action Plan	\$118,113	<span style="color: #00A68F;">■</span> Project is on track

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Project by Asset Class	Total Budget	Progress comment
<b>Land Improvements</b>		
KP Hardiman Synthetic Hockey Pitch Redevelopment	\$2,412,001	 Project is on track
Darebin Resource Recovery Centre Retaining Wall	\$700,000	 Excavation of the existing wall uncovered additional structural works required that will delay Project completion into 2021-22
<b>Library Books</b>		
Darebin Libraries Product Purchases (Collection)	\$800,000	 Project is on track
<b>Parks and Open Space</b>		
Open Space Improvements Program	\$2,139,999	 Project is on track
Community Safety Upgrade Improvements	\$652,923	 Project is on track
Park Asset Renewal Program including Drinking Fountains	\$150,000	 Project is on track
JCMP Sportsfield Resurfacing	\$150,000	 Project has been completed
Bundoora Park Aia Maasarwe Memorial	\$167,000	 Project is on track
Alphington Farmers Market - Gate and gravel path work	\$10,000	 Project has been completed
<b>Plant, Machinery and Equipment</b>		
Vehicular Plant Replacement - Heavy Vehicles	\$1,500,000	 Project is on track
Replacement of Mobile Garbage, Green Waste and Recycling Bins	\$300,000	 Project is on track
Vehicular Plant Replacement - Light Vehicles	\$250,000	 Project is on track
Arts Venues & Hubs Plant & Equipment Program	\$150,000	 Project is on track
Youth Services Asset Renewal Program	\$75,000	 Project is on track
Reservoir Leisure Centre Gym Equipment and Group Exercise Equipment	\$50,000	 Project is on track
<b>Recreation, Leisure and Community Facilities</b>		
John Hall Oval Lighting Upgrade	\$238,000	 Project is on track
Crispe Park Lighting Upgrade	\$50,000	 Project is on track
WH Mott - New Lighting	\$15,000	 Project is on track
<b>Roads</b>		
Road Rehabilitation Design & Construction Program	\$1,610,000	 Project is on track
Road Resurfacing Program	\$1,703,585	 Project is on track
Blackspot Design and Construction Program	\$853,000	 Project is on track
Safe Travel Program Detailed Design and Construction	\$310,000	 Project is on track
Kerb and Channel Renewal Program	\$200,001	 Project has been completed
Right of Way Rehabilitation Program	\$100,000	 Project is on track
Street Furniture and Equipment Renewal Program	–	 Project combined with Neighbourhood Activity Centre Renewal Program
<b>Streetscape Works</b>		
Streetscape and Place Improvements - Preston Activity Centre	\$63,109	 Project is on track
<b>Fixtures, Fittings and Furniture</b>		
Furniture Replacement Program	\$100,001	 Project is on track



## STATUS OF COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

Council decision-making is guided by the direction and intent set out in the Council Plan, principles outlined in the *Local Government Act 2020*, the Governance Rules and the Councillor Code of Conduct. These decisions are recorded in the form of resolutions, which are enacted by the Council administration.

Resolutions, once recorded, take effect immediately. They can vary greatly in scale from writing a letter to communicate Council's position on a matter, to delivery of a complex capital project.

Darebin City Council records and monitors the progress made on the implementation of Council resolutions.

In this Financial Year to date, 108 resolutions have been completed and 71 resolutions are in progress. Due to the complexity of some of the resolutions, they may span multiple years and can be superseded or updated as the initiatives progress.

The status of the 179 resolutions made by Darebin City Council since 1 July 2020 is:

- 60% complete
- 40% in progress



# FINANCIAL REPORT

Nine months ended  
31 March 2021

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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1 Operating performance

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
<b>Operating</b>					
Revenue	161,446	165,225	3,779	<b>173,786</b>	185,713
Expenditure	(124,755)	(122,589)	2,166	<b>(168,115)</b>	(172,888)
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	36,691	42,636	5,945	<b>5,671</b>	12,825
<b>Capital &amp; other</b>					
Revenue/grants	(2,149)	(2,427)	(278)	<b>(3,988)</b>	(9,214)
Developer contributions	0	(515)	(515)	<b>0</b>	(515)
<b>Adjusted underlying surplus/(deficit)</b>	34,542	39,694	5,152	<b>1,683</b>	3,096

For the nine months ended 31 March 2021, Council has recorded an operating surplus of \$42.64 million, which is \$5.95 million ahead of the year to date budget. After eliminating capital and other items, the adjusted underlying surplus is \$39.69 million, which is \$5.15 million ahead of budget.

Total revenue year to date is favourable by \$3.78 million and forecast to be \$11.93 million greater than budget for end of the year. Total expenditure year to date is favourable by \$2.17 million and forecast to be \$4.77 million greater than budget for end of year. The forecast operating result for the year ending 30 June 2021 is an operating surplus of \$12.83 million, which is \$7.15 million more than budget. The forecast adjusted underlying surplus is \$3.1 million, which is \$1.41 million more than the budget surplus of \$1.68 million.

There are significant variances in the annual forecast compared to the adopted budget with some of these variances due to Council participating in the Victorian Government funded Working for Victoria initiative. The revenue and costs were not budgeted so the initiative has resulted in a favourable variance in Grants – operating, \$5.0 million, and unfavourable variances in Employee costs of \$4.38 million and Materials and services of \$0.62 million. The net cost to Council is zero.

Council will be receiving substantial Federal Government - Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Funding (LCRI) for infrastructure initiatives. Subsequently, funding and corresponding infrastructure spending of \$4.7 million has been forecast.

Revenue in Statutory fees and fines have been forecast down due to traffic enforcement income tracking slower than budget with the expectation revenue will reduce by \$0.42 million.

Contributions from developers for public open space are forecast to be \$0.82 million greater than budget.

The total expense variance of \$3.78 million is predominately due to the Working for Victoria costs however other Items include \$740K in Waste Operation costs, \$323K for the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre contract, \$549K for Leisure contracts and \$575K Power Purchasing Agreement (PPA). The PPA costs are offset by contributions received by the participating 46 Councils with the net cost to Darebin \$34K which is its contribution to the agreement.

## 1.2 Capital performance

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Budget & CFWD's \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Property	14,042	14,135	(93)	<b>20,059</b>	19,665	24,072
Plant & equipment	4,517	3,426	1,091	<b>6,239</b>	6,876	6,381
Infrastructure	9,653	9,581	72	<b>13,790</b>	14,890	19,336
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>28,212</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>40,088</b>	<b>41,431</b>	<b>49,789</b>

For the nine months ended 31 March 2021, Council has expended \$27.14 million on the capital works program, which is \$1.07 million behind the year to date budget. The minor variance is due mainly to delays in the replacement of plant and equipment.

To support the \$27.14 million expended as at 31 March 2021, a further \$30.87 million has been committed by way of issued purchase orders. Commitments are not reflected in the reported capital expenditure. This indicates that many projects are well progressed.

The adopted budget has increased from \$40.09 million to an annual forecast of \$49.79 million. This is due to unbudgeted Federal Grants (LCRI) in 2020-21 for Footpath and Building Renewals \$4.70 million, Road Blackspot \$343K, the advance progress of the Darebin Multi-Sports Stadium \$5.0 million and \$400K allocated from 2019-20 operating surplus towards the Integrated Finance System project.

The 3rd Quarter review identified 17 projects which are programmed for delivery in 2020-21 which will require some budgeted funds to be carry forward to the 2021-22 year. The value of this is \$1.91 million. Significant projects include:

- Darebin Operations Centre retaining wall – Additional design consultation has delayed the project
- Bill Lawry Oval pavilion – Complex project requiring cultural heritage consultation
- Open Space - Penders Park stage 2 – Funding is being sought from State Government to complete the project. Expected to be completed over two financial years.
- Cycling – Preston activity link – Project deferred in line with Preston Level Crossing Removal Project.

## 1.3 Financial position

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Audited 2020 \$'000
Cash and investments	28,058	71,671	43,613	<b>53,583</b>	58,789	73,526
Net current assets	74,295	85,039	10,744	<b>37,045</b>	33,233	50,038
Net assets and total equity	1,489,100	1,563,779	74,679	<b>1,458,221</b>	1,533,967	1,521,142

The financial position as at 31 March 2021 shows a cash and investment balance of \$71.67 million, which is \$43.61 million ahead of budget. The variance is due mainly to timing differences in receipt of rates, government receipts, payments to employees and suppliers, payments for property, infrastructure and plant and equipment and a higher opening cash and investment position compared with budget. The cash and investment balance of \$71.67 million was sufficient to meet restricted cash and intended allocation obligations of \$35.65 million at the end of March. Restricted cash is the amount of cash holdings Council requires to

meet external restrictions such as trust funds, statutory reserves and cash for intended allocations, such as cash held to fund future capital works.

The net current asset position is \$85.04 million, which is \$10.74 million more than budget. Due to the prior year valuation increment of land and buildings, the net asset position of \$1.56 billion is \$74.68 million more than budget.

The forecast Financial Position as at 30 June 2021 shows a cash position of \$58.79 million and net current assets of \$33.23 million.

## 2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

### 2.1 Operating performance

The information in the table below shows income and operating expenditure for the period ended 31 March 2021. The six columns of data provide information on the following:

- YTD budget to 31 March 2021 (i.e. estimated timing of income and expenditure)
- YTD actual results to 31 March 2021
- YTD variance of actuals compared to budget
- Original budget as adopted by Council
- 3rd quarter (annual) forecast of the year end position

- Variance of original budget adopted by Council and 3rd quarter (annual) forecast of the year end position.

The report provides a year to date (YTD) summary of Council's financial position and is a guide on the timing of receipts and payments. Timing differences can occur during the financial year and year to date variances do not imply that the annual budget will be affected.

The majority of YTD timing and permanent differences against budget are due to the ongoing impact of COVID on Council operations and services.

<b>Comprehensive Income Statement</b> For the 9 months ended 31 March 2021	<b>YTD Budget \$'000</b>	<b>YTD Actual \$'000</b>	<b>YTD Variance \$'000</b>	<b>Annual Budget \$'000</b>	<b>Annual Forecast \$'000</b>	<b>Forecast Variance \$'000</b>
<b>Income</b>						
Rates and charges	134,210	134,084	(126)	<b>135,560</b>	135,452	(108)
Statutory fees and fines	3,577	3,312	(265)	<b>5,739</b>	5,319	(420)
User fees	3,807	3,424	(383)	<b>5,464</b>	5,443	(21)
Grants – operating	12,100	15,187	3,087	<b>15,727</b>	21,827	6,100
Grants – capital	2,730	2,804	74	<b>4,570</b>	9,795	5,225
Contributions – monetary	3,039	4,409	1,370	<b>3,500</b>	5,522	2,022
Net gain (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	459	695	236	<b>612</b>	559	(53)
Other income	1,524	1,310	(214)	<b>2,614</b>	1,796	(818)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>161,446</b>	<b>165,225</b>	<b>3,779</b>	<b>173,786</b>	<b>185,713</b>	<b>11,927</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Employee costs	65,181	66,214	(1,033)	<b>88,339</b>	90,602	(2,263)
Materials and services	34,743	32,683	2,060	<b>46,723</b>	50,310	(3,587)
Bad and doubtful debts	987	165	822	<b>1,320</b>	840	480
Depreciation and amortisation	18,243	18,487	(244)	<b>24,323</b>	24,053	270
Lease finance costs	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0
Other expenses	5,601	5,040	561	<b>7,410</b>	7,083	327
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>124,755</b>	<b>122,589</b>	<b>2,166</b>	<b>168,115</b>	<b>172,888</b>	<b>(4,773)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>36,691</b>	<b>42,636</b>	<b>5,945</b>	<b>5,671</b>	<b>12,825</b>	<b>7,154</b>
<b>Less</b>						
Grants – capital (non-recurrent)	(2,149)	(2,427)	(278)	<b>(3,988)</b>	(9,214)	(5,226)
Contributions – capital	0	(515)	(515)	<b>0</b>	(515)	(515)
<b>Adjusted underlying surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>34,542</b>	<b>39,694</b>	<b>5,152</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>3,096</b>	<b>1,413</b>

## Operating Revenue – notes

### 1. Rates and charges

Major variances include:

- Interest on rates are \$81K less than budget. This is due to Council's decision under the COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package to waive interest on outstanding rates. (P)
- Special rates and charges related to retail activity areas are \$146K less than budget. 2020/21 Special rates and charges have been waived for eight months under the COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package. (T)

### 2. Statutory fees and fines

Major variances include:

- Building and Planning fees are \$622K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$791K more than budget at the end of the financial year. Client charges and town planning fees are higher than expected. (P)
- Traffic enforcement fees are \$501K less than budget YTD however it is forecast that this variance will be \$1.42 million less than budget at the end of the financial year. The quantum of parking fine income has been impacted by COVID-19. (P)
- Local laws fees are \$96K greater than budget due to less infringements being issued. (P)
- Animal control fees are \$471K less than budget due to phasing and were invoiced in April. (T)

### 3. User fees

Major variances include:

- Reservoir Leisure Centre income is \$806K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$598K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Income has been impacted by the centre's closure due to COVID-19. (P)
- Arts Precincts income is \$150K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$157K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Income has been impacted by the closure of Darebin Arts Centre and Northcote Town Hall due to COVID-19. (P)
- Bundoora Park income is \$133K less than budget. Income has been impacted by the facility closure due to COVID-19. (P)
- Green fee income at Bundoora Park and Northcote Golf Course is \$554K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$638K more than budget at the end of the financial year. An increase in golf rounds played has exceeded budget. (P)

### 4. Grants operating

Major variances include:

- Darebin City Council is a participant in the Victorian Government funded Working for Victoria initiative. Total funding of \$4.99 million that was expected to be received under the scheme was not budgeted in 2020/21. (P)
- Aged and disability service delivery funding is \$150K greater than budget. (T)
- Family and community program service funding is \$227K greater than budget. (T)
- State Government COVID-19 funding of \$500K received for business support was not budgeted for. (P)
- Victorian Grants Commission (Financial Assistance Grants) for 2020/21 were 50% prepaid in 2019/20 and accordingly the grants received are \$1.80 million less than budget. (T)

### 5. Grants capital

Major variances include:

- Funding for KP Hardiman Reserve hockey field resurfacing is \$319K greater than budget. Funding received is greater than anticipated. (P)
- Funding under the Federal Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program of \$4.70 million was not budgeted to be received. (P)
- Funding for the Darebin Multi-Sports Stadium of \$200K is not expected to be received this financial year. (P)
- Funding for Roads to Recovery programs of \$204K is yet to be received. (T)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

## 2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

### Operating Revenue — notes

#### 6. Contributions — monetary

Major variances include:

- Public open space contributions are \$834K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$817K more than budget at the end of the financial year. COVID-19 has had limited impact on property development undertaken within the municipality. (P)
- Contributions received for the Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement project are \$133K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$133K more than budget at the end of the financial year. Contributions are in addition to what was received last financial year. (P)
- Funding received for strategic water outcomes are \$100K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$125K more than budget at the end of the financial year. Melbourne Water project contribution was not budgeted. (P)
- Shared contribution received for the Darebin Parklands footbridge and Beavers Road bridge are \$514K greater than budget. Delays to completion of the project has impacted on the timing of the co-Council contribution. (P)
- Contributions for the Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre of \$125K are not expected to be received. COVID-19 has forced the closure of the Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre. (P)

#### 7. Net gain / (loss) on sale of property, plant and equipment:

- Proceeds on sale of motor vehicles is \$351K greater than budget. (T)

#### 8. Other income

Major variances include:

- Lower deposit interest rates have resulted in the Interest received to be \$506K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$611K less than budget at the end of the financial year. (P)

#### 9. Employee costs

Major variances are:

- Aged and disability service delivery is \$800K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$887K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Demand for Home Support services has declined. (P)
- Arts precincts are \$264K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$297K less than budget at the end of the financial year. COVID-19 has forced the closure of Darebin Arts Centre and Northcote Town Hall. (P)
- Community Hubs are \$243K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$142K less than budget at the end of the financial year. COVID-19 has forced the closure of Community Hubs. (P)
- Libraries are \$311K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$213K less than budget at the end of the financial year. COVID-19 has forced the closure of Council libraries. (P)
- Reservoir Leisure Centre is \$429K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$509K less than budget at the end of the financial year. COVID-19 has forced the closure of the Reservoir Leisure Centre. (P)
- Waste operations is \$311K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$645K less than budget at the end of the financial year. The variance is offset by increases in contract labour costs. (P)
- Statutory planning is \$158K greater than budget. (T)
- Working for Victoria program is \$2.33M greater than budget. It is forecast that this variance will be \$4.38 million more than budget at the end of the financial year as the State Government funded Working for Victoria program was not budgeted. (P)

#### 10. Materials and services

Major variances are:

- Communications and engagement are \$259K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$195K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Lower advertising and publication costs associated with the Darebin Community News are forecast. (P)
- Council business is \$292K less than budget. Council is awaiting final VEC election costs. (T)
- Environmental programs are \$651K less than budget. There have been delays in the installation of the Solar Saver program. (T)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

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- Facilities management is \$1.07M less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$879K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Lower air conditioning, electrical, roofing and plumbing costs in relation to building maintenance are forecast. (P)
- Infrastructure maintenance is \$376K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$742K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Lower drainage, footpath, graffiti management, and infrastructure maintenance costs are forecast. (P)
- Parks and open space are \$631K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$140K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Lower contractor payments for horticulture services and Bundoora Park are forecast. (P)
- Strategic planning is \$180K less than budget, mainly due to delays in the neighbourhood character study. (T)
- Transport strategy is \$271K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$176K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Lower consultancy costs in relation to cycling and walking initiatives are forecast. (P)
- Darebin Resource Recovery Centre management fees are \$287K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$322K more than budget at the end of the financial year. COVID-19 forced the closure of the DRRC. (P)
- Local Government Power Purchasing Agreement project costs are \$168K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$575K more than budget at the end of the financial year. Contributions from 46 councils were received in 2019/20 so, over the two years, the net cost to Council is \$34K. (P)
- Pandemic Response is \$256K greater than budget. Additional materials and consumables in relation to COVID-19 are forecast. (P)
- People and Culture are \$96K greater than budget it is forecast that this variance will be \$532K more than budget at the end of the financial year. Higher contract labour costs are forecast. (P)
- Property Services is \$298K greater than budget it is forecast that this variance will be \$550K more than budget at the end of the financial year. Higher contract labour costs are forecast. (P)
- Waste Operations service is \$729K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$841K more than budget at the end of the financial year. Higher contract labour costs, landfill charges for residential garbage, green waste, and recycling services are forecast. (P)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

#### 11. Bad and doubtful debts

Major variance is:

- Local Laws bad and doubtful debts is \$90K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$69K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Over the past 12 months there have been less infringements sent to Fines Victoria for processing. (P)
- Traffic Enforcement bad and doubtful debts is \$646K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$411K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Over the past 12 months there have been less infringements sent to Fines Victoria for processing. (P)

#### 12. Other expenses

Major variances are:

- COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package response is \$682K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$870K less than budget at the end of the financial year. The COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package was adopted by Council in March 2020. (P)
- Community grants program is \$281K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$104K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Contributions for social enterprises and leisure minor works have been incorporated into the COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package. (P)
- Special rates and charges contributions related to retail activity areas are \$169K less than budget. 2020/21 Special rates and charges have been deferred under the COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package. (T)
- Council's shareholding in the Regional Kitchen Pty Ltd was transferred to Western Health, consequently, the shares held in this entity have been written-off \$230K. (P)



## 2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

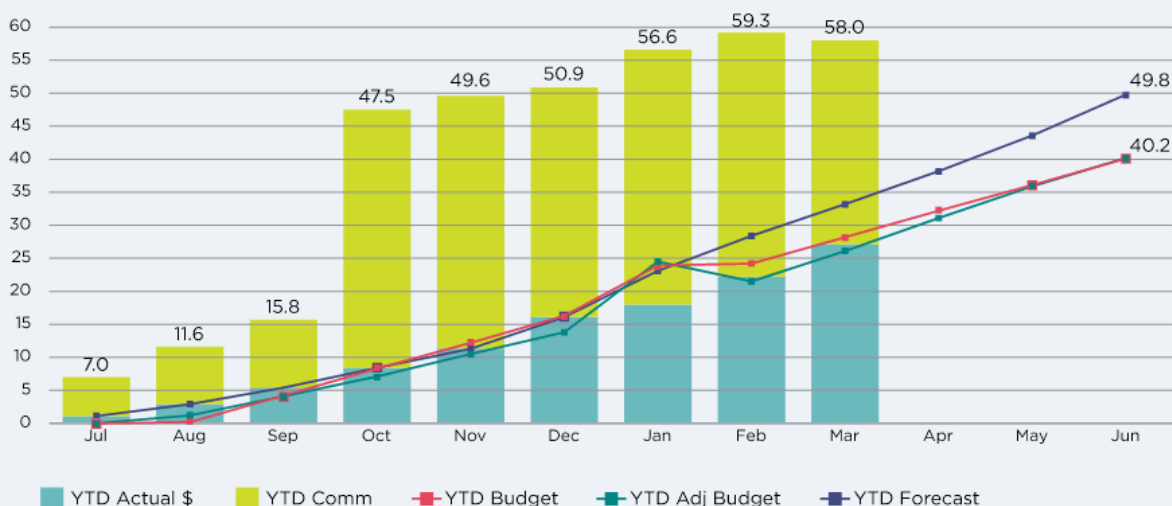
### 2.2 Capital performance

The information in the table below shows capital expenditure for the period ended 31 March 2021. The seven columns of data provide information on the following:

- YTD budget to 31 March 2021
- YTD actual results to 31 March 2021
- YTD variance of actuals compared to budget
- Original budget as adopted by Council
- Original budget plus additional carry forwards not included in the published budget
- Mid-year (annual) forecast of the year end position
- Variance of original budget adopted by Council and mid-year forecast of the year end position.

Statement of Capital Works For the 9 months ended 31 March 2021	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Budget & CFWD's \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Forecast Variance \$'000
<b>Capital works</b>							
Buildings	13,902	13,987	(85)	<b>19,859</b>	19,465	23,872	(4,013)
Building improvements	140	148	(8)	<b>200</b>	200	200	0
<b>Total property</b>	<b>14,042</b>	<b>14,135</b>	<b>(93)</b>	<b>20,059</b>	<b>19,665</b>	<b>24,072</b>	<b>(4,013)</b>
<b>Plant &amp; equipment</b>							
Plant, machinery & equipment	1,663	664	999	<b>2,375</b>	2,375	2,375	0
Fixtures, fittings & furniture	70	42	28	<b>100</b>	100	100	0
Computers & telecommunications	2,075	2,229	(154)	<b>2,964</b>	3,601	3,106	(142)
Library books	709	491	218	<b>800</b>	800	800	0
<b>Total plant &amp; equipment</b>	<b>4,517</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>6,239</b>	<b>6,876</b>	<b>6,381</b>	<b>(142)</b>
<b>Infrastructure</b>							
Roads	2,538	2,044	494	<b>3,625</b>	4,078	4,677	(1,052)
Bridges	336	682	(346)	<b>480</b>	515	1,077	(597)
Footpaths & cycleways	1,633	2,989	(1,356)	<b>2,333</b>	2,633	6,449	(4,116)
Drainage	765	784	(19)	<b>1,093</b>	1,223	1,257	(164)
Land Improvements	2,318	2,077	241	<b>3,312</b>	3,262	2,762	550
Recreation, leisure & community facilities	212	84	128	<b>303</b>	303	235	68
Parks, open space & streetscapes	1,851	921	930	<b>2,644</b>	2,876	2,879	(235)
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>9,653</b>	<b>9,581</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>13,790</b>	<b>14,890</b>	<b>19,336</b>	<b>(5,546)</b>
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>28,212</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>40,088</b>	<b>41,431</b>	<b>49,789</b>	<b>(9,701)</b>
<b>Represented by:</b>							
Asset renewal	11,607	11,167	440	<b>16,493</b>	17,046	20,484	(3,991)
New assets	8,329	8,013	316	<b>11,835</b>	12,231	14,699	(2,864)
Asset expansion	3,126	3,008	118	<b>4,442</b>	4,591	5,517	(1,075)
Asset upgrade	5,150	4,955	195	<b>7,318</b>	7,563	9,089	(1,771)
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>28,212</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>40,088</b>	<b>41,431</b>	<b>49,789</b>	<b>(9,701)</b>

**Cumulative capital works actual and committed expenditure**



**Capital Expenditure – notes**

**1. Buildings**

Major variances include

- Multi-sports stadium is \$1.58 million greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$5.0 million greater than budget at the end of the financial year. The Multi-sports stadium project is a multi-year project. Progress on the stadium is in advance of the project plan. (P)
- Reservoir Leisure Centre is \$323K greater than budget. Progress on works is in advance of the project plan. (T)
- Building Renewal works are forecast to be \$519K greater than budget. Expansion of the building renewal program was offset by lower building maintenance. (P)
- Public convenience strategy works are \$107K greater than budget. Progress on works is in advance of project plan. (T)
- Bill Lawry Oval pavilion upgrade is \$412K less than budget. (T)
- BT Connor Reserve pavilion upgrade is \$173K less than budget. (T)
- Intercultural Centre relocation is \$196K less than budget. (T)
- 350 High Street office upgrade is \$127K less than budget. (T)
- NARC schematic design is forecast to be \$1.0 million less than budget at the end of the financial year. The NARC redevelopment project is a multi-year project, progress has been halted due to the facility closure. (P)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

**2. Plant, machinery & equipment**

Major variances include:

- Plant replacement program is \$955K less than budget. (T)

**3. Computers & telecommunications**

Major variances include:

- IT infrastructure upgrade program is \$438K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$725K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Complex procurement issues and expected equipment delivery has delayed the project. (P)
- Integrated financial system is \$382K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$746K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Progress on the replacement financial system is progressing. (P)
- IT equipment purchases for the pandemic response is \$179K greater than budget. Additional equipment required to support staff working from home. (P)

**4. Library books**

Major variances include:

- Library product purchase is \$218K less than budget. (T)

## 2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

### Capital Expenditure – notes

#### 5. Roads

Major variances include:

- Blackspot funded works are forecast to be \$378K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Grant funded under the State Blackspot Removal program. (P)
- Rehabilitation - Cheddar Road is \$402K less than budget. (T)
- Road resurfacing program is \$93K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$704K greater than budget at the end of the financial year due to grant funding received under the Federal Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program. (P)
- Rehabilitation - Flinders St is \$118K greater than budget. Stage 2 of Roads to Recovery funded project from previous year. (P)
- Kerb & channel renewal program is \$135K greater than budget. (T)

#### 6. Bridges

Major variances include:

- Beavers Rd Bridge is \$290K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$290K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Co-council funded project and delays to the project have impacted on the timing of completion. (P)
- Darebin Parklands footbridge is \$159K greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$159K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Co-council funded project and delays to the project have impacted on the timing of completion. (P)
- Leamington St bridge repair is forecast to be \$150K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. However the cost has been offset by an Insurance claim for work required to repair damaged bridge railing. (P)

#### 7. Footpaths

Major variances include:

- Footpath renewal program is \$1.63M greater than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$4.3 million greater than budget at the end of the financial year due to grant funding received under the Federal Local Roads & Community Infrastructure program. (P)

#### 8. Land improvements

Major variances include:

- KP Hardiman Reserve hockey pitch resurfacing is forecast to be \$150K less than budget. Project was deferred from 2019/20. (P) Project will be delivered with budget savings.
- John Cain Memorial Park resurfacing is forecast to be \$150K greater than budget at the end of the financial year due to additional turf replacement required to complete outdoor courts project. (P)
- Darebin Operations Centre retaining wall is \$390K less than budget. Additional design consultation has delayed the project. (P)

#### 9. Parks, opens space & streetscapes

Major variances include:

- Oakover Road pocket park is \$248K less than budget. (T)
- Open Space - Penders Park stage 2 is \$180K less than budget and it is forecast that this variance will be \$260K less than budget at the end of the financial year. Funding is being sought from State Government to complete the project. Expected to be completed over 2 financial years. (P)
- Street tree planting is forecast to be \$300K greater than budget at the end of the financial year. Additional funding has been provided for the urban forest strategy. (P)

Note: (T) Timing, (P) Permanent

### 2.3 Financial position

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Adopted Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Audited 2020 \$'000
Cash and investments	28,058	71,671	43,613	<b>53,583</b>	57,091	73,526
Net current assets	74,295	85,039	10,744	<b>37,045</b>	31,535	50,038
Net assets and total equity	1,489,100	1,563,779	74,679	<b>1,458,221</b>	1,533,967	1,521,142

#### Cash balance

The chart below shows projections of how Council's cash balance is expected to perform over the course of the 2019/20 financial year. The chart portrays:

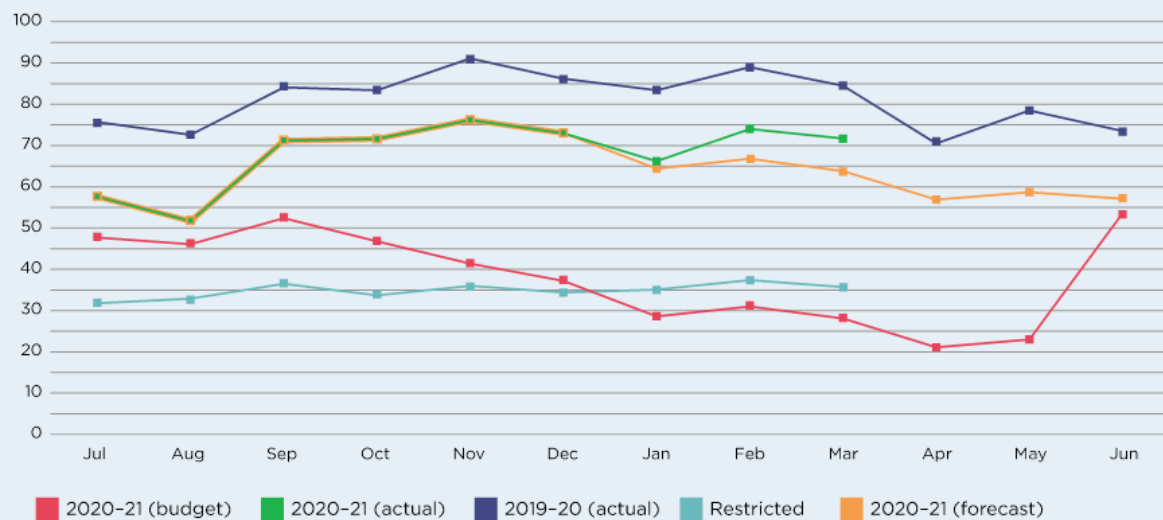
- Budgeted 2020/21 cash balance
- Actual 2020/21 cash balance
- Actual 2019/20 cash balance
- Restricted Cash
- Mid-year (annual) forecast cash balance.

Restricted cash includes:

- Developer contribution scheme
- Drainage development reserve
- Recreational lands contributions held on behalf of developers
- Carried forward capital works
- Trust funds and deposits.

The graph below shows Council's cash balance is within expectations. And every opportunity is taken to invest surplus cash to maximise investment returns.

#### Cash and Investment Balance



Note: Cash and investments include term deposits with a maturity date exceeding 90 days which are classified as other financial assets in the Balance Sheet (\$21.89M).

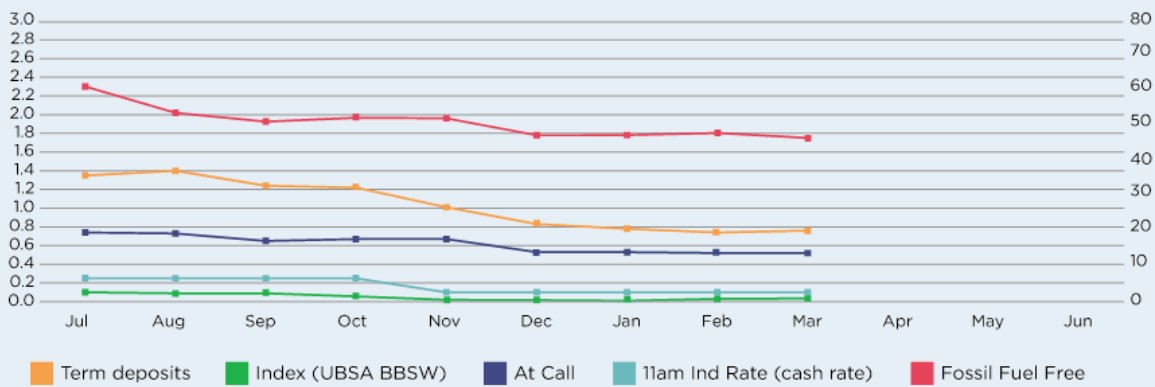
# 2 FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

### Cash balance – continued

The graph below shows Council's interest performance against the market as well as showing the percentage of investments that were placed with financial institutions and authorised deposit-taking institutions which do not have a record of funding fossil fuels.

As at 31 March 2021, 47% of all invested funds were placed with financial institutions and ADIs which do not have a record of funding fossil fuels (30 June 2020 65%).

### Weighted average interest rate v benchmark



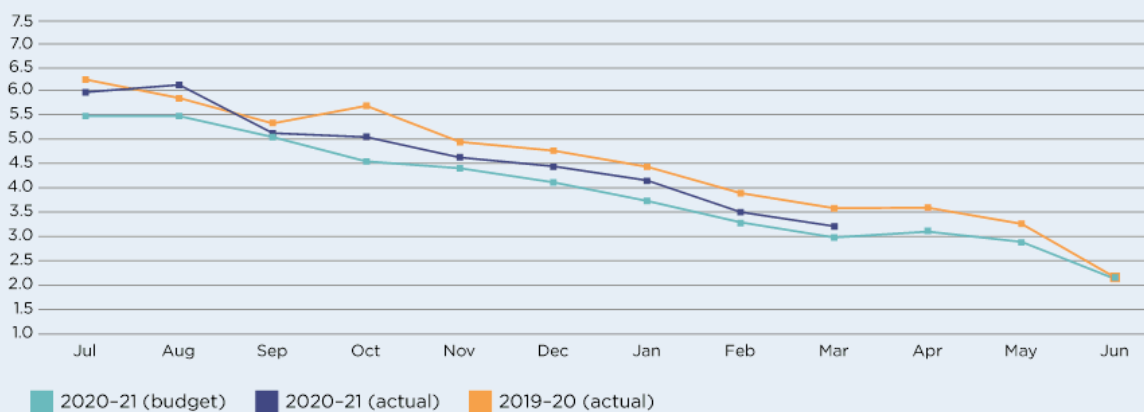
### Working capital

The chart below shows projections of the movement in Council's working capital over the course of the 2020/21 financial year. The chart portrays:

- Budgeted 2020/21 working capital
- Actual 2020/21 working capital
- Actual 2019/20 working capital

As at 31 March 2021, \$130.62 million was raised in general rates and charges including supplementary valuations generated by changes to council's property base. At 31 March 2021, 68.9% of the rates raised have been collected compared to the same period of the 2019-20 financial year of 71.4%.

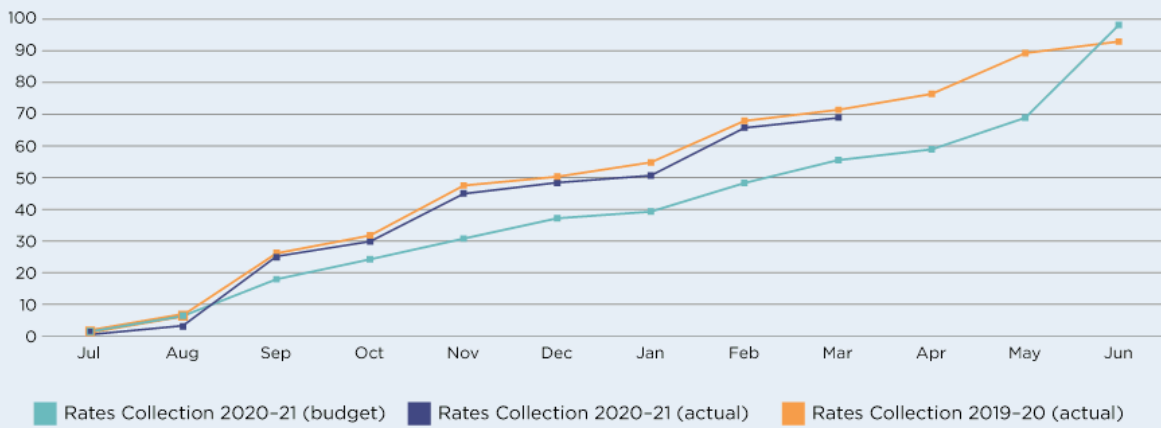
### Working capital (current assets/current liabilities)



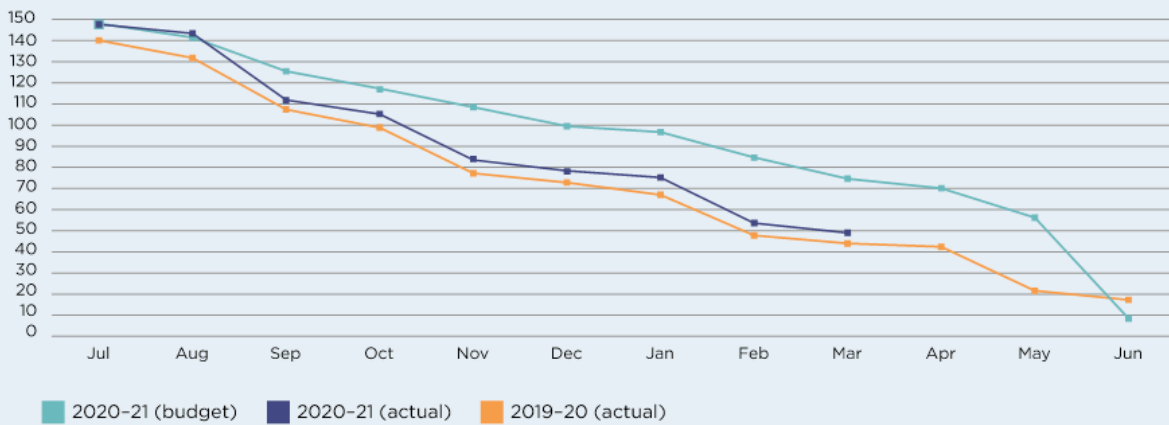
### Rates debtors

The following graphs show that current collection trends are closely following the 2019-20 collection trend and the budgeted collection trend:

#### % of rates received



#### Rates outstanding



## APPENDIX A

### Comprehensive Income Statement

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2021

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Forecast Variance \$'000
<b>Income</b>						
Rates and charges	134,210	134,084	(126)	<b>135,560</b>	135,452	(108)
Statutory fees and fines	3,577	3,312	(265)	<b>5,739</b>	5,319	(420)
User fees	3,807	3,424	(383)	<b>5,464</b>	5,443	(21)
Grants - operating	12,100	15,187	3,087	<b>15,727</b>	21,827	6,100
Grants - capital	2,730	2,804	74	<b>4,570</b>	9,795	5,225
Contributions - monetary	3,039	4,409	1,370	<b>3,500</b>	5,522	2,022
Net gain (loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	459	695	236	<b>612</b>	559	(53)
Other income	1,524	1,310	(214)	<b>2,614</b>	1,796	(818)
<b>Total income</b>	<b>161,446</b>	<b>165,225</b>	<b>3,779</b>	<b>173,786</b>	<b>185,713</b>	<b>11,927</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Employee costs	65,181	66,214	(1,033)	<b>88,339</b>	90,602	(2,263)
Materials and services	34,743	32,683	2,060	<b>46,723</b>	50,310	(3,587)
Bad and doubtful debts	987	165	822	<b>1,320</b>	840	480
Depreciation and amortisation	18,243	18,487	(244)	<b>24,323</b>	24,053	270
Lease finance costs	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0
Other expenses	5,601	5,040	561	<b>7,410</b>	7,083	327
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>124,755</b>	<b>122,589</b>	<b>2,166</b>	<b>168,115</b>	<b>172,888</b>	<b>(4,773)</b>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>	<b>36,691</b>	<b>42,636</b>	<b>5,945</b>	<b>5,671</b>	<b>12,825</b>	<b>7,154</b>
<b>Less</b>						
Grants - capital (non-recurrent)	(2,149)	(2,427)	(278)	<b>(3,988)</b>	(9,214)	(5,226)
Contributions - capital	0	(515)	(515)	<b>0</b>	(515)	(515)
<b>Adjusted underlying surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>34,542</b>	<b>39,694</b>	<b>5,152</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>3,096</b>	<b>1,413</b>

**Balance Sheet**

As at 31 March 2021

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000	Audited 2020 \$'000
<b>Current assets</b>						
Cash and cash equivalents	12,352	49,776	37,424	<b>36,730</b>	41,936	42,920
Trade and other receivables	78,409	49,775	(28,634)	<b>13,598</b>	13,598	17,175
Other financial assets	15,706	21,895	6,189	<b>16,853</b>	16,853	30,606
Inventories	67	60	(7)	<b>67</b>	60	60
Other assets	2,740	1,940	(800)	<b>2,618</b>	2,525	2,528
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>109,274</b>	<b>123,446</b>	<b>14,172</b>	<b>69,866</b>	<b>74,972</b>	<b>93,289</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>						
Trade and other receivables	4,261	3,902	(359)	<b>4,718</b>	4,369	4,387
Other financial assets	236	6	(230)	<b>236</b>	4,704	236
Property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	1,408,769	1,473,071	64,302	<b>1,414,755</b>	1,490,061	1,464,388
Right-of-use assets	263	237	(26)	<b>0</b>	263	237
Investment property	2,810	2,790	(20)	<b>2,810</b>	2,790	2,790
Intangible assets	432	754	322	<b>467</b>	578	1,086
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>1,416,771</b>	<b>1,480,760</b>	<b>63,989</b>	<b>1,422,986</b>	<b>1,502,766</b>	<b>1,473,124</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,526,045</b>	<b>1,604,206</b>	<b>78,161</b>	<b>1,492,852</b>	<b>1,577,738</b>	<b>1,566,413</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>						
Trade and other payables	11,029	11,205	(176)	<b>7,956</b>	15,182	17,520
Trust funds and deposits	2,644	5,340	(2,696)	<b>4,571</b>	4,527	4,527
Provisions	21,194	21,765	(571)	<b>20,294</b>	21,918	21,107
Lease liability	112	97	15	<b>0</b>	112	97
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>34,979</b>	<b>38,407</b>	<b>(3,428)</b>	<b>32,821</b>	<b>41,739</b>	<b>43,251</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>						
Provisions	1,810	1,876	(66)	<b>1,810</b>	1,876	1,876
Lease liability	156	144	12	<b>0</b>	156	144
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>1,966</b>	<b>2,020</b>	<b>(54)</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>2,032</b>	<b>2,020</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>36,945</b>	<b>40,427</b>	<b>(3,482)</b>	<b>34,631</b>	<b>43,771</b>	<b>45,271</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,489,100</b>	<b>1,563,779</b>	<b>74,679</b>	<b>1,458,221</b>	<b>1,533,966</b>	<b>1,521,142</b>
<b>Equity</b>						
Accumulated surplus	599,623	603,998	4,375	<b>568,744</b>	569,789	560,464
Asset revaluation reserve	865,796	936,646	70,850	<b>865,796</b>	936,646	936,646
Other reserves	23,681	23,135	(546)	<b>23,681</b>	27,532	24,032
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>1,489,100</b>	<b>1,563,779</b>	<b>74,679</b>	<b>1,458,221</b>	<b>1,533,967</b>	<b>1,521,142</b>



## APPENDIX A

### Statement of Cash Flow

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2021

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>					
Rates	75,322	101,878	26,556	<b>147,286</b>	138,145
Statutory fees and fines	3,334	3,122	(212)	<b>6,235</b>	5,319
User fees & charges (inclusive of GST)	4,035	3,378	(657)	<b>5,937</b>	5,855
Government receipts	14,831	18,472	3,642	<b>22,052</b>	32,103
Contributions – Monetary	4,275	4,409	134	<b>3,500</b>	5,522
Other income	1,736	891	(845)	<b>1,866</b>	1,232
Employee costs	(65,269)	(65,562)	(291)	<b>(96,588)</b>	(89,030)
Materials and services (inclusive of GST)	(47,330)	(41,585)	5,745	<b>(59,188)</b>	(71,568)
Net FSPL refund/payment	10	(14)	(24)	<b>0</b>	0
	(9,059)	24,989	34,047	<b>31,100</b>	27,578
Interest	429	374	(55)	<b>1,175</b>	764
Trust funds and deposits	0	762	762	<b>0</b>	0
Net GST refund/payment	6,581	6,043	(537)	<b>7,088</b>	8,958
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	<b>(2,048)</b>	<b>32,168</b>	<b>34,216</b>	<b>39,363</b>	<b>37,300</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>					
Proceeds from sale of property, plant & equipment	674	705	29	<b>673</b>	861
Payment for property, infrastructure, plant & equipment	(28,210)	(34,850)	(6,639)	<b>(44,097)</b>	(53,022)
Repayment of loans and advances	0	123	123	<b>0</b>	123
Proceeds from sale of other financial assets	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>	<b>(27,536)</b>	<b>(34,024)</b>	<b>(6,488)</b>	<b>(43,424)</b>	<b>(52,038)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>					
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash &amp; cash equivalents</b>	<b>(29,584)</b>	<b>(1,855)</b>	<b>27,729</b>	<b>(4,061)</b>	<b>(14,737)</b>
Cash & cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	57,642	73,526	15,884	<b>57,642</b>	73,526
<b>Cash &amp; cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	<b>28,058</b>	<b>71,671</b>	<b>43,613</b>	<b>53,581</b>	<b>58,789</b>

Note: Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year includes term deposits with a maturity date exceeding 90 days which are classified as other financial assets in the Balance Sheet (\$30.61M).

**Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus**

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
Surplus for the year	36,691	42,636	5,945	<b>5,671</b>	12,825
<b>Items not involving cash or non operating in nature</b>					
Depreciation and amortisation	18,243	18,487	244	<b>24,323</b>	24,053
Interest expense	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Bad & doubtful debts	987	165	(822)	<b>1,320</b>	840
Net (gain)/loss on sale of assets	(459)	(695)	(236)	<b>(612)</b>	(559)
Other	0	230	230	<b>0</b>	230
	55,462	60,823	5,361	<b>30,702</b>	37,389
<b>Change in operating assets and liabilities</b>					
Decrease/(Increase) in rate debtors	(62,209)	(32,201)	30,008	<b>17,000</b>	2,894
Decrease/(Increase) in other operating assets	1,717	915	(802)	<b>(6,077)</b>	(30)
(Decrease)/Increase in trade creditors	(1,179)	1,818	2,997	<b>(1,831)</b>	(4,524)
(Decrease)/Increase in other operating liabilities	3,361	155	(3,206)	<b>(431)</b>	760
(Decrease)/Increase in provisions	800	658	(142)	<b>0</b>	812
	(57,510)	(28,654)	28,856	<b>8,661</b>	(88)
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	(2,048)	32,168	34,216	<b>39,363</b>	37,300

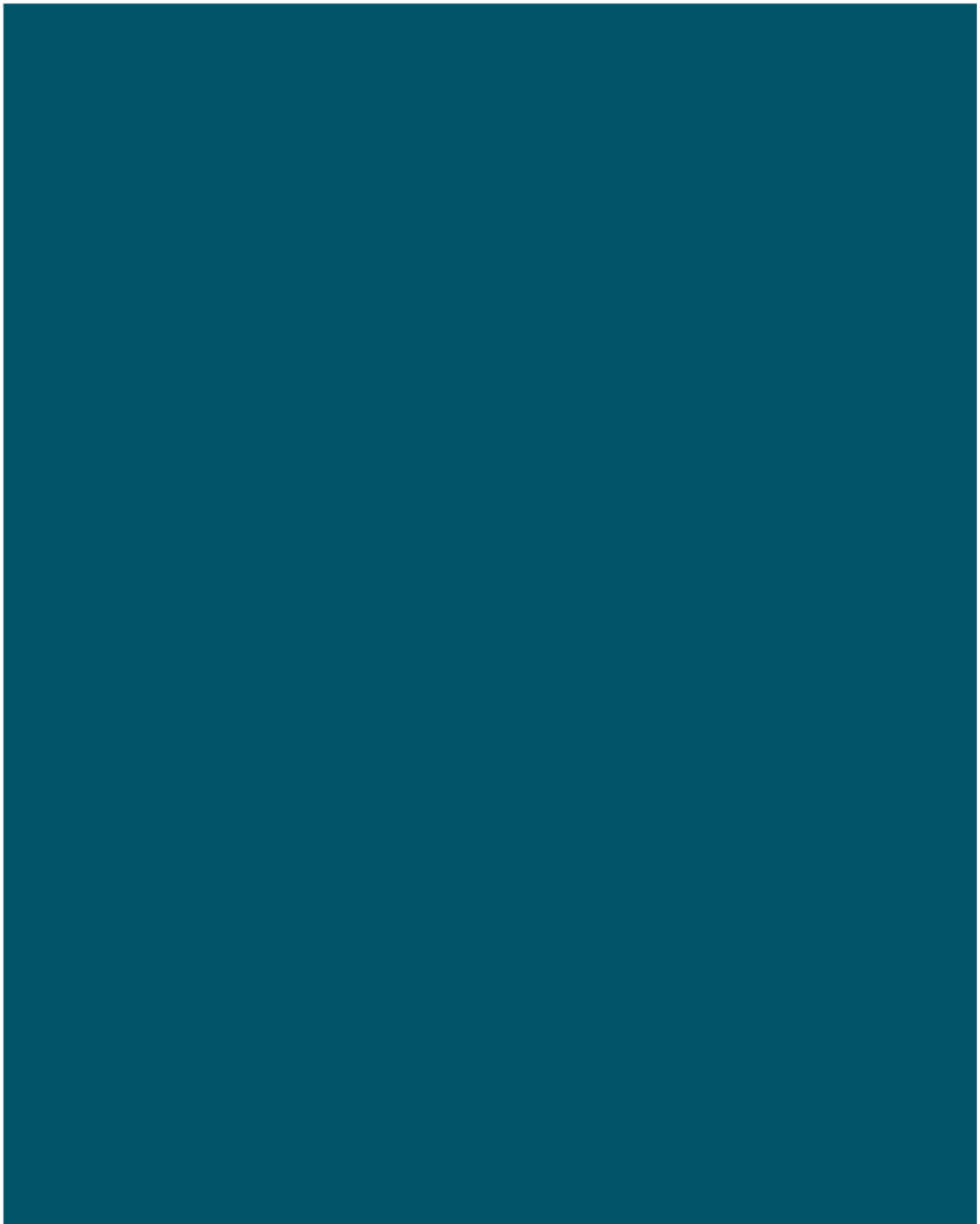
## APPENDIX A

### Statement of Capital Works

For the 9 months ended 31 March 2021

	YTD Budget \$'000	YTD Actual \$'000	YTD Variance \$'000	Annual Budget \$'000	Budget & CFWD's \$'000	Annual Forecast \$'000
<b>Capital works</b>						
Buildings	13,902	13,987	(85)	<b>19,859</b>	19,465	23,872
Building improvements	140	148	(8)	<b>200</b>	200	200
<b>Total property</b>	<b>14,042</b>	<b>14,135</b>	<b>(93)</b>	<b>20,059</b>	19,665	24,072
<b>Plant &amp; equipment</b>						
Plant, machinery & equipment	1,663	664	999	<b>2,375</b>	2,375	2,375
Fixtures, fittings & furniture	70	42	28	<b>100</b>	100	100
Computers & telecommunications	2,075	2,229	(154)	<b>2,964</b>	3,601	3,106
Library books	709	491	218	<b>800</b>	800	800
<b>Total plant &amp; equipment</b>	<b>4,517</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>1,091</b>	<b>6,239</b>	6,876	6,381
<b>Infrastructure</b>						
Roads	2,538	2,044	494	<b>3,625</b>	4,078	4,677
Bridges	336	682	(346)	<b>480</b>	515	1,077
Footpaths & cycleways	1,633	2,989	(1,356)	<b>2,333</b>	2,633	6,449
Drainage	765	784	(19)	<b>1,093</b>	1,223	1,257
Land Improvements	2,318	2,077	241	<b>3,312</b>	3,262	2,762
Recreation, leisure & community facilities	212	84	128	<b>303</b>	303	235
Parks, open space & streetscapes	1,851	921	930	<b>2,644</b>	2,876	2,879
<b>Total infrastructure</b>	<b>9,653</b>	<b>9,581</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>13,790</b>	14,890	19,336
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>28,212</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>40,088</b>	41,431	49,789
<b>Represented by:</b>						
Asset renewal	11,607	11,167	440	<b>16,493</b>	17,046	20,484
New assets	8,329	8,013	316	<b>11,835</b>	12,231	14,699
Asset expansion	3,126	3,008	118	<b>4,442</b>	4,591	5,517
Asset upgrade	5,150	4,955	195	<b>7,318</b>	7,563	9,089
<b>Total capital works</b>	<b>28,212</b>	<b>27,142</b>	<b>1,070</b>	<b>40,088</b>	41,431	49,789





**CITY OF DAREBIN**

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If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.



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हिंदी	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	Tiếng Việt

**8.4 M9 GROUP OF COUNCILS****Author:** Executive Officer**Reviewed By:** Chief Executive Officer

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to consider joining a group of inner-city councils for the purpose of shared advocacy, with a working title of M9.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** Council;

- (1) Agrees to join an expanded group of inner-city councils for the purpose of shared advocacy, with a working title of M9.
  - (2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with other participating councils to establish the new entity and its operating principles.
  - (3) Receives further information on proposed advocacy priorities.
- 

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

The IMAP group of Councils comprises the Cities of Maribyrnong, Port Phillip, Stonnington, Yarra and Melbourne.

A recent review of IMAP has determined that while there is commitment to continuing to work together, there is benefit to expanding the membership of the group to include the Cities of Darebin, Moreland, Moonee Valley and Hobsons Bay enhance the group's effectiveness. This group would be referred to as the M9. The priority of the M9 would be on joint advocacy with a sharp focus on a limited number of key strategic issues (likely limited to three).

The expanded coalition of councils will be established under a Memorandum of Understanding and would involve the Mayor and CEO from each member council meeting four times per year to set and monitor strategy.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Consultation has been undertaken with the Mayors and CEO's of the nine Councils who have indicated that working together provides a unique platform to collectively influence State and Commonwealth government and agreement that the primary focus of IMAP moving forward should be advocacy, with a sharp focus on a small number of key strategic issues that are shared across member councils.

**ANALYSIS****Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy**

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

**Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

N/A

**Financial and Resource Implications**

N/A

**DISCUSSION**

While the current IMAP group is valued for its stability and longevity, a recent review of the structure and objectives of the group has identified that the primary focus of IMAP moving forward should be advocacy, with a sharp focus on a limited number of key strategic issues. These issues could include affordable housing and homelessness, economic recovery and job creation subject to engagement with members.

Expanding the group to include Hobsons Bay, Moonee Valley, Moreland and Darebin Councils better represents the inner city and Greater Melbourne as a coalition of the nine innermost councils unified with a shared vision for Melbourne, which has the potential to be a major influence on State and Commonwealth policy and funding. It would represent 18 per cent of the Victoria population, or almost 1.2 million people.

The working title for the group is M9 and the coalition will be established under a Memorandum of Understanding/Terms of Reference. Advocacy efforts would be formalised and include regular engagements with key Ministers such as the Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Local Government.

The administration model and resourcing would depend on the final agreed scope of the M9 which will be determined over the next few months. Investment would be required in a new brand, name and website to appropriately reflect a vibrant inner-city vision and purpose.

**Attachments**

Nil

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any general or material interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

**8.5 GOVERNANCE REPORT - MAY 2021****Author:** Coordinator Council Business**Reviewed By:** General Manager, Governance and Engagement

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The matters covered under Governance Report for the month of May 2021 are:

- Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors;
- Reports by Mayor and Councillors;
- Responses to the questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council Meetings held on 8 April 2021 and 26 April 2021;
- Councillor Expenses for the quarter from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021.

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
-------------------------------

**That Council:**

1. Notes the Governance Report – May 2021
  2. Notes the summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other Informal Meetings of Councillors at **Appendix A** to this report, for incorporation in the minutes of this meeting.
  3. Notes that Reports by Mayors and Councillors submitted prior to the meeting and circulated to Councillors, will be incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.
  4. Notes the responses to the questions taken on notice during Public Question Time at the Council meetings held on 8 April 2021 and 26 April 2021, at **Appendix B** to this report.
  5. Notes the Councillor Expenses Report for the quarter from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021, at **Appendix C** to this Report.
- 

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules 2020, the agenda for each Ordinary Meeting is required to list certain governance / administrative matters in addition to other specified items. These include the Reports of Standing Committees (for example the Hearing of Submissions Committee), Summary of Meetings (for example Briefings, Advisory Committee), Responses to Public Questions taken on notice and Reports by Mayor and Councillors

Instead of having multiple reports for these governance / administrative matters on each agenda, it is considered appropriate to consolidate all of these matters in one single standing report to provide a single reporting mechanism for a range of statutory compliance, transparency and governance matters.

This is in accordance with best practice, good governance principles, transparent and accountable reporting of governance activities and to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Act, Council's Governance Rules and related Regulations. This report will additionally incorporate matters including but not limited to reporting of advisory committees, items relating



to the delegation of Council powers, policy and strategy reporting, and the reporting on Councillors expenses.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

Nil

## **ANALYSIS**

### **Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy**

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

Nil

#### ***Climate Emergency***

Nil

### **Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations**

Nil

### **Cultural Considerations**

Nil

### **Economic Development Considerations**

Nil

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Nil

### **Legal and Risk Implications**

This report fulfils legislative governance obligations, to provide transparent and accountable reporting of governance activity.

## **DISCUSSION**

The matters covered under Governance Report for the month of April 2021 are:

### Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefing and other informal meetings of Councillors

In accordance with Council's Governance Rules 2020 for any meeting of an Advisory Committee established by Council attended by at least one Councillor or a scheduled or planned meeting to discuss the business of *Council* or to brief Councillors, and which is attended by at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff and which is not a *Council meeting*, *Delegated Committee* meeting or *Community Asset Committee* meeting the *Chief Executive Officer* must ensure that a summary of the meeting is:-

- a) Tabled at the next convenient Council meeting; and
- b) Recorded in the minutes of that Council meeting.

The summary of the meeting should include a) the time, date and location of the meeting, b) the Councillors in attendance, c) the topics discussed, d) the positions of Council officers in attendance, e) the organisation that any attendees external to council are representing and f) any conflicts of interest declared, including the reason.

A Summary of the following Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings or other Informal Meetings of Councillors are attached at **Appendix A** to this Report:

- Councillor Briefing Session – 12 April 2021
- Councillor Briefing Session – 19 April 2021
- Darebin Nature Trust Advisory Committee – 20 April 2021
- Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory Panel Meeting – 27 April 2021
- Councillor Briefing Session – 3 May 2021
- Councillor Briefing Session – 10 May 2021
- Councillor Briefing Session – 17 May 2021

#### Reports by Mayor and Councillors

The Mayor and Councillors submit their monthly report by 4.00pm on the day of each Ordinary Council Meeting, detailing their attendance at various functions and activities since the last Council Meeting. Reports submitted by Mayor and Councillors will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting.

#### Responses to Public Questions taken On Notice – Council meetings 8 April 2021 and 26 April 2021

Pursuant to the Councils Governance Rules the response to a question from the public taken on notice must be recorded in the minutes of the next Ordinary Council meeting. Written responses have been provided to the questions taken on notice at the Council meetings held on 8 April 2021 and 26 April 2021 and are included at **Appendix B** to this report.

#### Councillor Expenses (1 January 2021 – 31 March 2021)

Councillor Expenses Report for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021, are included at **Appendix C** to this report. The Councillor Support Expenses will also be made available on Council's website.

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Nil

### Attachments

- Summary of Advisory Committees, Councillor Briefings and other informal meetings of Councillors - 24 May 2021 (**Appendix A**)
- Responses to the Questions taken on notice - 8 April and 26 April 2021 (**Appendix B**)
- Councillor Expenses - 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021 (**Appendix C**)

## DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any general or material interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Officer reviewing this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.



## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing Session
	<b>Date:</b>	12 April 2021
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Messina, Cr. Greco, Cr. Hannan, Cr. Laurence, Cr. Newton, Cr. Williams
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sue Wilkinson, Sam Hewett, Kerry McGrath, Rachel Ollivier, Jodie Watson, Damian Hogan, Cecile Tache, Jimmy Kyle, Amelia Bassett, Joseph Spiteri, Alia Slamet, Shadi Hanna, Stevie Meyer, Quentin Mercier, Karen Leeder
	<b>Other:</b>	
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr Dimitriadis, Cr McCarthy, Cr Rennie,

The Meeting commenced at 1:30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Councillor Induction Program - Engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities	No disclosures were made.
2	Domestic Animal Management Plan	No disclosures were made.
3.	RSPCA Contract Review	No disclosures were made
4.	Planning Scheme Audit – Findings and Recommendations	No disclosures were made
5.	Bell Station Precinct Engagement Report	No disclosures were made
6	Planning Committee Items Questions	No disclosures were made
7	Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-25	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 5:30pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Jodie Watson
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	General Manager Governance and Engagement



## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing
	<b>Date:</b>	19 April 2021 1:30pm – 8:30pm
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Dimitriadis, Cr Greco, Cr Hannan, Cr Laurence, Cr McCarthy (arrived 2:05pm), Cr Messina, Cr Newton, Cr Rennie, Cr Williams (left 3:35pm)
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sue Wilkinson, Jodie Watson, Sam Hewett, Rachel Ollivier, Kerry McGrath, Amelia Bassett, Cecile Tache, Disa Linden-Perlis, Shabaz Fattah, Damian Hogan, Anita Craven
	<b>Other:</b>	N/A
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		

The briefings commenced at 1:30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Mandatory Councillor Induction Training – Session 3 – Diversity Inclusion - Addressing inequality and fostering diversity and inclusiveness	No disclosures of conflict were made
2	Key dilemmas for Council Plan / Council submission to Community Vision / Revenue and Rating Plan	No disclosures of conflict were made

The briefing concluded at 8.30pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Anita Craven
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy



## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Nature Trust Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 20 April 2021
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chambers, 274 Gower Street, Preston
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Gaetano Greco (Deputy Mayor), Cr. Tom Hannan, Cr. Tim Laurence, Cr. Trent McCarthy (Chair)
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Rachel Ollivier, Vanessa Petrie, Steve Tierney, Lee McKenzie, Andrea Canzano
	<b>Other:</b>	Five community members of the Darebin Nature Trust Advisory Committee
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Four community members of the Darebin Nature Trust Advisory Committee

The Meeting commenced at 6.30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Confirmation of minutes & actions from previous meeting	No disclosures were made.
2	Working Groups – updates and schedule of dates for Working Group meetings	No disclosures were made
3	Northcote Golf Course – discussion about Council resolution from 22 March 2021	No disclosures were made
4	Edwardes Lake - discussion about Council resolution from 22 March 2021	No disclosures were made
5	Council Plan - and discussion about DNT submission to the Council Plan - progress report	No disclosures were made

The Meeting concluded at 8.40pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Andrea Canzano
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Senior Environment Officer (Biodiversity)



## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Art & Heritage Advisory Panel Meeting
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 27 April 2021   6-8pm
	<b>Location:</b>	Bundoora Homestead Art Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Newton
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Vicky Guglielmo, Manager of Creative Culture & Events Leah Crossman, Art & Collections Coordinator Kirsty Baird, Arts Casual (minute-taker)
	<b>Other:</b>	Art & Heritage Advisory Panel community members: JD Mittmann, Kirsten Matthews, Giovanna D'Abaco, Jane O'Neill, Madeleine McClelland, Ramona Barry, Sarah Werkmeister, Veronica Pardo
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Lyndel Wischer (Chair of the Panel), Sue Thornton, Kade McDonald, Diego Ramirez, Bridie Mackay, Sophie Cassar, Sean Ryan

The Meeting commenced at 6:30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Welcome to new panel members and introductions	No disclosures were made.
2	<p><b>PRIORITY SETTING FOR THE ART &amp; HERITAGE ADVISORY PANEL</b></p> <p>Discussion of the role, priorities and focus of the panel for the year ahead. Priorities identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Art</li> <li>• Curatorial Framework for Bundoora Homestead Art Centre</li> <li>• Public Realm</li> <li>• Audience development for Bundoora Homestead</li> </ul>	No disclosures were made.

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community engagement strategies</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Activation of the exterior of the Homestead</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>GUERRILLA PUBLIC ART POLICY ADDENDUM</b></p> <p>Discussion of how Darebin Council can effectively manage and respond to guerrilla public art in the municipality, in line with its commitment to support local artists and to present public art which activates the city in exciting ways.</p>	No disclosures were made.

### SUMMARY OF MEETINGS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

The Meeting concluded at 8.10pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Leah Crossman
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Art & Collections Coordinator





## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing Session
	<b>Date:</b>	3 May 2021
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Messina, Cr. Greco, Cr. Dimitriadis, Cr. Hannan, Cr. Laurence, Cr. McCarthy, Cr. Newton, Cr. Rennie, Cr. Williams
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sue Wilkinson, Sam Hewett, Kerry McGrath, Rachel Ollivier, Jodie Watson, Quentin Mercier, Jolyon Boyle, Karen Leeder, Brendan Moore, Brett Grambau, Catherine Dear, Vicky Guglielmo, Anita Craven, Damian Hogan
	<b>Other:</b>	Jo Davies and Matt Thorpe (LXRP Representative)
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		

The Meeting commenced at 2pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Level Crossing Removal Project construction plan update from the LXRP	No disclosures were made.
2	Northcote Plaza Planning Application	No disclosures were made.
3.	10 May Planning Committee Items	No disclosures were made.
4.	Graffiti Removal Service	No disclosures were made.
5.	Darebin Intercultural Centre Relocation Project	No disclosures were made.
6.	Council Plan (incorporating Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan) and Financial Plan Deliberative Panel dilemmas (commitments).	No disclosures were made.
7.	Multicultural Arts Victoria Stakeholder Dinner	No disclosures were made.
8.	M9 Group of Councils	No disclosures were made.

The Meeting concluded at 6.15pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Jodie Watson
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	General Manager Governance and Engagement



## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing
	<b>Date:</b>	10 May 2021 3:30pm – 5:15pm
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Greco, Cr Hannan (from 3:20pm), Cr Laurence Cr Messina, Cr McCarthy (from 3:15pm), Cr Newton, Cr Rennie, Cr Williams (from 4:00pm)
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sue Wilkinson, Jodie Watson, Rachel Ollivier, Damian Hogan, Karen Leeder, Julie Smout, Jolyon Boyle
	<b>Other:</b>	N/A
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr Dimitriadis

The briefings commenced at 3:30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Draft Budget Submissions	No disclosures of conflict were made
2	Statutory planning Service	No disclosures of conflict were made
3	Planning Committee Agenda 10 May 2021 - Questions	No disclosures of conflict were made

The briefing concluded at 5:15pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Jodie Watson
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	General Manager Governance and Engagement



## SUMMARY OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES, COUNCILLOR BRIEFINGS AND OTHER INFORMAL MEETINGS OF COUNCILLORS

<b>MEETING DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Councillor Briefing
	<b>Date:</b>	17 May 2021 2:00pm – 4:30pm
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr Greco (from 2.16pm) Cr Hannan Cr Laurence (from 2.10pm) Cr Messina (left 3.30 – 4.00pm) Cr McCarthy (from 2.24pm) Cr Newton Cr Rennie Cr Williams
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sue Wilkinson Jodie Watson Rachel Ollivier Sam Hewett Kerry McGrath Alia Slamet Karl Charikar Stevie Meyer Sophie Jordan Quentin Mercier Damian Hogan Anita Craven Steve Tierney Uncle Stuart McFarlane Jimmy Kyle

<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Other:</b>	Stuart Moseley Marlina Johnson Melanie Ringersma Marco Bass
		Cr. Dimitriadis

The briefings commenced at 2:00pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Preston Market Precinct (Victorian Planning Authority)	No disclosures of conflict were made
2	Draft Council Plan (inc. Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan) Priorities and 21/22 Draft Budget Submissions	No disclosures of conflict were made
3	Northcote Golf Club, Wurundjeri Consultation	No disclosures of conflict were made

The briefing concluded at 4:30pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Jodie Watson
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	General Manager Governance and Engagement

Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

**Question and Submission Time –  
Questions taken on notice**

Pursuant to the Council's *Governance Rules 2020* the response to a question from the public taken on notice must be recorded in the minutes of the next Ordinary Council meeting.

**Below are the responses to the questions taken on notice by the Chairperson, Mayor Messina at the Council meeting held on 8 April 2021**

- **Name: Mark Reid**

Please advise what is being done in both the short and long term to address the hoons that frequent Radford Road. A hoon died on Radford Rd after doing a several hundred meter burnout back in 2019. Two young families (including ours) now live on Edwardes St at the end of Radford Rd... will it take the loss of life of an innocent member of public or one of our young children for you to finally wake up and take some action.

**Response from Senior Transport Engineer on 8 April 2021**

Dear Mr Reid,

Thank you for submitting your question regarding hoon type behaviour in Radford Road, Reservoir. I spoke with another resident of Edwardes Street yesterday who raised similar concerns and I tried to give you a courtesy call this morning.

I appreciate that the issues you have raised are very distressing for you.

For your information, approximately three weeks ago my Manager and I met with Officers from Victoria Police on Radford Road to discuss these issues with them. Since this meeting I have been informed that our contacts at Victoria Police have been liaising with their Divisional Highway Patrol Office around regular monitoring and enforcement. I have also been passing on photos, video footage and other intelligence that has been sent to me to assist with their enquiries. If you have information that may assist, I would be happy to pass it onto the Victoria Police. Residents are also encouraged to call 000 or Reservoir Police station 9460 6744.

In the medium to long term, Councils approach to treating traffic and improving road safety is on a precinct or area wide basis as treating one street in isolation will not bring long term benefits. As part of this process, traffic data will be collected, extensive community engagement undertaken and appropriate traffic calming treatments designed based on the data collected and community feedback.

It is expected that the north-west region of Darebin, including Radford Road, will be investigated this financial year with any construction considered in future years.

If you have any queries in relation to the above, please contact me as required.

A5818487

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Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

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- **Name: Justin Passaportis**

Mayor, Councillors, thanks for the opportunity to ask a question.

Mayor, thank you for meeting with our concerned resident group last year on 6 December and taking the time to do a site visit of the LXR works and the area around Bell Station.

You saw first hand of the real safety concerns we have and how dangerous it will become with traffic rat running these streets to access the new car park if the current plan goes ahead for the level crossing removal here.

One of the suggestions you made on the day was to investigate the prospect of Darebin using the Open Space fund to purchase a small section of the VicTrack land on the west side of the station given that the state government has shunned the Darebin community at every step of the process.

This small space could then be used as the entry to the new car park- where there are no residences and there is direct access from Bell Street- a win for motorists, a win for pedestrians and a win for the community.

Please can you tell us where this plan is up to?

Please can you detail what specific actions Council is taking to ensure the LXR and state politicians finally listen to the Darebin community and take access to the new car park west of Bell Station?

**Response from Coordinator Major Projects on 22 April 2021**

Good afternoon Justin,

As previously discussed, officers have now collated and analysed feedback from the first round of community engagement activities, that we undertook in January and February 2021.

Officers will present the findings and recommended next steps, including the traffic management options based on this feedback, for Council to consider at the upcoming meeting on 26 April 2021.

Council's position remains to protect the character of the local streets network in the precinct, findings from this engagement will also support ongoing advocacy to the State and LXR. Officers will continue to provide update to residents and local community on progress of this project.

The meeting agenda is now available on Darebin website:

<http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Your-Council/How-council-works/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes>

Please feel free to give us a call to discuss further.

A5818487

## Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

- **Name: Maddy Maitri**

On Saturday, 27 March 2021, the LXP deliberately cut down trees in the Bell Station precinct in an area clearly designated an "environmental no go zone." The removal of large trees of great significance to our area and wildlife has caused considerable distress in our community as we have been engaging with LXP to ensure we retain as much green space as possible. As soon as the actions were witnessed, LXP were alerted and eventually the works were halted, but not before most of the damage had already been done. Despite numerous attempts the LXP have failed to acknowledge the incident or provide any explanation for what happened.

What will the Council do to ensure that the LXP and their contractors are held accountable for their blatant disregard of environmental protection measures?

**Response:**

A Council Officer contacted the LXP on 8 April and we received a response from the LXP that LXP had not got a record that Maddy had raised this query with them. However, the LXP had provided a response about this matter to another resident who complained to the LXP about the tree removal at this site.

- **Name: Jan Powning**

I wrote a letter to yourself (including all Councillors) and CEO and would like to confirm if this letter has been received. It has eight questions in it. Four questions around road safety, one question about street planting of trees and three questions in relation to building approvals.

1. I ask these in relation to the Junction of Separation Street and Andrew Street Northcote, what is being done there to provide a safe crossing space for people to use when accessing the park or the plaza? Who is accountable for that decision and if this could be considered as part of the budget for safety?
2. The second question relates to Clarendon Street, between the market and the Council owned car park opposite. It is very unsafe, when will a crossing be installed and who is accountable for neglecting it so far.
3. The third question around road safety, specifically, the corner of St David Street and Darebin Road is a known black spot and risky to try to cross and has had many near misses. Why has nothing been done to protect from that, when will lights be installed or some other substantial traffic calming and safety device measure?

Lastly, a question around planning decisions, some are so bad that the VCAT has recently overturned a decision made by this Council, in relation to 1 Wardrop Grove, Northcote.

A5818487



Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

**Response from General Manager, City Sustainability and Strategy on 26 April 2021**

Dear Jan

Thank you for the deep consideration and time that has clearly gone into raising these issues. The goals you are hoping for are strongly aligned with Council – Council is aiming to improve the City's safety, tree canopy, building quality and design, and town planning service.

I have forwarded your letter to the budget consultation team to formally record it as a budget submission. Your submission will be circulated in full to all Councillors along with other community submissions.

In the meantime, I am also writing with some information in response to the specific matters you have raised, especially where you have asked about why a particular approach has been taken. I hope this gives you a better understanding of the reasons for the approach to date.

**Separation Street, Northcote**

Regarding the existing 40km/h speed limit signs on Separation Street, consideration will be given to making the 40km/h speed limit more visible in the short term.

The request for a crossing facility at Breavington Way will be considered against other Transport priorities. There are no proposals in the draft budget to make changes in the 2021/22 financial year. The reason for this is that there are other improvements in Darebin that have been recommended as higher priority.

Your suggestion of a raised zebra crossing is not recommended by our transport engineers due to the narrowness of Separation Street and the ensuing noise and vibration that nearby residents are likely to experience as vehicles travel over the crossing. Further, as there are three pedestrian signals on Separation Street between High Street and Victoria Road, there are concerns that installing a zebra crossing would not be consistent with the existing treatments on Separation Street and could result in a road safety issue.

Residents and visitors are encouraged to use the existing pedestrian operated signals on Separation Street opposite Burt Street. This is approximately 80 metres from your suggested location of a raised zebra crossing near Andrew Street.

These signals provide convenient access to All Nations Park and afford greater guarantee of priority control thereby minimising conflict between pedestrians and vehicles. Pedestrian signals also allow for the provision of audio and tactical pavers which is an important safety feature for members of our community who are hearing impaired or have access challenges.

**Clarendon Street, Thornbury**

There is an existing signalised crossing 40 metres to the west at High Street, which provides pedestrians a with safe crossing across Clarendon Street.

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Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

A raised zebra crossing could be considered on Clarendon Street in the location you have suggested, however there are many higher priority locations for safety improvements in the city and therefore we are currently planning to construct those locations first. We would not expect this location to be assessed as the highest priority for at least several years.

#### Darebin Road and St David's Road, Thornbury

Road safety improvements for people walking and riding were undertaken by Council in 2016, whereby refuge islands were constructed on Darebin Road. These are an important safety enhancement by providing pedestrians and people on bikes physical protection from vehicles and allows users to cross one direction of traffic at a time making gap selection easier, and that's why we aren't planning further changes at this location.

Council has concerns with providing a fully signalised intersection, as this is expected to result in additional cars using St David Street as a convenient alternative to High Street, which is not a positive outcome for our road network and community.

For your reference, this intersection and Darebin Road are managed by the Department of Transport, and any changes would need their support.

#### Road safety and Network Planning

Thank you for your comments in relation to the Movement and Place approach. Darebin Officers have been involved in the development of the framework with the Department of Transport.

#### Street Trees

Council is in the process of completing the accelerated tree planting program which will see a total of 6000 additional street trees planted by the end of the 2021 planting season. These trees comprise a variety of species which are selected based on a number of individual site - specific considerations, such as available growing space, proximity to existing infrastructure, sightlines, stock availability, and previous performance among other considerations.

With regards to the *Brachychiton* species you have highlighted, these are considered to be appropriate street trees and comprise part of Council's suitable street tree planting palette. They are a grafted native species that are able to grow where available space is limited. At maturity they can reach up to 6m in height and have a broad dense canopy which will help provide both shade and amenity for our streetscapes. It is acknowledged that they are a moderate growing species as opposed to fast growing and can take some time to establish. This particular species has been performing well throughout Darebin and will continue to be considered for streetscapes where conditions permit.

A5818487

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Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

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**Inappropriate Demolition and Building Permissions**

Thank you for your feedback about development and planning decisions. In regards to your feedback about planning decisions, I will ask the Manager City Development to meet with you. She has started a service review of the Planning Function and would welcome the opportunity to hear your feedback.

Some of the matters that you have raised may relate to the Planning Controls rather than the way the applications have been handled. That's because when Council receives a planning permit application, it must assess the application against the Planning Controls that are in place.

In the three examples you've raised, the proposal either met the requirements of the Darebin Planning Scheme or a permit was issued by VCAT contrary to Council's decision to refuse it.

Reforming the planning controls takes several years from the start until adoption by the Minister for Planning, and there are multiple controls, so not all can be reformed at the same time. I note several reform projects are underway and Council's draft Council Plan also proposes further planning reform, after community engagement on Planning, Growth and Development in the next financial year.

Council is aiming to lift design quality in the City. To that end it has developed the *Darebin Good Design Guidelines* as a tool to educate the development sector to raise the bar when designing new developments. You can view the Guidelines at [www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Building-and-Business/Planning-and-development/Design-Excellence](http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Building-and-Business/Planning-and-development/Design-Excellence).

- **Name: Katarina Balasi**

Issue with trees on the naturestrip of property and I would like to request that someone come and inspect these trees not just the width, but also the height of these trees.

**Response from Manager, Parks and Open Space**

The pruning of the trees was completed on 5 May 2021.

A5818487

Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

**Below are the responses to the questions taken on notice by the Chairperson, Mayor Messina at the Council meeting held on 26 April 2021**

- **Name: John Villella**
- In regards to the Cramer St West section of the Streets For the People plan, we understand the guiding principle of this project is to encourage motor vehicles to stay on the main arterial roads and to discourage them using smaller streets as through roads such as Cramer St and James St (Area 1). Will the council engaged in any planning or discussions with Vic Roads to actually improve the access for motorists to main arterial roads (such as Bell St / Gilbert Rd/ Murray Rd) which would further discourage motorists from using smaller streets such as Cramer & James St and thereby keeping these streets safe?
- Since February 2021 I have asked to see an 'Impact report' that would indicate to the residents of Cramer St West that Council has considered how the measures in the Streets for the People proposal, will directly impact the residents and hinder their ability to function safely around their home. Can council please provide any such 'impact report' that shows Councillors considered how these changes will hinder the ability for residents to function naturally and safely where they live?

**Response from Manager, Climate Emergency and Sustainable Transport**

On 29 April Mr Villella and Vanessa Petrie had a detailed conversation about Cramer Street, covering the internal impact assessment done to assess noise, the Cramer Street Resident's objectives, possible options, and ways forward. Vanessa will continue to work with Mr Villella, subject to how Council decides to proceed.

- **Name: John Villella on behalf of Dorothy Oriodan, Preston**

In regard to the Cramer Street West section of the Streets for People plan, the plan includes an upgrade to the traffic lighting on Gilbert Road and Cramer Street intersection. Did the Council consider as part of this upgrade, to create electronic signage or arrows as part of the upgrade as a measure to deter through traffic into Cramer Street West? A bold and clear indication to motorists that Cramer Street was for local traffic only?

**Response from Manager, Climate Emergency and Sustainable Transport**

On 29 April Mr Villella and Vanessa Petrie had a detailed conversation about Cramer Street, covering the internal impact assessment done to assess noise, the Cramer Street Resident's objectives, possible options, and ways forward. Vanessa will continue to work with Mr Villella, subject to how Council decides to proceed.

A5818487

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Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

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- **Name: Ruth Jelley**
- 2. Can Council please confirm what the Council Officers' recommendations were regarding the Preston Activity Link (West) project?

**Response from Manager, Climate Emergency and Sustainable Transport**

On 3 May Vanessa spoke with Ms Jelley, and then emailed her all Officer recommendations for Cramer Street (Council meetings 27 April 2020 and 29 June 2020), and the minutes, from Streets for People Preston West Link, 2020. <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Your-Council/How-council-works/Meeting-Agendas-and-Minutes/Council-Meetings>

Ms Jelley has requested that Officer recommendations be recorded in Council minutes.

- **Name: Maddy Maitri**

**Question 2**

Earlier this year Gertrude Street residents submitted a proposal to Council for a trial period of road closure. Council responded by undertaking community consultation, even though every resident of Gertrude St had signed a petition in support of the proposal.

What was the outcome of the community consultation?

**Question 3**

When will Council provide a written report to Gertrude St residents about the outcome of the community consultation?

**Response from Coordinator, Major Projects on 3 May 2021**

Good afternoon Maddy,

Thank you for your time just now. As discussed, please find attached a copy of:

- Summary of the engagement activity that closed on 12 February 2021
- Officers proposed measures included in the report to Council

I have also forwarded your email to Allan Middlemast and his team to look at the issue about the truck damaging the internet cables and impacting 6 households on Gertrude Street.

Please feel free to call me if you wish to discuss above further in details or if you have any question.

A5818487

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Question and Submission Time

Council Meeting – 8 and 26 April 2021

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- **Name: Charlotte**

What is Councils plan to maintain safety in public parks such as Ruby reserve? There is no light and it can create a sense of danger when walking my dog later in the day.

**Response from Manager, Equity and Wellbeing on 30 April 2021**

Hi Charlotte,

Thanks you're your question at the Council meeting on 26 April. As noted by the CEO, Council regular undertakes safety audits of public spaces with Victoria Police to identify improvements to increase perceptions of safety. This includes a range of treatments based on the specific issues, such as increasing lighting and making changes to the landscaping.

Officers will undertake a safety audit of Rubie Thomson Reserve and identify opportunities to make this space feel safer. I have included Joshua Williams, Community safety officer in this email and he will work on actioning this audit.

A5818487

## Councillor Expenses 1 January to 31 March 2021 (If applicable GST is excluded)

	Cr McCarthy	Cr Greco	Cr Laurence	Cr Williams	Cr Messina	Cr Rennie	Cr Newton	Cr. Dimitriadis	Cr Hannan	Total
										\$
Mobile (Including Usage & Data Plan)	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	99	891
Internet (Usage only)	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	378
Travel (Cabcharge/misc travel expenses)										
Family care										
Conferences/training (Inc. all related costs/travel/meals/accom)					400			400		800
Functions/events										
Approved by Council resolution										
Councillor Allowances	7,946	7,946	7,946	7,946	25,379	7,946	7,946	7,946	7,946	88,944
Reimbursements to Council										
										91,013
<b>Total net expenses</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>25,920</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>8,487</b>	<b>8,087</b>	<b>91,013</b>

NOTE: Mobile (Usage and Data Plan) and Internet figures respectively represent monthly phone usage and data plan costs and monthly internet usage plan costs.

**9. NOTICES OF MOTION****9.1 PRESTON MARKET****Councillor:** Gaetano GRECO**NoM No.:** 17/21

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Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 24 May 2021, it is my intention to move:

***That Council:***

1. *Notes the release of the Victorian Planning Authority's (VPA) draft planning controls for the Preston Market site.*
2. *Receives a report at the next Council meeting or earlier (depending on VPA feedback times lines) on;*
  - a. *An appropriate Council response in line with the updated Heart of Preston position paper*
  - b. *A community awareness and advocacy campaign aligns with the any proposed planning controls with the Council's updated Heart of Preston Position paper*

**Notice Received:** 10 May 2021**Notice Given to Councillors** 10 May 2021**Date of Meeting:** 24 May 2021**Attachments**

Nil



**10. URGENT BUSINESS**

## 11. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL

The Chief Executive Officer, has designated the following item to be confidential:

### 11.1 Contractual Matter

This item is designated confidential because it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) of the Act.

## CLOSE OF MEETING

<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** in accordance with section 66(2) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the item designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer on the basis that the matter is confidential in accordance with Section 3(1) of the Act.

### 11.1 Contractual Matter

This item is designated confidential because it contains personal information, being information which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about any person or their personal affairs, pursuant to Section 3(1) (f) of the Act.

## RE-OPENING OF MEETING


<b>Officer Recommendation</b>
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**That** the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.


## 12. CLOSE OF MEETING

**CITY OF  
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