



the place  
to live

# AGENDA OF THE COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 2 September 2019

Public question time will  
commence shortly after 1.00pm.





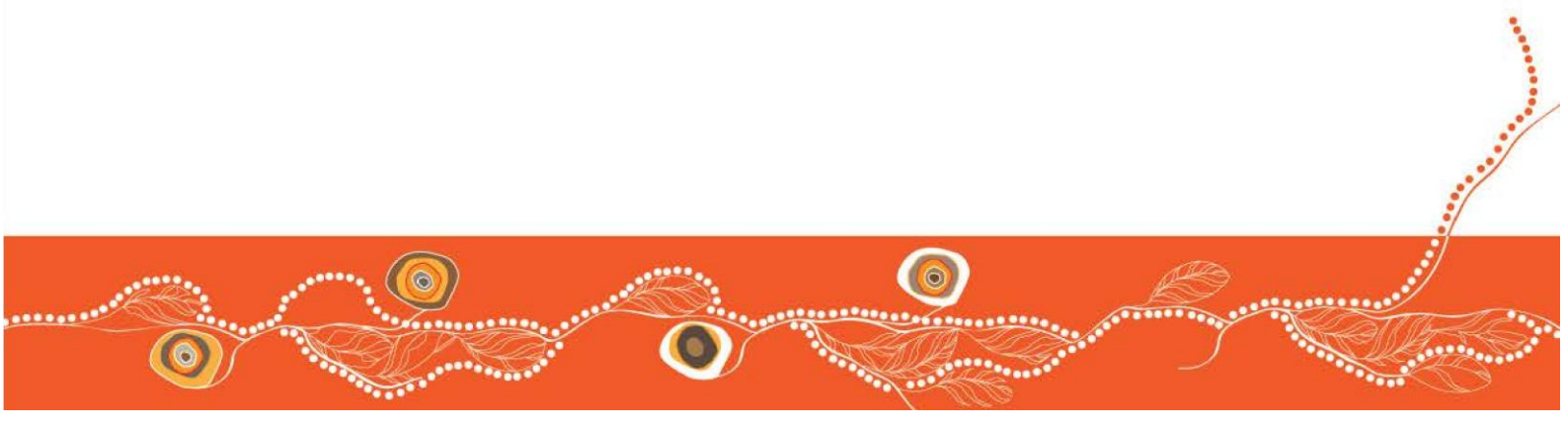
## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN**

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and future.

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 - Agenda**

This is the Agenda for the Council meeting. For assistance with any of the agenda items, please telephone 8470 8888.

**Arabic**

هذا هو جدول أعمال اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من بنود جدول الأعمال، يرجى الاتصال بالرقم 8470 8888.

**Chinese**

这是市议会会议议程。如需协助了解其中的任何议项，请致电8470 8888。

**Greek**

Αυτή είναι η Ημερήσια Διάταξη (Agenda) της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια σε οποιοδήποτε θέμα της ημερήσιας διάταξης, παρακαλούμε τηλεφωνήστε στο 8470 8888.

**Hindi**

यह काउंसिल की बैठक के लिए एजेंडा है। एजेंडा के किसी भी आइटम के साथ सहायता के लिए कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

**Italian**

Questo è l'ordine del giorno per la riunione municipale. Per assistenza su uno dei punti dell'agenda chiamate il numero 8470 8888

**Macedonian**

Ова е дневен ред за состанокот на Советот на Општината. За помош за било која точка од дневниот ред, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

**Somali**

Kani waa ajandaha kulanka Golaha Degmada. Wixii caawima ah oo ku saabsan qodob kasta oo ka mid ah ajandaha fadlan la xiriir tel: 8470 8888.

**Vietnamese**

Đây là chương trình buổi họp của Hội đồng Thành Phố. Muốn biết thêm các thông tin về chương trình buổi họp, xin hãy gọi số 8470 8888.

---

---

# Table of Contents

---

Item Number	Page Number
<b>1. MEMBERSHIP .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2. APOLOGIES.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>5. QUESTION AND SUBMISSION TIME .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6. PETITIONS .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>7. URGENT BUSINESS.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS.....</b>	<b>4</b>
8.1 KIDS UNDER COVER PROPOSED LEASE OF COUNCIL LAND 1 SPRING ST, PRESTON.....	4
8.2 GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019-2023 .....	16
8.3 ADOPTION OF BREATHING SPACE: THE DAREBIN OPEN SPACE STRATEGY .....	53
8.4 SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IN VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES.....	176
8.5 STREETS FOR PEOPLE NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR STRATEGY	187
8.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT .....	322
8.7 ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW - PROPOSED COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION PRELIMINARY REPORT .....	328
8.8 DEMOLITION OF TOILET BLOCK, EDWARDES LAKE PARK DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL ASSET .....	366
8.9 CT20193 - RESERVOIR HIGH NETBALL COURTS.....	372
8.10 DRAFT 2018-19 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT .....	380
8.11 2019 MAV STATE COUNCIL MEETING MOTION (OCTOBER) .....	448
8.12 SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT FOR COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES.....	456
<b>9. CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSES TO PETITIONS, NOTICES OF MOTION AND     GENERAL BUSINESS .....</b>	<b>496</b>
NIL	
<b>10. NOTICES OF MOTION.....</b>	<b>497</b>
10.1 DONATH RESERVE OVAL 1 PLAYING SURFACE .....	497
<b>11. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES .....</b>	<b>498</b>
NIL	

---

---

# Table of Contents

---

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Page Number</b>
12. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS .....	499
12.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS .....	499
13. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS .....	515
14. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL.....	516
15. CLOSE OF MEETING .....	516

---

# Agenda

---

## 1. MEMBERSHIP

Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Steph Amir

Cr. Tim Laurence

Cr. Kim Le Cerf

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina

Cr. Julie Williams

## 2. APOLOGIES

Cr. Greco is on an approved Leave of Absence.

## 3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

## 4. CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETINGS

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 12 August 2019 and the Special Council Meeting held on the 22 August 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of business transacted.

## 5. 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.

### **QUESTIONS**

Members of the public can ask up to two (2) 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.

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 Darebin Governance Local Law, the Chairperson may disallow a question if it:

- is defamatory, indecent, abusive, offensive, irrelevant, trivial or objectionable in language or substance; or
- deals with a subject matter already answered; or
- is aimed at embarrassing a Councillor or an officer.

If you are unable to submit your question prior to the Ordinary Council meeting, the Chairperson may take questions from the floor.

### **SUBMISSIONS OR COMMENTS**

Members of the public may make a comment or 2 minute submission on a matter listed on the Agenda 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.

### **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 are encouraged to do so in one of the following ways:

- (a) online at [darebin.vic.gov.au/questionsandsubmissions](http://darebin.vic.gov.au/questionsandsubmissions) by 3pm on the day of the meeting; or
- (b) by email to [Q&S@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:Q&S@darebin.vic.gov.au); by 3pm on the day of the meeting; or
- (c) in person at the Preston Customer Service Centre, 274 Gower Street, Preston; or
- (d) by mail to PO Box 91, Preston 3072; or
- (e) with a Council officer prior to a Council meeting.

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. Copies are also available at Customer Service centres and libraries.



**6. PETITIONS**

**7. URGENT BUSINESS**

## 8. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 8.1 KIDS UNDER COVER PROPOSED LEASE OF COUNCIL LAND 1 SPRING ST, PRESTON

**Author:** Senior Property Officer

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

---

#### PURPOSE

To consider the outcome of the statutory process and the non-statutory community consultation relating to Council's intention to lease Council owned land at 1 Spring Street, Preston (Site), outlined in blue on the aerial photo in **Appendix A** to Kids Under Cover, finalise the process and enter into a lease.

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 20 May 2019, Council resolved to commence the statutory process and give public notice of its intention to use the land at 1 Spring Street, Preston for another purpose (other than what it was originally acquired for) and to enter into a lease for 3 years to not-for-profit organisation, Kids Under Cover, for the purpose of providing housing for young people. Additional community consultation was also undertaken. The combined processes provided the community and all abutting property owners / occupiers with the opportunity to make comment on the proposal.

Public notice of the proposal was given in the *Preston Leader* and *Northcote Leader* newspapers on 28 and 29 May 2019 respectively (**Appendix E**). The statutory notice period ended on 26 June 2019 with no submissions having been received. Further additional community consultation was undertaken through 'Have your Say' on Council's website and letters sent to adjoining property owners / occupiers. The consultation period closed on 19 August 2019 with three submissions having been received.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That Council:**

- (1) Having complied with Section 190, 192 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, with no submissions having been received as part of the statutory process, resolves to:
  - a) Use the land for another purpose (other than that for which it was originally acquired, being car parking for the former Preston Bowls Club); and
  - b) Enter into a lease with Kids Under Cover for the purpose of providing temporary relocatable housing accommodation for young people and in accordance with the terms and conditions provided in the statutory notice attached in **Appendix E**.
- (2) Authorises the General Manager, Governance and Engagement to finalise and execute all lease documentation with Kids Under Cover for the use of 1 Spring Street, Preston.



**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

Kids Under Cover is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to preventing youth homelessness. They support young people between the ages 12 and 25 who are either already homeless or at risk of homelessness by providing a unique combination of studio accommodation in family backyards and education scholarships. Kids Under Cover work with Government, community and philanthropic organisations to progress their work.

Through the Victorian State Government *Accommodation for the Homeless Program*, Kids Under Cover have been successful in obtaining funding for a three year pilot program called 'Village 21', aimed at reducing homelessness for young people who are leaving the formal Out of Home Care system. This funding model requires Kids Under Cover to secure a suitable low cost site for the length of the pilot program.

Understanding Council's commitment to supporting young people and ensuring Darebin is an inclusive and affordable place to live, Kids Under Cover approached officers with a request for Council to consider a partnership to deliver the Village 21 initiative in Darebin. This would require Council to provide Kids Under Cover with suitable Council-owned land to establish the village through a peppercorn lease arrangement.

Council owned land at 1 Spring Street, Preston, was identified as a potential site for the implementation of the Village 21 pilot program outlined in blue on the aerial photo in **Appendix A**. The Site is currently vacant and was originally acquired for the purposes of providing the former Preston Bowls Club with a car park.

**Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting held on 20 May 2019, Council resolved:

*'That Council:*

- (1) *Commences the statutory process, under Section 190, 192 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, to give effect of its intention to:*
  - a. *Use the land for another purpose (other than what it was originally acquired, being car parking for the former Preston Bowls Club) and;*
  - b. *Enter into a lease with Kids Under Cover for the purpose of providing temporary relocatable housing accommodation for young people.*
- (2) *Gives public notice under Section 190, 192 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 seeking public submissions in relation to Council's intention to:*
  - a. *Use the land for another purpose (other than what it was originally acquired, being car parking for the former Preston Bowls Club) and;*
  - b. *Enter into a lease with Kids Under Cover for the purpose of providing temporary relocatable housing accommodation for young people.*
- (3) *Notes any public submission that requests to be heard in relation to their submission will be presented at a Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting prior to a further report being presented to Council for a final decision.'*

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### Statutory Process

In accordance with Section 190, 192 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council must undertake the statutory process to give effect of its intention to use the land for another purpose (other than that for which it was originally acquired, being car parking for the former Preston Bowls Club) and to enter into a lease with Kids Under Cover for the purpose of providing temporary relocatable housing accommodation for young people.

The statutory process requires Council to publish a public notice on the proposal and invite submissions from any person/s. The notification advised the community that submissions received in writing would be considered by Council pursuant to the provisions of Section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Submissions and personal information in the submission are handled by Council in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*.

Public notice of the proposal was given in the *Preston Leader* and *Northcote Leader* newspapers on 28 and 29 May 2019 respectively (**Appendix E**). The statutory notice period ended on 26 June 2019 with no submissions having been received.

### Additional Community Consultation

In addition to the statutory process Council conducted a non-statutory community consultation process in July and August 2019.

The community consultation process included:

- Letters advising adjoining owner occupiers (approximately 180 letters were sent) of the proposal
- Information on Council's "Have your Say" page
- Public information drop in session at Preston Shire Hall (6 August 2019)
- Submissions to Council were invited in writing or via email
- An opportunity to speak in support of their submission

The community consultation period was between 29 July 2019 and 12 August 2019 with three submissions received. Two submissions were in support of the proposal and one submission of objection.

At the public drop in session held at 350 High Street Preston on the 6 August 2019, two residents (representing the Owners Corporation of the adjoining property) attended and spoke to Council officers in more detail on the proposal.

Common themes that emerged from the various community consultations, included:

- Support in addressing homelessness
- The role of council in assisting and supporting programs which aid to reduce the risk of homelessness
- Community perceptions of community care accommodation.

There were no requests to be publicly heard.

A copy of the submissions has been circulated separately to Councillors for their information.

## ANALYSIS

### Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 2 - Opportunities to live well

Council in partnership with Kids Under Cover to deliver the Village 21 proposal would be consistent with the Council Plan 2017-2021 Objectives.

Develop a partnership model with the non-for-profit and community sector to utilise their knowledge, skills and expertise to deliver enhanced program and service delivery outcomes.

### Environmental Sustainability Considerations

The Village 21 temporary accommodation comprises of many environmentally sustainable design features, such as:

- Compressed straw 'Durra' panels will be used in lieu of traditional plasterboard. In addition to being more durable and providing increased insulation, Durra panel uses a 100% renewable feedstock and is 100% biodegradable, offering significantly lower embodied energy compared to other materials.
- Glass is double glazed and can include high performance (low-e) coating to provide enhanced performance for cold climates.
- Good quality, effective, shading for west, north and east facing windows.
- Use of high efficiency LED lighting.
- Achieves a natHERS 6-star energy rating
- Use of high quality and water efficient fixtures and fittings, including:
  - WCs/Toilets – 5-star (4.5L full, 3.0L half)
  - Shower Head- 3-star (6.0L/min)
  - Taps- 5-star (<6.0L/min)
- All studios are made by local family owned company in Bendigo, ensuring a reduced transport footprint for delivery of materials.
- The dwellings are temporary and can be relocated at the conclusion of the pilot program.

### *Climate Emergency*

**The proposal provides for an environmentally sustainable development which supports young people at risk of homelessness. The proposal seeks to improve resilience in the community by providing housing opportunities for young people at risk of homelessness.**

### Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

The Village 21 pilot project is consistent with and underpinned by equity, inclusion, wellbeing and human rights principles as aligned to the Council Plan and Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021. The proposal seeks to positively influence a key social determinant of health (access to safe and secure housing) for a cohort who experiences disadvantage and poorer health outcomes. A more detailed Equity Inclusion Wellbeing Planning and Audit will be completed should Council decide to proceed.

## **Cultural Considerations**

There are opportunities for the Darebin Young Citizen Jury to play a role in the pilot project by providing advice and guidance to Council around tailored cultural opportunities for the young people in the pilot both in general community and on site.

## **Economic Development Considerations**

Research indicates that there is a positive economic benefit to supporting our vulnerable youth community. The Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (2011) reports, "*tackling health and wellbeing issues when they occur in adolescence is socially and economically more effective than dealing with enduring problems in adulthood*". As noted in the research, safe and secure housing is a foundation required for people to fully participate in the economic environment.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

Costs associated with undertaking the statutory process, including community consultation, was funded from existing program budgets. Should Council proceed with the proposed lease it is anticipated that there will be additional legal costs associated with development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and lease document between Council and Kids Under Cover. These will also be managed within existing Council budgets.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

The following risks have been considered as part of the proposal:

### ***Potential contamination***

A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment has been undertaken for the Site and indicates that there is low risk of contamination. There is no evidence that has been found to date that indicates the site has been used for potentially contaminating uses. Should Council choose to proceed with the proposal a copy of the Assessment will be provided, and Council will seek to negotiate an appropriate allocation of responsibility for the contamination in the lease or other documents that are required to facilitate the use.

### ***Community Perception***

A key risk with any place-based community project that also includes an affordable housing component is the possible negative community perception. This in turn may lead to some tensions between the young people in Village 21 and local residents. Kids Under Cover have had extensive experience around addressing negative community perceptions and will work with Council in undertaking community engagement, should the project proceed.

Through the engagement process, the benefits of the model and details of how it will be managed will be explained to adjoining residents.

### ***Pilot project***

Kids under Cover have had extensive experience in managing studios across Victoria with 60% of these studios being on Government owned land. However, these are usually single one or two bedroom studios per site and in outer suburban and rural setting as opposed to a village model with multiple dwellings.

The multiple dwellings model of Village 21 proposal is an untested concept. The potential risk and proposed treatments are outlined further in the Discussion section.

There is no guarantee that there will be any current Darebin young people included in the project, however Kids Under Cover will include local geographical connections as part of the eligibility criteria.

### ***Legal***

It is proposed that prior to the development of the formal lease document, Council and Kids Under Cover enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that outlines the rights and responsibilities of both parties for the pilot project and any additional evaluation beyond the 3 year lease.

### ***Planning Consideration***

Under the Priority Development Zone, a planning permit will be required for the proposed use and development of the site.

## **DISCUSSION**

This project is subject to a number of statutory processes within Council. This report considers the request to lease Council owned land for a period of three years to Kids Under Cover for the purposes of temporary accommodation. The proposal is subject to the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Subsequent to the approval of leasing the land, Council will also be responsible for assessing a planning application (D/404/2019) under the requirements of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the Darebin Planning Scheme.

The consultation process conducted for the lease of Council owned land not only included Council meeting its obligations as prescribed by the *Local Government Act 1989* but also provided for additional non-statutory community consultation. The additional community consultation process aimed to ensure that those property owners and occupiers (in close proximity of the subject site) potentially most affected by the proposal were given information on the proposal.

As part of the extensive consultation process conducted, only three submissions were received to the proposal. Of which two submissions supported the proposal and one submitter objected to the proposal.

The concerns raised by the objector include:

- Possible amenity impacts of noise
- Potential theft
- Visual bulk
- Loss of sunlight

In terms of the concerns raised in relation to noise and potential for theft, there is little evidence to support the concern that a new affordable housing development impacts on rates of crime in a particular area.

In relation to the overall tenancy management, the project caters to low-risk candidates who are selected on their capacity, desire and motivation to live semi-independently and are engaged or willing to engage in education, training or employment. The project will be managed in conjunction with Anglicare who have extensive experience managing similar projects across Australia. In addition, the housing project will be supervised with a full-time on-site mentor 24 hours, 7 days a week and a case worker will be appointed for each candidate to provide a targeted care response.



The potential built form impacts of the proposal will be assessed as part of the planning application against the relevant requirements under the Darebin Planning Scheme. However, as the proposed dwellings are single storey, these issues may be limited. Preliminary discussions with statutory planning indicate that the proposal may be exempt from public notice under the Planning and Environment Act if defined as Community Care Accommodation, however this is separate to this process and will form part of the assessment of the application by Council in its capacity as the local planning authority.

The details of the proposed lease including the terms and conditions are:

### **Lease**

Council has standard lease and licence agreements which apply to the various use/types of its properties and Council propose to use their standard land lease for this proposed occupation. The following 'in principle' terms and conditions have been agreed to:

- **Premises**  
1 Spring Street, Preston
- **Lessee**  
Kids Under Cover (Charity ABN: 76604592013)
- **Term of Lease**  
3 Years
- **Rent**  
\$1.00 per annum
- **Permitted Use**  
Provision of temporary relocatable housing for studios to provide accommodation to young people
- **Site Restitution**  
As the proposed use is only temporary and for a set term, the lease will include make good provisions to reinstate the site and hand it back to Council at the end of the term in the condition that it was at the start of the lease, with the exception of any service mains connections that may be required.  
  
A pre-occupation condition report, including photographs of the site will be undertaken prior to the occupation being granted

## **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Option1 - Abandon the Proposal**

Council could abandon the proposal and take no action. If the proposal is abandoned and the status quo remains, Kids Under Cover will need to look for another site potentially outside Darebin. The youth community would not have the potential to benefit from the provision of the temporary accommodation that is being proposed for the development by Kids Under Cover on Council owned land. Council may be perceived as not recognising its social responsibility and therefore not aligning with the objectives as outlined in Strategy 2.2 of the Council Plan 2017-2021.

**Option 2 – Enter into a lease with Kids Under Cover (Recommended)**

Council could enter into a lease with Kids Under Cover for the purpose of providing temporary relocatable housing accommodation for young people. Council would be seen to be supportive of the efforts in preventing youth homelessness and recognising its social responsibility as outlined in Strategy 2.2 of the Council Plan 2017-2021.

The communities support of the proposed project was further demonstrated through the community consultation process that was undertaken; with a number of positive responses received from our community members.

An extract from one respondent:

*“As a neighbour of this property I can only commend the Council for taking this initiative to support housing for the homeless and those at risk. What a wonderful initiative. I only hope that at the end of the lease consideration is given to extending the project or a similar project that addresses social need in the community.”*

**IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY****Details**

- Formalise the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Council and Kids Under Cover that outline the rights and responsibilities of both parties for the pilot project and any additional evaluation beyond the three year lease within the next 2-3 months.
- Council's standard land lease to be developed and prepared for execution by Kids Under Cover in accordance with the public notice prior to occupation.

**Communication**

- Adjoining property owners/occupiers
- Council Departments
- Local Community

**Timeline**

- Commence the preparation documents in line with terms and conditions provided in this report. The finalisation of the lease documents is expected later this year.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Local Government Act 1989
- Community Consultation Letter

**Attachments**

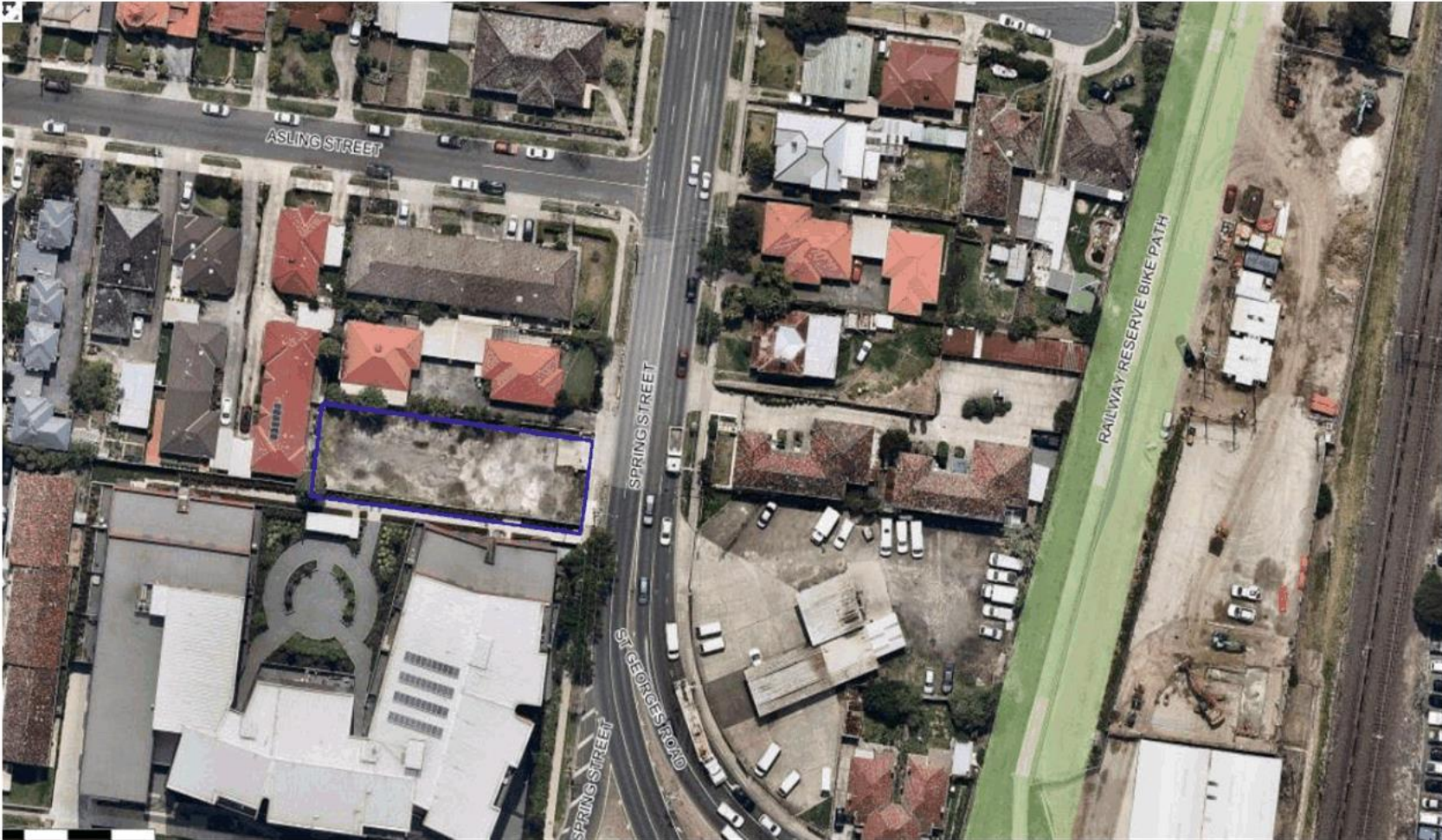
- Site Map (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Submission 1 (**Appendix B**) Enclosed under separate cover Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Submission 2 (**Appendix C**) Enclosed under separate cover Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Submission 3 (**Appendix D**) Enclosed under separate cover Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Public Notice (**Appendix E**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

Appendix A





the place  
to live

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO LEASE

Darebin City Council (**Council**) gives notice under section 190 and 192 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (Act) of its intention to enter into a lease with Kids Under Cover for the land to be used for providing temporary relocatable housing accommodation for young people at 1 Spring Street, Preston (**Land**) (reference number **fA923122**).

The principal terms of the lease will include:

1. A term of 3 years.
2. A rent of \$1.00 per annum.
3. A permitted use – for the provision of temporary relocatable housing for studios to provide accommodation to young people.

Any person may make a submission on the proposal.

Any person proposing to make a submission under section 223 of the Act must do so within 28 days of the publication of this Notice.

All submissions will be considered in accordance with section 223 of the Act.

Submissions quoting the above **reference number** should be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer and can be hand delivered to Council's Preston Office at 274 Gower Street, Preston or posted to the following address:

**The Chief Executive Officer  
Darebin City Council  
PO Box 91  
PRESTON VIC 3072**

Any person requesting to be heard in support of his or her submission is entitled to be heard before Council (or a Committee established by Council for this purpose) or be represented by a person acting on his or her behalf, and will be notified of the time and date of the hearing.

**Sue Wilkinson  
Chief Executive Officer**

**8.2 GRAFFITI MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2019-2023****Author:** Graffiti Management Officer**Reviewed By:** General Manager Operations and Capital

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is to endorse the draft Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023 and release it for community consultation.

The new draft strategy significantly strengthens the previous work of Council by adopting a new whole-of-community response to graffiti management that includes Council, residents, businesses, artists, community organisations and graffitists.

The draft Strategy acknowledges that graffiti is a highly complex social activity that remains a consistent issue for inner city councils across Melbourne. Graffiti is a highly contentious and subjective issue that draws a mixture of views from the community. Therefore it cannot be effectively managed by one approach.

The new draft Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023 seeks to present a balanced graffiti management approach, incorporating an understanding of the graffiti culture; the prevention of; and the expectations of the Darebin community and evidence based knowledge about how graffiti can be effectively reduced. It also draws a clear distinction between 'graffiti' applied without permission and 'street art' that is created on property with permission.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** Council;

1. Endorses the draft Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023 and releases it for community consultation.

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

The new draft Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023 (**Appendix A**) aims to provide a clear framework to guide Council's response to graffiti across the spectrum of prevention to response. The draft strategy responds to a number of issues and opportunities identified as part of the consultation to date.

Extensive consultation has already occurred to inform the preparation of the draft Strategy. Community were asked about their attitudes towards graffiti and the level of satisfaction with Council's efforts to manage graffiti and this feedback has informed the development of the draft Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023.

The draft Strategy is structured around six themes which have specific objectives and actions grouped as follows:

- Reporting – establishment of a database which tracks the reporting of graffiti including location, type, size, asset and tag identification
- Removal – how and when graffiti will be removed from Council assets, private property and assets managed by other authorities

- Partnerships – how Council will work with other organisations to assist in graffiti management
- Prevention – how Council will use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the development and management of its public spaces
- Advocacy – how graffiti on assets owned by other authorities which Council does not control is managed
- Internal Governance – how Council will oversee the implementation of the strategy

The strategy also considers the approach to graffiti on Council property, as well as how Council may influence the removal of graffiti on assets managed by other public authorities. Council will work together with internal stakeholders, external agencies and the community to deliver the actions outlined in the strategy.

A draft Action Plan (**Appendix B**) has been developed with a mix of continuing current actions and new initiatives.

At the completion of the final consultation phase, officers will update the draft Graffiti Management Strategy and present it to Council for formal adoption in December.

### **Previous Council Resolution**

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **Consultation**

A detailed consultation plan has been prepared including various activities designed to encourage consultation with CALD communities regarding the draft Graffiti Management Strategy. This consultation will occur in September and October.

The community consultation process will include:

- Information on Council's "Have your Say" page
- Various social media activities (including translations for CALD communities)
- Use of art projects to specifically engage young people
- Traditional media notices

## **ANALYSIS**

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

Goal 3 - A liveable city

We will ensure our planning facilitates high-quality and sustainable development that extracts social, environmental and economic benefits for our community. We will manage local roads, buildings and public spaces to make our city safer, cleaner and more attractive.

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

In addition to the financial and social costs, graffiti management costs the community significantly in terms of environmental damage due to aerosol spray can litter as well as the potential for paint and chemicals to enter drains during the graffiti removal process, thereby polluting stormwater systems. Council is committed to ensuring that all graffiti removal

activities are undertaken in accordance with environmental standards as specified in tender documentation (the current practice is to use water-based chemicals that are bio-degradable).

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

The application of Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Planning and Audit Tool (EIPAT) to Council's role in graffiti management identified two key areas for consideration in the development of strategies and actions, these are:

1. **People most at risk of engaging in graffiti**

It is well established that young people under 25 are the most likely segment of the community to engage in graffiti. Further to this, evidence and local data suggests that within this cohort, young people who experience being disadvantaged and/or are disengaged from school and community life are overrepresented. Council's approach to graffiti prevention and engagement with young people will recognise and consider these factors in the planning and delivery of programs and initiatives.

2. **People and neighbourhoods most impacted by graffiti**

While Council's approach seeks to support all residents to access subsidised graffiti removal, it is recognised that some individuals or families may not have the financial resources or capacity to remove graffiti and may require additional support. As a result, the graffiti removal subsidy program will apply an equity lens in the provision of support.

Further to this, in neighbourhoods which experience socioeconomic disadvantage, the prevalence of graffiti may further compound already low perceptions of safety and community pride. Contacts to Council from areas of socioeconomic disadvantage for graffiti removal are also lower than other areas, despite in some cases a high prevalence of graffiti. In response to this Council's strategy will continue to provide proactive graffiti clean-ups in neighbourhoods which experience socioeconomic disadvantage as part of ongoing community development work in these areas.

### **Cultural Considerations**

Building on the success of Council's street art subsidy program, another option to prevent graffiti in commercial areas is by using art to promote Council's cultural and community events and other social / educational campaigns on walls with heavy graffiti. Referred to as *Street Advertising Spaces*, this model has been used locally and internationally by the private sector and now growing number of public organisations are commissioning street art on walls with heavy graffiti with the consent of the property owner to promote cultural events, social campaigns, products and brands.

### **Economic Development Considerations**

The Graffiti Management Strategy strongly supports the strengthening of the unique characteristics of Darebin Activity Centres in the Strategy by working in collaboration to undertake programs that assist to improve the amenity and safety of shopping centres as a key action. To also undertake strategic review of infrastructure, access, maintenance and service provision for each of the activity centres.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Costs associated with the next phase of consultation will be met through existing budget parameters.



## Legal and Risk Implications

All risks have been identified through assessment and compliance with Council's risk management framework.

## DISCUSSION

Graffiti occurs in varying volumes across the entire municipality and residents of all backgrounds, age groups, gender and socioeconomic status contact Council for assistance with removing graffiti from the property.

While Council will continue to encourage and support residents to remove graffiti from their property, it has been identified that residents have varying capacity to remove graffiti from their property and may face barriers related to cost, age and disability. The initiatives are aimed to ensure that residents have equitable access to resources which will support them to remove graffiti and maintain the amenity of their property.

The strategy proposes a coordinated approach to graffiti management including:

- Ensuring graffiti is removed as rapidly as possible
- Removal subsidy program
- Department of Justice Removal Program
- Actively engaging with CPTED principles
- Street art projects
- Council's Active Spaces Program
- Focusing on community strengthening opportunities in areas where graffiti is entrenched

## OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Endorse the draft Graffiti Management Strategy and release for final consultation.  
*This is the recommended option.*
2. Adopt the draft Graffiti Management Strategy without further consultation.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Next Steps:

- Release the draft Strategy for consultation
- Update Draft Graffiti Management Strategy based on public consultation – 28 October 2019
- Seek Council adoption of the new Graffiti Management Strategy – 16 December 2019

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Draft Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023 (**Appendix A**)
- Graffiti Management Strategy – Action Plan 2019-2023 (**Appendix B**)

**Attachments**

- DRAFT Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023 (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Draft Action Plan 2019-2023 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

APPENDIX A



the place  
to live

**DRAFT  
DAREBIN GRAFFITI  
MANAGEMENT  
STRATEGY**

### **Acknowledgement of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community**

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people and the Kulin Nations as the traditional landowners and the historical and contemporary custodians of the land on which the City of Darebin and surrounding municipalities are located.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diversity of Darebin's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, valuing the unique and important role Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members and organisations play in progressing reconciliation, respect and the building of mutual understanding across the City, amongst its people, and in the achievement of shared aspirations.

Council also recognises and pays tribute to, and celebrates, Darebin's long standing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage.



*(Artist – Hayden Dewar)*

**Contents page**

1. Introduction .....	4
2. Policy Context .....	7
3. Graffiti in the City of Darebin.....	11
4. Best practice in graffiti management and guiding principles .....	14
5. Strategy themes and objectives.....	18
6. Street Art Programs.....	21
7. Coordination and evaluation.....	23
8. Appendices .....	24



*(Artist – Simon Dransfield)*

## 1. Introduction

While it is not possible to completely eliminate graffiti, the 2019-2023 Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy aims to build on the existing work and enhance Council's capacity to reduce the prevalence of graffiti in the City of Darebin and the negative impact it has on our community.

The City of Darebin acknowledges that graffiti is a highly complex social activity that remains a consistent issue for inner city councils across Melbourne. Graffiti is a highly contentious and subjective issue that draws a mixture of views from the community. Therefore it cannot be effectively managed by one approach. The City of Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023 seeks to present a balanced graffiti management approach, incorporating an understanding of the graffiti culture; the prevention of; and the expectations of the Darebin community and evidence based knowledge about how graffiti can be effectively reduced.

The strategy promotes a whole-of-community response to graffiti management that includes Council, residents, businesses, artists, community organisations and graffitiists. It also draws a clear distinction between 'graffiti' applied without permission and 'street art' that is created on property with permission.

The strategy will be implemented, monitored and reviewed between 2019 and 2023 against a set of outcome based results. In addition to the outcomes listed against each action the overall strategy will be measured against four Key Performance Indicators that reflect the Strategy goal.

Measure	2014	2018	Target 2023
1. Prevalence of graffiti incidents within the municipality.	2,467	2,931	20% less over 4 years or 2,345
2. % of respondents who feel that graffiti is a problem in the City of Darebin.	53.6%	59.4%	<40%
3. % of respondents is satisfied with Council's efforts in managing graffiti.	61.4%	81.6%	>70%
4. Number of street art projects completed annually.	3	16	>3 per year

### 1.1 Purpose

The purpose of Darebin's Graffiti Management Strategy is to set out a collaborative, coordinated and a mix of proactive and reactive approaches to graffiti management.

The strategy is structured around six themes which have specific objectives and actions grouped as follows:

- Reporting – development of a database which tracks the reporting of graffiti including location, type, size, asset and tag identification
- Removal – how graffiti will be removed from Council assets, private property and assets managed by other authorities

- Partnerships – how Council will work with other organisations to assist in graffiti management
- Prevention – how Council will use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the development and management of its public spaces. This will also occur for private developments through the Planning processes
- Advocacy – how graffiti on assets owned by other authorities which Council does not control is managed
- Internal Governance – how Council will oversee the implementation of the strategy
- Enforcement – how Council will manage graffiti as a crime in partnership with Victoria Police and Local laws
- Place Activation / Management – how Council will manage connecting people to our public spaces to create places that are welcoming, safe and fun

An action plan has been developed with a mix of continuing current actions and new initiatives. The strategy also considers the approach to graffiti on Council property, as well as how Council may influence the removal of graffiti on assets managed by other public authorities.

Council will work together with internal stakeholders, external agencies and the community to deliver the actions outlined in the strategy.

### **1.2 Graffiti and perceptions of safety**

The presence of graffiti does not strongly correlate to increased crime rates or lower perceptions of safety. However, graffiti in conjunction with other environmental and social factors can reduce perceptions of safety by creating a perceived sense of disorder and lack of ownership. Low perceptions of safety can deter residents from participating fully within their community and accessing local services and facilities, that in turn has detrimental effects on their health and wellbeing. Graffiti can create a perception that an area is neglected and that little community pride exists. Graffiti also negatively impacts perceptions of safety where it occurs in commercial areas, and this can result in certain negative economic repercussions for business owners. Further to this, graffiti that is not removed can attract further issues such as vandalism and antisocial behaviour.

### **1.3 Why is Graffiti a problem?**

Graffiti is a crime that on its own may seem innocuous however often leads to more serious crimes. Graffiti is a social issue with wide spread impact on public and private infrastructure. Unlawful graffiti is one of the most visible of all crime and disorder issues that may occur in the community. Graffiti as vandalism may impact negatively on perceptions of safety and wellbeing. Graffiti may also be perceived as being indicative of a general decline in the quality of public spaces.

Community concerns about the presence of graffiti include:

Consequence	Impact to Community
Damage to property	Graffiti is a problem for property owners because it damages their property, can cost a significant amount of money to remove and may have a negative impact on the value of the property.
Costs to community	The financial costs of graffiti are significant with the impact felt in a variety of ways. The removal process can be costly and can create additional costs through damage to the original surface of the asset which may lead to premature replacement.
Unattractive and unsightly	The presence of graffiti can have a negative impact on the presentation of the area.
Community perception of disorder and criminal behaviour	Graffiti contributes to community perceptions of "disorder", fear of criminal activity and feelings of general "lawlessness" in the municipality. Unchecked graffiti in a neighbourhood can send a signal that the authorities (such as police and Council) are not managing the environment properly. Many people, particularly the elderly, feel that an area with graffiti is unsafe. Property which has deteriorated and appears uncared for is therefore seen as an easy target for vandalism, which leads to further deterioration of the property.
Graffiti may involve young people in cross offending behaviour	Young people who are involved with graffiti may be involved with other offences. It may also encourage vulnerable youth to engage in more serious crime.



(Artist – Lucy Lucy)



## 2. Policy Context

### 2.1 State Government

The Darebin City Council endorsed its first graffiti management strategy in 2008 in response to the introduction by the State Government's *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007*. Darebin's Graffiti Management Strategy 2014–2018 provided an up to date response based on Darebin's graffiti culture and community expectations of how graffiti should be effectively managed across the municipality within the framework articulated by the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.

The Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 is a key aspect of the state government's graffiti management approach. The Act identifies illegal graffiti as an offence that can attract penalties including heavy fines or imprisonment; empowers police authorities with the right to search for and seize prescribed graffiti implements in certain circumstances, and provides local governments with increased powers and responsibilities regarding the removal of graffiti that is written on private property and visible from a public place.

The Act makes a number of provisions that must be observed by Council when undertaking graffiti removal on private property. Part 4 of the Act states that a Council may, in accordance with this section, take any action necessary to remove or obliterate graffiti on private property if the graffiti is visible from a public place. In relation to a Council, the following actions must be undertaken prior to removal of graffiti on private property:

- Serve a notice on owner or occupier giving 28 days' notice, if required to enter a property, and then only if owner approves removal and entry of property.
- Serve a notice on owner or occupier giving 10 days' notice, if not required to enter property, and only if owner approves removal or does not object to the removal works.

Council cannot proceed unless the owner gives written consent to the removal of the graffiti or does not object, in accordance with the processes outlined in the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007. This process also applies to removal of offensive graffiti from private property.

The Act does not impose a duty on a Council to remove or obliterate graffiti from private property.

Further to the Act, Council's role in graffiti management is also supported at a state government level through the Department of Justice Graffiti Removal program and the annual graffiti prevention and removal grants.

## 2.2 Amenity Local Law

Council is proposing a review of the current Local Law to determine what further measures could be included to assist with the removal of graffiti from property not owned by Council.

The proposed wording is, 'property owner responsible to prevent a property from becoming dilapidated', without limiting the owner or the occupier of land on which is located any building or other structure which is unoccupied, unfit for occupation or normal use or not occupied most of the time:

- Must not permit any structure to become dilapidated or further dilapidated;
- Must take all reasonable steps to secure the building and the land on which it is built from unauthorized access;
- Must maintain any building in a state of good repair and appearance, including undertaking temporary repairs as required to ensure on-site safety and security and to avoid the appearance of neglect out of character with other premises in the vicinity;
- Must not allow any graffiti to remain on any building, wall, fence, post or other structure or object erected on the land; and
- Will commit a new offence under the Local Law for every month any breach of the sub-clause continues unless effective works have been undertaken to remedy the breach

## 2.3 North West Metropolitan Region

The Department of Justice Northern West Metropolitan Region Community Safety Strategy identifies graffiti as a concern for the North West Metropolitan region. This is highlighted under *Priority Issue Two: Reduce crime and improve safety in and around public transport and public spaces* that recommends Council's "Continue to promote graffiti removal programs as a key input to improved perceptions of safety at the local level."

## 2.4 Darebin's local context

### 2017 – 2021 Darebin Council Plan

**Mission:** To preserve and improve the physical, social, environmental, cultural and economic health of all our neighbourhoods and ensure quality of life for current and future generations.

### Relationship to the Council Plan 2017-2021

**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.

### **Darebin Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021**

Graffiti management strongly supports Council's efforts to improve community safety and directly supports **Objective 1.2 of the 2017-2021 Health and Wellbeing Plan, *Create and maintain a neighbourhood that supports safe and accessible open spaces.*** Graffiti negatively impacts on perceptions of safety and can distort understandings regarding actual levels of safety and crime. When individuals feel unsafe in their environment this can decrease their participation in the community and negatively impact on their sense of wellbeing. Further to this those who engage in graffiti are at risk of involvement in other crimes.

### **Darebin Arts Strategy 2014 - 2020**

Graffiti management aligns with the 2014-2020 Darebin Arts Strategy, which aims to create the ideal environmental conditions for creativity to thrive and be sustainable in our City: for creativity to touch every part of our lives. In particular this Strategy strongly aligns to and supports *Key Focus Area 4.3. Regenerative – Develop Creative Spaces and Places* which identifies that permanent and temporary public art, street art and welcoming, creative public spaces are key to creating the kind of neighbourhood we like to live in and feel proud to show off to visitors.

### **Darebin Tourism Strategy 2017 – 2021**

**Darebin's Tourism Strategy highlights the need to** enhance the visitor experience. Council's ability to attract more visitors, more often, staying longer and spending more will depend on our ability to deliver memorable experiences that exceed what we promise in our marketing. The ability to leave a lasting impression on visitors will also be enhanced by strengthening our sense of place, character and amenity.

Aesthetic improvements will be important; however we must also continue to activate our City places so that they are vibrant, safe and accessible for residents and visitors. By creating a strong sense of place and improving visual amenity, we will continue to build pride and create the very best advocates for our City – our residents. Goal 2 focuses on initiatives that help to leave a lasting impression on our visitors and enhance their overall experience. The City is more vibrant, active and accessible and our residents feel a stronger sense of pride about their City.

### **The Graffiti Management Strategy strongly supports Goal 2, and in particular:**

2.12 Continue to implement Council's streetscape, public realm improvement, place making and public art activation programs, with a view to strengthening the sense of place.

### **Equity and Inclusion Policy**

Darebin's Equity and Inclusion Policy (2012–2015) identifies key population groups who can be at risk of exclusion due to discrimination, poverty, homelessness, family violence, isolation and other barriers to accessing opportunities and resources available in Darebin and our broader society. In addition to having the Darebin Equity and Inclusion Policy, Darebin Council has also developed an Equity and Inclusion Planning and Audit Tool

(EIPAT) which was applied during the planning, development and evaluation of services and programs of this Strategy to ensure due consideration of the relevant groups identified in this Policy. The application of the policy focused on two key areas: people at risk of experiencing graffiti on their property and people most at risk of engaging in graffiti.

Grffiti occurs at varying volumes across the entire Darebin municipality and residents of all backgrounds, age groups, gender and socioeconomic status contact Council for assistance with removing graffiti from their property. While Council will continue to encourage and support residents to remove graffiti from their property, this Strategy identifies that residents have varying capacity to remove graffiti from their property and may face barriers related to cost, age and disability. The initiatives will aim to ensure that residents have equal access to resources which will support them to remove graffiti and maintain the amenity of their property.

Involvement in graffiti occurs amongst people from different age groups, genders and cultural backgrounds. Although not exclusively, involvement in graffiti is often more prevalent amongst young people and more specifically young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. As a result, the initiatives aimed at preventing and diverting involvement in graffiti will focus on young people, with further focus on young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

#### **Cultural Considerations**

Building on the success of Council's street art subsidy program, another option to prevent graffiti in commercial areas is by using street art to promote Council's cultural and community events and other social / educational campaigns on heavily graffitied walls. Referred to as *Street Advertising Spaces*, this model has been used locally and internationally by private and now a growing number of public organisations, commissioning street art on heavily graffitied walls with the consent of the property owner to promote cultural events, social campaigns, products and brands.

Street Advertising Spaces provides the building owner with free, high quality street art to brighten the streetscape and prevent graffiti, while the organisation / company gets access to a unique and highly visible space to advertise their event / campaign or product. The street art is semi-permanent and designed to last the lifespan of the campaign or event and is refreshed with a new art as required. As a result the financial investment in the art needs to be relative to the lifespan, the existing level of graffiti and the amount of resources currently being spent on graffiti removal at the site.

The model has potential application to a number of large Council events, such as the Darebin Music Feast, The Kite Festival, Children and Family Expo and could also be used to promote social and environmental messages in line with Council endorsed policies and strategies. It also provides another avenue to support artists in the Darebin Community and engage them in the promotional aspects of our events and campaigns.

#### **Environmental and Natural Resources**

In addition to the financial and social costs, Graffiti management could cost the community significantly in terms of environmental damage specifically due to aerosol spray paint can litter, and paint and chemicals being washed down drains during the graffiti removal process, thereby polluting storm water systems.

### 3. Graffiti in the City of Darebin

#### 3.1 Prevalence and patterns

Darebin Council received over 1,059 requests for graffiti removal via Council's complaint system for the 2017-2018 financial year. Of these requests, 36.7% are for properties located in Northcote followed by Preston with 29.1%, Reservoir with 6.1%, Thornbury with 13.3%, Fairfield with 5.95% and Alphington 3.5%.

This data illustrates the expectation from the community for Council not only to remove graffiti from its own assets, but also to provide assistance to residents in the removal of graffiti from private property and privately owned public utilities.

Further to this the analysis of audit data and reports to Council illustrates that graffiti is not a persistent issue across the entire municipality, with the prevalence and consistency varying between suburbs and precincts. While there is a perception that graffiti occurs at greater volumes in lower socioeconomic areas, in Darebin the prevalence of graffiti is more closely linked to factors such as the proximity to public transport and rail corridors, the prevalence of vacant shops and the surrounding amenity, and the visibility of the area, such as activity centers.

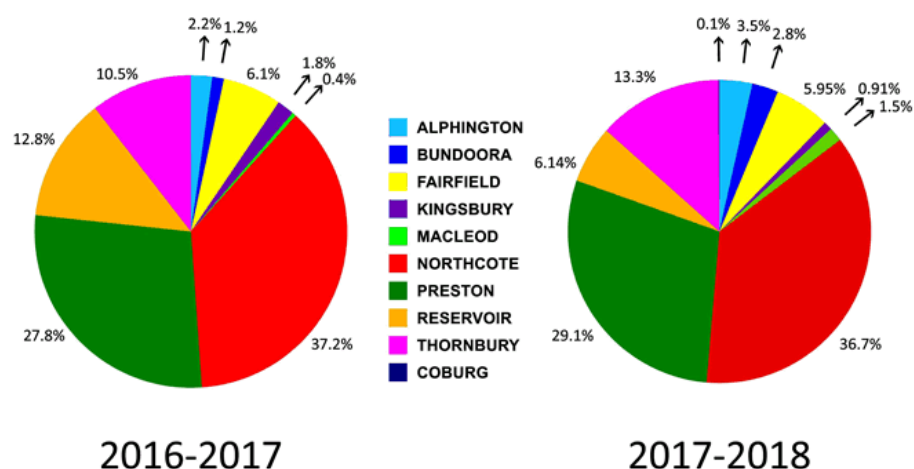
Graffiti also frequently occurs on Council assets, transport and state utilities infrastructure, such as tram shelters and traffic signal boxes and along the rail corridor.

The pie chart below outlines areas in Darebin with a high concentration of graffiti on public and private assets. These sites have been deemed graffiti hotspots and will form the focus of Council's removal activity and initiatives outlined in this strategy.



(Artist – Damien Arena)

## Reported Incidents of Graffiti (by Suburb)



### 3.2 Graffiti Management approaches at Darebin

Managing graffiti is part of developing safer public spaces across the municipality. The strategy builds on the effective work, which Council has undertaken over the past four years. The strategy was strongly in line with best practice and drew upon graffiti prevention, removal, and enforcement approaches across five strategic aims, implementing a variety of initiatives to manage graffiti on private and public assets including:

- Graffiti removal subsidy program for private property owners through the provision of free graffiti removal kits and vouchers for contractors and paint. Operating since 2008, the demand for this program continues to grow each year.
- Department of Justice Graffiti Removal Program to remove graffiti from Council assets and private property abutting public land.
- Street art projects have been implemented across the city on assets prone to tagging.
- Education and diversion programs with young people to promote legitimate street art and not vandalism.
- Council's Active Spaces program which aims to re-activate vacant retail space has previously included street art to prevent graffiti.

The following table illustrates the graffiti removed from Council assets, private property and private utilities over the life of the strategy.

Year	Council Assets	Private Property	Utilities	Total – M2
2014-2015	17,520	3,442		20,962
2015-2016	14,279	5,538	308	20,125
2016-2017	10,465	8,900	204	19,569
2017-2018	6,782	18,316	566	25,664
2018-2019 (until April 2019)	12,796	11,319	639	24,754

### 3.3 The Darebin communities' view on graffiti management

Two surveys as part of the Community survey have been carried out in the 2018-2019 financial year to assess the community's attitude towards graffiti, the level of satisfaction with Council's efforts to manage graffiti, the impact of graffiti on the community's perception of safety and the communities support for legitimate street art initiatives. The survey also sought to understand the community's expectation of Council's role in removing graffiti from private property and ideas to manage and prevent graffiti.

Within Council's household survey the statement 'that graffiti is a problem in Darebin' approximately 43.2% disagreed with the statement; 49.2% of respondents felt that graffiti was a problem in the City of Darebin with the remainder being neutral. When it comes to satisfaction with Council's efforts in managing the issue of graffiti 77.0% of respondents were satisfied.

Whilst on average respondents to the survey agreed with both statements about graffiti in Darebin, it is important to bear in mind that respondents were on average significantly more likely to be satisfied with Council's management of the issue of graffiti than they were to consider graffiti to be a problem in Darebin.

When it comes to whether Council should be doing more to address the issue of graffiti the response was on average relatively neutral in relation to the statement with 53.1% agreeing and a little more the one-third 35.1% disagreed.

While Council is not required to remove graffiti from private property under the current legislation, there is an expectation that Council will provide assistance to do so as part of its commitment to provide a clean and safe city. This strategy will work to ensure that the community has a clear understanding of Council's role and responsibilities in graffiti management.

In terms of what respondents felt when they saw graffiti, there were various comments received which were either negatively or positively oriented, depending on their perceptions of the type of graffiti seen. This highlights the fact that the community holds a diversity of views when it comes to the issues around graffiti.

The graffiti survey found that the majority (92.6%) of respondents supported the use of street art as a form of graffiti prevention and a medium to enhance the amenity of an area. Respondents were, on average, firmly in agreement with the view that Council should encourage spaces for legal street art, and that street art improves the appearance of public areas.

In terms of what else Council could do to prevent graffiti, respondents provided a wide variety of ideas across the removal, enforcement and preventative perspectives. Many of these ideas have been considered and shaped in the context of best practise to inform actions included in this strategy.

### Benchmarking

Through research and consultation, the approaches adopted in several other municipalities in Victoria, Australia and internationally were investigated. The list of other organisations whose approaches were reviewed is included below.

Councils	International Experience
Greater Geelong	City of Ottawa, Canada
Boroondara	London, UK
Yarra	Hamilton City Ward, NZ
Casey	
Melbourne	
Banyule	
Port Phillip	
Greater Dandenong	
City of Brisbane	

Generally, the most successful local government responses to graffiti comprise multi-faceted approaches involving prevention (including education and awareness campaigns), deterrent measures through urban design, timely removal programs and the use of comprehensive records management databases.

Darebin applies most of the approaches that are considered best practice, including reporting of graffiti on public buildings, rapid removal including the provision of removal kits and paint subsidies for private property owners and partnerships with community groups such as local trader organisations.

#### 4. Best practice in graffiti management and guiding principles

The purpose of Darebin's Graffiti Management Strategy is to set out a proactive, coordinated and collaborative approach to graffiti management based on the following principles that are widely recognised to underpin effective graffiti management.

#### Eradication

Rapidly removing and cleaning up existing graffiti within a timely manner has been identified as a key component of graffiti management and reduction. Rapid removal of graffiti improves the sense of ownership of a space and improves perceptions of public safety. Council must foremost show leadership by ensuring that the amenity of our own assets are maintained. In addition Council must provide information and resources for the community to take ownership in graffiti removal to enable the rapid removal of graffiti from private property.



### **Engagement**

A better informed community is more likely to adopt prevention measures and change from being passive victims to becoming active participants combating illegal graffiti within their community. To achieve a positive and tangible impact on behaviour, the public must be aware of the extent to which the graffiti problem exists. They also must be armed with knowledge and skills to prevent unlawful graffiti as well as having the confidence to report incidences of graffiti. Council will also engage with writers to redirect their talents towards piece murals and is committed to assisting the aspirations of artists in Darebin, including street artists, who engage in practices that do not involve illegal graffiti.

The management of graffiti is based on a partnership approach. Council cannot be the sole body responsible for the prevention and removal of graffiti. Activities that aim to build resilience and civic pride to graffiti removal will complement the efforts of Council and its service providers. The most effective strategies for preventing graffiti in the municipality have been those which focus on environmental design (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, known as CPTED).

The CPTED principles include the following measures to reduce incidents of graffiti.

### **Lighting**

Lighting can be an effective prevention technique. Dark areas are often targets for graffiti due to low visibility for residents or pedestrians. Graffiti is often conducted under the cover of darkness, to lessen the risk of getting caught or reported. A well-lit area can therefore discourage graffiti.

### **Addressing blank spaces**

The design of walls can influence the mindset of an individual considering an act of graffiti. Textured surfaces can impact adversely on graffiti and as such walls can often seem less inviting to those individuals.

A further recommended preventative technique for blank walls is painting them certain colours such as grey or dark green. Whilst not effective against all colours, painting walls or fences a dark colour may provide a poor base for colours often used by taggers. This can result in the graffiti standing out less which detracts from one of the individual's main goals of recognition.

### **Landscaping**

Planting tree and shrubs along walls and fence lines is a successful graffiti prevention strategy which is designed to limit access to walls and blank canvasses. Landscaping can be used as a barrier due to its density, height and texture. Graffiti is often created to gain recognition amongst peers.

Selection of vegetation is important and care needs to be taken to ensure that landscaping does not produce an unwanted consequence and create a hiding space for potential offenders.

There are a number of plants which are considered appropriate for screening purposes. It is recommended that advice is sought from local nurseries about what type of plant is required.

Some recommended native varieties of screening plants include:

- **Climbing Plants** – (these may need a surface to assist coverage): Clematis, travellers Joy or Kangaroo Vine.
- **Screening Plants** – (choose a plant suitable to the height of the fence and available space surrounding the affected area): Grevillea, Banksia, Bottlebrush, Casuarina or She-oak.
- **Spiky Plants** – (choose a plant suitable to your circumstance): Acacia, Banksia, Bursaria, Grevillea, Hakea, Lomandra, Melaleuca or Solanum.

The following table provides an overview of what is practiced now and what can be improved to reduce the visual impact of graffiti whilst enabling increased opportunity for the provision of visible works of art on the exterior walls of buildings.

What we do now	What we can do better	Challenges
<p><b>Design &amp; Materials</b> – Active frontages required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blank walls discouraged.</li> <li>• Graffiti resistant paint required</li> <li>• Deterrent materials (rough, shiny, grills, gaps &amp; glazing)</li> <li>• Passive surveillance required</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add into standard Request for Information letter requirements to minimise graffiti to ensure this is consistent and embedded practice.</li> <li>• Amend standard conditions to clearly address graffiti issues (where materials are part of the solution).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to address problem on rail corridors</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Art</b> – is encouraged but reactive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide connections during pre-app/early application stage</li> <li>• A curated approach where agreement is achieved with the relevant developer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to mid-block walls over private land (agreements may not be actionable).</li> <li>• Maintenance costs and up keep of public art.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Landscaping</b> – is used outside activity centres as edges to discourage graffiti.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visits to ensure that landscaping is established and maintained in accordance with endorsed Landscape Plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff resourcing within the Planning area</li> </ul>

### **Education**

Alongside rapid removal, primary prevention is vital to effective graffiti management. Council will seek to coordinate a number of graffiti education and partnership initiatives involving young people that focus on discouraging young peoples' involvement in graffiti culture, and if they are engaging in illegal activity, divert this behaviour into legitimate opportunities to create legal street art. Council will also work with the broader community to build their capacity to prevent graffiti.

### **Enforcement**

Graffiti is a recognised crime with recognised social and economic impacts. Enforcement of the law is a vital part of any holistic approach to graffiti management and Council will support enforcement through partnerships with Victoria Police, the enforcement of Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 regarding the provision of spray paint, the enforcement of Local Laws pertaining to the dilapidation of properties and where relevant assisting with the development on diversionary models.

Difficulties arise to enforce criminal conviction because evidence must be provided 'beyond a reasonable doubt'. Civil convictions can be processed with evidence 'on the balance of probability'. Further discussions are required to progress the process flow to identify the best method of policing and regulation.

### **Planning**

The current approach places a preference for graffiti deterrent design and materials over anti-graffiti coating, given that graffiti resistant paint still requires cleaning and therefore relies on good property management practices by owners and/body corporates to be effective. Additionally the use of graffiti deterrent design and materials is more likely to increase visual interest of a building when compared to graffiti resistant paint.

#### Provision of Street Art through the Planning Process

Statutory Planning are exploring a process through the provision of Street Art through the Planning process whereby suitable development proposals are identified at an early stage (i.e. pre-application or Request for Information) and the developer is provided with a contact in Creative Cultures who can act as a broker between local artists and the developer.

This will assist the developer by providing them with a direct contact, ensure that the artist's intellectual property rights are protected, promote local art in Darebin and result in a visually interesting building(s) that improves the public realm.

## 5. Strategy themes and objectives

In order to continue to tackle the incidence of graffiti, the following themes and objectives have been developed as key focus areas based on the application of best practice principles and community expectations.

Theme	Objectives
<p><b>1. Reporting</b> – development of a database which tracks the reporting of graffiti including location, type, size, asset and tag identification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide multiple ways for community members and contractors to report graffiti</li> <li>• Instances of graffiti will be reported promptly to Victoria Police</li> <li>• Graffiti identified on assets belonging to other public authorities will be reported to those entities</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Removal</b> – how graffiti will be removed from Council assets, private property and assets managed by other authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Graffiti on Council assets will be removed within specified timeframes</li> <li>• Assistance will be provided to owners of private properties</li> <li>• Ensure Local Law provisions appropriately support removal of graffiti from private property.</li> <li>• Enter into Memorandum of Understandings with utility owners to allow Council contractors to remove priority 1 offensive graffiti from utility assets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Partnerships</b> – how Council will work with other organisations to assist in graffiti management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support traders to reduce and remove graffiti in shopping centres</li> <li>• Engage with residents and community groups to assist in graffiti reduction</li> <li>• Develop effective partnerships with other public authorities to reduce graffiti on non-Council assets</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Prevention</b> – Council will use Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the development and management of its public spaces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide relevant and appropriate information on graffiti to community members</li> <li>• Consider the application of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles</li> <li>• Support community art projects which act as an effective graffiti deterrent in appropriate locations</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Advocacy</b> – how graffiti on assets owned by other authorities which Council does not control is managed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council will advocate strongly for a consistent and timely approach to graffiti removal by other authorities</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. Internal governance</b> – the structure to oversee the implementation of the strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement an appropriate structure to ensure an integrated approach to graffiti management and strategy implementation</li> </ul>

### Prioritisation of Graffiti Removal

Graffiti is not a persistent issue across the entire municipality, with the prevalence and consistency varying between suburbs and precincts. Further to this, the impact on amenity and the perception from community also varies between suburbs.

As a result, three categories have been established that prioritise Council's response for graffiti removal from Council and private assets based on the prevalence of graffiti, the relative impact of the graffiti on community amenity and perceptions of safety and the existing resources available to respond to graffiti removal.



(Artist – Tom Civil)

### Darebin Graffiti Removal Priority Table

Priority Location	Response
<b>Priority 1</b> Offensive graffiti on Council assets or private property based on reported incidents of graffiti	Request actioned in 2 working days.
<b>Priority 2</b> Graffiti Hotspots Locations, based on reported incidents of graffiti and operational knowledge	Request actioned in 3 working days.
<b>Priority 3</b> All other areas, based on reported incidents of graffiti in the Local Government Area.	Request actioned in 7 working days

**Priority One** - includes any graffiti deemed as offensive regardless of location or asset. Council will endeavour to action this removal within 2 working days, recognising that our responsibilities under the Act may impede the immediate removal from private property.

**Priority Two** - includes Activity Centres and other areas of Darebin that have a high concentration of graffiti that has a significant, negative impact on the amenity of the area. These areas are defined as Graffiti Hotspots and are mapped in section four of the Strategy. Graffiti removal on Council and private assets in these hotspots will be actioned within 3 working days.

**Priority Three** - includes all other areas in the Local Government outside of the hotspots that require graffiti removal. Graffiti removal on Council and private assets in these areas will be actioned within 7 working days.

The graffiti hotspot locations identified for Priority 2 removal will be monitored and revised throughout the term of the Strategy based on data from graffiti reports received, operational knowledge and the relative impact of graffiti on community amenity.

DRAFT

## 6. Street Art Programs

Street art programs, such as murals and legal walls are an important way to engage young people and foster cultural and creative development in a safe and legal environment. Respect for the artistic and creative thought that has gone into the mural may act as a deterrent to graffiti tags. Murals should be considered in high graffiti areas and consulting youth for designs of these walls will promote an element of ownership. Murals are a proactive strategy in minimising graffiti while also brightening up a dull area or wall.

It is important that a cohesive cross-council approach to future street art is developed to deliver this section of the Strategy. Any potential street art projects will fall in line with the Darebin Public Art Framework 2018. This Framework will ensure that the terms of new street art projects are clearly defined and contracts with street artists meet best practice standards. It will also ensure a diversity of quality professional artists are being supported across the municipality, representing a broad range of viewpoints, artistic styles and perspectives within the community.

### Street Art Festival

With a vision and belief Council could bring street artists from around the world to paint murals on bare walls over a weekend. The event could be funded by canvassing local residents and businesses. For example, Council could commission Juddy Roller Studios to bring together a collective of home grown and international street artists to transform our city. Locals and neighbouring suburbs could tour the various murals to watch the artwork appear in front of their eyes.

### Youth Art Mentorship

Council will create a responsive arts project model that focuses on cultural trends and the interests of young community members while fostering relationships with the community. This model will look at increasing young participant's learnings whereby they will be guided and mentored by professional artists towards creating new street art. This initiative will promote employment through the arts in Darebin and help combat vandalism.

Art redirection projects will provide a disincentive to tag and afford local talented young people the opportunity to showcase 'pieces' as an art form in its own right in a process led by trained professional artists.

During the course of this strategy a maintenance and regeneration program will be created to refurbish and/or create new murals over existing ones. Creators of the existing temporary mural, if known will be contacted to advise of the intention to either refurbish or overlay a new mural or to paint it out in a dark colour. This plan will implement the following maintenance program to refurbish:

- Murals in low profile areas - assess condition annually and if still relevant, in a process outlined in the Darebin Public Art Framework, either: refurbish and repaint as required; or paint over in a dark colour; or commission a new work to be overlaid.
- Murals in high profile areas – assess condition twice yearly; and if still relevant, in a process outlined in the Darebin Public Art Framework, either: refurbish and repaint as required; paint over in a dark colour; or commission a new work to be overlaid.

Darebin supports and encourages the creation of murals and street art, to be led by professional artists. Where community engagement is identified as a useful tool for the overall outcome, local residents and business owners may be engaged in the creation of a new street artwork under the leadership of an appointed professional artist. The process of selecting a professional artist to either create and/or lead a new mural (temporary art work) is outlined in the Darebin Public Art Framework.

DRAFT



## 7. Coordination and evaluation

The Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy 2019-2023 is relevant to all work areas across Council including:

- Infrastructure Maintenance
- Community Wellbeing
- Youth Services
- Creative Culture & Events
- Business Development
- City Development
- Civic Compliance
- Facilities Maintenance
- Darebin Parks
- Public Realm
- Level Crossing Rail Authority

Infrastructure Maintenance will lead all removal activities across the organisation for Council and private assets and work in partnership with other relevant departments to deliver education and prevention initiatives.

The strategy also relates to Council's partnership with external stakeholders including Victoria Police; Community Correctional Service, Metro Trains, Yarra Trams, Powercor and VicRoads.

### Evaluation

Graffiti is a dynamic and changing issue. To reflect this, an annual action plan will be developed and reviewed each year to ensure it accurately reflects and responds to the issue of graffiti in the Darebin Community. The Actions will be implemented, monitored and reviewed against a set of outcome based results outlined in the action plan. The review process will inform the development of future actions under the five strategic objectives.

The information will be captured through Council's customer service data and household surveys and reviewed after the completion of the strategy in June 2018. Council will record and analyse data regarding frequency of graffiti, location, reported details and cost of removal. This information will be utilised to inform Council's ongoing approach to the management of graffiti. The plan will be monitored and reviewed with reports to Council annually. A full evaluation and review in 2023.

## 8. Appendices

### Definitions

**Bombing:** To 'bomb' or 'hit' is to apply graffiti on many surfaces in a single area. Graffitiists commonly use throw ups and tags to bomb areas as these types of graffiti can be executed quickly and easily.

**Commercial graffiti:** This type of vandalism refers to graffiti that contains company logos, or exhibits advertising images or messages.

**Crew tag:** Crew tags are scrawls, symbols or designs identifying a group of graffiti writers.

**Etch:** This method of vandalism refers to scratching a tag or image onto glass with a sharp instrument. Etching may also involve the use of acid solutions for creating frosted glass, such as 'Etch Bath' to write on windows.

**Graffiti:** The deliberate act of defacing property without the permission of the property owner. The Graffiti Prevention Act 2007 defines graffiti as to 'write, mark, scratch or otherwise deface property by any means so that the defacement is not readily removable by wiping with a dry cloth'

**Offensive graffiti:** Offensive graffiti has the potential to insult members or groups of the community and commonly includes defamatory or degrading remarks about race, religion, sex or personal privacy. Offensive graffiti frequently contains abusive, crude, vulgar or obscene words, phrases or graphics and negatively impacts perceptions of public safety.

**Piece:** Short for the word 'masterpiece', refers to large-scale multi-coloured graffiti murals containing a combination of images, patterns, symbols, and letters. Piece graffiti commonly occurs along rail corridors and other highly visible locations. Piece graffiti can take several hours to complete and is most commonly undertaken collaboratively by a group of graffitiists.

**Political graffiti:** Commonly occurs in highly visible locations, and displays slogans or social commentary to signal concern for public issues.

**Prescribed graffiti implement:** This terminology derives from the *Graffiti Prevention Act 2007* and refers to aerosol spray paint cans; or any implement that is capable of being used to mark graffiti.

**Scribe:** Also called 'scatchitti', a scribe creates hard to remove graffiti by scratching a tag into a hard surface other than glass generally using a key, knife, stone, ceramic drill bit, or diamond tipped Dremel bit.

**Stencils:** Stenciling is a popular form of graffiti which involves creating an image, often by using a computer program such as Adobe Photoshop, and transferring the image onto a flat cardboard or plastic surface that can be cut into the shape of a design. When this sheet is placed flat against a wall or other surface, and spray paint is applied to the sheet it reproduces a pattern on the underlying surface.

**Street Art:** Aerosol art or other mediums that is undertaken legally and applied with the consent of the relevant property owner.

**Tagging:** Tag graffiti consists of illegible scrawls, symbols or initials that are used to identify the name or alias of the writer. They can also be representative of a group of graffitiists, as in the case of 'crew tagging'. Tags are commonly drawn quickly, displaying misspellings or social commentary directed at other graffitiists or known individuals, and are written with implements including pens, spray cans and sharp instruments such as keys.

**Throw Ups:** Throw ups or 'throwies' refer to tags written in fat, bubble-style writing. They are usually drawn quickly with spray paint and commonly feature two colours. One colour is used to outline the tag and the other is used to fill.



(Artist – Brodie Colbourne)

DRAFT Darebin Graffiti Management Strategy 2019 -2023

## APPENDIX B

**Graffiti Management Action Plan 2019 -2023**

**Theme 1: Reporting** – development of a database which tracks the reporting of graffiti including location, type, size, asset and tag identification.

Action	Lead department and partners	Resources	Timelines
1.1 Promote the use of an app for the reporting of graffiti by residents and contractors which includes GIS mapping data.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance MAV</b>	Within existing budget.	October 2019
1.2 Report identified graffiti to Victoria Police with photographic evidence and specific location details.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance MAV – graffiti tag register</b>	Within existing budget.	December 2019
1.3 Report identified graffiti on public authority assets to those authorities on a daily basis.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance Other public authorities MAV - app</b>	Within existing budget.	September 2019
1.4 Establish and maintain a register of graffiti reported on public authority assets to enable regular follow up of reported items.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance Other public authorities</b>	Within existing budget.	September 2019

**Theme 2: Removal** – how graffiti will be removed from Council assets, private property and assets managed by other authorities.

Action	Lead department and partners	Resources	Timelines
2.1 Ensure graffiti on Priority 3 Council assets including public art is removed within 7 working days of notification.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b>	Within existing budget.	September 2019
2.2 Ensure graffiti on Priority 2 hotspot locations is removed within 3 working days of notification.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b>	Within existing budget.	September 2019
2.3 Ensure graffiti on Priority 1 offensive graffiti on Council assets or private property is removed within 2 working days of notification.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b>	Within existing budget.	September 2019
2.4 Continue to provide a subsidy of up to \$500 to support the removal of Priority 1 offensive graffiti from private property.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b>	Within existing budget.	September 2019
2.5 The development of a proactive removal program to facilitate regular, rapid removal from activity centres identified as Priority 2 locations.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> Business Development	Within existing budget.	September 2019
2.6 Continue to implement the Active Spaces program to activate unused retail space and identify opportunities for the inclusion of street art to prevent graffiti.	<b>Business Development</b> Infrastructure Maintenance	Within existing budget.	September 2019
2.7 Review Council's Local Law to determine what further methods it could be included to assist with the removal of graffiti from property not owned by Council.	<b>City Safety and Compliance</b> Infrastructure Maintenance	Within existing budget.	February 2020
2.8 Continue to support the Department of Justice Graffiti Removal Program to remove graffiti from Council assets and private property abutting public land.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b>	Within existing budget	September 2019

Action	Lead department and partners	Resources	Timelines
2.9 Establish MOU's with the owners of utility assets for a consistent and timely approach to graffiti removal by other authorities.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> <b>Other Authorities</b>	Within existing budget	February 2020

**Theme 3: Partnerships** – how Council will work with other organisations to assist in graffiti management.

Action	Lead department and partners	Resources	Timelines
3.1 Continue to implement the street art program for private property owners to access street art on heavily tagged walls.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> Community Wellbeing Business Development Creative Culture & Events	Within existing budget.	September 2019
3.2 Identify heavily graffitied Council assets for street art projects.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> Community Wellbeing Creative Culture & Events	Within existing budget.	September 2019
3.3 Work with Council's Yute Crew Program to identify locations for young people to create legitimate street art.	<b>Youth Services</b> Infrastructure Maintenance Creative Culture & Events	Within existing budget.	December 2019
3.4 Continue to implement a program for emerging street artists to participate in Council's street art initiatives.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> Community Wellbeing Creative Culture & Events	Within existing budget.	December 2019
3.5 Create a database of diverse, local artists accessible to businesses, residents and property developers for the legitimate creation of street art in Darebin.	<b>Creative Culture &amp; Events</b> Community Wellbeing Infrastructure Maintenance	Within existing budget.	November 2019
3.6 Incorporate street art on public and private assets into Council's Public Art Register.	<b>Creative Culture</b> Community Wellbeing Infrastructure Maintenance	Within existing budget.	March 2020

Action	Lead department and partners	Resources	Timelines
3.7 Proactively pursue grants and funding opportunities to assist with graffiti removal and prevention programs.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> Community Wellbeing	Within existing budget.	Annually
3.8 Investigate the possibility of holding a Street Art festival within Darebin.	<b>Creative Culture &amp; Events</b> Infrastructure Maintenance	Within existing budget.	April 2020
3.9 Investigate graffiti removal partnerships for state assets in Darebin such as rail corridors.	Infrastructure Maintenance Community Wellbeing Community Corrections MAV Other Authorities	Ongoing project may require additional resources.	Within the life of the strategy.



**Theme 4: Prevention** – Council will use Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in the development and management of its public spaces.

Action	Lead department and partners	Resources	Timelines
4.1 Program to educate the community on graffiti management initiatives and the requirements of the Graffiti Prevention Act 2007.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> Community Wellbeing Business Development	Within existing staff resources and budget.	December 2019
4.2 Facilitate graffiti education programs with young people in various settings to deter their involvement in graffiti, including primary and high school based programs.	<b>Youth Services</b> Infrastructure Maintenance Community Wellbeing	Within existing budget.	March 2020
4.3 Develop a graffiti prevention information sheet for property owners to consider when designing and altering their properties based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> Community Wellbeing City Development	Within existing budget.	October 2019
4.4 Review and update Council's website information on how to report and request graffiti removal from private property, on Council assets and privately owned utilities and public transport providers	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b>	Within existing staff resources.	October 2019
4.5 Seek to incorporate young people's community artwork into Council's publications and other high profile documents and showcase work at Council venues.	<b>Youth Services</b> Infrastructure Maintenance Community Wellbeing	Within existing staff resources.	March 2020
4.6 Identify opportunities to engage young people involved in graffiti in diversionary programs that promote legitimate street art and not vandalism.	<b>Youth Services</b> Community Wellbeing Infrastructure Maintenance Victoria Police	Within existing staff resources.	March 2020
4.7 Continue to implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Principles Safer Design Guidelines into the design of the public realm, Council projects and planning schemes.	<b>Public Places &amp; Design</b> <b>City Development</b> Infrastructure Maintenance Creative Culture & Events	Within existing staff resources.	Within the life of the strategy.

**Theme 5: Advocacy** –how graffiti on assets owned by other authorities which Council does not control is managed.

Action	Lead department and partners	Resources	Timelines
5.1 Implement a coordinated advocacy approach to the issue of timely removal of graffiti on assets owned by other public authorities.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> <b>Communications</b> Community Wellbeing Other public authorities MAV Other Authorities Internal Reference Group	Within existing staff resources.	April 2020
5.2 Work proactively with LXRA to take advantage of Rail Corridor Shutdowns to remove existing graffiti within problem areas and implement preventative graffiti management initiatives such as screenings & graffiti coatings.	<b>Infrastructure Maintenance</b> <b>Communications</b> Community Wellbeing Other public authorities MAV Other Authorities Internal Reference Group	Within existing staff resources.	April 2020

**Theme 6: Internal Governance** – the structure to oversee the implementation of the strategy.

Action	Lead department and partners	Resources	Timelines
6.1 Establish a graffiti reference group with cross Council representation to meet as required to exchange information regarding graffiti and oversee implementation of the strategy including identification and delivery of public art proposals.	<b>Various Council Departments</b>	Within existing budget.	February 2020

**8.3 ADOPTION OF BREATHING SPACE: THE DAREBIN OPEN SPACE STRATEGY****Author:** Landscape Architect**Reviewed By:** City Design Coordinator

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy (Appendix A)* is an ambitious and future looking strategy that will help Council achieve its vision for “a greener, bolder, more connected city”. It is reflective of Council’s goals and objectives as well as responding to the projected growth and change forecast for the municipality.

It sets aspirational directions for the City of Darebin in three focus areas: *Meeting Community Open Space Needs*, *Rewilding Darebin: Improving Biodiversity* and *Creating a Green Streets Network*, which together help our community respond to the climate emergency, which is an overarching theme.

Each of these directions outlines clear objectives with strategic and detailed actions. This is a forward-looking strategy that will be implemented progressively over time. It is expected to be current for at least the next ten years and likely well beyond.

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* has been developed with an extensive engagement program with the community and stakeholders and reflects community priorities and aspirations.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** Council:

- (1) Adopt *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy*, and
  - (2) Thank community members and stakeholders for their feedback and advice to date to help develop *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy*
- 

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

A requirement to review Council’s Open Space Strategy was included in the Annual Action Plan as part of the 2017/2018 Council Plan Action Plan. Specifically, Council committed to “*Review our Open Space Strategy through an audit of open space and publish a list of new public open spaces to acquire, preserve or upgrade.*”

This report and the attached strategy is in response to and meets this action.

## Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting of 22 July 2019, Council resolved:

**That Council:**

- 1) *Thank community members and stakeholders for their feedback and advice to date to help develop the Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy, and*
- 2) *Release the strategy as a final draft for a third phase of consultation for three weeks from 23 July 2019.*

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### Consultation

Community engagement to develop this strategy began in March 2018 and included a survey, draft strategy engagement period and final draft strategy engagement period as described here:

#### Phase 1: Community Survey

The first phase of consultation was focused around understanding how the community values its open space.

To do this, a survey was conducted from 28 March through 18 April 2018 asking questions about individual preferences, uses and service provision in Darebin's current open space network. Concurrently, conversations were held with key stakeholder groups to understand how they use and perceive open space.

This information formed the basis upon which the consultation draft of the strategy was written.

#### Phase 2: Community Engagement Draft Strategy

Community engagement on the draft Open Space Strategy began on 14 November and concluded on 18 December 2018. The consultation included a series of opportunities for individuals, groups and Council teams to engage with the strategy, to ask questions and provide feedback on the document. These methods included the following:

- Your Say page with FAQs and translated fliers
- Extensive social media campaign including posting of translated fliers
- Drop in sessions
- Presentations
- Postcards and posters
- Darebin leader advertisements
- Targeted emails and meetings

Overall, the response from the community and stakeholder groups was positive, with many praising the focus on increasing biodiversity as well as improving the quality and quantity of open space throughout Darebin.

Universally, the idea of more open space and increased access to nature were very well received by respondents.

**The Darebin Nature Trust provided advice in development of *Breathing Space: the Darebin Open Space Strategy*.**

The Darebin Nature Trust (DNT) was formed in June 2018 through a motion from Council. The DNT is an advisory group to Council expert in the field of conservation, preservation and management of natural systems. Because of their collective knowledge in conservation and biodiversity, the DNT was asked to comment on the draft strategy and as a result of their feedback a number of directions have been strengthened to ensure it delivers on its aspiration of enhancing biodiversity and a number of matters clarified.

**Community engagement targeted Council's standing advisory committees, internal working groups and the broad community.**

The intention of the engagement was to build awareness about climate emergency and how Council is responding, as well as to solicit comment and feedback regarding the strategy's directions and goals, identifying any gaps or omissions. The strategy should be both usable by Council staff as well as a reflection of the community's aspirations for open space. Feedback on the strategy included:

- 16 presentations to stakeholder groups and Council teams
- 5 phone calls
- 72 participants at Northcote drop in session
- 92 participants at the Reservoir drop in session
- 2,536 reached on Council's Have Your Say website with 95 engaged visitors on (provided feedback or comment); 641 informed visitors (downloaded at least one document), 1,800 aware visitors (visited the site)
- 3,834 people reached through Facebook including 7 comments, 8 shares 56 Likes and 5 Loves.

**Community engagement with CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) and hard to reach communities was a focus.**

Because *Breathing Space: the Darebin Open Space Strategy* has a municipal wide area of influence, it was important to engage with the community as inclusively as possible. The consultation included several targeted approaches to CALD and hard to reach communities. The engagement plan included:

- Using trusted and established Council networks to reach out to groups and individuals such as Darebin's seniors, Traditional Owners and children
- Translation of the promotional consultation flier into Darebin's top 5 languages – Arabic, Italian, Greek, Vietnamese and Chinese
- Access to a conversation on the strategy in a variety of languages if requested
- Drop in sessions staffed with multi-lingual staff
- Facebook postings targeted at language groups containing translated flier.

Below is a table showing the online interaction through Facebook with translated materials for the strategy and the consultation.

Engagement Tool Name	Visitors	Downloads/ Views
Draft Darebin Open Space Strategy 2018 (downloaded from non-English sources)	65	69
Arabic info sheet - Draft Darebin Open Space Strategy	41	78
Italian info sheet - Draft Darebin Open Space Strategy	36	68
Greek info sheet - Draft Darebin Open Space Strategy	36	69
Vietnamese info sheet - Draft Darebin Open Space Strategy	31	61
Chinese info sheet - Draft Darebin Open Space Strategy	27	51
Darebin Open Space Strategy 2007-2017	8	9
FAQ (English)	10	13

This type of indepth approach to CALD and hard to reach communities had not been undertaken for a Council strategy until this one. Reaching CALD communities is a continued focus of the implementation of the strategy, with work planned to observe and understand how distinct cultural groups value, use and interact in public spaces.

Moreover, open spaces will be designed and programmed to be welcoming, inclusive and safe places for the CALD community. The strategy intends to strengthen and reflect the cultural identities of the community and create opportunities for meaningful interaction across all ethnic and cultural backgrounds.

To help achieve this, Council has partnered with the University of Melbourne's Designing for Difference program by offering opportunities for pilot projects looking at the intersections of cultural and ethnic difference in public space and the development of design and policy toolkits to optimise diverse public space use.

This information formed the basis upon which the final draft of the strategy was written.

### **Phase 3: Community Engagement seeking feedback on Final Draft Strategy**

Community engagement on the final draft Open Space Strategy began on 23 July 2019 and concluded on 13 August 2019. The consultation included a series of opportunities for individuals, groups and Council teams to engage with the strategy, to ask questions and provide feedback on the document. These methods included the following:

- Your Say page with FAQs and translated fliers
- Social media campaign including posting of translated fliers
- Final draft strategy in all Darebin libraries
- Media release

23 submissions were received in the final round of consultation, with a clear majority of these:

- Expressing their support for the aims, focus and level of ambition of the strategy
- Suggesting minor improvements, clarifications and additions

Suggestions for improvements have been incorporated wherever possible and appropriate to do so.

## Response to Community Submissions

A sample of quotes for suggested improvements to the strategy received through community submissions are shown below. Overall these quotes convey an overview of the improvements sought:

*"How do we ensure open space is locked in for generations?"*

*"Confusing mixture of terminology regarding 'local', 'native' and 'indigenous'"*

*"It would be great to make more regular opportunities to learn from the extremely knowledgeable members of your bushland management crews"*

*"Habitat value and diversity should be key criteria for tree and shrub selection"*

*"Developers should pay more to ensure people have access to green spaces"*

*"Households should be encouraged to plant out their nature strips and given support to do so"*

*"Strategy is too long"*

*"Darebin Heritage Study Natural Heritage Plan forms an important baseline for identifying trends in survival of local species"*

*"Bee hotels can also assist local bee population and in turn increase local and healthy insect biodiversity"*

How suggestions for change have been responded to is shown below, in three sections:

- Where we have added, amended or clarified content in response to suggestions
- Where we have not made changes to specific pieces of feedback, and why
- Where the suggested change is outside the scope of the Open Space Strategy and have been forwarded to the relevant team for consideration within other activities

### 1. Responses, Additions and Clarifications

Areas strengthened in the final draft in response to feedback, with these issues being given more weight or prominence:

- Revegetation of existing parks. This has more prominence as a major issue within the final draft.
- Sections have been added to highlight that ground cover, shrubs and trees all have a role to play in revegetation, in creating multilayered biodiverse habitats.
- Lack of supply and projected deterioration of supply per capita are identified as a major issue. The need for mass revegetation of existing parks is also more clearly identified as a significant problem. The strategy allows for either of these to be responded to within workplans and budgets as they are set each year.
- Clarifications have been made about tree and plant selection, that local species are the default choice, and when and how non-local species would be considered
- Encouraging and supporting the community to plant nature strips, allotments and community gardens
- Developing guidelines for Nature Play

- Biodiversity education, community involvement, appreciation for natural heritage and Darebin’s unique ecosystem
- The No Local Extinctions Policy
- Advocating to other land owners about incorporating the directions of the Open Space Strategy in their land management, for example indigenous planting along railway corridors, adding green roofs to bus stops or making open space within schools available to the wider community
- Clarification about why non-Council owned land is not considered in calculations of open space (because standard planning practice is to exclude any land over which Council not have direct ownership and control and is therefore unable to guarantee its future use and availability), and clarification that the use and access of this land is considered within the strategy.
- An error showing green space to the west of Regent Station has been corrected
- More around pollinator stepping stones and bee hotels

2. Issues Raised Through Consultation that have not been Incorporated into Final Draft

A small minority of suggestions was considered not appropriate or possible to incorporate, as show below.

Issue/Suggestion	Reasons for Not Incorporating
The length of the strategy	The strategy is as concise as it can be, considering the ambition and level of detail required from a planning perspective
Too much emphasis on CALD communities	Darebin is a highly multicultural municipality and all of our communities should feel welcome and reflected within our open spaces
Review the strategy every three years	The strategy sets the high level vision and direction – key actions will be reviewed and decided each year
Feedback regarding whether issues around dogs are framed too negatively or not too positively.	We understand this is an issue where there will be a difference of views within the community

3. Issues out of Scope for the OSS

The following pieces of feedback were not within the scope of the Open Space Strategy, but have been directed to the appropriate teams within Council for consideration within their workplans or will be considered within future pieces of work identified within the Open Space Strategy.



Suggestion	Response
Significant budgets should be committed to delivering on the Open Space Strategy	the strategy can set the overall vision and direction, but the specifics about what funding is allocated to any particular activity must happen within the annual budget cycle in line with the statutory requirements for local government management
Specific single use open space areas such as golf courses should be made public	The strategy sets the direction for multiple uses of open spaces but does not give direction around specific pieces of open space. These will be considered in future reviews of those spaces, as appropriate.
The biodiversity crisis should be given equal weight with the climate emergency	Council has a clear position on the climate emergency and this is the overarching theme of the strategy. Biodiversity is given high prominence within the strategy.
Suggestions for specific types of new open space such as pocket parks, a venue for events	The Land Acquisition Plan will consider the types and location of new pieces of open space.
Comments around car parking, pollution management, road closures, reduction in car use and rubbish collection	Comments passed onto appropriate team for consideration
Suggested improvements to individual parks or specific areas of open space	Not appropriate to address within the strategy, but have been forwarded to the relevant teams to consider as part of their workplans
Suggestion to replace biodiversity with natural heritage	The Natural Heritage Strategy is still active and is not superseded by the Open Space Strategy. The final draft has been updated to recognise how the Natural Heritage Strategy informs our work

### Statements in Support

*Breathing Space: the Open Space Strategy* is strongly supported by the broader community. The most supported areas within the Open Space Strategy in this last round of consultation were:

- The concept of rewilding: the focus on indigenous planting as a default and in changing our management practices to encourage habitats
- The focus on biodiversity
- Enabling the community to be involved in enhancing open spaces, e.g. nature strips or citizen science programs around biodiversity
- Requiring developers to contribute more towards open space and lock in provision

The following quotes from engagement are typical of the sentiments expressed by respondents about what they support within the strategy

*“Well done council for providing a document that will improve shade, biodiversity, native planting, and provision of open spaces for all. Keep being bold!”*

*"I think Darebin is doing a great job in developing this strategy and want to help in any way I can."*

*"Thank you. It is great to see this strategy, so critical to health and wellbeing in the community of Darebin. I support the directions outlined in the strategy"*

*"I believe this strategy is the most inspiring piece of work I have ever seen come out of council... It makes me proud to be a resident of this progressive area, and first and foremost I wish to thank the many people who have no doubt worked incredibly hard on behalf of our community to develop this strategy"*

*"The gender analysis of public open space is a brilliant initiative - well done!"*

*"Overall this is a great initiative and I'm very supportive of the content"*

*"I love it, particularly the focus on biodiversity protection. We are lucky to have a Council with this degree of ambition and foresight."*

*"I support many actions within this Breathing Space Strategy and believe its an excellent platform to support local biodiversity in an urban landscape."*

*"It is about time an open space strategy emphasised biodiversity."*

### **Feedback from the Darebin Nature Trust (DNT)**

There was overlap with wider community submissions on many matters and some additional matters. A detailed submission was provided with suggestions for improvements to strengthen the strategy. Many of these have been incorporated and the strategy has been strengthened and changes made throughout.

On some matters raised by DNT officers do not advise revising the strategy, however in the vast majority of these cases, the strategy recommends that this work be undertaken as a next step and/or there are other Council processes, such as annual development of the Budget, which officers would refer this advice to.

#### 1. Responses, Additions and Clarifications

A range of further additions and improvements were made following feedback from DNT members. Specific additions and improvements include:

- Giving greater prominence to the challenge of revegetation of Darebin's existing open spaces
- Incorporating the importance of multiple layers of biodiverse vegetation and use of indigenous plantings and how this contributes to landscape quality.
- Expanding actions to better respond to declining rainfall and climate change
- Clearer use of language to distinguish indigenous vegetation from native vegetation
- Revised language to better portray the quality of Australian landscape character
- Incorporating positive and active language for extension of habitat and species recolonization
- Including an action to review the tree canopy cover target to establish a long term target (beyond 2028) and milestones that maximise tree canopy cover and support maximising vegetation cover

Several aspects of feedback related to several parts of the strategy. They have been addressed but through adjustments in several places. These are shown in the table below:

Suggestion/feedback	How this is reflected in final draft
Biodiversity should be given higher priority	The draft was already pioneering in relation to biodiversity and has been strengthened even further in the proposed strategy.
Lack of vegetation cover is a significant problem in existing open spaces in Darebin	Greater acknowledgement of this challenge has been added to the proposed strategy and the creation of secure habitat has been given greater weight
Revegetation should specify shrubs and understory as well as trees	Sections relating to this topic now strengthened
The strategy should enable greater appreciation of biodiversity	Sections relating to this topic now strengthened
There should be more discussion of integration of work teams across Council in delivering on biodiversity outcomes	Sections relating to this topic now strengthened

## 2. Issues that have not been Incorporated into Final Draft

Suggestions that were considered not appropriate or possible to incorporate, are shown below.

Suggestion/Issue	Reasons for not incorporating
A range of suggestions were made in regards to the methodology used to calculate and classify open space were made.	The methodology used is a standard planning methodology and has been developed and tested by Council's expert planning consultants. It is deliberate and a standard approach that best supports the planning function that this Strategy is required to play.

## 3. Issues out of Scope for the OSS

The following pieces of feedback were not within the scope of the Open Space Strategy, but have been directed to the appropriate teams within Council for consideration within their workplans or will be considered within future pieces of work identified within the Open Space Strategy.

Suggestion	Response
Significant budgets should be committed to delivering on the Open Space Strategy	The strategy can set the overall vision and direction, but the specifics about what funding is allocated to any particular activity must happen within the annual budget cycle in line with the statutory requirements for local government management. This strategy sets strong direction for Council that enables protection and enhancement of biodiversity in its land across the City including through its future budgets.
The biodiversity crisis should be given equal weight with the climate emergency	Council has a clear position on the climate emergency and this is the overarching theme of the strategy. Biodiversity is given high prominence within the strategy. Addressing the climate emergency is critical

<p>Revise the strategy so that it encompasses full details of biodiversity planning, land management, land acquisition and other detailed implementation measures.</p>	<p>for protecting biodiversity.</p> <p>The strategy is designed to set high level vision and direction and can be thought of as a 'gateway' - it recommends work on all these matters as next steps rather than being the conclusion of detailed work.</p> <p>Revising the strategy would also result in significant delay which would also delay review of the Open Space Contributions Framework which is another action recommended by this Strategy.</p>
--	--

**Communications**

**Communications Plan**

A detailed communications plan has been prepared. If adopted, a launch will be planned.

**Key messages:**

- Access to open space is critical to quality of life
- Darebin has beautiful and extensive green and public spaces
- As new developments bring increased population, there is a risk of not having the quantity or quality of open space needed to ensure ongoing quality of life for our residents
- *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* needs to be bold and far-reaching to address this risk
- The Darebin Open Space Strategy will help meet the community’s need for open space, improve biodiversity and creating a green streets network.
- *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* addresses the climate emergency by focusing on improving biodiversity, increasing the amount of public open space and increasing canopy cover.
- The Darebin Open Space Strategy focuses on equitable distribution of quality open space across Darebin to meet the needs of the diverse community

**ANALYSIS**

**Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy**

Goal 3 - A liveable city

- Council Plan Goals 1.3 & 3.1 - Expand our land subdivision levy to fund more open space

**Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* aligns with the Council Plan and reflects leading practice and actions regarding the climate emergency and how Darebin can influence and offset its effects. Increasing biodiversity is a key driver behind the review of the open space strategy and underpins the document from start to finish. It is also a practical way to address the likely effects of climate change.

Generally, the direction set in this strategy will improve, extend and connect habitat for local endemic species of flora and fauna of all sizes and shapes. It also prioritises protection of existing habitats.

### **Climate Emergency**

Open space, increased vegetation and increased canopy cover all play a big role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This may be via direct means such as sequestering atmospheric carbon. It may also be via indirect means such as the following:

- Trees and other vegetation in open spaces cool the city during periods of high temperatures through provision of shade and moisture released through leaves and stems. This reduces dependence on air conditioners
- A network of cool, shaded streetscapes reduces the dependence on private motor vehicle use by providing appealing alternatives to driving

Actions in the strategy that support this include:

- Increasing the total percentage of tree canopy cover on public land to 25%
- Planting the largest tree possible in planting sites
- Using drought tolerant species
- Prioritising infill planting on the principle pedestrian network
- Increasing the use of sustainable and active transport through the design and implementation of the green streets network
- Seeking opportunities to put power lines underground as part of public or private development works to enable the planting of larger tree species

Open space will be affected by climate change through increased and prolonged periods of high temperatures, more frequent flooding and less rainfall. However, open space can also improve the ability of a region to cope with increased incidences of extreme weather events such as floods and storms through attenuation and retention of storm water. The incorporation of water sensitive design can reduce the impacts of flooding, improve water quality, improve the health of trees and vegetation with passive watering and increase the provision of habitat.

Appropriately chosen vegetation species is also a very important consideration given the climate change impacts we are already experiencing.

### **Benchmarking Biodiversity**

As part of the process for developing the strategy, the approach to biodiversity was benchmarked. Breathing Space goes significantly further than comparable Council strategies in relation to the emphasis on biodiversity and the proposed actions to underpin it.

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

There is a clear link between health and wellbeing and access to quality open space. The strategy considers creating spaces for all of Darebin's residents regardless of culture, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic condition, dis/ability and includes consideration of equitable access, mobility, amenity and services across the municipality.

The completed document sets a minimum proposed quality standard and encourages all open spaces to meet and/or exceed those standards. As much as possible, every Darebin resident should see themselves reflected in their open spaces.

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* has undergone an Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Planning and Audit Tool (EIWPAT) assessment to ensure it maximises equity and inclusion.

### **Cultural Considerations**

The strategy accepts and celebrates Darebin as a diverse and multicultural municipality and views this as a key strength. Consultation on the draft strategy reached out to all Darebin residents inclusive of cultural groups as well as traditional owners.

The new strategy recognises and celebrates Traditional Ownership in Darebin and proposes ways to improve the connection to the past uses of the land. The strategy also makes recommendations about understanding and enabling the use of open space by different culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) groups.

### **Economic Development Considerations**

The outcomes facilitated by an open space strategy are complementary to enhancing economic activity in Darebin. Having great open spaces, which offer a diversity of uses, retains locals and attracts people from neighbouring suburbs to spend more time in our city.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* is intended to be a high level, strategic document that sets the vision, directions and aspirations that Council has for managing, improving and growing its open space into the future.

The strategy is intentionally flexible in that it provides implementation options and clearly notes that the strategy will be actioned over time. This provides flexibility for Council in that it identifies a direction, ambition and vision while allowing implementation of specific actions to take place over time so as to take advantage of other ongoing work at a local and state government level.

One of the key actions in *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* is a proposed increase in the open space levy. The *Open Space Contributions Review* provides a proposed rate and justification for that rate. This change, if adopted, will be implemented through a planning scheme amendment that will begin following adoption of the *Open Space Contributions Review*.

*Breathing Space* will have cost implications as it recommends improvements to open space, increased maintenance levels and acquisition of land. As a high-level document, it proposes:

- An increase in quality of open spaces generally and specifically depending on the classification/type of the space
- A more equitable distribution of open space (more open space)
- A system of classification of open space that directly relates to the level of maintenance and provision of services (better quality through increased assets and amenity)
- A net increase in open space

The increase in the open space contribution rate will help to offset capital costs of improving the quality and quantity of open space, and as such the most likely cost implications will come in the form of increased asset and open space maintenance.

### Legal and Risk Implications

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* sets a direction for responding to a range of strategic risks including population growth, climate emergency and biodiversity loss and seeks to respond to and reduce these risks.

### DISCUSSION

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* proposes changes to the way that open space is managed and understood compared to the Darebin Open Space Strategy 2017. A list of key changes is provided here:

Contained Within Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy 2019	Previous Thinking - Open Space Strategy 2017
Proposes an increase to the open space contributions rate	Open Space Levy is not considered as part of the Open Space Strategy
Uses a formula of proximity (500m), projected population growth and quality to determine open space provision rates	Uses proximity (500m) to determine open space provision rates
Net gain of open space policy	No net loss of open space policy
Identifies streetscapes as opportunities to increase habitat linkages, green the city and offset the urban heat island effect	Streetscapes mentioned as playing a role in habitat linkages
Adds a biodiversity lens across the municipality and establishes principles and priorities for improving biodiversity	Biodiversity not a focus
Accepts that there is a climate emergency and identifies open space actions as one way to address it	No mention of climate emergency.
Proposes that there should be an increase in the planting of native and local indigenous plants	Expresses a preference for native planting where possible
Proposes that the default approach landscape in Darebin should be native bushland or native grassland	Does not identify a default landscape or propose a deviation from the status quo of turf and trees
Proposes a tree canopy cover target of 25% cover in public land	Does not have a target for tree canopy cover.
Places the needs of natural systems and managing climate change at equal prominence with the needs of the community	Addresses the needs of the community as first priority
Recognises the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung as the Traditional Owners of Darebin land	Does not mention traditional ownership
Recommends using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles for making spaces safer, inclusive and usable	Identifies improving safety as a goal but does not go into detail
Recognises that Darebin's population is growing rapidly and recommends flexible open spaces	Recognises that Darebin's population is increasing at a steady rate
Proposes a series of principles to identify dog off	Recognises that Council promotes responsible

lead areas and other facilities	pet ownership
Places value on intergenerational, inclusive and accessible spaces	Discusses that open spaces should be inclusive and accessible
Identifies that best practice maintenance techniques are a key aspect of providing quality open spaces	Recognises that maintenance needs to be effective and appropriate to the relevant category of open space
Sets out a hierarchy of public open spaces and recommends a standard of provision for each one	Sets out a hierarchy for parks that does not reflect accurately the current diversity of Darebin's open spaces
Suggests an approach to focussing effort to fight local extinctions	Does not include mention of local extinctions
Contains precinct plans to allow for recommended projects to be considered	Uses suburb based precinct planning
Identifies diversity as cultural, age, gender, sex, and socioeconomic status	Identifies diversity as cultural
Recommends that open spaces will be designed and programmed to be welcoming, inclusive and safe places for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities.	Recognises a need to provide a diverse range of open spaces which considers and celebrates the cultural diversity of the city

## OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- Option 1 – Recommended

Adopt *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy*, begin to implement high priority actions over time and thank community members and stakeholders for their feedback and advice to date to help develop the strategy

- Option 2 – Not recommended

Do not adopt *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy*. This will mean that Council is not responding to an action from the 2017/2018 Council Plan Action Plan

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Details

When the strategy is adopted, the next steps will be:

- Media release sharing news of *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* following adoption.
- Thank community members and stakeholders who contributed to the consultation and share the strategy with them.
- Launch event
- Implementation of recommendations and actions from the strategy in line with budget and work plan cycles

### Communication

Media release and associated communications as above

### Timeline

- 3 September – media release and social media reflecting Council's decision.



**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Nil

**Attachments**

- Breathing Space - The Darebin Open Space Strategy (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.



# BREATHING SPACE

## The Darebin Open Space Strategy

the place  
to live





© SGS Economics and Planning  
Pty Ltd 2018

This report has been prepared for Darebin City Council. SGS Economics and Planning has taken all due care in the preparation of this report. However, SGS and its associated consultants are not liable to any person or entity for any damage or loss that has occurred, or may occur, in relation to that person or entity taking or not taking action in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein.

SGS Economics and Planning Pty Ltd  
ACN 007 437 729

[www.sgsep.com.au](http://www.sgsep.com.au)  
Offices in Canberra, Hobart,  
Melbourne, Sydney

June 2019

## Contents

<b>Message from the Mayor</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7 Key Direction 1: Meeting community open space needs</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>6</b>	7.1 Objective 1: Make the distribution of open space equitable	45
1.1 Strategy	7	7.2 Objective 2: Recognise local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, particularly Traditional Owners	46
1.2 What is open space?	8	7.3 Objective 3: Designing for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities	47
1.3 Council's role in open space	8	7.4 Objective 4: Reflect diverse needs	48
<b>2 Ambition</b>	<b>10</b>	7.5 Objective 5: Provide facilities that make open spaces more appealing and useable by more people	50
2.1 Council's vision	11	7.6 Objective 6: Balance the needs of different users	52
2.2 Foundations on which this strategy is built	11	7.7 Objective 7: Make all open spaces multi-use	54
2.3 Delivering the strategy	12	7.8 Objective 8: Make open spaces places for expression and art	55
<b>3 The benefits and opportunities of open space</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8 Key Direction 2: Rewilding Darebin: improving biodiversity</b>	<b>56</b>
3.1 Contributions of open space	15	8.1 Objective 9: Increase appreciation for biodiversity	57
3.2 Diverse roles of open space	18	8.2 Objective 10: Protect local species	58
<b>4 Where are we now</b>	<b>20</b>	8.3 Objective 11: Engage the community as partners in biodiversity protection	62
4.1 Policy context	21	8.4 Objective 12: Make indigenous bushland character the default choice	63
4.2 Darebin now	21	<b>9 Key Direction 3: Creating a Green Streets Network</b>	<b>64</b>
4.3 Existing open space network	27	9.1 Objective 13: Develop a network of green streets in Darebin	65
4.4 Current access to open space	29	9.2 Objective 14: Enable walking and cycling	67
4.5 Biodiversity in Darebin	29	<b>10 Build best practice</b>	<b>68</b>
4.6 The community's views on open space	30	10.1 Objective 15: Build best practice across Council, the community and public asset owners	69
<b>5 Growth and change</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>11 Open space precinct summaries</b>	<b>70</b>
5.1 Rapid population growth	33	11.1 Darebin's precincts	71
5.2 Provision of open space	34	Precinct summaries	72
5.3 Access to open space	35		
<b>6 Shaping the future</b>	<b>36</b>		
6.1 Introduction	37		
6.2 Vision statement	37		
6.3 Quality and quantity of open space	37		
6.4 Increasing the quantity of open space	37		
6.5 Improving the quality of open space	38		
6.6 Classifying open space	40		

# Message from the Mayor



## Mayor's Message

Darebin is a great place to live and open space is central to our quality of life. It brings our diverse community together, provides a home for precious local species, and allows us to take part in everything from active recreation to silent contemplation.

Here in Darebin we are lucky to have a wealth of natural beauty in our parks, creeks and streetscapes, which make up over 790 hectares of public open space. However we are also under pressure. Like the rest of metropolitan Melbourne, Darebin is growing, and our population is increasing as more people choose to call Darebin home. We need to be bold and ambitious if we are to maintain the beauty of our green and natural spaces and safeguard the liveability our open spaces give us.

Our vision for open space in Darebin is an ambitious one and *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* provides the context and direction to achieve this.

As the city grows and housing density increases, we see a future city that is more abundant in green, open space.

We look forward to living in a city where...

- local people have more access to beautiful, functional, contemplative and active spaces that improve their health and wellbeing, and increase their social and cultural connections
- local species thrive, lost habitats are regenerated and lost species return
- streets, rooftops, backyards, nature strips, and medians are biodiverse with trees and plants playing their part in keeping the city cooler
- green space is deeply respected, understood and protected by everyone in the city, and locals act as the custodians of the natural world for current and future generations.

**Cr Susan Rennie**

Mayor, Darebin City Council

01  
—

# Introduction



## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters we now call Darebin and pays respect to their elders, past, present and emerging. Council affirms that Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people have lived on this land for millennia, practising their ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

Council respects and recognises all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and their values, living culture and practices, including their continuing spiritual connection to the land and waters and their right to self-determination.

### 1.1 Strategy purpose

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* provides the overarching framework and strategic direction for public open space in the City of Darebin, for the next 10 years and beyond, and builds on the previous Open Space Strategy: 2007–2017.

The strategy acknowledges the rich diversity of public open space in Darebin, and the need to manage these spaces to ensure the city is greener, bolder and more connected, in line with the high value placed on public open space by the community.

The strategy is driven by the overarching theme of responding to the climate emergency. It does this via three key directions:

- Meeting community open space needs
- Rewilding Darebin: improving biodiversity
- Creating a Green Streets Network.

The strategy provides guidance to inform Council's decision making regarding investments in and improvements to open space.

The strategy also interfaces with a number of other Council objectives including:

- As a key component of Council's response to the climate emergency declared in Darebin, the strategy outlines key actions to manage, mitigate and repair damage done through climate change.
- As a practical way to improve the wellbeing of people by providing opportunities for them to live their lives well.
- As an articulation of the importance of planning for biodiversity and increasing the conservation and improvement of habitat.
- As a means to improving active transport throughout the municipality through improving the walkability and cyclability, amenity and provision of shade on residential streets and in activity precincts.
- As a vehicle for planning for the population growth and change that is predicted for the short and long term.



**1.2 What is open space?**

This strategy focuses on space which is publicly owned, freely accessible and set aside primarily for recreation, nature conservation, passive outdoor enjoyment and/or public gatherings.

It also recognises a broader definition of open space, where open space includes not only parks and reserves, but also streetscapes, nature strips, productive food gardens, urban nodes, quasi-public space, parklets, transport corridors and overlapping uses of space with schools, public asset providers and other institutions.

Collectively, these spaces all make an important contribution to shaping the lived experience and aesthetics of an area, and there are opportunities to recognise the cumulative contribution of these spaces in policy and planning.

While these spaces are outside of traditional definitions of open space, they are recognised in Plan Melbourne, the current metropolitan strategy for Melbourne, as crucial for the future of the city.

This definition is broader than the definition for public open space described in the Subdivision Act<sup>1</sup>, which is used to determine how open space contributions from development are expended.

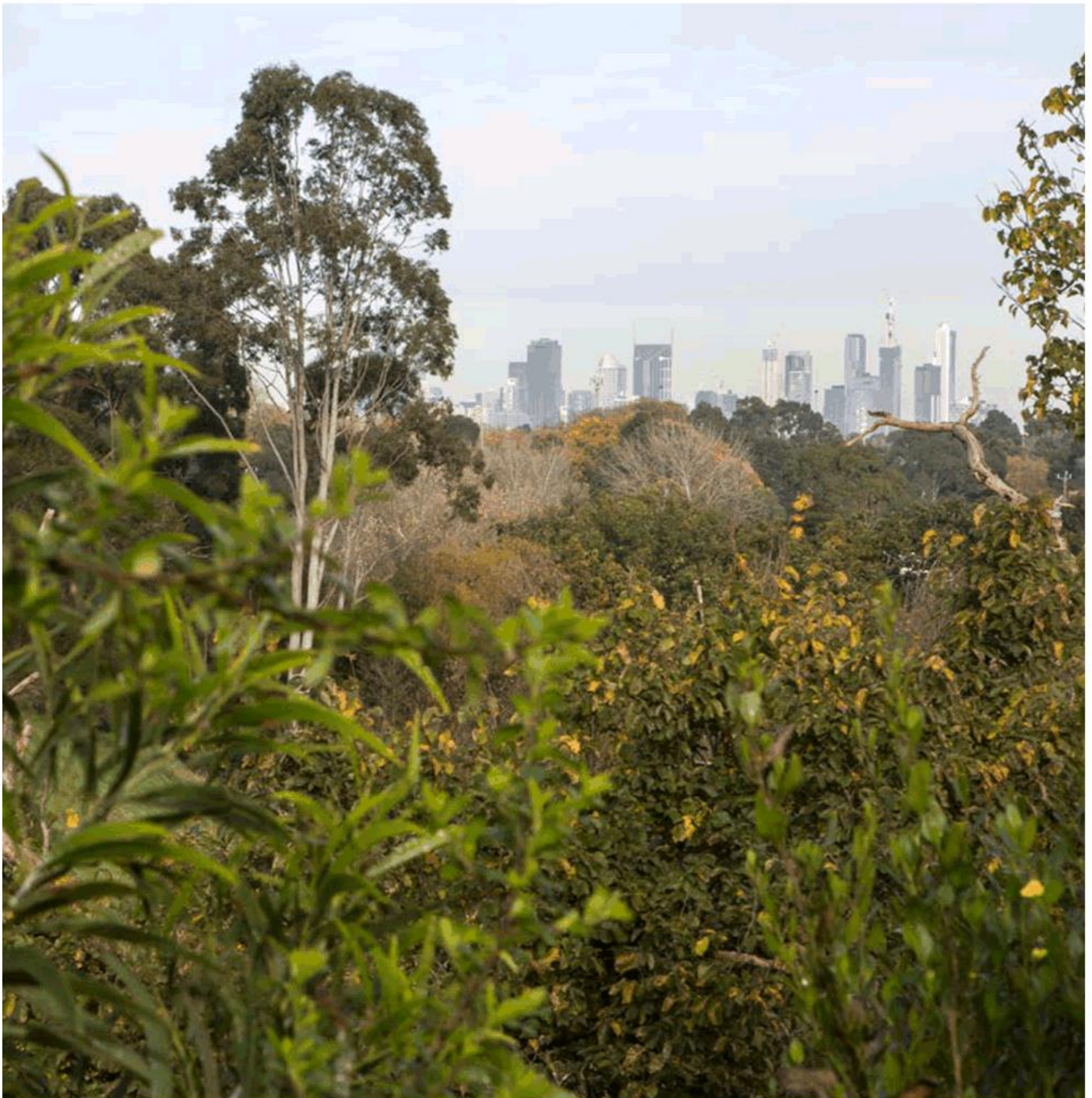
The strategy also acknowledges the contribution private open spaces make to the overall character and environmental qualities of Darebin.

**1.3 Council's role in Open Space**

Council can fulfil a range of roles in influencing the management, design, quality and location of open space. Many of these roles are addressed in this strategy and Darebin Council is particularly ambitious in the diversity of roles it plays.



1. Public open space is defined in Section 18A of the Subdivision Act of 1968. It states:  
 Public open space means land set aside in a plan or land in a plan zoned or reserved under a planning scheme -  
 a) For public recreation or public resort, or  
 b) As parklands  
 c) For similar purposes



02  
—

# Ambition



**Darebin is facing two key challenges in relation to open space.**

**The first is one of quantity: we don't have enough open space to meet our community's need and this deficiency is projected to grow as our population increases.**

**The second is one of quality: lack of sufficient indigenous trees, shrubs and ground covers in our open spaces suitable to act as habitat for our biodiverse species, is putting this vital part of our ecosystem under threat, as well as impacting how these spaces are experienced by humans.**

Darebin is rapidly becoming denser, more urban and more populated, and this is putting increased pressure on our open spaces. As private open spaces become smaller, access to public open space is more important than ever. This public open space becomes the place where children play, where the local community can commune with nature and keep active, and where diverse cultures and different generations can come together.

At the same time, local species are under threat and it is critical that the natural environment mitigates the impacts of the climate emergency we currently face. Our indigenous ecology is also under pressure from the impacts of urbanisation, declining rainfall, growing community demand for nature based experiences and the impacts of climate change.

### 2.1 Council's vision

**The vision of *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* is that the future of Darebin will be a green one with more and better open spaces that respond to the climate emergency.**

**Delivering on this vision will require collaboration of multiple teams in Council and the community.**

### 2.2 Foundations on which this strategy is built

The following foundations have guided the development of the strategy, and are embedded throughout the content and recommendations.

#### Climate emergency

**Urban design, tree and plant selection and education are targeted towards mitigating the urban heat island effect and conserving precious resources such as water.**

#### Biodiversity

Location and planting of open spaces is viewed through the lens of maximising habitat areas, connectivity and corridors for local species.

#### Community stewardship

Engagement and participation are seen as a central component of the strategy in building the community's sense of connection to, and protection of, their local open space.

#### Social cohesion

A broad range of community needs, from access, health and ability to human connection and cultural diversity, are considered in planning and managing open spaces.

#### Connectivity

Open space is a network of large, small, linear, vertical, public, private, formal and informal spaces and habitats that create an interconnected habitat for wildlife and unfettered access for people.

#### Leadership

The strategy seeks to set bold and ambitious standards for both quantity and quality of green spaces, to inspire and to demonstrate what's possible.

#### Return to nature

The default position for developing and managing open space is a return to local indigenous grasslands/ bushlands that celebrate the unique and special natural qualities of our city.

#### Multifaceted

Our open spaces will function on multiple levels, seeking ways to maximise and integrate benefits to local communities, local species and the natural environment.

#### Equity and inclusion

Our open spaces are inclusive, accessible and equitable, responding to the diversity of needs, rights and priorities in our communities.

### **2.3 Delivering the strategy**

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* is an ambitious and visionary document that provides a framework for achieving Council's vision of "a greener, bolder, more connected city".

The many strategies and actions described in this document are designed to shape multiple Council services, programs and practices as they are rolled out each year through the work planning and budgeting cycles.

The level of investment and time needed to fully realise the ambitions of the strategy will take major investment of effort and resources over many years, with better integration of internal teams and in collaboration and partnership between Council, our stakeholders and our community.



03

## The benefits and opportunities of open space



Open space plays a role in so many areas of our lives: from mitigating the impacts of climate change and protecting threatened species to inspiring us to move more and giving us access to beauty, wellbeing and social and cultural connection. The strategy considers a much broader range of potential benefits than traditional open space strategies.

### 3.1 Contributions of open space

#### Addressing the climate emergency

In 2016, Darebin Council became the first government in the world to formally acknowledge a climate emergency that requires urgent action from all levels of government. Darebin acknowledges that, without ambitious action to restore a safe climate at emergency speed, there will be dramatic and negative impacts on the community – both locally and globally. In Australia, we are already experiencing the impacts of more frequent and extreme heat waves, drought, flooding, bushfires, and bleaching of our Great Barrier Reef. Darebin is not immune to these impacts, with health stressors already felt by the community.

In practice, this means that Council commits to fast tracking programs and policies that rapidly eliminate greenhouse gas emissions, and draw down excess emissions. Management and development of green public open spaces and increasing multilayered vegetation including canopy cover are important, as the natural processes of plants and urban ecosystems can help to offset the hot and dry conditions caused by climate change.

There are a range of ways open space can contribute to addressing the climate emergency. Many of these also help address other issues in Darebin.

- Trees and other vegetation in open spaces cool the city during periods of high temperatures through provision of shade and moisture released through leaves and stems.
- Open spaces with irrigated areas or bodies of water have a cooling effect on cities through evaporation and the natural respiration of plants.
- Increasing multilayered vegetation including canopy cover delivers shade, reduces temperatures, decreases air pollution, sequesters atmospheric carbon and increases biodiversity values such as habitat.
- Cool streetscapes that connect to a network of small and large parks are attractive for walking and cycling and create an appealing alternative to driving. This reduces private motor vehicle travel which decreases emissions and air pollution while improving health and wellbeing.
- Ultimately, a reduction in demand for motorised transport activates open space, resulting in safer open spaces for pedestrians and cyclists, and the opportunity to reclaim parking space for open space.
- Open space can improve the ability of a region to cope with increased incidences of extreme weather events such as floods and storms through attenuation and retention of storm water. The incorporation of water sensitive design can reduce the impacts of flooding, improve water quality, improve the health of trees and vegetation with passive watering and increase the provision of habitat.

#### Recognising Aboriginal people and their continuing connection to the land and waters

The recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage, and that of Traditional Owners in particular, is paramount to social justice and reconciliation efforts. This includes recognising the historical injustice experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and its lasting legacies, as well as recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents for their knowledge, strengths and contributions.

Given Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's continuing spiritual, physical and cultural connection to the land, open spaces are particularly suited to be reflective of this connection. Respecting the Aboriginal cultural rights highlighted in section 19(2) of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities is crucial in recognising and celebrating this connection.



### Enhancing biodiversity

Biodiversity refers to the variety of plant and animal life in the world or in a particular habitat. It is a critical consideration in open space planning. A high quality open space network can have a significant impact on biodiversity values, particularly in urban environments. Darebin's urban biodiversity includes humans as well as indigenous and introduced species of flora and fauna.

Green open spaces provide an ecological benefit in enhancing the biodiversity of species within the urban landscape. Biodiversity values can be enhanced through species selection, increasing multilayered vegetation and canopy cover, improving soil health, connectivity of parklands and habitat creation for fauna including birds. Nesting boxes, logs, rocks and water sources are important elements to consider when developing habitat areas to provide more flexibility in microclimates for flora and fauna (including vertebrates and invertebrates). Open space distribution is critical to the protection of the diversity of remnant vegetation and habitat. Remnant vegetation refers to vegetation that has not been cleared. To save our remnant areas and create new indigenous vegetation and habitat, open spaces must be increased, protected and managed.

Non-native plants also provide a range of benefits for urban landscapes through passive heating/cooling, food production, evapotranspiration, greenhouse gas reduction, habitat, and adaptation to challenging urban locations (streetscapes in particular). Plants and trees should be selected based on the role and function they are intended to have in the urban ecosystem as well as their likelihood to thrive in the intended location. This includes vegetation selected to create habitat, produce food, increase shade, beautify an area or create a protective buffer or barrier.

### Ensuring Darebin's growing population can access open space

Access to open space is central to community health and wellbeing. The increasing number of people moving into the culturally diverse City of Darebin, combined with the fact that growth in Darebin will largely be in the form of higher density development (with reduced private open space), will increase the need for different types of open space.

The strategy considers both acquisition of new open space where possible (although this is challenging in an urban environment) as well as improving the quality and usability of existing open space as ways to meet this need.

### Fostering creative culture and events

Public open spaces provide opportunities for festivals and programs, and places to gather or facilitate performances. They can also deliver locations for permanent or temporary public art installations. They are spaces that can strengthen community connectedness, providing social benefits and building a strong sense of identity within the community.

### Increasing opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse communities

Using open space is something that we all have in common. However, the way that individuals from different cultural backgrounds use, understand and interact with open spaces can vary depending on the user group.

Open space plays an important role for many in our culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities, particularly those who are more recently arrived, where a sense of welcome, familiarity and safety have profound meaning.

When planning for, managing and designing public open space, it is imperative that the way Darebin's diverse community experiences and uses their open space is considered and included in a practical way. This includes understanding the make up of different CALD user groups, identifying through thoughtful consultation what they need from their open spaces and interpreting that into the way Darebin's public open spaces are designed and managed.

Open space can respond to the specific needs of diverse user groups through consideration of:

- the size and layout of gathering spaces
- the positioning of BBQ areas
- the types of vegetation used
- the inclusion of performance
- the inclusion of culturally reflective art
- allowing for evening use
- wayfinding using universal symbols
- appropriate translations on signage and within spaces
- the type and amount of equipment or park furniture

Open spaces provide members of the CALD communities places to gather with others in their community and feel a sense of home, as well as make connections with the broader Darebin population.

### Generating economic benefits

Access to high quality open space increases the economic potential of a region in terms of tourism, leisure and cultural activities. Beautiful, usable and functional open spaces and streetscapes become destinations for visitors and add value for those who live nearby. The character of landscape creates local identity and sets the tone for future growth and development of the municipality. Destinalional parks, play areas, bushland reserves and recreational trails attract visitors within and outside of the local community and provide social benefits to the community which translate to increased land values<sup>2</sup>. More specifically, open space in retail streetscapes helps to create and enhance a sense of place by creating an iconic look and feel that is uniquely Darebin. Furthermore, the construction and maintenance of these spaces and trails creates local employment.

The diversification of activities in open spaces, including mobile premises such as markets, food vans and other creative businesses, can deliver a range of benefits. These may include increasing passive surveillance, providing a drawcard for people to gather, increasing the chance that they will make social connections or be more physically active. This both activates public space while also supporting local businesses to expand their service space into the public realm.

### Providing learning opportunities

A network of accessible open space encourages social inclusion and provides opportunities for learning and development for all ages. For children, research indicates the essential nature of development through play in the formation of self-esteem, social competence, understanding identity and the development of cognitive qualities necessary for adulthood such as problem solving and independence. Open space provides both informal and formal development opportunities across life stages.

Natural play and exposure to natural environments helps to forge a connection between humans and the environment. The more this connection is nurtured, the more people will love natural places, and find value and take pride in the native Australian landscape. For many this leads to a passion to preserve, protect and enhance natural spaces.

### Fostering stewardship

Education and increased participation are key ways to address the climate emergency by actively involving the community in protecting and improving open space.

Increasing awareness that indigenous vegetation makes an important contribution to the ecosystem, habitat and aesthetics creates a new generation of environmental stewards. Nature is something that we all have in common and can be used to bridge gaps between individuals through this shared experience. For a culturally diverse municipality like Darebin, this is particularly important and meaningful.

### Improving health and wellbeing

Human health and wellbeing are directly affected by the built and natural environments. Open spaces provide an opportunity for people to connect with the natural environment and each other, and engage in community activities, improving the health and wellbeing of people who live, work and play in Darebin.

Safety, including cultural safety, in open spaces is important to the success of this strategy. When people feel safe, they are freer to move about the city, socialise and work. When people don't feel safe, they may be isolated, less economically independent and less civically engaged. Council has the opportunity to influence safety by creating and maintaining spaces where people feel safe.

Open space can enhance feelings of belonging within a community by providing a place to meet and interact with others, spend a contemplative moment, participate in events and festivals and engage in sports and physical activity. This has been shown to improve social networks, social capital and the development of social skills, and to foster community cohesion, pride and safety.

There is a strong link between green open space and mental health and wellbeing, including reduced rates of depression and stress levels. Research shows that people in proximity to nature have a more positive outlook and reported higher life satisfaction<sup>3</sup>.

Open space provides opportunities to participate in organised and informal sport and physical activity and connect with nature. Research has shown that users of open space are more likely to meet suggested physical activity levels.

Participation in walking can increase by up to 50 per cent with access to large and attractive green space<sup>4</sup>. Linking open space with improved pedestrian and cycling transport networks further promotes physical activity. Where possible, new and upgraded transport links should be designed to be comfortable and attractive in their own right.

2. Councils of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Moreland, Nillumbik and Whittlesea 2016. Northern Regional Trails Strategy
3. Townsend M and Weerasuriya R (2010). Beyond Blue to Green: The benefits of contact with nature for mental health and wellbeing. Beyond Blue Limited: Melbourne
4. Ives,C, Oke, C, Cooke, B, Gordon, A and Bekessy, S (2014) Planning for green open space in urbanizing landscapes

### Strengthened inclusion and human rights

Open space has a social dimension: it encompasses places for people to meet and converse as well as places to participate in public life. In its physical design and range of uses, open space reflects shared social and cultural values; it is shaped by (and in turn further shapes and reinforces) social hierarchies and norms. The location and design of open spaces can either facilitate or impede their use by Darebin residents.

Open spaces can impact social inclusion through:

- Redistribution: equality of access to public goods such as open space.
- Recognition: meeting the needs of all within society, including women, children, older people, LGBTIQ community, people with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, new migrants, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and homeless people.
- Encounter<sup>5</sup>: planning for interactions of individuals across difference.
- Inclusion: open space can strengthen inclusion, as well as human rights such as the right to peaceful assembly, "right to the city" and cultural rights, notably Aboriginal cultural rights.

### Conserving cultural heritage and character

High quality open space reinforces local identity, civic pride and enhances the local character of a region<sup>6</sup>. Furthermore, open spaces can conserve and encourage understanding of the historical and cultural value of the region (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander cultural heritage).

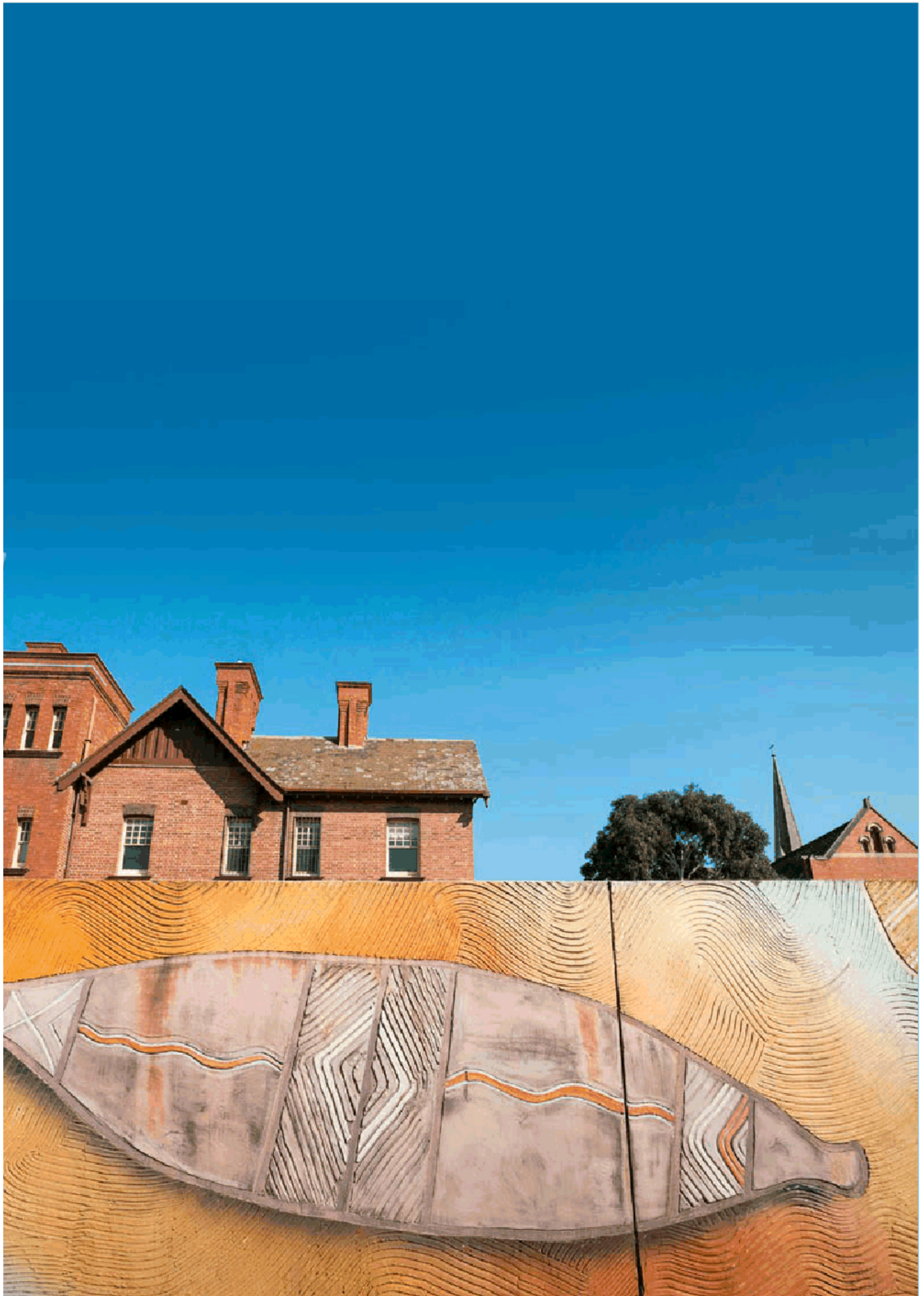
### 3.2 Diverse roles of open space

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* recognises the broad range and diversity of roles that open space can play, which at times overlap or are in conflict. This strategy suggests ways they can be balanced.

The process for planning this diversity is complex, and in many cases, there will be competing objectives and aspirations with practical implications. For example, the management of cycling paths through open space, if not done properly, has the potential to cause conflict with playgrounds and more passive activities; dog off lead areas can compromise biodiversity; children are attracted to natural, wild environments for play however, this can also compromise biodiversity. It is through good land management practices and education that Council and the community can collaborate to ensure the best use of resources and assets, consistent with the vision and principles of the strategy.

5. Fincher, Ruth and Iveson, Kurt, (2008) *Planning and diversity in the city: redistribution, recognition and encounter*. Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke, Hampshire

6. CABE. (2009) *Open space strategies best practice design*.



04

Where are we now?



*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* takes account of the current context for open space and builds on a range of existing policies and strategies and provides direction for new ones which influence the planning, design and management of open space to avoid duplication of policy and actions.

**4.1 Policy context**

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* is guided by the Darebin Council Plan and, at a State Level, Plan Melbourne 2017-2050. It also interfaces with a number of existing Council frameworks, strategies and policies.

Council's commitments to being an age-friendly and child-friendly city also informs this strategy.

The relationship of the strategy to other plans and strategies is illustrated in Figure 1 below.

**4.2 Darebin now**

Darebin is a rapidly growing and urbanising part of Melbourne, home to a progressive and culturally diverse community and a place of areas of significant open space and habitat corridors.

The City of Darebin is in the north of metropolitan Melbourne. The municipality's southern boundary is approximately 3.5 kilometres north east of the CBD, with the northern boundary approximately 13 kilometres north east.

Darebin's open space per capita is similar to other established municipalities, however it is lower than Melbourne's outer and growth municipalities.

Darebin residents currently have access to 19.6 sq. m/ open space per capita which is below the commonly accepted benchmark of 30 sq. m per capita.

Figure 1: Existing policy context

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050		
City of Darebin Planning Scheme	Darebin Council Plan	
<i>Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy</i>		
<b>Influencing Policy</b>		
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Access and Inclusion Plan	Gender Equity Action Plan	Playspace Strategy
Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy	GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy	Public Toilet Strategy
Arts Strategy	Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Safe Travel Strategy
Climate Emergency Plan	Leisure Strategy	Tourism Strategy
Community Engagement Framework	Multicultural Action Plan	Transport Strategy
Creative and Cultural Infrastructure Framework	Natural Heritage Strategy	Urban Food Production Strategy
Cycling Strategy	Nature Strip Planting Guidelines	Urban Forest Strategy
Darebin Creek Management Plan	Open Space Asset Management Plan	Walking Strategy
Equity and Inclusion Policy	Open Space Contribution Framework	Waste and Litter Strategy
	Parking Strategy	Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin
<b>New Policy *</b>		
Biodiversity Management Plan	Land Management Plan	Strategic Land Acquisition Plan

\* New policy as a result of actioning *Breathing Space: The Open Space Strategy*

The City of Darebin includes a mix of traditional low density suburban areas as well as higher density developments in activity centres and along transport corridors. Major activity centres include Northcote, Thornbury, Preston, Reservoir and Fairfield.

It is bounded by the Darebin Creek Corridor to the east and the Merri Creek Corridor to west, major regional ecosystems that are critical habitat corridors. The northern area of Darebin is home to several major remnant vegetation patches of the critically endangered and nationally threatened Western Plains Grasslands ecosystem of which less than 1% remains. Figure 2 shows neighbouring municipalities.

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin Nations are the traditional owners and custodians of the land that is now known as the City of Darebin.

Currently 10.6 per cent of the total City area has canopy cover (vegetation above 3m), and thermal hotspots exist throughout the city, particularly in areas that people gather, such as shopping centres and recreation areas. This level of canopy cover is comparable to other inner northern suburbs however significantly lower than Council's goal of 25% canopy cover.

**Figure 2: City of Darebin and neighbouring municipalities**

Source: SGS Economics and Planning 2018



**Recent growth trends**

Darebin is growing at a rapid rate (refer Table 1). Recent rates of development in Darebin have been high in a regional context: between 2011 and 2016 Darebin grew at around 1.6 per cent per annum and accommodated nearly 10 per cent of regional population growth. The municipalities which are growing faster than Darebin are predominantly Growth Areas, rather than established areas.

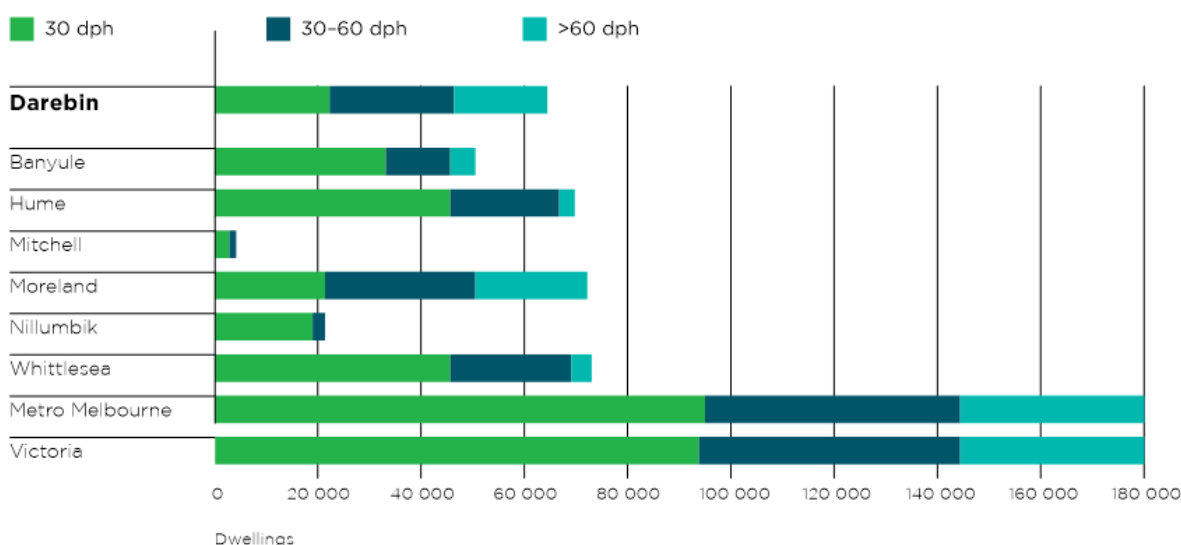
The form of recently developed dwellings is an important consideration for open space. The density of dwellings in Darebin in 2016 is a relatively even distribution between low, medium and higher density. As illustrated in Figure 3, there is a higher proportion of medium and higher density dwellings compared to metropolitan Melbourne. Dwellings per hectare (dph) is a measure of density. Fewer than 30 dwellings per hectare is low density, 30-60 dwellings per hectare is medium density and greater than 60 dwellings per hectare is higher density.

**Table 1: Recent population growth trends**

	2011	2016	2011-16 AAGR	2011-16 Change	2011-16 % of regional growth
Banyule	122,815	127,508	0.8%	4,693	3.8%
Darebin	142,942	155,022	1.6%	12,080	9.8%
Hume	174,320	207,663	3.6%	33,343	27.1%
Mitchell	35,095	41,692	3.5%	6,598	5.4%
Moreland	154,252	172,027	2.2%	17,775	14.4%
Nillumbik	62,884	64,465	0.5%	1,581	1.3%
Whittlesea	160,800	207,881	5.3%	47,081	38.2%
<b>Northern Metro Region</b>	<b>853,108</b>	<b>976,258</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>123,151</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Metropolitan Melbourne</b>	<b>4,108,837</b>	<b>4,653,078</b>	<b>2.5%</b>	<b>544,241</b>	<b>N/A</b>

**Figure 3: Overall dwelling density by LGA 2016**

Source: Housing Development Data, 2016





**Dwelling type**

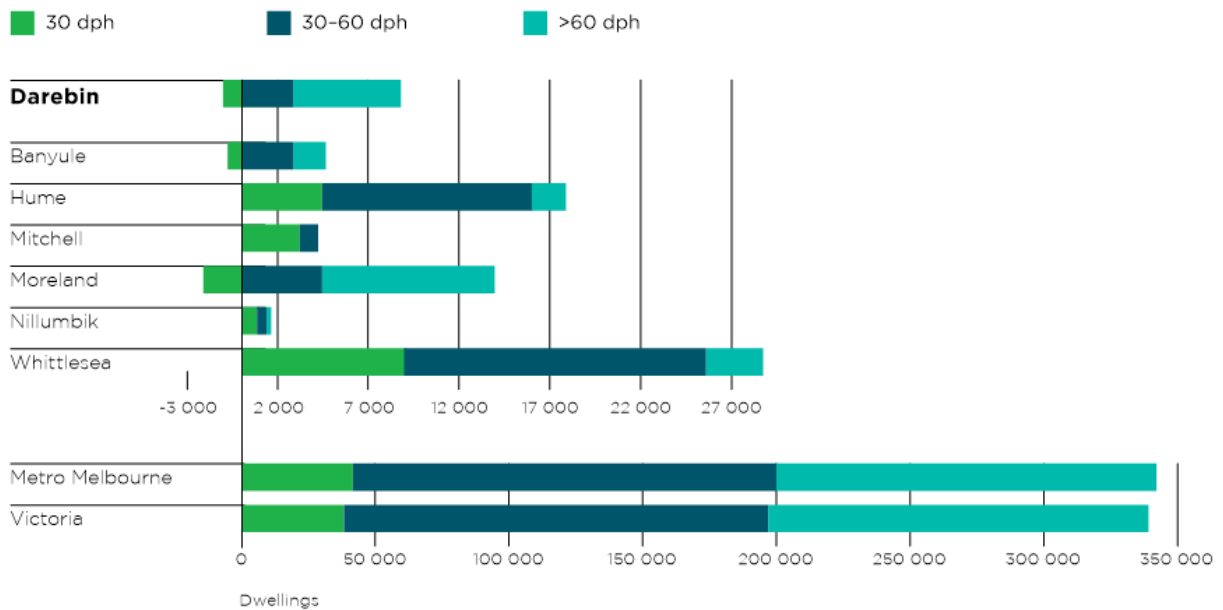
Darebin's residential areas are becoming denser and more urban (see Figure 4). Between 2006 and 2016, the number of medium (townhouses) and higher (multistorey developments) density dwellings in Darebin increased significantly, while the number of lower density (free standing houses) dwellings (30 dwellings per hectare or lower – generally correlating with detached dwellings) decreased. This often occurs when stand-alone houses are replaced with town houses or apartments.

**Age profile**

The age profile of Darebin is illustrated in Figure 5, illustrating Darebin has a similar age profile to other established parts of the northern region, and to metropolitan Melbourne.

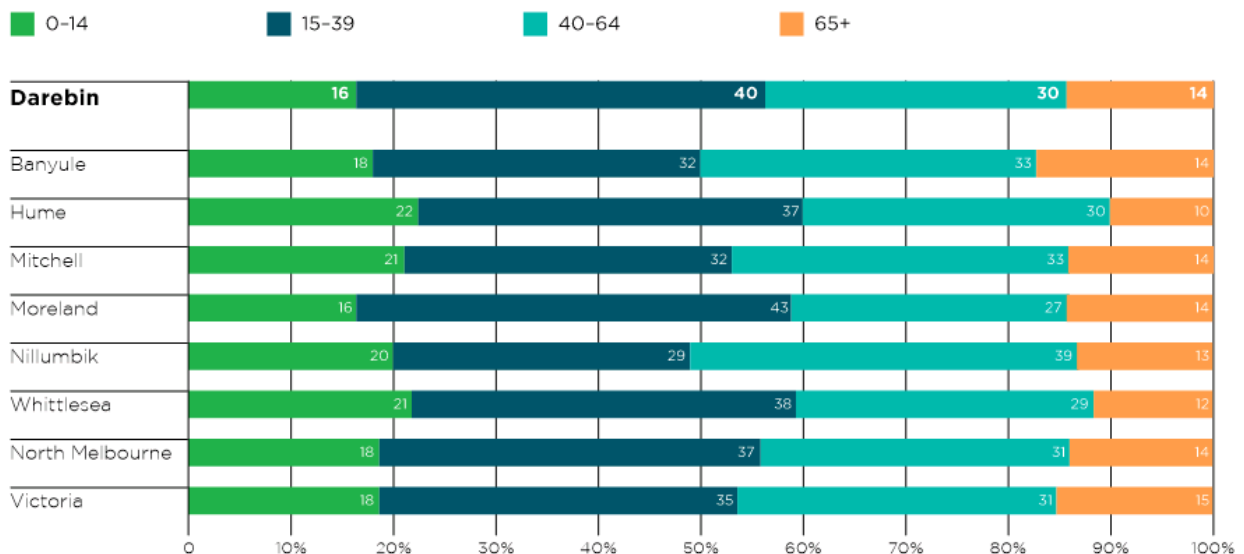
**Figure 4: Change in dwellings by type 2006-2016**

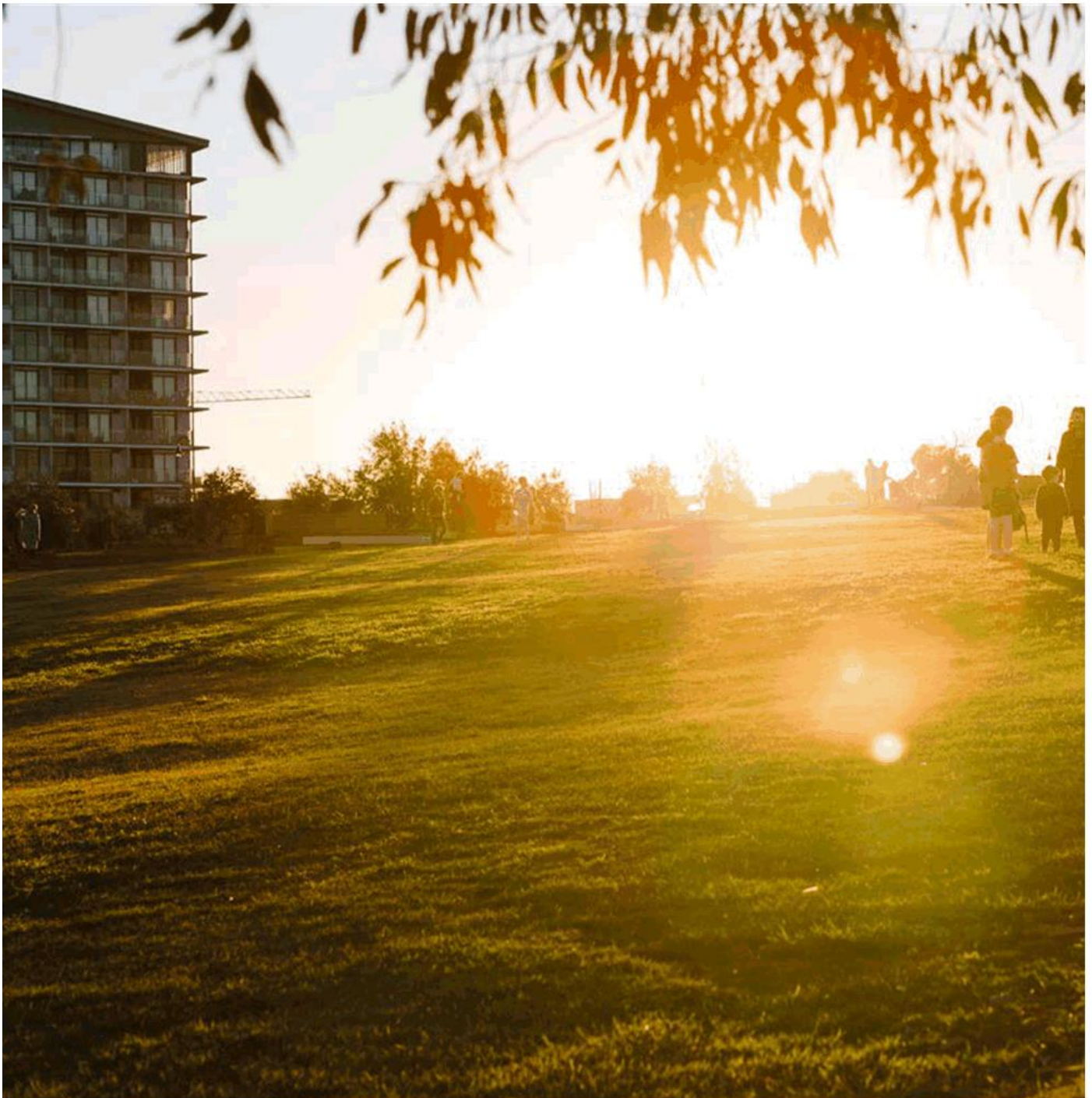
Source: Housing Development Data, 2016



**Figure 5: Proportion of population by age group (2016)**

Source: ABS Census 2016





**Cultural and linguistic diversity**

Darebin is highly diverse. The cultural diversity in Darebin compared to other northern region municipalities, and metropolitan Melbourne, is illustrated in Figure 6. It shows Darebin has a lower proportion of people born in Australia compared to the outer northern region of metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria as a whole.

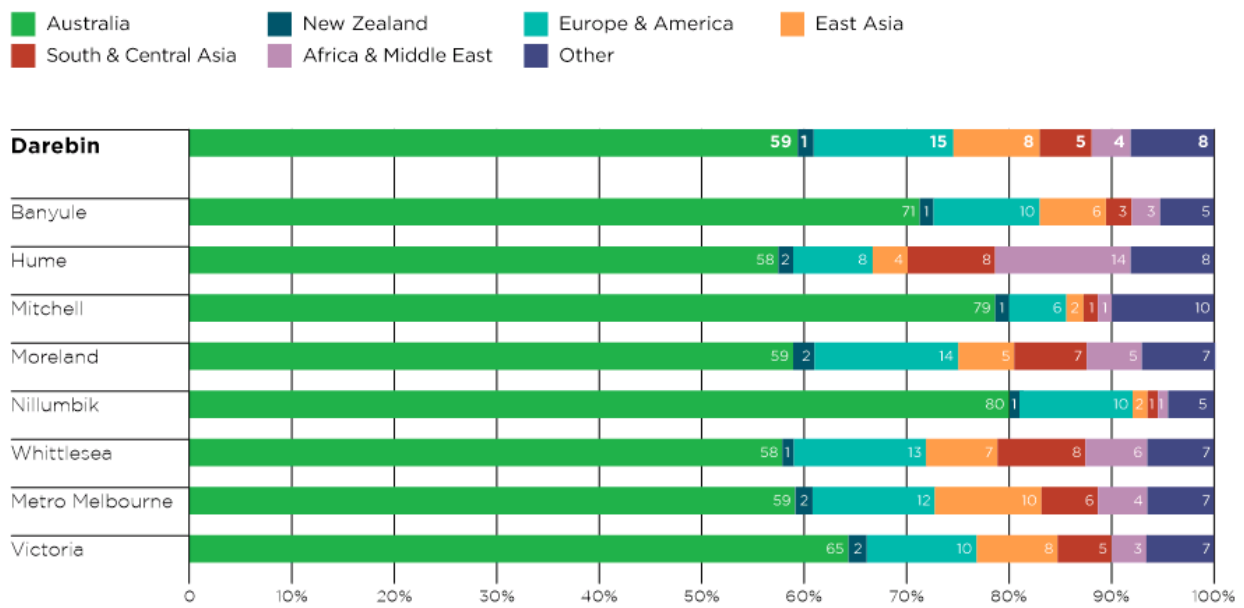
After Australian-born, the second highest place of birth was Europe and Americas, followed by East Asia. This is similar when compared with other established

parts of the northern region. Darebin does stand out in that it has one of the largest proportions of Aboriginal residents of the 31 municipalities in Greater Melbourne.

In Darebin, 56.6 per cent of people speak English at home (see Figure 7), compared to 68 per cent of Victorian households. The main languages other than English spoken at home in Darebin included Italian, Greek, Mandarin, Arabic, and Vietnamese. Many other languages are also spoken at home, and comprise a further 22 per cent of households which further illustrates the degree of cultural diversity in the Darebin community.

**Figure 6: Place of birth of residents (2016)**

Source: ABS Census 2016



**Figure 7: Language spoken at home**

56% English, 7% Italian, 6% Greek, 4% Mandarin, 3% Arabic, 2% Vietnamese, 22% Other



Where are we now?

Open space plays a critical role for the community given that most interact with open space on a daily basis. As a result of its diverse community, Darebin's open space should consider and be reflective of the community profile by offering different types of spaces to meet these varying needs.

We know that a diverse community has different needs for their open space and it is important to understand what each group requires to encourage use, make them feel welcome and safe, and to embed the sense of Darebin as their home.

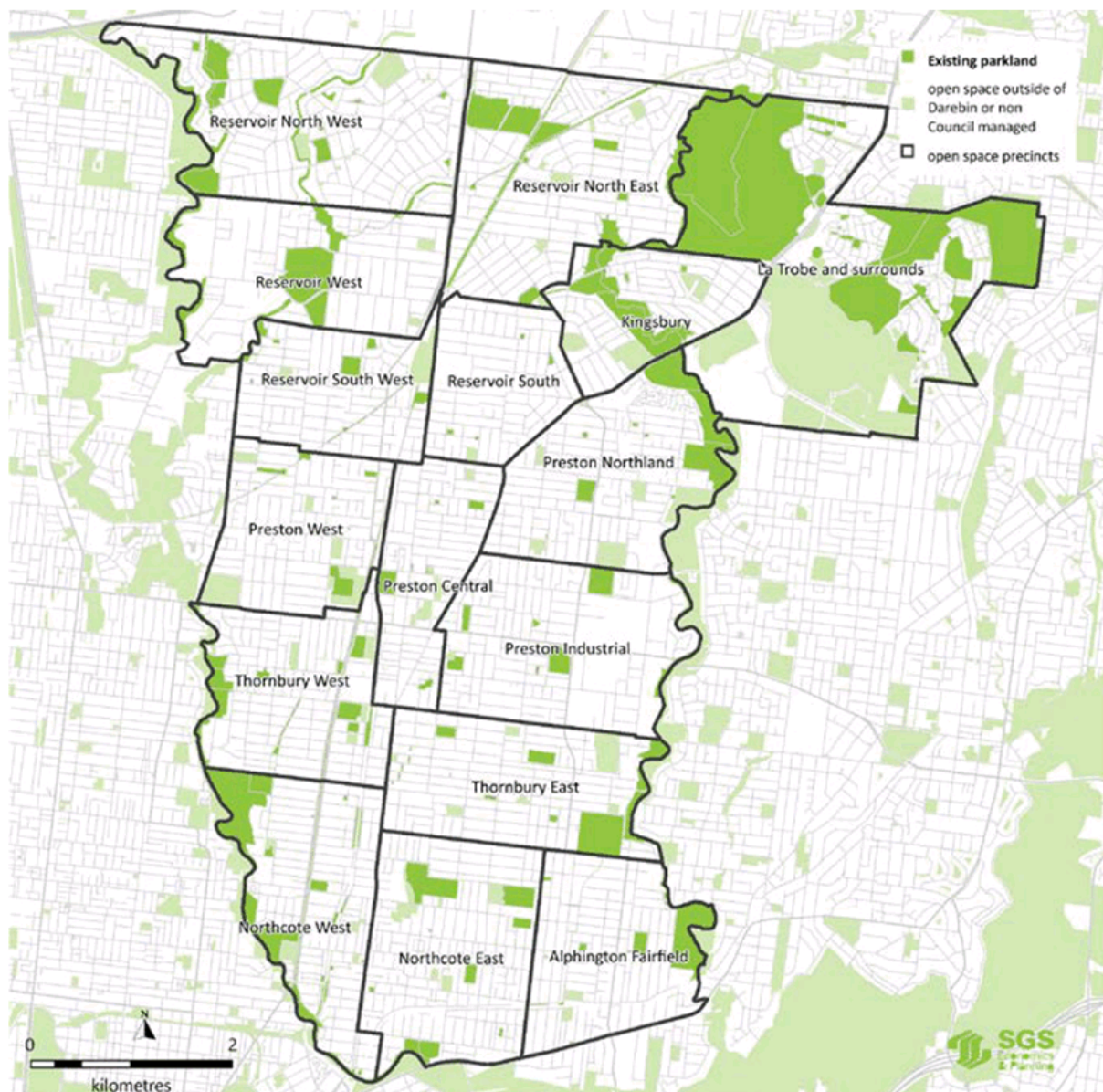
**4.3 Existing open space network**

There are over 750 hectares of open space in Darebin, including local and district parks, nature reserves, creek corridors, community gardens, large regional parks and sporting reserves. The existing open space network is illustrated in Figure 8.

The traditional approach to classifying open space is to consider its primary purpose - for example: conservation, recreation, scenic amenity or formal garden. In this strategy, to align with the diversity of roles and benefits of open space, all open spaces are considered opportunities for recreation - both active and passive, contemplation, climate change mitigation and biodiversity protection.

**Figure 8: Open space network**

Source: City of Darebin, 2018

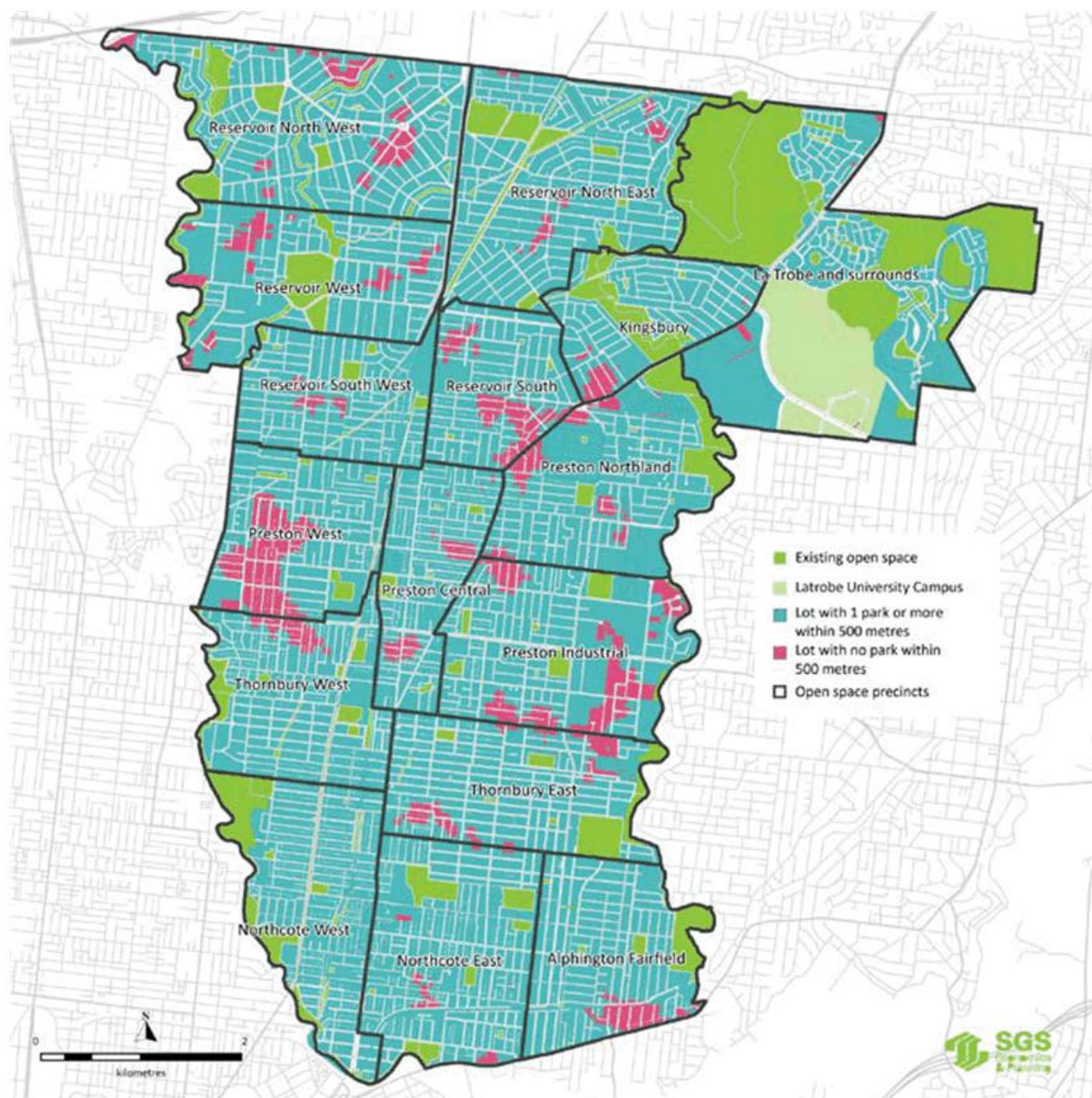


To aid in the planning of open space, parks in Darebin are classified according to their size and role. There are small *local parks* that meet the everyday needs of residents, usually located within 500 metres walking distance of their homes, *district parks* that provide a broader range of sport and recreation opportunities for residents at the suburb scale and large *regional parklands* that are enjoyed by all residents of Darebin, as well as visitors to the municipality. Regional public open spaces in Darebin include Edwardes Lake Park, Bundoora Park, John Cain Memorial Park as well as several golf courses and other active open spaces.

Residents in Darebin also have access to significant regional open space corridors that are located on the southern, eastern and western boundaries of the municipality, notably, the Darebin Creek Corridor and the Merri Creek Corridor. These regional open spaces are part of metropolitan level open space corridors along critical waterways and are popular walking and cycling routes.

**Figure 9: Current variation in open space access (2018)**

Source: SGS Economics and Planning, 2018



#### 4.4 Current access to open space

While overall provision of open space is important, the access that households have to open space must also be considered.

Pedestrian catchments for the open spaces in Darebin have been analysed to identify the number and location of households which can access a public open space within 500m<sup>7</sup>.

This includes access to Council managed and/or publicly accessible open spaces within Darebin. Golf courses, schools and conservation reserves with limited public access are excluded from the analysis. Open spaces in neighbouring municipalities are also excluded<sup>8</sup> (standard planning practice is to exclude any land over which Council does not have direct ownership and control and is therefore unable to guarantee its future use and availability).

Figure 9 illustrates the key findings of this analysis, showing concentrations of households with limited access to open space particularly in Preston and Reservoir as well as parts of Alphington. There are also pockets which have limited access in all other precincts, excluding Northcote West which has significant open space assets. Table 2 reveals these gaps in the open space network.

Areas with a high population density require more access to quality open space than areas of low population density, as there is generally less private open space in high density areas. This additional demand for open space can be provided by both increasing the overall quantum of open space and increasing investment in existing open space to increase and improve its quality.

Increased investment in quality amenities and facilities, such as lighting, planting, seating, shade trees and accessible toilets and pathways allows for open space to be used by a wider range of people, for a broader range of activities. This investment increases the quality of open space making it more desirable for use throughout the day and into the evening.

When considering the projected population increase for Darebin, it is clear that an increase in both the quantity of land for recreation as well as an increase in the overall quality of open space is required to meet the needs of the growing community.

7. Refer Council policy

8. Data limitations prevent inclusion of neighbouring open space

#### 4.5 Biodiversity in Darebin

Darebin is home to a vast number of species – from treasured local fauna like the blue banded bee and the red rumped parrot to all kinds of flora, fauna, fungi and bacteria.

The devastating impacts of human settlement, urbanisation and densification mean that a complete recovery of local biodiversity is unattainable. Open space is nonetheless a key location for improving biodiversity and fighting against local extinctions.

The integrated planning and management of biodiversity has not traditionally been a core function of local government, and land with biodiverse attributes is managed by a complex array of agencies, including Melbourne Water, Vic Track, Latrobe University, Parks Victoria and Management Committees for Darebin and Merri Creeks.

While floral and faunal species do not recognise anthropogenic boundaries in the landscape (boundaries defined by humans), there are numerous significant species found in cities that can be managed to improve local and regional biodiversity.

Because of the number of species existent in any area, it is not practical to prevent extinction in all categories. Instead, it is more feasible to focus efforts on species that are important, threatened or unique to the area and to take steps to increase habitat and protect those key organisms. However much can be done. Significant revegetation and expansion of habitats can and has had profound results in species recolonisation.

**Table 2: Gaps in open space network**

Source: SGS Economics and Planning, 2018

Open Space Precinct	% of all households which don't have access within 500m
Reservoir North West	5.6%
Reservoir North East	2.1%
La Trobe and surrounds	8.4%
Reservoir West	8.7%
Kingsbury	15.3%
Reservoir South West	3.8%
Reservoir South	17.1%
Preston Northland	6.9%
Preston West	25.4%
Preston Central	7.1%
Preston Industrial	10.5%
Thornbury West	4.4%
Thornbury East	8.7%
Northcote West	0.0%
Northcote East	2.5%
Alphington Fairfield	9.5%
<b>City of Darebin</b>	<b>7.4%</b>

Significant plants and animals in Darebin include:

- 179 species of significant plants and animals
- 51 sites of local significance
- 24 sites of regional significance
- 2 sites of regional-state significance
- 34 sites of state significance
- 2 sites of regional-national significance
- 26 sites of national significance.

Areas of high conservation value include:

- Merri Creek
- Darebin Creek
- Cherry Street Reserve
- Forensic Drive Reserve
- Ngarrri-djarrang Grasslands
- Edgars Creek
- Bundoora Park.

Specific threats to biodiversity in Darebin include:

- Urban development encroaching on natural areas, e.g. housing and development along creek corridors including Merri Creek, Darebin Creek and Edgars Creek
- Pest animals including domestic cats and dogs
- Exotic and invasive weed species and habitat loss
- Pollution of air, water and land
- Fractured habitat - natural heritage in Darebin currently provides habitat stepping stones for flora and fauna rather than a connected network
- Lack of community awareness: community engagement and education is needed to mitigate negative community behaviours that threaten and harm natural heritage sites
- Cost of resourcing natural heritage protection activities needs to be balanced against Council's other priorities
- Impacts of climate change including declining rainfall, increasing temperatures and increasing intensity and frequency of storm events

### Darebin as an urban ecosystem

Urban ecosystems are dynamic hybrid systems that encompass all living organisms (including humans), the natural environment and the built environment. Understanding Darebin as an urban ecosystem allows for locally indigenous plants and animals to be protected. Some exotic species (especially non-invasive ones), have a legitimate role as street trees in a number of urban situations. This is due to the limited number of indigenous species that are highly suited to streetscapes where pruning of limbs might be undertaken regularly, or where other constraints operate to limit larger indigenous trees. Non-native species can also still have a place in certain open space reserves where there are particular historical values, or irrigation is supplied, or if a particular look is being sought for cultural reasons. However, the default needs to be local, indigenous species as non-native plants have limited biodiversity values.

An urban ecosystem approach also recognises the importance of open space to people, the role of open space in urban food production, the value of culture and design, and that open space can fulfil a range of needs and activities.

## 4.6 The community's views on open space

### Community consultation analysis

It is important that community members see themselves in their open spaces. To begin the process of understanding how individuals perceive and experience their open spaces, Council undertook a municipal wide survey in March 2018. The survey was released simultaneously with an Expression of Interest for the Darebin Nature Trust.

From the responses, it is overwhelmingly clear that Darebin residents value their open space and, for many, engaging with nature forms a positive part of their lives. Passive or informal recreation such as the use of a playspace, socialising, walking, cycling, dog walking, jogging, contemplation and exercise featured prominently as the main activities that drew people to Darebin's open spaces. Respondents valued a place rich in natural bushland character, habitat for native plants and animals, trees, an escape from the built environment and a place to relax and unwind. Parks that offered a diversity of uses as well as un-programmed spaces rated as some of the most preferred.

Broadly, areas identified for improvement included provision of a consistent level of maintenance in all open spaces throughout the city; ensuring a standard level of basic amenities such as seating, bins and drinking fountains; improving the quality of footpaths as well as increasing the amount of tree planting and the quality of garden beds. There was also a clear concern expressed by the rapid growth, change and development that many saw throughout the municipality.

Many respondents noted a gap in provision of natural, bushland reserves and reserves with a natural character for passive recreation. Spending time outdoors with pets, particularly dogs, ranked as important for many residents with people reporting that dogs enabled and supported exercise, socialisation and as a reason to get outside and engage with nature. Conversely, not all responses around dogs were positive, with some residents reporting safety concerns for themselves and their families around off lead dogs.

Open space is highly valued by Darebin's diverse community for a wide variety of reasons and this strategy is guided by these initial conversations.

### Darebin Nature Trust

In 2018 Council established the Darebin Nature Trust, made up of a group of knowledgeable and skilled local experts from nature-related fields. This group will provide invaluable ongoing advice and expertise as the strategy is translated into management practice, as well as influencing a broad range of Council plans, strategies and actions, big and small.



Photo: Brent Edwards



05

# Growth and change



Darebin has experienced major change in recent years and will continue to grow, urbanise and change. Without significant action, our communities will have less access to quality open space and our ecosystems will suffer. *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* is a central strategy for Council in being able to protect quality of life and natural systems, encompassing human, plant and animal communities, as the city grows.

This section outlines the drivers of change, need and demand.

### 5.1 Rapid population growth

Population growth is a key driver of demand for open space. The City of Darebin is forecast to be home to approximately 196,000 people in 2028. This is an increase of more than 35,000 people from the 2018 population of approximately 161,000 and represents population growth of approximately 21 per cent. On average, this is 2 per cent growth annually. The distribution of both the current population and projected growth across the municipality is uneven, as illustrated below in Table 3.

This future population growth will generate additional demand for open space, delivered through a combination of more open space and improvements to existing open space. The strategy will outline the approach which is based on current levels of access and current open space conditions.

**Table 3: Projected population growth: 2018–2028**

Source: City of Darebin, 2018

Open Space Precinct	2018	2028 (projected)	2018–2028 projected change	2018–2028 % projected change
Reservoir North West	10,565	11,322	757	7.2%
Reservoir North East	15,172	17,140	1,968	13.0%
La Trobe and surrounds	8,933	11,807	2,875	32.2%
Reservoir West	7,320	8,544	1,224	16.7%
Kingsbury	5,831	6,913	1,082	18.5%
Reservoir South West	7,936	8,765	830	10.5%
Reservoir South	6,938	9,140	2,202	31.7%
Preston Northland	10,229	13,275	3,047	29.8%
Preston West	9,736	13,560	3,825	39.3%
Preston Central	9,472	13,972	4,500	47.5%
Preston Industrial	7,394	9,926	2,531	34.2%
Thornbury West	10,755	13,011	2,256	21.0%
Thornbury East	11,949	13,716	1,767	14.8%
Northcote West	13,942	16,998	3,056	21.9%
Northcote East	16,116	17,328	1,212	7.5%
Alphington Fairfield	8,962	10,318	1,356	15.1%
<b>City of Darebin</b>	<b>161,249</b>	<b>195,736</b>	<b>34,487</b>	<b>21.4%</b>

### 5.2 Provision of open space

There are areas in Darebin which currently have limited access to open space, and many of these areas are projected to accommodate high levels of growth. If no additional open space is acquired, the overall provision rate of open space will decline.

Table 4 provides an overview of the current provision rate of open space across Darebin, and the likely future rate, assuming no additional open space is provided.

Only open spaces that are publicly accessible and have a primary purpose for recreation are included in the analysis.

Excluded from this analysis are the regionally significant open spaces at Bundoora Park and John Cain Memorial Reserve, conservation areas such as Gresswell Forest Wildlife Reserve, golf courses and open space located in road reserves and along creek corridors where one or more of the following applies: they are not owned or managed by council, have restricted access or require a paid membership.

Table 4 shows that overall in Darebin, in the future, there will be approximately 16.2 square metres per capita of open space, if no additional open space is provided. This is well below the commonly accepted benchmark of 30 sq. m per capita. It also shows that there are multiple areas which will have a shortage in open space provision in the future, based on projected population growth.

**Table 4: Access to open space per capita (2018 and projected)**

Source: SGS Economics and Planning

Open Space Precinct	2018 open space (ha)	2018 open space per capita (m <sup>2</sup> )	2028 projected open space per capita (m <sup>2</sup> )	2028 projected open space provision
Reservoir North West	52.7	18.6	17.3	Undersupplied
Reservoir North East	61.1	24.2	21.4	Minor undersupply
La Trobe and Surrounds	326.4	18.9	14.3	Undersupplied
Reservoir West	46	37.7	32.3	Well supplied
Kingsbury	37.6	63.7	53.7	Well supplied
Reservoir South West	10.2	10.2	9.3	Undersupplied
Reservoir South	1.3	1.9	1.4	Undersupplied
Preston Northland	43.3	31.0	23.9	Minor undersupply
Preston West	9.9	8.0	5.7	Undersupplied
Preston Central	6.4	6.7	4.6	Undersupplied
Preston Industrial	18.3	20.9	15.6	Undersupplied
Thornbury West	28.8	19.3	15.9	Undersupplied
Thornbury East	36.2	5.6	4.9	Undersupplied
Northcote West	56.5	19.1	15.7	Undersupplied
Northcote East	30.4	17.7	16.5	Undersupplied
Alphington Fairfield	25.4	28.2	24.5	Minor undersupply
<b>City of Darebin</b>	<b>790.4</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>Undersupplied</b>

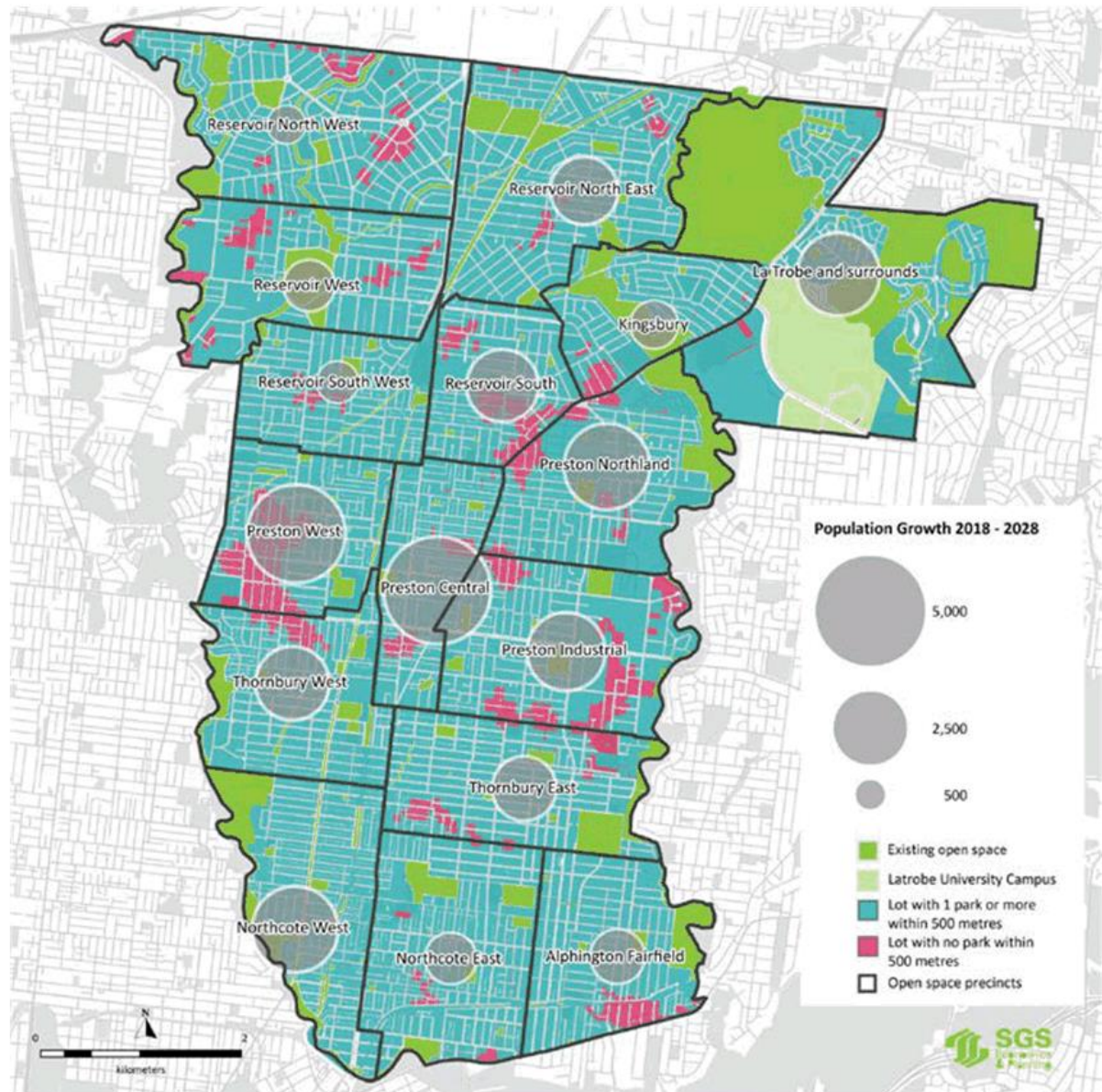
**5.3 Access to open space**

There are areas in Darebin which currently have limited access to open space.

Figure 10 shows how the areas where there are gaps are often aligned with areas that are anticipated to experience major population growth. Of particular note, are the Preston precincts, which currently have significant gaps in access to open space, and are forecast to experience significant population growth.

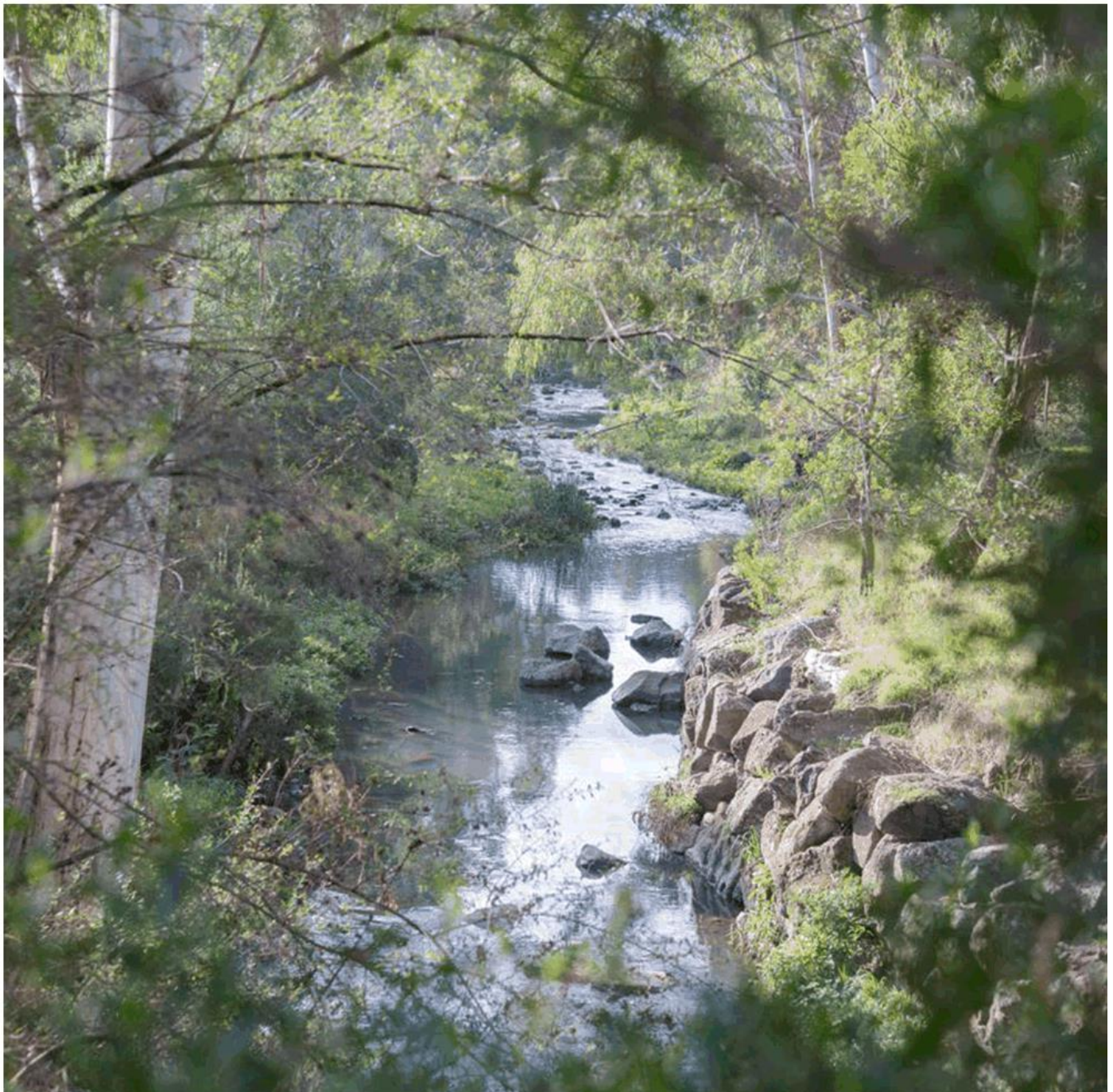
**Figure 10: Current variation in open space access and projected population growth (2018)**

Source: SGS Economics and Planning, 2018



06

Shaping  
the future



*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* is a far-reaching and ambitious strategy. It recognises that significant action, investment and time will be needed to realise the vision of more and better open space. The strategy identifies a framework of approaches and actions to achieve it.

### 6.1 Introduction

The overarching theme of *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* is responding to the climate emergency.

Within this context, the strategy provides a vision, directions, objectives, strategies and actions for open space in Darebin arranged in the following way:

- The vision statement identifies the desired future
- The key directions identify the areas of impact
- The objectives outline what is to be achieved
- The strategies identify how to meet the objectives
- The actions are the specific steps that need to be taken

### 6.2 Vision Statement

We see a future city that has more and better open space. Where we share multifaceted, contemplative, biodiverse, inspiring and active spaces that promote health, wellbeing, and social and cultural connections. Our streets, reserves, nature strips and medians are lush and rewilded with bushland trees, flowers and plants.

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* seeks to achieve a place where we work together to protect local species and extend their habitat, celebrate our unique natural character and where everyone in the community feels a deep sense of ownership and responsibility towards our beautiful natural world.

### 6.3 Quality and quantity of open space

The strategy will achieve its vision of more and better open space through increasing the quantity of open space by working towards all residents having access to open space within 500m walking distance of their homes and improving the quality of open space to meet the three key directions of the strategy:

- Meeting community open space needs
- Rewilding Darebin: improving biodiversity
- Creating a Green Streets Network

Both quality and quantity of open space in Darebin are key challenges and this strategy seeks to address them both.

### 6.4 Increasing the quantity of open space

In order to work towards all of Darebin's residents living within 500m walking distance of open space, more open space will need to be added into the network. This can be achieved through a number of means including purchase, joint user agreements and partnerships with private and public entities.

Addressing gaps in biodiversity corridors should be a strong consideration in land acquisition.

#### Acquisition of open space

The following should be considered when planning for the acquisition of new public open space:

- Does it fill a gap in the open space network?
- Is it in an area of high population density?
- Is it in an area of projected growth?
- Does it contain remnant vegetation or biodiversity values?
- Is it/can it be habitat for a protected species of flora or fauna?
- Does it make a connection in habitat, active transport etc?
- Does it make an existing open space or habitat corridor larger?
- Does it make access to an existing open space or transport corridor easier?
- Is it within 100m of a creek system?
- Is it in or near an area of natural or environmental significance?
- Is it nominated in a council strategic document?
- Would it make a connection in the Principal Pedestrian Network?
- Does it provide green public open space in commercial or retail areas?
- Does it service a population likely to be experiencing disadvantage, social isolation or poor health, such as older people, social housing tenants or newly arrived migrants?
- Is it good value?

For each open space precinct, parcels or locations for land acquisitions will be identified in the proposed Strategic Land Acquisition Plan.

Traditional owners will be engaged meaningfully in the planning and design of upgrades and new open spaces in areas of cultural significance.

### Potential Sources of funding

As shown in Figure 10, there is a distinct gap in the amount of open space we have, compared to what we are projected to need.

To help close this gap, and improve the quality of existing open spaces, there are a number of potential funding sources to acquire new and improve existing open space.

These include but are not limited to:

1. Government grants
2. Council funds
  - i. Capital works, and asset management program budgets
  - ii. Other internal sources such as community grants/sport programs targeting users
  - iii. Land sales
3. Philanthropic trusts/foundation grants/bequests etc.
4. Reinvestment of funds generated from use of council facilities
5. Joint access arrangements, developments and partnerships with schools, peak bodies, other public agencies
6. Public Open Space Contributions from developers triggered by subdivision (levy)
7. Development contributions
8. Public open space provided by other Government bodies or agencies, on their landholdings

### 6.5 Improving the quality of open space

The quality of an open space is often a key factor in determining how much positive benefit that a particular open space can offer to the community that uses it and to the natural systems that depend on it to survive and thrive.

To achieve this increase in quality, all open spaces have been assigned a hierarchy and a type. This classification system correlates to a matrix (see Figure 11) for the provision of assets, amenity and service for each park. Hierarchy and type are explained in section 6.6.

Quality open space includes the following:

- Maintenance: Good maintenance practices include activities required to keep an open space functioning optimally such as regular mowing and weeding. It also includes replacing parts and assets that are worn and past their useful life expectancy such as replanting trees, repairing paths and replacing benches.
- Sustainable infrastructure and good design: Sustainable infrastructure selection and well considered design provides numerous environmental and cost benefits. Selecting locally made, sustainable, robust and easily maintained open space assets (play equipment, benches, bins etcetera) leads to a longer life for assets and increased enjoyment and use by the community. Good design ensures that consideration is given to layout, circulation, neighbourhood character and aesthetics and ensures that all assets are fit for purpose.
- Biodiversity: All open spaces should contribute to the biodiversity of Darebin. This is accomplished through appropriate plant selection, increased canopy cover, a clear network of paths that allows areas to regenerate and through the purposeful creation of habitat. High quality open spaces support local flora and fauna while simultaneously providing people with the opportunity to connect with and integrate into the natural environment. Planting should be suited to the local microclimates and be selected to thrive. The main vehicle by which all open space in Darebin will contribute to biodiversity is via the planting of indigenous species and the use of layers of vegetation (trees, shrubs and understory) to create diverse habitat for fauna and insect species. Biodiversity will also be assisted if the vegetation cover in many parks is transitioned to indigenous species. Flowering indigenous species and plant palettes should be considered foremost where ornamental garden beds are preferred by the community.
- Universal design and inclusiveness: Well considered open spaces are welcoming and inclusive places. They are inviting and accommodate a variety of uses for all people regardless of culture, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic conditions, disability, etcetera.
- Service provision: A high quality network of open spaces contains a variety of uses including conservation, organised sport, active transport, food production, passive recreation, contemplation and habitat. Every space does not need to contain every service, however the network as a whole should have a fair and equitable distribution of activities. Available services should be in proportion with the intended use and the number of users of the open space.
- Character and distinctiveness: A successful green space will promote and reflect the identity and culture of a local community and create a sense of place. High quality open spaces contribute positively to the economic growth of an area and add to neighbourhood character.
- Wayfinding and navigation: Signage, landmarks and visual cues should be prevalent and prominent. This

- will allow users to confidently and safely navigate the space and to understand what is available within and around the area.
- Connectivity: The network of open spaces should be integrated into the surrounding urban fabric with well defined access points. Integrated, safe and attractive routes should link the network of green spaces and local services encouraging the use of active transport.
  - Accessibility: Well planned open spaces are easily accessible where the individual open space and the wider network considers accessibility as a default.

Figure 11: Open Space Matrix

■ Should have     
 ■ May have     
 ■ Should not have

Basic Minimum Requirements	Hierarchy Type	Regional	District			Local		
		Regional	A	B	C	A	B	C
Public toilet		May have	Should have	May have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Lighting		May have	Should have	May have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Internal path network catering for a range of users		May have	Should have	May have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Path connections to surrounding footpaths		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
BBQ		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Picnic tables		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Bike racks		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Drinking water		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Shade structure		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Seating		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Fitness equipment		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Formal sporting facilities (suitable for organised sport)		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Informal/casual sporting facilities (including basketball half-courts)		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Playground		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Public event space (min. 100m <sup>2</sup> gathering space)		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Canopy trees		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Garden beds		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Biodiverse indigenous plantings		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Areas of irrigated mown grass (including playing surfaces)		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Unique elements that enhance the visitor experience and contribute to identity of the reserve (such as artwork or other design elements)		May have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Car parking		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have
Car share and electric car charge points (with solar panels on shelter/s)		Should have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have	Should have	Should not have	Should not have



### 6.6 Classifying open space

Planning for the future open space network will be informed by a classification system that considers both the overall catchment and role of the open space as well as the type of infrastructure that is required.

In developing responses to these future challenges, it is useful to classify open space based on the population it serves. This is done using two frameworks: one which addresses the geographic scale of the catchment that an open space serves (local, district and regional) referred here as 'hierarchy' and a second which is based on the density of population within the open space's geographical catchment referred here as 'type'. The two concepts are conceptually illustrated in Figure 12.

The underlying assumption of this approach is that areas of higher density require a higher level of open space services, due to increased demand.

The hierarchy is determined by the geographical catchment of visitors. Regional open spaces draw visitors from across the municipality and beyond. District parks draw visitors from surrounding suburbs as well as people who live within walking distance, while local open space draw visitors who are within walking distance, or suburbs that are directly adjacent. Examples of different hierarchies are shown in Figure 13.

The type (or level of amenity) of open space required is determined by the population density around the open space. The measure for population density is the number of people who live around the open space.

The recommended type for an open space provides guidance on the mix of infrastructure and facilities and level of maintenance that should be provided within them. Parks with more people living nearby have higher minimum requirements. Examples of different types are shown in Figure 14.

For each type, a basic minimum requirement is identified. Type A open spaces provide a high level of open space services, Type B provide a medium level of open space services, and Type C provide a lower level of open space services.

To identify the appropriate type (level of open space amenities provided) for each local open space, the population within 500 metres walking distance is identified. For each district open space, the population within the open space precinct is identified. Regional Parks and Corridors (such as Bundoora Park, Edwardes Lake Park and Merri Creek Corridor) are used by the entire municipality and beyond so are not distinguished within Figure 12.

This approach means that local parks with a large number of people living nearby require a higher level of service than local parks with fewer people living nearby. District parks in open space precincts with large populations require a higher level of service than those located in precincts with smaller populations.

The population density associated with each type of open space are described below.

Park hierarchy and type are used to set a proposed level of amenity provision. This will be explored later in the strategy.

#### Local Parks

Type	2018 population located within 500m
Type A	10,000 plus people
Type B	7,000 to 10,000 people
Type C	Fewer than 7,000 people

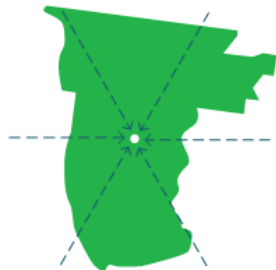
#### District Parks

Type	2018 population within open space precinct
Type A	12,000 plus people
Type B	9,000 - 12,000 people
Type C	Fewer than 9,000 people

Figure 12: Open space classification framework

**Hierarchy**

'Hierarchy' is determined by catchment - the distance from which the reserve is able to (or should be able to) attract visitors.



**Regional**  
Draws visitors from/has significance across the municipality and beyond.



**District**  
Draws visitors from/has significance to surrounding suburbs as well as people who live within walking distance.



**Local**  
Draws visitors from/has significance within walking distance from the location suburb, or suburbs directly adjacent.

**Type**

'Type' is determined by population density around the reserve - how many people the reserve needs to provide 'services' to. Different types require different capital cost and maintenance inputs.



**Type A**  
High level of provision of capital expenditure and maintenance. These reserves are relied upon to provide a variety of services and are of significant importance within their catchment.



**Type B**  
Medium level of equipment and maintenance. These reserves are relied upon to provide a few different services and have a supporting role within the catchment.



**Type C**  
Lower level provision of equipment and maintenance. These reserves are supplementary to other reserves in the catchment, and may cater primarily for opportunistic or limited use.

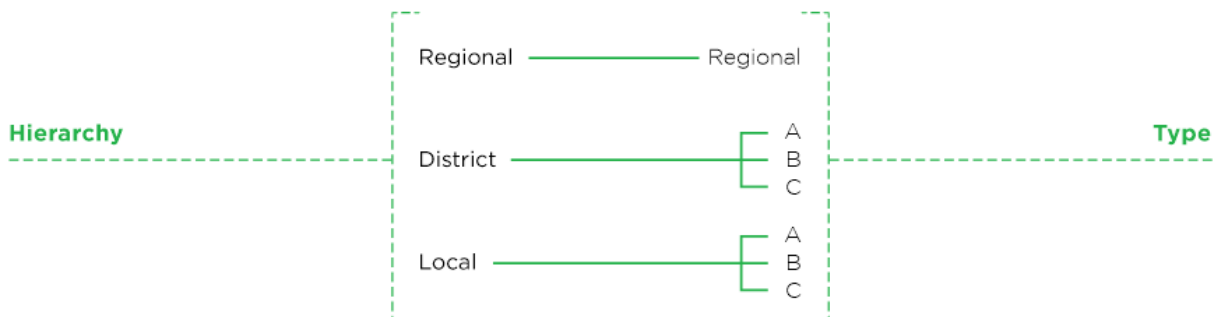


Figure 13: Hierarchy — benchmarking

**Regional**

Draws visitors from / has significance across the municipality and beyond.



**Bundoora Park, Bundoora**

- Approx. 190 ha.
- Urban farm, cafe and multiple playgrounds.
- Incorporates multiple separate uses such as golf course and river red gum preservation area.



**Booran Reserve, Glenhuntly**

- Approx. 18 ha.
- High quantity and variety of equipment, including water-play. Shade and seating also provided.

**District**

Draws visitors from surrounding suburbs as well as people who live within walking distance.



**Hayes Park, Thornbury**

- Approx. 3 ha.
- Parks with an oval automatically achieve district status due to increased catchment size.
- Playground with medium provision of equipment.
- Other features and facilities: picnic tables and BBQ, open lawn, seating, vegetation.



**All Nations Park, Northcote**

- Approx. 13 ha.
- Multiple separate spaces, including two playgrounds.
- Open lawn areas, small lake, tree plantings.
- Picnic facilities.
- Toilets, continuous path.

**Local**

Draws visitors from within walking distance from the location suburb, or suburbs directly adjacent.



**University Square, Parkville**

- Approx. 2 ha.
- Shade, seating, plaza areas, open lawn areas, vegetation, water feature, public art.
- A local space designed to cater for passive recreation. This type of space is particularly suited to servicing open space needs of residents in higher-density developments.
- Can accommodate events and large numbers of people.



**Doug Hannan Reserve, Reservoir**

- Approx. 0.67 ha.
- Mini skate park, half-court, playground.
- Drinking fountain, seating and picnic table.
- Open lawn area, trees and garden beds.

Figure 14: Type — benchmarking

**Type A**

High level capital cost and maintenance requirements.



**All Nations Park, Northcote**

- Approx. 13 ha.
- Multiple separate spaces, including two playgrounds.
- Open lawn areas, small lake, tree plantings.
- Picnic facilities.
- Toilets, continuous path.



**University Square, Parkville**

- Approx. 2 ha.
- Redevelopment, to be funded by City of Melbourne, the State Government and Melbourne University.
- Shade, seating, plaza areas, open lawn areas, vegetation, water feature, public art. Built partially over a car park.
- Additional space created by road closures.

**Type B**

Medium level capital cost and maintenance requirements.



**Batman Park, Northcote**

- Approx. 1.6 ha.
- Sizeable playspace
- Picnic shelter and barbeque.
- Public toilet.
- Tree plantings, lawn area and ornamental garden beds.
- Formal path network
- Entry signage.



**Wilson Avenue, Brunswick**

- Approx. 0.05 ha.
- Bouldering wall.
- Seating.
- Shade trees and small raised lawn area.
- Feature paving and artwork.
- Area created by closing off road.

**Type C**

Lower level capital cost and maintenance requirements.



**Bracken Avenue Reserve, Thornbury**

- Approx. 0.93 ha.
- Shared path.
- Green link across several blocks with trees, seating and signage.



**Foch Reserve, Reservoir**

- Approx. 0.14 ha.
- Playground.
- Seating.
- Lawn area, trees and garden beds.

07

Key Direction 1:  
Meeting  
community  
open space  
needs



**7.1 Objective 1:****Make the distribution of open space equitable**

Providing access for all residents of Darebin to open space within walking distance (500m) of their house will ensure the whole community can enjoy the benefits of open space. Council is committed to providing a strong open space network, and to deliver a net gain of open space across Darebin. The population of Darebin is expected to grow rapidly over the next 10 years and there are areas which will accommodate high housing densities. These areas will require high performing open spaces that support intensive use by the local community.

**Strategies**

- S1.1 Work towards all Darebin residents having quality public open space within 500m of their homes.
- S1.2 Over time, plan and deliver new open space where there are identified gaps in the open space network and where there is the greatest need.
- S1.3 Increase funding for new and improved open space needs generated by population growth via an increased open space contribution rate delivered through the Planning Scheme.

**Actions**

- A1.1 Acquire additional open space. This may be through purchase, joint use agreements and/or partnerships with public and private entities.
- A1.2 Implement a higher open space contribution rate as a schedule to Clause 53.01 in the Darebin Planning Scheme, across all land uses.
- A1.3 Create a strategic land acquisition plan that contains a decision making framework to guide selection of open space referencing section 6.4 of this strategy.
- A1.4 Review the Darebin Planning Scheme to ensure public open space is correctly zoned in accordance with the use of the land.

**Gender-inclusive spaces**

Public open space encompasses places for social encounter and exchange, and participation in public life. In its physical design and its uses, open space reflects our shared social values; it is shaped by and in turn further shapes and reinforces social hierarchies and norms. The accessibility, use and experience of open space differ for all of us since gender, class, age, race and ethnicity, sexuality and dis/ability contribute to shaping our experiences of it and our possibilities to use it.

However, a city inclusive of its open space is not gender-neutral. In some cases, the organisation or use of space unconsciously or unintentionally reflects traditional or outdated gender roles and unequal power relations between women and men. The design of spaces can either facilitate or impede inclusive use by individuals of all genders.

For example, in a park, young girls may gather together under a certain tree and watch young boys play soccer in a field. As this process continues, the space under the tree will become understood as a "girl's space" and the soccer field will become understood as a "boy's space". But public space should belong to everyone and everyone should have a right to use it. All genders should feel safe and free to use the soccer field just as everyone should feel free to sit under the tree.

Women are more likely to express greater fears for their personal safety in urban open environments (and parks are a prime example) than do men. A space that is untended, appears to be abandoned, is riddled with graffiti, is dark or has areas that are not visually permeable will impact how people choose to use or not use the space. Women in particular may choose not to use public space both in the day but more so at night because they fear for their safety. In effect, this reduces the amount of public open space available to women and girls.

It is important that everyone regardless of gender, sexual orientation, age, culture, socioeconomic conditions, dis/ability, etc. has a right to enjoy open space. Design of Darebin's public open space must reflect this in partnership with registered Aboriginal parties and the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Council (DAAC).

Council recognises that gender is not binary – and that people who are transgender or gender-non-conforming experience added barriers and discrimination.

**7.2 Objective 2:****Recognise local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities, particularly traditional owners**

The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, traditional owners and custodians of the land and waters now called Darebin, have lived here for thousands of years. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people more generally have maintained a strong physical and cultural presence in Darebin in the face of displacement, disenfranchisement and policies of assimilation. Meaningfully engaging with the traditional custodians and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities regarding the naming, planning and design of open spaces is a step towards recognition. Respecting Aboriginal cultural rights (as posited in section 19(2) of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities) is also crucial.

**Strategies**

- S2.1 Meaningfully engage with traditional owners and local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the naming, planning and design phases of open space provision.

**Actions**

Identify priorities and actions for open space in Darebin in partnership with Registered Aboriginal Parties and the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Council (DAAC). This could potentially include:

- A2.1 Naming at least 50% of new public open spaces for significant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, figures, symbols or items, with particular attention to Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners
- A2.2 Engaging with Registered Aboriginal Parties when creating strategies and master plans on culturally significant land
- A2.3 Designing public open spaces and streetscapes to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage
- A2.4 Further developing existing and new Aboriginal tourism experiences including the Spiritual and Healing Trail, Merri Creek, the Koori Mural, the site where the Batman "Treaty" was first "signed", and contemporary experiences, in consultation with Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung elders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders particularly DAAC.

**7.3 Objective 3:****Designing for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities**

Open spaces are natural equalisers – something we all have in common – and present an opportunity to reflect the diversity of Darebin's residents. Open spaces will be designed and programmed to be welcoming, inclusive and safe places for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities. This goes beyond taking steps to increase the equity in the quality and quantity of open spaces throughout the municipality. It intends to strengthen and reflect the cultural identities of the community and create opportunities for meaningful interaction across all ethnic and cultural backgrounds, for the Darebin population both new and old.

All residents, from newly arrived migrant families to families that have called Darebin home for many generations, should feel safe, welcome and included in their public open spaces including streets, parks and urban spaces.

**Strategies**

- S3.1 Consider diversity and CALD users when designing open spaces through meaningful engagement and understanding how different cultural and ethnic groups use, navigate and interpret open spaces.
- S3.2 Design public open spaces that are welcoming, safe and easy to access.
- S3.3 Engage thoroughly and equitably on improvements and changes to public open space with specific emphasis on understanding and incorporating the needs of CALD communities.

**Actions**

- A3.1 Undertake research to identify and understand the cultural and linguistic groups surrounding areas of open space being considered for improvements, and ensure engagement activities to plan these improvements reach these groups.
- A3.2 Name at least 25% of new public open spaces for significant members, figures, symbols, items or terms of CALD communities.
- A3.3 Work with the University of Melbourne's Designing for Difference program to deliver a pilot project which addresses the intersections of cultural and ethnic difference in public space and the development of design and policy toolkits to optimise diverse public space use.
- A3.4 Create and implement strategies around best practice engagement with CALD communities.
- A3.5 Include a reflection of the cultural make up of an area in all master planning and open space design.
- A3.6 Ensure that wayfinding signage is clear and usable to individuals of CALD backgrounds. This can mean translation information, infographics or easily understood icons.
- A3.7 Include a variety of seating and gathering area types, layouts and configurations in designs and upgrades to open spaces to allow for CALD communities to choose the areas that most appeal to them. These areas should be identified through inclusive engagement.
- A3.8 Identify universal activities like play and exercise, and design for diversity in these spaces to appeal to a wide user base.
- A3.9 Ensure that community engagement is done in Darebin's top languages inclusive of print materials and translation services for all District and Regional major park upgrades.
- A3.10 Celebrate diversity in open space by programming open spaces to reflect the community's unique make-up. This can include art, music, food, storytelling or celebrating culturally significant dates.



**7.4 Objective 4:****Reflect diverse needs**

Darebin is an inclusive community, and all residents are entitled to open spaces they can safely access and that meet their needs. This includes residents with a disability, elderly people, children and young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, women, LGBTIQ people, as well as homeless people. Delivering an open space network that reflects the breadth of the Darebin community also requires meaningful engagement with the community in the planning, maintenance and design of open space.

**Strategies**

- S4.1 Engage with users, residents and community groups to help inform the design, planning and management of open space with particular emphasis on diverse communities.
- S4.2 Enhance women's visibility and representation in open space.

**Actions**

- A4.1 When planning and designing new and upgraded open space, include safe and equitable access for all residents, particularly those with a disability, older people, children and young people and gender diverse residents.
- A4.2 When planning and designing new and upgraded open space, utilise Principles of Universal Design, the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Cities Framework and all relevant Australian Standards regarding accessibility.
- A4.3 A safety and gender-based audit should be conducted where possible engaging a user based community group to assist in the design and planning of equitable open spaces.
- A4.4 Develop an intergenerational playspace with equipment, activities and amenities specifically targeted at all ages in an area of high population density.
- A4.5 Incorporate a purpose built space or area for youth in all upgrades to district and regional parks. This space will be gender inclusive and include a youth focused consultation process to understand what infrastructure the user groups need.
- A4.6 Update the Civic Recognition Policy to ensure the contributions of diverse individuals in the municipality are reflected in the names of Council assets, open spaces and memorials.
- A4.7 Achieve gender parity in the naming of open spaces as quickly as possible over the course of this strategy (and beyond) through naming at least 80% of new public open spaces (and renaming existing spaces where appropriate) for significant women.
- A4.8 Reflect the community profile and diversity notably of the contribution of the elderly, children, the LGBTIQ community and people with a disability in the naming of open spaces.
- A4.9 Reflect the community profile and diversity on all community reference groups or advisory committees.

**Actions from other plans**

Other actions articulated in other plans relevant to this objective:

- Undertake gender-based audit of open spaces in Darebin as outlined in "Safer City for Women" action in Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021.



**7.5 Objective 5:****Provide facilities that make open spaces more appealing and useable by more people**

Darebin is an established area experiencing significant population growth, including an increasing number of people living in apartments with limited private open space. Therefore existing open spaces play the role of private open space for many residents. As a result, existing open spaces, and new open spaces need to provide a range of quality facilities to support higher levels of use.

**Strategies**

- S5.1 Over time, plan and deliver open space improvements where there are gaps in the current level of service/amenity provision.
- S5.2 Reduce the dependency on single use plastic by providing increased access to freely accessible drinking water in open spaces.
- S5.3 Remove barriers to accessing open space through improvements to public toilets, lighting and the path network.
- S5.4 Improve public open spaces to increase tourism particularly in high profile parks and streetscapes.
- S5.5 Increase the provision of rubbish and recycle bin suites in public spaces.

**Drinking Fountains**

Drinking fountains are important infrastructure in public open spaces. They encourage walking and cycling, and provide equitable access to clean water for people and animals reducing dependency on single use plastic bottles.

Council has committed to increasing the provision of drinking fountains across Darebin's open space network and their installation will be considered in all future open space projects.

**Free public Wi-Fi**

In a modern society, the internet provides social connectivity, navigation, information and communication for many people. Financial or cultural barriers and homelessness can be barriers for many to have access to the internet which may result in social, employment and educational consequences. To counter this, Darebin will increase the provision of free Wi-Fi hotspots which will be clearly signposted and be associated with accessible public infrastructure such as seating, shade and sealed paths. These hotspots will be clearly identified on maps available both online and through Council's customer service centres.

**Safety in open spaces**

Council's approach to community safety is from a health and wellbeing perspective and is informed by evidence and best practice in crime prevention research. While Council works across the spectrum of crime prevention to enhance community safety and support the reduction of crime, one of the areas where Council can have the most influence and greatest impact is through Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED).

CPTED is a framework of best practice principles applied to urban design which seeks to reduce the likelihood of crime occurring. This may include increasing passive surveillance, improving lines of sight, activating unused spaces, or defining boundaries between private and public spaces.

Women feel less safe than men in open spaces. There is also evidence that people from a non-English speaking background, young people and adults over 60 are more likely to feel unsafe in open spaces (Darebin Community Survey; Collins 2016). Open spaces will be designed to be gender-sensitive and inclusive.

Lighting upgrades have been shown to sometimes decrease crime and reduce fear of crime. However whole of place upgrades, or upgrades that incorporate CPTED are more effective than lighting upgrades alone. Lighting does not prevent crime in isolation, but may be effective when the purpose is to increase visibility at night, and activate an open space and support natural surveillance.

**Actions**

- A5.1 Over time, upgrade open spaces in need of safety, quality and amenity improvements.
- A5.2 Install water fountains at key nodes such as trail junctions and key destinations along all major cycling trails and walking paths throughout the municipality including as a priority the Darebin Creek Trail, Merri Creek Trail and St Georges Road Shared Path/Northern Pipe Trail.
- A5.3 Include a water fountain with dog bowl (where appropriate) in the design for public spaces particularly around sports pavilions, playspaces and BBQ areas.
- A5.4 Identify sites in Type A and B parks for the provision of BBQ areas. Priority should be given to parks adjacent to existing high population hubs.
- A5.5 Identify sites in Type A and B parks for the provision of outdoor gym areas/circuits. Priority should be given to parks adjacent to existing high population hubs.
- A5.6 Include provision of rubbish and recycle bin suites in the design for parks and open space.
- A5.7 Create an improvements program to ensure all dog off lead areas have at least one rubbish bin at the entrance to the park closest to the off lead area spots in public open spaces.
- A5.8 Identify locations and install free public Wi-Fi hot spots. Seating, shade, sealed paths and wayfinding signage should accompany the hot spot. Priority should be given to regional parks.
- A5.9 Review and update current maintenance standards for all open spaces.
- A5.10 Review Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan to include a clear table of responsibilities, action plan and service level agreements regarding maintenance.
- A5.11 Design paths to safely accommodate a range of users in terms of surface materials, width and location. Paths should be fit for purpose.
- A5.12 Undertake landscape improvement works to raise the profile, activity offerings and amenities in the Bundoora Park Precinct, All Nations Park, Darebin Parklands, Edwardes Lake, Darebin and Merri Creeks, and major retail precincts.
- A5.13 Create a plan to identify opportunities to partner with businesses and organisations to activate street frontages in retail activity precincts.
- A5.14 Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles such as encouraging increased activation, passive surveillance and the thoughtful provision of lighting to increase perceptions of safety.
- A5.15 Adequately maintain all shared paths, footpaths and trails within public open space to be in line with maintenance standards.
- A5.16 Incorporate cycle parking in all park upgrade works where demand exists.
- A5.17 Continue to implement the Joint Community Infrastructure Plan for the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster.
- A5.18 Improve relationships and co-working with non-council landowners and bordering local government areas to identify opportunities for joint projects.
- A5.19 Continue to implement the Darebin Public Toilet Strategy.
- A5.20 Increase the total percentage of multilayered vegetation and tree canopy cover on public land to 25 per cent by 2028 as identified in the Urban Forest Strategy.
- A5.21 Review the tree canopy cover target to establish a long term target (beyond 2028) and milestones that maximise tree canopy cover and support maximising vegetation cover, taking into consideration:
- The need to create habitat and to layer understorey plantings with trees in an integrated way
  - What is achievable from the point of view of available land, including considering functional uses that necessarily restrict cover (e.g. sports fields)
  - Leading examples from other parts of Melbourne and the world

**Actions from other plans**

Actions articulated in other plans (Darebin Public Toilet Strategy 2015-25) relevant to this objective:

- Conduct annual physical condition audit to determine renovation, repair or replacement of Darebin's public toilet network.
- Ensure that public toilet facilities are maintained to a high standard of cleanliness and repair.
- Assess provision of public toilets throughout the municipality to determine gaps in the public toilet network. Use this data to inform capital works process.

**7.6 Objective 6:****Balance the needs of different users**

Population growth and an increasingly diverse community mean that most open spaces must cater to not just one use but many uses. Some uses for open space are not always compatible and require design and management consideration to ensure the best outcomes for the whole community.

**Strategies**

- S6.1 Provide open spaces, both green and urban, that are accessible, welcoming and multipurpose that accommodate passive, active and contemplative pursuits.
- S6.2 Adequately plan for the provision of dog on and off lead areas in Darebin's open spaces.

- S6.3 Consider all users when designing and maintaining shared paths.
- S6.4 Improve connections for active transport by reducing the number of 'missing links' in the walking and cycling network.
- S6.5 Increase the number of urban food production opportunities.
- S6.6 Include edible trees and vegetation as part of an integrated ecosystem approach to designing parks and open space.
- S6.7 Recognise the importance of productive food plants in addressing climate change, greening the municipality and connecting people to nature.
- S6.8 Activate and revitalise degraded or underutilised public open space through community gardens and other types of community based food growing.

**Dogs**

As Darebin grows, there will be more pressure on open spaces to be multifaceted and cater for a variety of uses simultaneously including some that may be in conflict. For many dog owners, their pet opens the door to a wealth of activities and provides an outlet for social interaction, encourages people to be more physically active and provides comfort and companionship. On the other hand, some may feel threatened by unleashed dogs in open space and can be fearful for their own or their family's safety. Older people or those with mobility issues may feel particularly vulnerable. Dogs can also be disruptive around roadways, near a shared or cycle path or near a protected or regenerated habitat area.

According to the Domestic Animals Act, dogs are required to be on lead unless council has identified an area as being a dog off lead area. At present, Darebin has 36 designated dog off lead areas within parks and reserves. These areas are identified through signage and on Council's website.

Where user conflict exists in a dog off lead area, Council will facilitate the community to identify a code of conduct for park users that specifically addresses dog behaviour. These types of codes of conduct are most adhered to where members of the community feel a sense of responsibility to each other, particular given the limits to how far these behaviours can be policed by Council or any other agency.

**Dog off lead principles**

Some parks or areas within parks are not suitable for dogs to be off lead including:

- Where the area is within 10m of cycling paths, 20m of playspace or a shared path, or 30 meters of a BBQ area. If there is not enough space in a park for this to occur, dogs should be on lead.
- Where there is significant cultural, biodiversity or habitat value.
- In environmentally significant areas along the Darebin, Merri or Edgars Creek ecosystems unless specifically signed.
- While formal active sport is in session.

**Actions**

- A6.1 Identify opportunities that enable diversification of public space types to meet the needs of a diverse community within a growing urban setting.
- A6.2 Create a plan to ensure equitable access is provided across streetscapes and open spaces through a connected path network, provision of disabled parking and clear wayfinding for all users over time.
- A6.3 Explore the opportunity to provide designated times of day for dogs to be off-lead, to ensure Darebin's space is accessible to multiple users.
- A6.4 Review the provision of dog on and off lead areas in parks across the municipality to determine suitability of existing network in consultation with community and in line with the dog off lead principles.
- A6.5 Undertake a review of signs in all dog off lead areas to ensure it is correct and clear.
- A6.6 Ensure that all dog off lead areas are clearly identified in Council's website.
- A6.7 Consider separating uses which can conflict with cycling as part of the design process.
- A6.8 Consider adding cycling links through key open spaces, where it can improve the network of off road cycling paths.
- A6.9 Where public open space connects to or is directly adjacent to the Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN), prioritise pedestrian connections from the open space to the PPN and identify opportunities for improved crossing facilities.
- A6.10 Develop a register of 'missing links' of existing paths and trails within existing public open spaces (e.g. based on customer requests, clearly identified desire lines, etc).
- A6.11 Develop a method of prioritising missing links for further design investigation/delivery.
- A6.12 Implement wayfinding signage and user etiquette messaging along shared paths over time.
- A6.13 For shared paths within open space, develop a level of service, which includes elements such as path/pavement width and construction material, linked to the function of the open space and intended use of the path.
- A6.14 Design new and upgraded paths as low-stress environments for all path users, and where high volume travel is expected, consider separation of pedestrians and cyclists.
- A6.15 Create a species palette of hardy plants including perennial productive food plants.
- A6.16 Consult with the Aboriginal community regarding opportunities and concepts for growing indigenous foods.
- A6.17 Identify opportunities to collaborate with community groups on urban food production projects, including mentoring programs.
- A6.18 Continue to implement actions from the Darebin GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy and Urban Food Production Strategy.

**Actions from other plans**

Actions articulated in other plans (Darebin Walking Strategy, 2018-2028) relevant to this objective:

- Deliver a connected walking network.
- Provide lighting and opportunities for passive surveillance on walking and cycling paths along the Principal Pedestrian Network PPN as appropriate.
- Provide facilities which encourage cycling.

**7.7 Objective 7:****Make all open spaces multi-use**

Activating open spaces through making them multi-use has many benefits including increasing passive surveillance, providing a drawcard for people to gather, increasing the chance that they will make social connections, and increasing physical activity.

**Strategies**

- S7.1 Activate retail streetscapes and open spaces to help support and enhance local businesses.
- S7.2 Seek opportunities to partner with schools and other private land owners to provide increased access to open space.
- S7.3 Limit the number of single-use public open spaces.
- S7.4 Ensure some open spaces remain 'wild' to provide users with the experience of nature in the city.
- S7.5 Incorporate a variety of vegetation types and species in open spaces to provided for multiple uses including human comfort and habitat.

**Actions**

- A7.1 Use vacant sites and other temporary spaces for pop ups as a tool for consultation or space for public art.
- A7.2 Test goods and services associated with open space through a social procurement rating with preference given to local providers and social enterprises.

- A7.3 Identify parcels of land owned by schools, government bodies and private land owners and develop partnerships with their owners to increase access to open space.
- A7.4 Minimise the fencing of public open spaces.
- A7.5 Use planting and other well placed barriers as boundaries to play spaces. Sections of fencing for playspaces may be considered along busy roads.
- A7.6 Make sporting grounds available for public use when games or training sessions are not in session.
- A7.7 Identify priorities for 'wild spaces' that conserve natural character and habitat.
- A7.8 Incorporate bushland or 'wild' spaces in designs for park upgrades.
- A7.9 Increase seating, tree planting for shade and drinking fountains in retail streets to increase amenity and activation of the spaces.
- A7.10 Select a variety of tree species to provide for multiple uses including shade, habitat and urban cooling.

**Partnerships with local businesses**

One way to activate public space while encouraging the local economy is to support businesses to expand their service space into the public realm, or set up as a mobile premises such as at markets, food vans and other creative business opportunities.

As part of a campaign to activate retail streetscapes and open spaces, Council will investigate innovative ways to work with businesses/organisations that have a street frontage to help create and enhance Council's Green Streets vision and actions. Many businesses have street frontage and underused open space at the front of their businesses. Opportunities to consider are a street fair or market; planter boxes installed by Council and maintained by local businesses; permanent or temporary pause points or seating nodes in underutilised parking spaces or parcels of land or increased tree planting in retail strips.

**Partnerships with schools**

Increasing access to non-Council owned public open space is a way to immediately and cost-effectively add more public open space into the usable network for Darebin's community. Depending on the site and community need, this could include developing a playspace or building a community garden on Department of Education land that is jointly used by the school and the Darebin community outside of school hours. In each case, Council, the school and the community should all come together to develop, build, fund and maintain the space.

**7.8 Objective 8:****Make open spaces places for expression and art**

Public open spaces inclusive of streetscapes and parks should be places where Darebin's diverse community can come together to freely and safely express themselves, whether it be through a gathering, performance, protest or physical work of artful expression. Art is a form of expression that both reflects and unites cultural groups and can foster feelings of community and connectedness.

**Strategies**

- S8.1 Utilise Darebin's parks and gardens, natural heritage assets, tracks and trails for public art and expression.
- S8.2 Increase the amount of art and places for expression in Darebin's public open spaces.

**Public Art**

**Public open spaces should be places where expression is supported and encouraged. Public art and artful objects (seats, signs, cycle hoops etcetera created by artists) should be designed into parks and streetscapes. Un-programmed gathering spaces should accommodate public meetings and community engagement should be varied and creative. Local artists, children and cultural leaders should be part of the consultation process to identify and commission works of art in public spaces.**

**Action:**

- A8.1 Commission works of public art from local artists in Darebin's streetscapes and parks as part of a consultative design process.
- A8.2 Use public art as a placemaking tool to create iconic places within Darebin.
- A8.3 Use art as a consultation tool when designing for open spaces.
- A8.4 Develop the following precinct plans (refer Table 5):
- A premier arts precinct at Darebin Arts Centre including Ray Bramham Gardens.
  - A premier arts precincts at Northcote Town Hall and Bundoora Homestead.
  - A landscape upgrade plan for Northcote Town Hall including Civic Square.
  - A landscape plan for premier events spaces at Edwardes Lake Park, All Nations Park, Ray Bramham Gardens and TW Blake Reserve.
- A8.5 Create a booking policy inclusive of a fees and charges schedule for all arts facilities, sites and places.

**Table 5: Arts precincts and policies**

Precinct/policy	Plan content
Darebin Arts Centre including Ray Bramham Gardens	A conscious focus on all aspect of the arts including performance spaces, display spaces, affordable housing and access to public transport. This plan should include a landscape upgrade plan for Ray Bramham Gardens as well as a clear plan outlining how the built form will reflect support for the arts.
Bundoora Homestead	Ways to integrate the Homestead into the adjacent parkland with performance and display spaces purpose built to support a variety of uses in line with the Bundoora Park Master Plan.
Northcote Town Hall	How to integrate the building and outdoor spaces into the streetscape of High Street Northcote to allow for multipurpose indoor/outdoor use of the forecourt and interior spaces.
Booking policy	Costs and allowable usage for spaces within arts precincts and premier events sites as well as conditions for the use of spaces and consequences for damage to a site's landscape or infrastructure (Darebin Arts).



08

## Key Direction 2: Rewilding Darebin: improving biodiversity



**8.1 Objective 9:****Increase appreciation for biodiversity**

Increasing appreciation of and respect for urban biodiversity, ecosystems and natural heritage will lead to greater community support, awareness and commitment to biodiversity protection. This can be achieved by providing opportunities for children and adults to engage with nature and providing biodiversity education and training opportunities.

**Nature Play**

**As the desire for children to experience nature in the city becomes more prevalent, current conservation parkland and conservation bushland sites will be put under increased pressure. The development of nature play areas in open spaces will bring this experience to a greater number of young people.**

These nature play areas should have a natural character but should not be located in areas of natural significance so as to prevent over-use and damage of ecologically significant vegetation.

**Vegetation Cover**

**A core focus of improving biodiversity in Darebin is to increase the quantity and quality of indigenous multilayered and diverse vegetation cover. Expanding the lower, mid and upper vegetation layers will extend habitat and provide greater connectivity.**

**Strategies**

- S9.1 Improve understanding of biodiversity across Council and the community.
- S9.2 Utilise advocacy and education to engage the community and permit improved co-existence with Darebin's natural heritage, flora and fauna.
- S9.3 Increase the opportunities for children to engage with nature.
- S9.4 Deliver a whole of ecosystem approach to biodiversity recognising the importance of diverse urban ecosystems.
- S9.5 Increase prevalence of indigenous plantings in all revegetation sites in Darebin

**Actions**

- A9.1 In open space designs, include areas of indigenous plantings to increase contact with nature.
- A9.2 Deliver education and training initiatives to Council and community focussed on increasing understanding of biodiversity values.
- A9.3 Join the Gardens for Wildlife program.
- A9.4 Increase the provision of purpose built nature play and bush kinder areas throughout the municipality.
- A9.5 Develop community science projects to engage and educate the community and to foster custodianship.
- A9.6 Develop nature play guidelines

**8.2 Objective 10:****Protect local species**

Darebin is an urban ecosystem, and all public open space has the opportunity to enhance biodiversity. This may be accomplished through protecting and maintaining existing biodiversity areas, planting indigenous plant species in open spaces, streetscapes and water sensitive urban designs, and rewilding open spaces. Increasing the size of existing biodiversity assets through targeted land acquisitions will also increase their quality and richness.

A central challenge of Darebin's open space is its limited vegetation cover and lack of habitat for biodiverse species. Significant resource and effort is required to rebuild this loss of habitat through revegetation across the city.

**Strategies**

- S10.1 Increase biodiversity in Darebin.
  - S10.2 Improve land management practices, particularly in relation to revegetation and habitat creation.
  - S10.3 Minimise requirements for ongoing maintenance including weed management including a reduction of chemical usage.
  - S10.4 Increase multilayered vegetation cover inclusive of trees, shrubs, climbers and groundcovers.
  - S10.5 Consideration for and decision making about biodiversity protection and enhancement must be integrated across council.
  - S10.6 Protect and improve sites with high or important biodiversity values.
  - S10.7 Maintain and improve the quality and extent of indigenous vegetation, flora and fauna (including vertebrates and invertebrates).
  - S10.8 Increase uninterrupted larger areas of biodiversity through acquisition of strategic connections.
  - S10.9 All new land acquired by Council for open spaces must contribute to increasing biodiversity in Darebin.
  - S10.10 Place the needs of natural ecosystems and managing climate change at equal prominence with the needs of the community.
  - S10.11 Work towards no local extinctions of indigenous flora and fauna (including vertebrates and invertebrates).
  - S10.12 Provide increased habitat extent and protection for bees and insects.
  - S10.13 Increase use of indigenous plant species within open spaces and streetscapes and water sensitive urban design.
  - S10.14 Maintain some places within Darebin as 'wild' spaces with areas identified for conservation.
  - S10.15 Improve relationships and co-working with non-council landowners and bordering local government areas to enhance habitat connectivity and biodiversity beyond Darebin's borders.
- S10.16 Recognise a reduction in rainfall due to climate change as a threat to biodiversity.
  - S10.17 Increase the prevalence of water sensitive design across the municipality.

**Actions**

- A10.1 Conduct a biodiversity survey and develop a Biodiversity Management Plan (refer break out box on page 60) which identifies a street tree and open space plant palette.
- A10.2 As part of the implementation of the Biodiversity Management Plan, develop an action plan which covers all relevant activities of Council to ensure integrated planning, and identifies priorities for protection of biodiversity sites.
- A10.3 Undertake a Vegetation Assessment to understand the quantity, quality, extent, location and habitat value of existing vegetation in open spaces.
- A10.4 Develop revegetation priorities for strengthening existing habitats and filling gaps in habitat corridors as a priority action.
- A10.5 Use local provenance indigenous species in all revegetation sites, and increase biodiverse plantings.
- A10.6 Include nesting boxes, logs, rocks and water sources in parks and open spaces to increase habitat value.
- A10.7 When designing open spaces consider the impact of infrastructure such as lighting and paths to indigenous flora and fauna.
- A10.8 Prioritise conservation and enhancement of sites with remnant biodiversity values.
- A10.9 Develop and implement a land management plan over time.
- A10.10 Investigate other resourcing arrangements (capital and recurrent) in relation to indigenous vegetation cover.
- A10.11 Hire a biodiversity officer.
- A10.12 Select key species to preserve and protect following a review of the existing flora and fauna audit as a key action of the Biodiversity Management Plan (see page 60).
- A10.13 Habitat for bees and insects should be reflected in designs for open spaces and considered in land management practices.
- A10.14 Prioritise the acquisition of biodiverse remnant sites.
- A10.15 When planting indigenous vegetation, use plants of local provenance wherever possible.

## Improving biodiversity

59

- A10.16 Limit unchecked access of domestic animals and unmanaged spread of introduced species.
- A10.17 Minimise requirements for ongoing maintenance including weed management through good design, reduction in edges and effective use of surface materials.
- A10.18 Increase investment for remnant site management, revegetation programs and weed control guided by the following order of site priority as per the Natural Heritage Strategy:
- Remnant vegetation sites of national and state significance.
  - Remnant vegetation sites of regional and local significance.
  - Revegetated sites.
  - Degraded sites, noting that additional resources for ongoing maintenance would also be required.
- A10.19 Where water quality can be improved (especially along waterways), reintroduce fauna species through habitat creation to form more permanent populations.
- A10.20 Use smaller areas of open space as building blocks towards connectivity, especially where there is re-introduction of indigenous vegetation.
- A10.21 Actively engage non-council landowners and bordering local government areas to identify joint projects that enhance habitat connectivity and biodiversity beyond Darebin's borders.
- A10.22 Set out a buffer of 100m from creeks. In these locations, ensure that indigenous vegetation is used in new developments and encourage its use in existing situations with the exception of productive gardens in a contained environment.
- A10.23 Create a Strategic Land Acquisition Plan that contains a decision making framework to guide selection of open space for biodiversity referencing section 6.4 of this strategy.
- A10.24 Decrease dependency on potable water for landscape maintenance through increased use of recycled water and stormwater as well as appropriate species selection and management as a response to declining rainfall.
- A10.25 Reduce amount of exposed hard surfaces through an increase in multilayered vegetation and canopy cover.
- A10.26 Continue to implement and maintain WSUD throughout the municipality including wetlands, swales and detention systems as a response to declining rainfall.
- A10.27 Investigate a developer contribution scheme for off-site stormwater management on

council land in lieu of providing a stormwater management system on private land for sites that must meet planning scheme requirements for WSUD and integrated water management.

**Actions from other plans**

Actions articulated in other plans (Natural Heritage Strategy, 2017) relevant to this objective:

- Create participatory programs like Open Indigenous Gardens to encourage local heroes to open their gardens to the community.
- Create an indigenous botanic showcase garden to physically illustrate the types of planting methods and ways that indigenous plants can be used in backyard gardens.
- Create a program to harness the power of citizen science and encourage community engagement with indigenous ecosystems.
- Undertake or update a detailed flora and fauna audit or study to understand what the protected or target for return species are in Darebin.
- Actively engage non-council landowners and bordering local government areas to create yearly actions to enhance habitat connectivity and biodiversity beyond Darebin's borders.

## Biodiversity Management Plan

---

### Proposed scope

As a preliminary step to a Biodiversity Management Plan, and using the Darebin Natural Heritage Plan, commission a specialist ecologist to conduct a flora and fauna biodiversity survey in Darebin to identify:

- Areas of high biodiversity value to protect.
- Threatened remnant sites suited to acquisition.
- 'At risk' or key species to prioritise for protection in No Local Extinctions Policy
- Management and maintenance practices to protect and enhance biodiversity on Council land, including recommendations for specific sites.
- Priority areas for revegetation and restoration.
- Approaches to managing threats to biodiversity.
- Planning controls that could be implemented to protect biodiversity.

The Biodiversity Management Plan will also:

- Build on the principles of the Darebin Natural Heritage Strategy 2015-2025, Darebin Heritage Study (2011) and Darebin Natural Heritage Plan (2011) and use the data protocols, database, and data used in the Darebin Natural Heritage Plan.
- Direct and inform street and park tree selection.
- Identify and develop initiatives to work with stakeholders (e.g. private landholders) to move towards a more holistic landscape management approach.
- Identify cross council working groups to ensure biodiversity outcomes are considered in planning, management and upgrade of all Council assets.
- Include a comprehensive and integrated plan to guide open space acquisition and management programs and ensure biodiversity has linkages to the multiple other assets and interests under council's management (e.g. open space; streetscapes, street trees and nature strips; roads; drainage; stormwater and integrated water management; recreation and more).



### 8.3 Objective 11:

#### Engage the community as partners in biodiversity protection

Residential gardens, commercially owned land and school and university grounds take up large tracts of Darebin. They represent a major opportunity to enhance and protect biodiversity. Council can provide support for the local community and land owners in becoming stewards, planting indigenous trees and vegetation, strengthening habitat corridors and increasing multilayered vegetation and tree canopy cover.

#### Strategy

- S11.1 Support the community to plant indigenous vegetation and get involved in preserving, protecting and enhancing their open space.
- S11.2 Create opportunities for the community to engage and participate in the design, planning and use of their open spaces.
- S11.3 Encourage stewardship to develop the community's sense of connection to, and protection of, their local open space.

#### Actions

- A11.1 Create a program where Council subsidises planting of indigenous gardens and trees on school grounds and private land.
- A11.2 Continue to provide community planting days.
- A11.3 Engage with community and advisory groups in the planning and design of biodiverse open space.
- A11.4 Commit resources to support the founding, development, programming and longevity of community stewards to identify local projects, 'get their hands dirty' and make a positive change locally.
- A11.5 Work with communities who want to increase the open space on their streets. This could include removal of on street parking on a lane of travel and upgrading nature strips.
- A11.6 Use all forms of art as a way to activate open spaces, create a sense of connection to place and as an education tool.
- A11.7 Engage the community in citizen science activities such as monitoring local species.

### Biodiversity planning

An integrated approach to planning for biodiversity is required, given flora and fauna species do not recognise anthropogenic or man made boundaries in the landscape.

Darebin has a varied distribution of biodiversity values from remnant vegetation (in areas such as Bundoora Park and along the Darebin Creek) to landscapes dominated by exotic plant species. Acquisition of sites is one important response to improve biodiversity values and sound, skilled and well-informed management of biodiversity sites and values within open space is imperative to their retention and re-creation.

While it will mean different things for different species, (e.g., connectivity for flying vs non-flying species, under/over-road passes or reintroductions might be necessary for some species), overall and in principle, resilience of biodiversity will be improved by increasing habitat area, connectivity and vegetation cover and quality.

When planning for biodiversity:

- It is easier to maintain a remnant than to restore it and available remnants should be protected and such land brought into public ownership wherever possible.
- Water availability and water quality are both critical to sustaining biodiversity.
- Indigenous vegetation is most likely to increase

biodiversity (compared with native or exotic).

- Uninterrupted connectivity between larger areas of biodiversity is a long-term objective and ideal, but in the meantime smaller areas of open space can have an important role as building blocks towards connectivity, especially where there is re-introduction of indigenous vegetation.
- Sound, skilled and well-informed management of biodiversity sites and values within open space is imperative to their retention and re-creation.
- Acquisition of sites is one important response to improve biodiversity values across open space.

Management of biodiversity has not traditionally been a core function of local government and the activities that do exist have been inadequately funded. There are however opportunities for local government to increase biodiversity and improve management of biodiversity resources.

#### Darebin Nature Strip Planting Guidelines

Darebin Council encourages and promotes residents to plant and beautify their nature strips. Search Council's website for helpful tips and suggestions regarding planting your nature strip.

**8.4 Objective 12:****Make indigenous bushland character****the default choice**

As part of a commitment to biodiversity and responding to the climate emergency, the default landscape of Darebin is recognised as indigenous bushland or grassland.

This challenges the status quo where turf and ornamental trees are the default and parks are primarily for recreation. Instead, the strategy refocusses open space planning on the natural environment, where bushland is the default choice of character. Well-designed open space has endless potential to compatibly accommodate indigenous vegetation alongside numerous other functions such as recreation, sport, urban food production and play. Increasing the prevalence and size of landscape with a bushland character will contribute to increasing biodiversity as it will provide more habitat for indigenous flora and fauna.

Indigenous plantings fulfill all the same functions as non-indigenous plantings in a variety of contexts: hedging, formal settings, sports field edging, lawns, canopy cover, etc. and should be considered first in all of these contexts.

**Strategy**

S12.1 Plan new and upgraded open spaces as partially or wholly indigenous bushland or grassland, unless a clear demand for alternative uses is established.

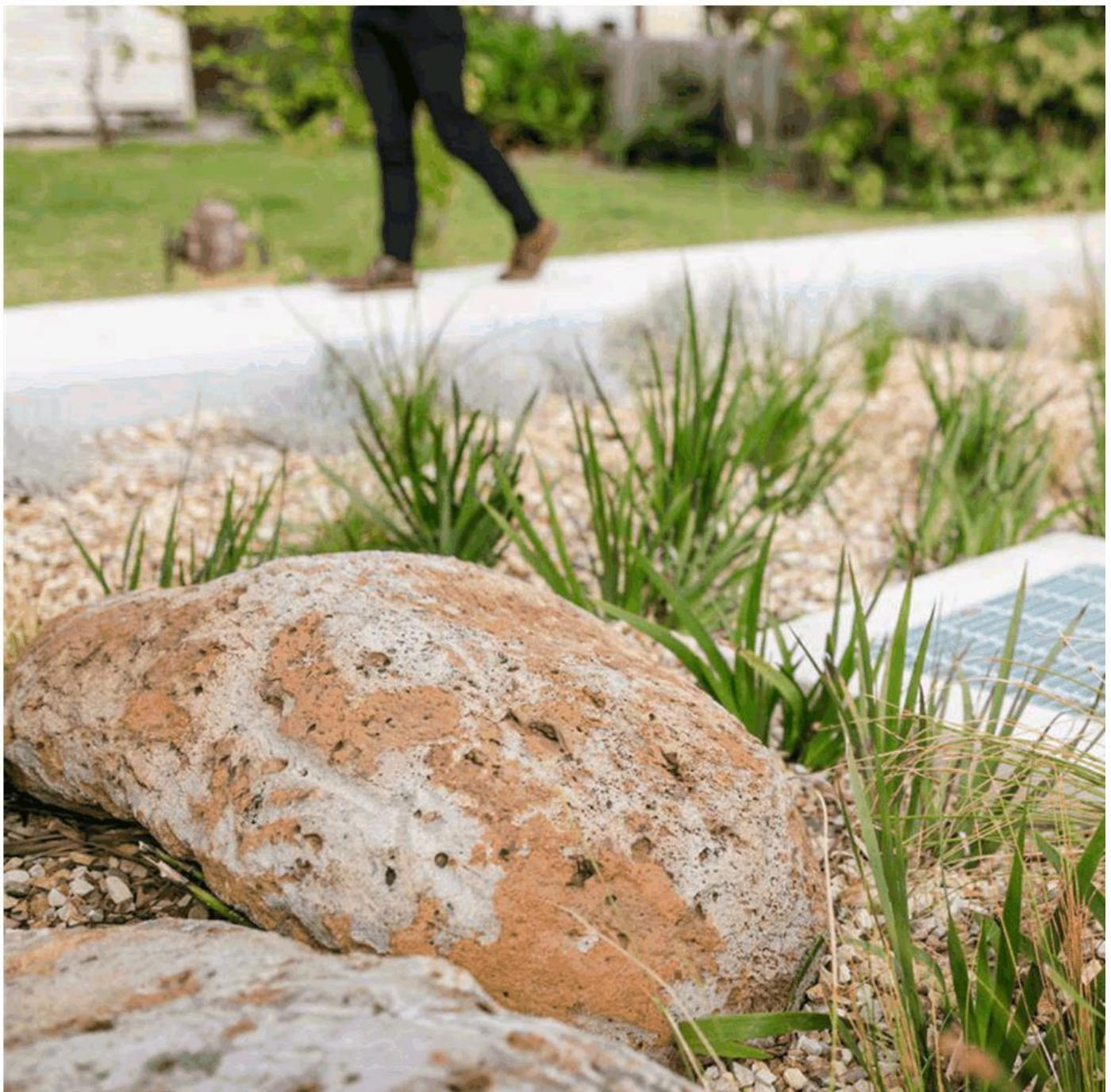
**Actions**

- A12.1 Consider indigenous vegetation ahead of native or exotic vegetation to improve complexity and recover biodiversity, including in water sensitive urban design treatments.
- A12.2 Increase the use of indigenous vegetation when planning new open spaces.
- A12.3 Cease mowing of areas known to comprise remnant indigenous vegetation to allow regeneration while reducing Council's reliance on fossil fuel.



09

## Key Direction 3: Creating a Green Streets Network



**9.1 Objective 13:****Develop a network of green streets in Darebin**

*Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* combines the intent and vision of the Greenstreets Streetscape Strategy and the Darebin Walking Strategy's Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) to create a series of green links connecting Darebin's public open space, pedestrian/cycling corridors and biodiversity. The Green Streets Network is the result.

The network will increase access to open space, cool the city, foster sustainable transport use and enhance habitat connectivity and ecological resilience.

**Strategies**

- S13.1 Create a Green Streets Network.
- S13.2 Increase multilayered vegetation and tree canopy cover on public land as per A5.20.

**Actions**

- A13.1 Identify the priority streets and develop a delivery plan for the Green Streets Network using the:
  - Darebin GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy.
  - Darebin Walking Strategy.
  - Darebin Natural Heritage Strategy.
  - Watershed: Towards a Water Sensitive Darebin.
  - Proposed biodiversity strategy.
- A13.2 Ensure a minimum of 25 per cent of land is planned to be covered by multilayered vegetation and tree canopy.
- A13.3 Seek opportunities to put power lines underground as part of public or private development works.
- A13.4 In consultation with council advisory committees, create a list of preferred trees and plants to be used in the Green Streets Network which prioritise shade provision, and include indigenous and drought tolerant tree and plant species.
- A13.5 Increase the biodiversity value of streets through

the use of multi-layered, local provenance indigenous species in the green streets network

- A13.6 Plant the largest tree possible.
- A13.7 Prioritise infill planting on the Principle Pedestrian Network.
- A13.8 Audit existing water sensitive urban design projects for effectiveness and use lessons learnt to improve future projects.
- A13.9 Improve water quality in creeks and water bodies through increased use of WSUD on streets.
- A13.10 Employ passive irrigation measures to water 50 per cent of street trees planted.
- A13.11 When designing the Green Streets Network, focus on sustainable technology, skills and actions.
- A13.12 Increase urban food production through fruiting trees in streetscapes and open space upgrades.

**Actions from other plans**

The Council Plan 2017–2021 provides an overall strategic direction for Darebin. It includes:

- Increase our tree canopy and urban forest to make Darebin a city in the trees.
- Grow urban forest by 7,600 trees to increase tree coverage on public land by 25 per cent (a goal in Greenstreets Streetscape Strategy and Darebin Urban Forest Strategy).
- Install rain gardens/water sensitive urban devices to improve the condition of our waterways.

**Primary elements of a green streets network include:**

- Continuous canopy cover for shade
- Extensive garden beds
- Habitat creation through use of a variety of types and layers of indigenous vegetation
- Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and passive irrigation
- Footpaths that are at a minimum 1.8m wide
- Street reconfigurations to allocate more space for people and vegetation
- Underground powerlines where feasible
- Safe crossing points such as kerb outstands and raised crossing points to minimise conflict between different road users
- Space for multiple modes of transport particularly active transport
- Directional and wayfinding signage
- Pause points at strategic locations to include seating, drinking water, rubbish bins

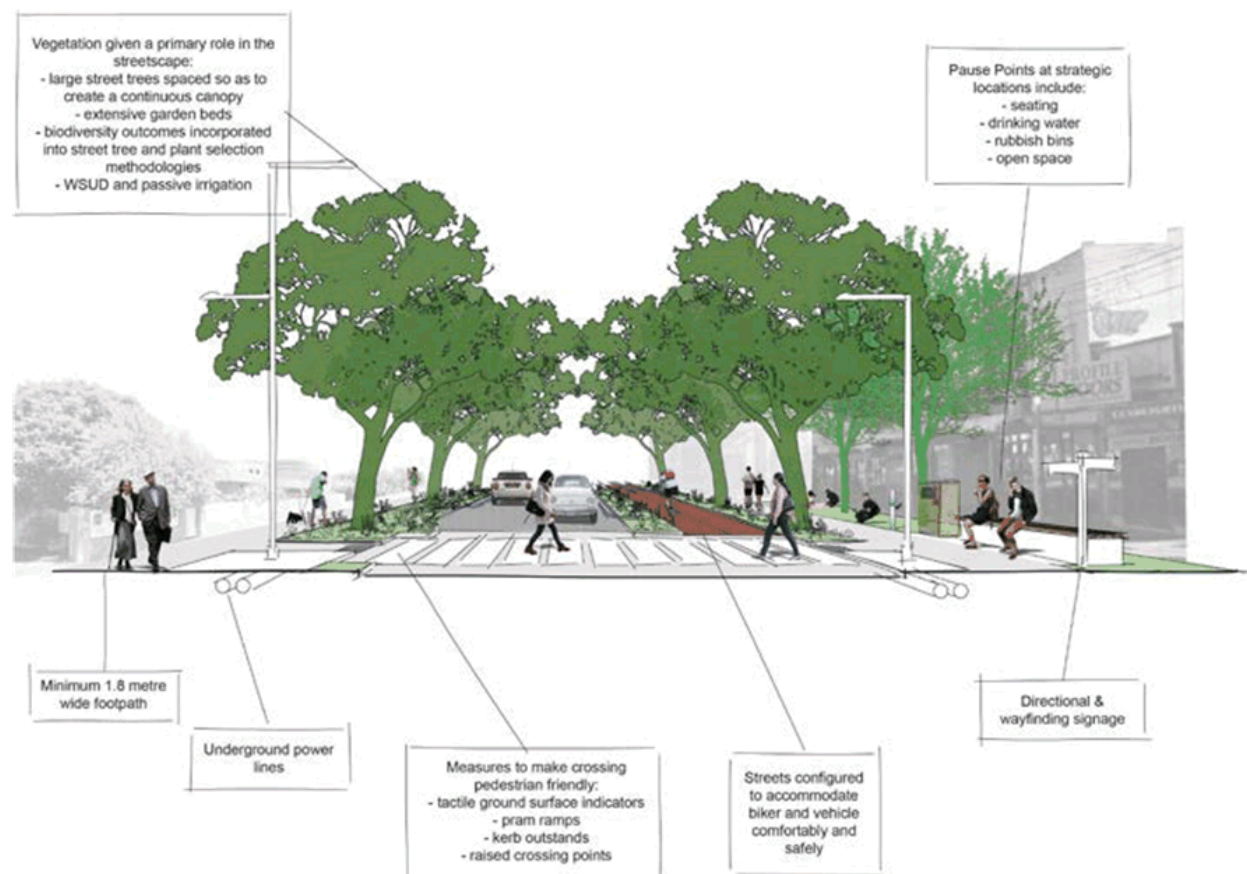
The long-term goal is a network of streets that are accessible, increase active transport and improve biodiversity as illustrated in Figure 13.

**Urban hotspots**

Many parts of Darebin have limited tree canopy cover, and these areas are more vulnerable to climate change. Key urban spots (areas that are notably hotter than others) include buildings which have expansive roofs that reflect not absorb heat: for example Northcote Plaza, Darebin International Sports Centre, Latrobe Retirement Village, Preston Market, Bundoora Extended Care Centre, Melbourne Water Reservoir and Reservoir industrial area. While the strategy cannot address roof treatments on private property, it can prioritise increasing tree canopy cover in these areas.

The condition of grass and turf in exposed areas appears to have a substantial impact on surface temperature, with areas of dead grass and turf having very high surface temperatures (often higher than adjacent paved areas), for example at Bundoora Park Farm.

Figure 13: Primary elements of a green streets network



**9.2 Objective 14:****Enable walking and cycling**

Darebin City Council recognises that a quality walking and cycling environment is critical to the success of a sustainable, functional and liveable place. This environment aims to promote and facilitate walking and cycling for a range of outcomes, including leisure and recreation, physical activity and wellbeing, social interaction, economic gain, improved community participation in public spaces, and transport.

To ensure that public open spaces are available and are appropriately designed for all of Darebin's broad community, it is fundamental to ensure that such infrastructure caters for the most vulnerable members of our community including older people, children, and people with reduced mobility.

**Strategies**

- S14.1 Increase use of active and sustainable transport
- S14.2 Apply the principles from The GreenStreets Streetscape Strategy, The Darebin Walking Strategy and the Streets for People Strategy in delivering the Green Streets Network.
- S14.3 Continue to invest in the Streets for People Program.
- S14.4 Ensure that public open spaces are accessible and all users are considered in the design.
- S14.5 Improve access and safety across Darebin's creek trails and shared paths.

**Actions**

- A14.1 Increase the use of sustainable and active transport through the design and implementation of the Green Streets Network.
- A14.2 Enhance bicycle links through the creation of on and off road trails, additional bike racks and improved bicycling connections at intersections.
- A14.3 Ensure clear delineation of spaces for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers including clear line marking.
- A14.4 Increase standard of maintenance on walking and cycling paths.
- A14.5 Increase the number of safe crossings across Darebin's creeks to ensure a cohesive and integrated network for cyclists and pedestrians.
- A14.6 Improve passive surveillance along shared paths particularly creek trails through rear interface treatments.

10  
—

# Build best practice



**10.1 Objective 15:****Build best practice across Council,  
the community and public asset owners**

Realising the actions of this strategy will require careful and considered collaboration between Council, the community and public asset owners.

Internally, Council teams have come together to identify the challenges and opportunities of the strategy and own its implementation across multiple areas of Council's work.

Council teams will continue to work together using a place-based approach to take advantage of opportunities created through co-located capital projects or upgrades. Further, staff in key areas including transport, bushland, environment, engineering, design, capital works and maintenance must have the appropriate skills and expertise. This will result in the strategy's key directions, objectives, strategies and actions being implemented while responding to the climate emergency.

Relationships and partnerships with non-council stakeholders including schools, VicTrack, VicRoads and Melbourne Water must be built and managed to create a holistic approach to land management in Darebin. The outcomes of this strategy should be encouraged in all open spaces in Darebin to maximise its impact such as landscaping along railway corridors.

**Strategies**

- S15.1 Ensure Council staff are appropriately trained to deliver the three key directions of the strategy.
- S15.2 Create an environment for Council staff to work collaboratively across teams using a place-based approach.
- S15.3 Create and manage collaborative and productive relationships with community as well as non-council land and asset owners.

**Actions**

- A15.1 Provide relevant training to all teams whose work plan includes delivery of actions in the strategy.
- A15.2 Build capacity within Council for design, review, auditing and maintenance of green infrastructure including water sensitive urban design, passive irrigation as well as the management and regeneration of biodiverse landscapes through training opportunities.
- A15.3 Provide time for collaborative working across teams responsible for delivering the strategy.
- A15.4 Develop and maintain working relationships with entities like VicTrack, Vic Roads, Melbourne Water, schools and private land owners and advocate for the strategy's vision, objectives and goals on their land.
- A15.5 Distribute Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy to all large land owners to maximise its impact across the municipality.

11

Open space  
precinct  
summaries



**11.1 Darebin's precincts**

This section provides an overview of each open space precinct in Darebin (see Figure 15). It includes a discussion on the character of each precinct, including housing density and the provision of open space. It also describes existing and projected population growth, and assesses access to open space. These precincts are not meant to define how open space is used or the role it plays, instead they are intended to divide the municipality into manageable areas for the purpose of reference and planning.

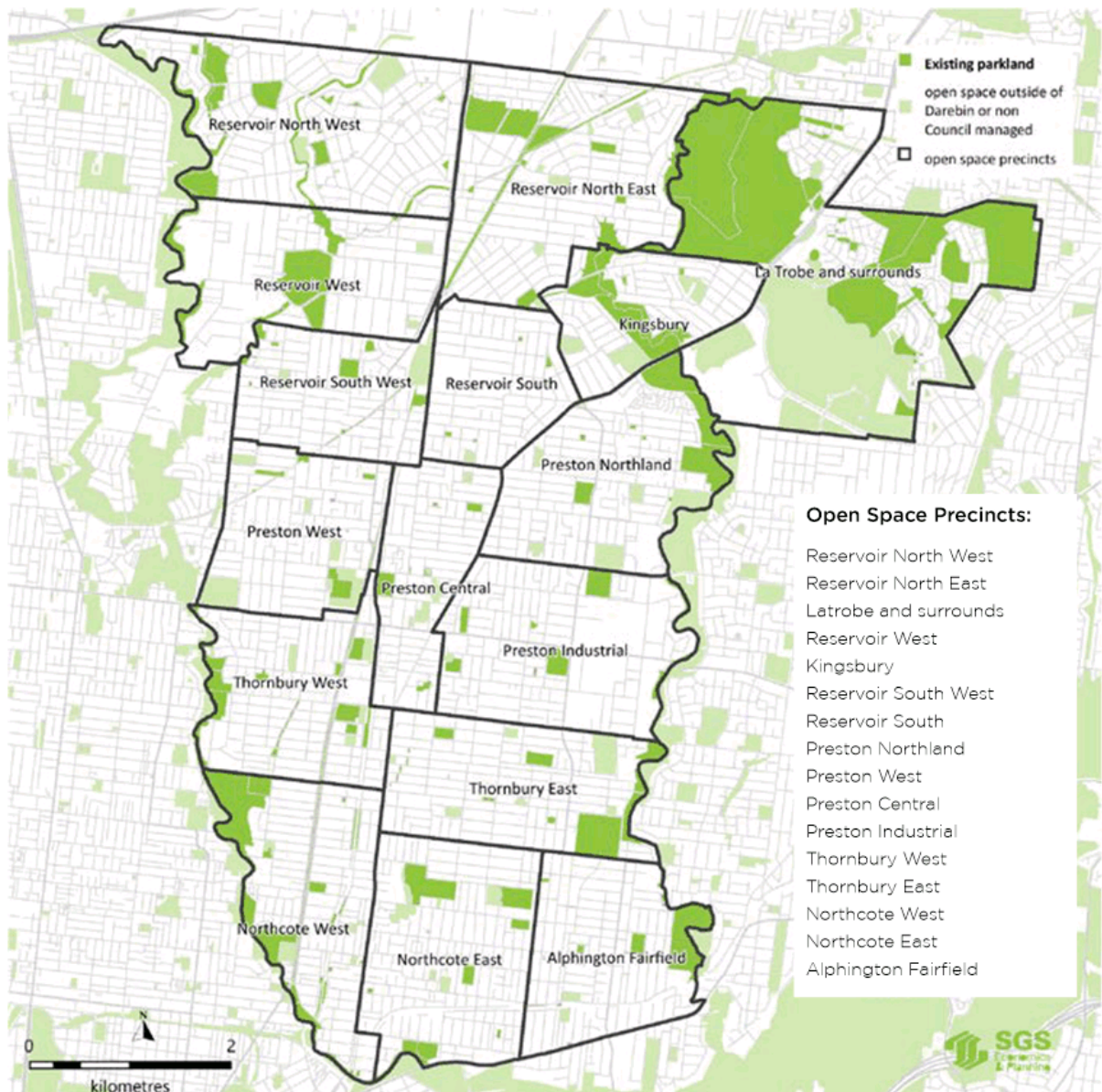
Based on the population densities around local and district open spaces, a type (level of amenity) is recommended. The recommended type will provide guidance on upgrades and improvements to open space, however site specific assessments for open spaces will be required to confirm the level of amenity that is suitable.

For example a small linear local park that is recommended as type A and used as a walking and cycling connection would not be a suitable space to provide all recommended infrastructure and facilities such as a grassy area for informal sport.

A series of recommendations for each precinct is provided to inform future planning of site specific open space upgrades and land acquisitions.

**Figure 15: Open space precincts, Darebin**

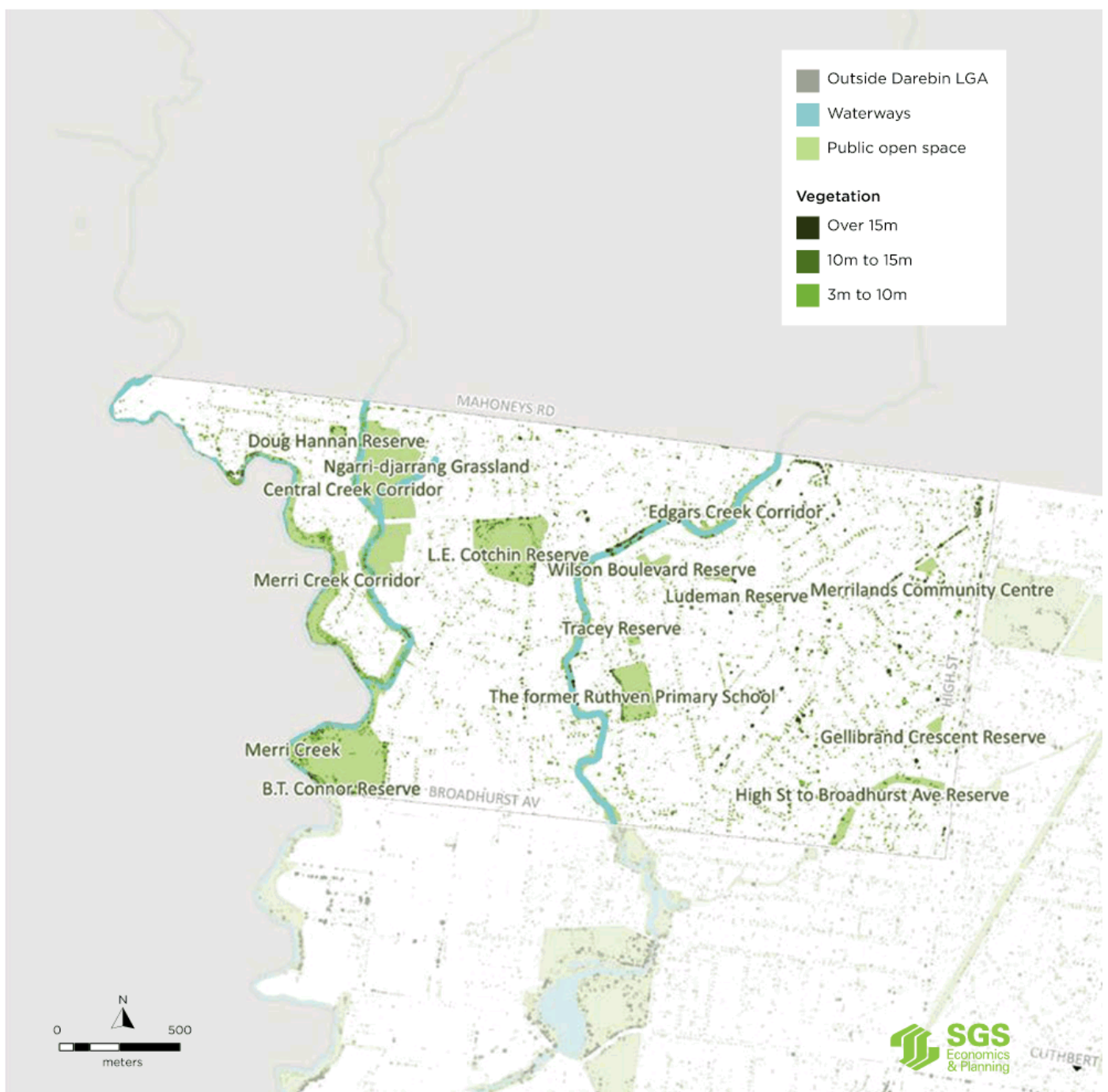
Source: City of Darebin, 2018





Precinct

# Reservoir North West



### Precinct character

Reservoir North West is a low density suburban area characterised by large lots and detached dwellings.

Merri Creek Corridor and Ngarri-djarrang Grassland run along the western boundary of the Reservoir North West precinct and are nationally significant Natural Heritage areas. Edgars Creek runs through the centre of the precinct. The Merri Creek runs along the west boundary of the precinct. The Merri Creek is well vegetated with trees and shrubs, while Edgars Creek has a mown interface with surrounding residential areas and sporadic tree coverage. B.T Connor Reserve and L.E Cotchin Reserve provides district sporting facilities, along with some informal leisure opportunities.

An electricity power line easement runs diagonally through the municipality anchored by a series of open spaces. Stretches of Hughes Parade include a large central median strip, and the roundabout of Botha Avenue and Hughes Parade includes a large open space of approx. 0.25 hectares.

The Council plan includes the action to create a new park and upgrade the site of the former Ruthven Primary School in Reservoir.

### Biodiversity

Merri Creek Corridor and Ngarri-djarrang Grassland are nationally significant Natural Heritage areas.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
B.T. Connor Reserve	7.54	District	Type B
Central Creek Corridor	3.72	Regional	Regional
Doug Hannan Reserve	0.67	Local	Type C
Edgars Creek Corridor	7.45	Regional	Regional
Gellibrand Crescent Reserve	0.42	Local	Type B
High St to Broadhurst Ave Reserve	1.88	Local	Type B
L.E. Cotchin Reserve	6.48	District	Type B
Ludeman Reserve	0.22	Local	Type C
Merri Creek	2.38	Regional	Regional
Merri Creek Corridor	7.84	Regional	Regional
Merrilands Community Centre	0.38	Local	Type B
Ngarri-djarrang Grassland	9.77	Regional	Conservation area
The former Ruthven Primary School	3.05	District	Type B
Tracey Reserve	0.19	Local	Type C
Wilson Boulevard Reserve	0.67	Local	Type C

### Access to open space

6 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres. Most of those households are located close to the Botha Avenue and Hughes Parade intersection.

Despite low levels of population growth, this area is anticipated to have an undersupply of open space, with 17.3 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 10,565

Projected 2028 population: 11,322,

Growth rate 7.2 per cent (lowest in municipality).

### Population density

Lowest housing density in Darebin, typically between 10 to 15 dwellings per hectare. Future housing expected to be separate houses and some villas/townhouse developments.

### Implications for open space planning

With the lowest growth rate in the municipality and little medium or high-density development, intensification of use of the public open space in Reservoir North West is expected to be less than in other precincts. As a result non-regional reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type B or C. No Type A reserves are recommended.

Land (with emphasis on the area near the Botha Avenue/ Hughes Parade intersection) should be considered for acquisition or repurposing to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m. There is potential to make use of additional space provided by the median strip and roundabout. As in other precincts, improvements are needed in east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

Landscape works and revegetation along the creek corridor within this precinct have been minimal in comparison to others within the municipality. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along creek corridors and linear reserves should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space. The power line easement also provides this opportunity.

The ecological values of the Ngarri-djarrang Grassland should be considered for enhancement. Increasing public appreciation of the grassland by improving its landscape setting and upgrading interpretive signage should be considered.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# Reservoir North East



## Open space precinct summaries

75

**Precinct character**

Home to regional sporting facilities at J.C Donath & I.W. Dole Reserves which make up the majority of open space in the Reservoir North East precinct.

Much of the council owned public open space is located along Cheddar Road and Tunnelley Parade in large central road reserves which have access and amenity issues.

The eastern boundary interfaces with Bundoora Park along the Darebin Creek Corridor. Road reserve corridors and the Bundoora Park boundary include off road cycling and walking trails.

There is extremely limited tree canopy cover over 10 metres outside of J.C Donath and I.W. Dole reserve.

**Biodiversity**

Darebin Creek Corridor includes areas of State and National Heritage Significance.

**Existing open spaces**

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Beenak/McMahon Reserve	5.34	District	Type A
Cheddar Road Reserve	4.83	Regional	Type A
D.R. Atkinson Reserve	2.4	District	Type B
Daleglen Street Reserve	0.07	Local	Type B
Darebin Creek Corridor/ Bundoora Park interface	14.26	Regional	Regional
Frank A.A. Dunstan Reserve	0.29	Local	Type A
Frank A.A. Dunstan Reserve - Link I.W. Dole Reserve	0.15	Local	Type C
Fyfe Reserve	0.36	Local	Type A
I.W. Dole Reserve	4.57	District	Type B
J.C. Donath Reserve	20.04	District	Type A
Leslie Reserve	0.7	Local	Type A
San Leandro Reserve	0.09	Local	Type B
T.W. Andrews Reserve	2.72	District	Type A
Tunaley Pde - Cheddar Rd Reserve	5.25	Regional	Type A

**Access to open space**

Only 2 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

Despite low levels of population growth, this area is anticipated to have a minor undersupply of open space, with 21.4 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

**Population growth**

Current population: 15,172  
Projected 2028 population: 17,140  
Growth rate: 13 per cent

**Population density**

Low to medium housing density, with substantial quantities of villa style housing which increase housing density. Future dwellings anticipated to be a mix of separate housing and medium density housing, with little high density housing growth.

**Implications for open space planning**

Reservoir North East has a low growth rate compared to most areas within the municipality, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected to be less than in other precincts. Nonetheless eight reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/ maintained as Type A, and four as Type B.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing within the south-east part of the precinct to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m. As in other precincts improvements are needed in east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

Improvements to amenity, access and planting along the Darebin Creek corridors and the Cheddar Road Reserve should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space. The Cheddar Road Reserve should be considered to become an important public open space stretching from the southern to the northern boundary of the precinct, providing a link as well as other open space services.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# La Trobe and surrounds



### Precinct character

The La Trobe and surrounds precinct is home to the extensive Latrobe University campus and a number of nature reserves.

Many open spaces are not owned by Council, for example the cemetery, university campus, La Trobe Golf Course and sports reserves owned by the university. These are outside of the scope of the strategy.

The precinct is characterised by expansive nature reserves.

The university and major regional open spaces and conservation reserves enjoy extensive tree canopy cover, including those over 15 metres.

There are plans to improve trail connections for walking and cycling as per regional trails strategy.

### Biodiversity

There are expansive nature reserves and non-council owned and managed biodiversity hot spots which are important areas to biodiversity conservation. This precinct has the greatest concentration of natural heritage assets in Darebin, with nationally significant sites in Bundoora Park and Gresswell Hill and Gresswell Forest Reserves.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Barlow Rise Reserve	0.53	Local	Type B
Bundoora Park	113.11	Regional	Regional
Bundoora Park Oval	3.2	District	Type C
Bundoora Park Public Golf Course	64.89	Regional	Golf Course
Cascade Link	0.04	Local	Type B
Cascade Park	2.36	District	Type C
Cascade Park Link	0.07	Local	Type C
Cascade Walk	0.04	Local	Type C
Cherry Street Reserve	6.51	District	Type C
Darebin Creek Corridor	3.27	Regional	Regional
Forensic Drive Reserve	2.36	District	Type C
Gonella Reserve	0.17	Local	Type B
Gresswell Forest Wildlife Reserve	63.8	Regional	Conservation area
Gresswell Grange Lakes	1.15	District	Type C
Gresswell Grange Reserve	0.76	Local	Type B
Gresswell Hill Nature Conservation Reserve	8.81	District	Conservation area
Gresswell-Cherry Reserve Habitat Link	0.24	Regional	Conservation area
Habitat Link	0.26	Local	Type C
Lancaster Gate Oval	1.02	District	Type C
Lancaster Gate Reserve	0.14	Local	Type B
Larundel Grasslands Reserve	0.34	Regional	Conservation area
La Trobe Wildlife Sanctuary	28.92	District	Conservation area
Lelean Reserve	0.07	Local	Type B
Mount Cooper Reserve	2.18	District	Type C
Red Gum Reserve	0.77	Local	Type C
Springthorpe Village Common	2.86	District	Type C
Strathallan Golf Course	16.83	Regional	Golf Course
Sugargum Drive Reserve	0.73	Local	Type C
Summerhill Rise Reserve	0.55	Local	Type B
The Village Square	0.11	Local	Type C
Warramunga Reserve	0.23	Local	Type C
Woodland Reserve	0.09	Local	Type C

**Access to Open Space**

8% of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

Well supplied with open space, however this is predominantly open space used for conservation, golf courses, and the Latrobe University Campus. Access to publicly accessible local and district public open spaces owned by council is low with 14.3 square metres per capita projected for 2028.

**Population growth**

Current population: 8,933

Projected 2028 population: 11,807

Growth rate: 32.2 per cent

**Population density**

Most of precinct is covered by La Trobe University and associated facilities, and significant conservation reserves. In the small areas that accommodate housing, density is low to medium, with few dwellings exceeding 30 dwellings per hectare.

Future dwellings anticipated to be predominantly high density housing - student housing and apartments to cater to students and staff at Latrobe University and Latrobe Employment centre.

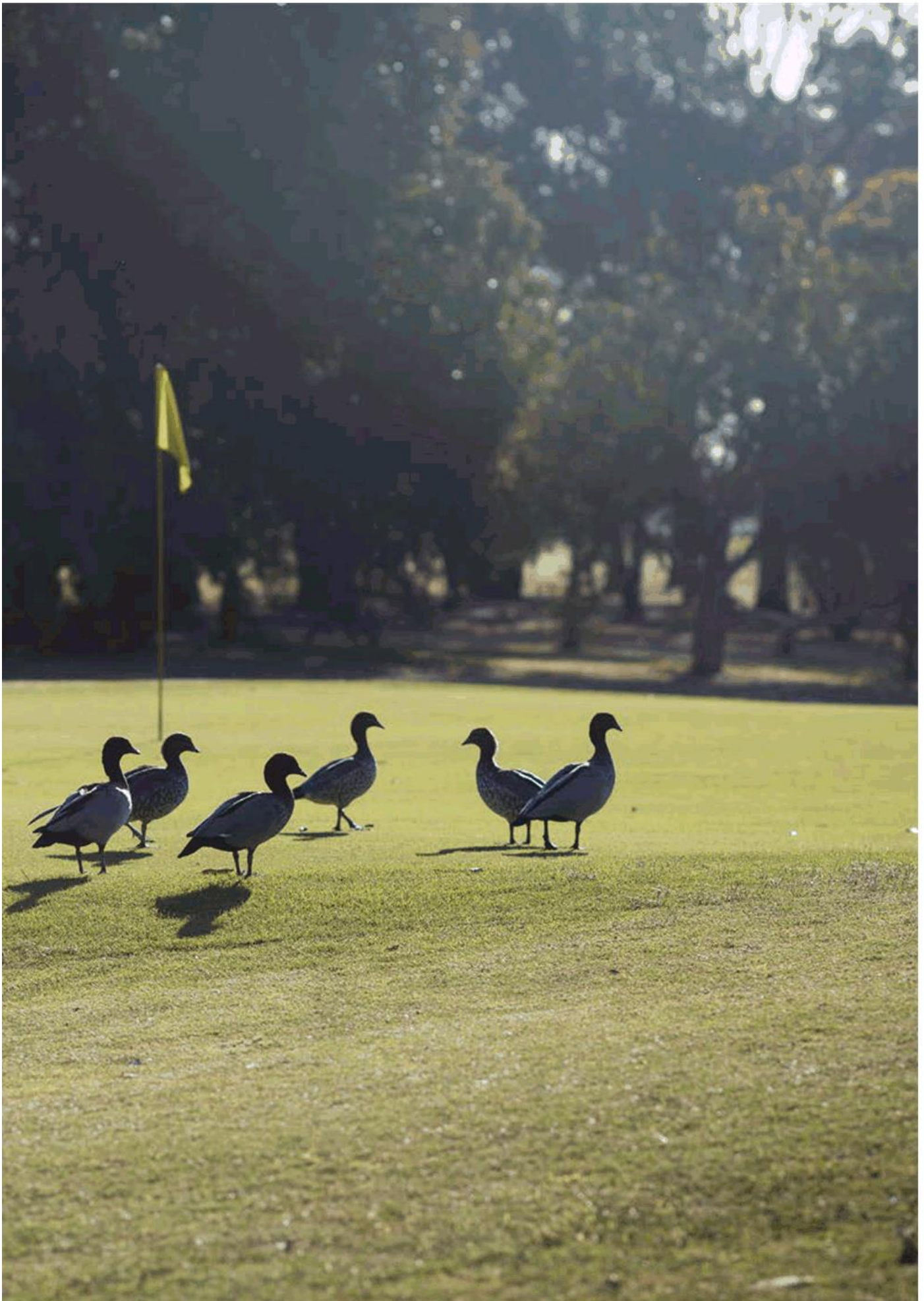
**Implications for open space planning**

This precinct has a growth rate of 32.3%, the majority of that is expected to be high density student housing, therefore considerably higher use of the open space is expected. There is significant amount of open space within this precinct and all are categorised as Type B, C or regional. There are no category A reserves recommended.

Whilst a significant proportion of this precinct is accessible open space, the majority of it is privately owned and/or managed, including two golf courses, the open space at Latrobe University, or fenced off areas to retain and protect environmental values. The growth in population to this precinct is expected to be mainly tertiary students however the provision of publicly open space should allow for potential changes or reduction to privately owned open space. Therefore, it is recommended that consideration be given to acquisition of land in the south and south west of the precinct to cater for the growth in population around the university.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.





Precinct

# Reservoir West



### Precinct character

Edwardes Lake Park is home to the second largest lake in metropolitan Melbourne and makes up the majority of open space in the Reservoir West precinct.

Almost half the precinct is industrial land. The industrial area has very little tree cover and there are poor links through it for pedestrians and cyclists. Edgars Creek Corridors link Edwardes Lake hydrological system south to join Merri Creek and then extend north.

The J.E. Moore Park supplies two large sporting ovals shaded along the perimeter by established trees.

### Biodiversity

Edwardes Lake Park has natural heritage values of state significance, the adjoining Edgars Creek Corridor is of National Significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Broadhurst Ave to McFadzean Ave Reserve	0.62	Local	Type A
Edgars Creek Corridor	9.48	Regional	Regional
Edwardes Lake Park	22.13	Regional	Regional
J.E. Moore Park	5.19	District	Type C
Merri Creek Corridor	8.31	Regional	Regional
Whitby Reserve	0.26	Local	Type B

### Access to open space

9 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

The precinct is well supplied with open space due to the large Edwardes Lake Park. It is anticipated that the precinct will remain well supplied.

### Population growth

Current population: 7,320

Projected 2028 population: 8,544

Growth rate: 16.7 per cent

### Population density

The precinct is characterised by low to medium housing density with some villa style housing

Future dwellings are anticipated to be predominantly medium to higher density. A 26 per cent increase in the 5 - 17 age group is expected with more families moving into the area.

### Implications for open space planning

Reservoir West has a low growth rate compared to many areas within the municipality, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected to be less than in other precincts. One reserve in this area is recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A.

Although the size of Edwardes Lake Park means that no undersupply of public open space is projected from a quantity perspective, land should be considered for acquisition or repurposed to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m. As in other precincts, improvements are needed in east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

The Edgars Creek and Merri Creek corridors form an important part of the public open space in this precinct. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along creek corridors should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy, and taking into account a projected increase of 26% of children in the area.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# Kingsbury



### Precinct character

The Kingsbury precinct is home to the K.P. Hardiman Reserve adjacent to Darebin Creek which runs through the centre of the precinct. The reserve is bordered to the south by the La Trobe University Hockey Club and the Darebin Community Sports Stadium.

To the northern end of the K.P. Hardiman Reserve is another large reserve, Arch Gibson Reserve, which houses a large lawn area and bowling complex. Over Dunne St is the John Hall Reserve which consists of a single oval backing onto Darebin Creek.

These three reserves make up the majority of the open space in the Kingsbury precinct.

There are several medium sized reserves across the precinct between 2.5 and 3 hectares and these include the Clements Reserve, C.W. Kirkwood Reserve (adjoins Arch Gibson Reserve), and Scott Reserve.

### Biodiversity

Darebin Creek Corridor includes areas of state and national natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Arch Gibson Reserve	5.56	District	Type C
C.W. Kirkwood Reserve	2.51	District	Type C
Clements Reserve	2.84	District	Type C
John Hall Reserve	3.07	District	Type C
Judith Scott Memorial Park	5.28	District	Type C
K.P. Hardiman Reserve	14.83	District	Type C
Link Reserve	0.34	Local	Type A
Parkhaven Estate Reserve	0.3	Local	Type A
Scott Reserve	2.4	District	Type C
T.W. Andrews - Link Arch Gibson Reserve	0.47	Local	Type A

### Access to open space

The precinct is well supplied with open space. Currently 15.3 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres. 53.7 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028. Considering the minimal population growth, it is expected Kingsbury will continue to be well supplied.

### Population growth

Current population: 5,831  
Projected 2028 population: 6,913  
Growth rate: 18.5%

### Population density

Kingsbury is characterised by low density housing between 10 - 15 dwellings per hectare. Future dwellings will also be predominantly low to medium density with limited higher density dwellings.

It is expected that Kingsbury will see the most demographic change in the 0 - 4 age group (42 per cent to 2028) and 5 - 17 age group (40 per cent) with families moving into the area.

### Implications for open space planning

This precinct has a growth rate of 18.5% therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected. Three reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/ maintained as Type A.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing in the south of the precinct to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m.

The Darebin Creek corridor is centrally located in this precinct, providing the vast majority of its public open space. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along the creek corridor should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy, and taking into account a projected increase in 42% of children under 4 and a 42% increase in children 5-17 in the area.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# Reservoir South West



### Precinct character

Reservoir South West is bordered by the Edgars Creek Corridor (link to Glenvale Rd; link to Kia Ora Road) which has a mown interface between residential properties and the creek border. To the west, outside of the precinct border is the Darebin Resource Recovery Centre which backs directly onto the creek.

The G.E. Robinson Park borders High Street to the south of a large area of inaccessible land owned and managed by Melbourne Water. Some tree canopy cover from established trees and landscaping is provided along the perimeter of the Melbourne Water land.

G.E. Robinson Park has some shade provided by established trees and a shared bicycle/pedestrian footpath through to Crawley Street, connecting with Regent Station. The park and link to railway are well maintained.

There is some poorer quality and underutilised open space in and around Regent Station from Henry to Stewart Street and a wide median strip with a shared bike path.

Crispe Park provides the precinct with a large sporting oval which is home to the Reservoir Football Club. The perimeter of the oval is shaded by established trees. There is a lack of east-west connection through the open space in and around the oval from Pine Street and Taylor Ave through to Gloucester Street.

Wright Reserve has a north-south pedestrian connection from Henty Street to Wright Street and is co-located with the World Manifest Ministries International church. The reserve has scattered established trees and two playgrounds.

There are several other smaller reserves and pockets of open space scattered across the precinct (see below).

Non council owned open space also includes the Reservoir West Primary School sporting fields.

### Biodiversity

Edgars Creek Corridor includes areas of state natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Allan Reserve	1.23	District	Type C
Allan Reserve - Linkage	0.3	Local	Type C
Crispe Park	3.36	District	Type C
Edgars Creek Corridor	0.28	Regional	Regional
G.E. Robinson Park	1.82	District	Type C
G.E. Robinson Park -Link to Railway	0.09	Local	Type A

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
High St to Regent St Reserve	1.28	District	Type C
Hillcroft Reserve	0.28	Local	Type B
Horton Reserve	0.13	Local	Type B
Pipe Track	0.43	District	Type A
Vale Reserve	0.07	Local	Type B
Wright Reserve	0.93	Local	Type A

### Access to open space

4 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

Future undersupply is predicted. 9.3 square metres per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 7,936

Projected 2028 population: 8,765

Growth rate: 10.5 per cent

### Population density

Reservoir South West is characterised by low density dwellings (detached housing) with most housing between 0 - 15 dwellings per hectare.

Future dwellings will continue to be low to medium density, only a small proportion of higher density is forecast for 2028.

### Implications for open space planning

Reservoir South West has a low growth rate compared to many areas within the municipality, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected to be less than in other precincts. Nonetheless three reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing within the central south-west part of the precinct to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m. As in other precincts improvements are needed in east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

Improvements to amenity, access and planting along the Edgars Creek corridor and the linear reserves should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# Reservoir South



### Precinct character

Reservoir South is home to five small reserves which are scattered across the precinct. Each reserve has a playground of varying scale, Shand Reserve also has a small basketball court. Most reserves also serve as pedestrian links. The Howard Mendip reserve is bordered by private properties.

Part of the precinct is covered by Melbourne Water Reservoirs, situated to the western side of the precinct boundary at High St.

### Biodiversity

Biodiversity values are unclear and more information is required. The completion of a biodiversity audit will provide insight into existing biodiversity values

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
F.G. Pike Reserve	0.33	Local	Type A
Foch Reserve	0.14	Local	Type A
Howard Mendip Reserve	0.21	Local	Type A
Shand Reserve	0.49	Local	Type A
Storey Reserve	0.12	Local	Type A

### Access to open space

17 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

Future undersupply is predicted. 1.4 square metres per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 6,938

Projected 2028 population: 9,140

Growth rate: 31.7 per cent

### Population density

The precinct is characterised by low density housing, with some medium density villas and townhouses occurring along the High St border. Future dwellings are anticipated to be predominantly medium to higher density dwellings. A 40 per cent increase in the 5 - 17 age group is expected with more families moving into the area.

### Implications for open space planning

Reservoir South has a fairly high growth rate (31.7%), and new development is expected to be primarily medium and higher density, so considerable intensification of public open space use is predicted in this precinct. As a result all reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A. Careful consideration must be given when upgrading existing reserves to how much intensification of use is appropriate in reserves bordered by residential properties.

The typology of existing reserves within this precinct is extremely limited, consisting entirely of small reserves set within residential streets.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m. Improvements are needed in both north-south and east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network. Consideration should be made in acquisition to broaden the type of public open space offered (for example near shops and/or linking to linear reserves and creek corridors in adjacent precincts).

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy, and taking into account a projected increase in 40 percent of children in the area.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.



Precinct

# Preston Northland



### Precinct character

Preston Northland is home to the Darebin Creek Corridor between Murray Road and Plenty Road. At the northern end of the corridor is the CT Barling Reserve which has football, soccer and cricket sporting fields. Further along the corridor to the south is the CH Sullivan Memorial Park which has a playground as well as outdoor gym equipment and three sporting grounds. At the southern Murray Road end of the precinct is the Darebin Creek Linear Reserve which backs directly on to the Northland Shopping Centre. The length of the trail has important shared paths for cyclists and pedestrians.

There are four smaller reserves with playground equipment scattered across the precinct. W.R. Ruthven V.C. Reserve is a larger reserve towards the centre of the precinct which provides football, cricket and tennis facilities as well as an outdoor exercise station.

The precinct contains a major shopping centre, the Northland Shopping Centre, one of the largest retail shopping centres in the north. The precinct is set to see substantial change with planning for the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct now underway.

### Biodiversity

Darebin Creek Corridor includes areas of state and national natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
C.H. Sullivan Memorial Park	14.21	District	Type B
C.T. Barling Reserve	13.02	District	Type B
Darebin Creek Corridor	11.59	Regional	Regional
Greenbelt Reserve	0.15	Local	Type A
Highview Reserve	0.05	Local	Type B
McComas Reserve	0.28	Local	Type A
Nisbett Reserve	0.23	Local	Type A
Progress Park	0.14	Local	Type A
W.R. Ruthven V.C. Reserve	3.62	District	Type B

### Access to open space

7 per cent of all households do not currently have access to public open space within 500 metres. Currently well supplied with open space per capita. It is predicted there will be a minor undersupply of open space with 23.9 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 10,229  
Projected 2028 population: 13,275  
Growth rate: 29.8%

### Population density

The precinct is currently characterised by low to medium density housing with few dwellings exceeding 30 dwellings per hectares. Medium density dwellings are generally clustered to the north of the Northland shopping complex, in and around the CT Barling Reserve and to the west along the Plenty Road retail strip.

Significant growth in the number of medium to higher density dwellings is anticipated for Northland, with over 1,000 additional apartment dwellings expected by 2028. This higher density development will in part be accommodated by the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct development.

The precinct will also see an increase in the number of children and young people, with more families moving into the area.

### Implications for open space planning

This precinct has a growth rate of 29.8%, with new development primarily expected to be medium and higher density, so considerable intensification of public open space use is expected. As a result all local reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A, and all district reserves to Type B.

Public open space in this precinct is primarily located in the north-east, and associated with the Darebin Creek. Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing in the southern part of the precinct to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m.

The Darebin Creek corridor forms an important part of the public open space in this precinct. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along the creek corridor should be considered to improve its function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space. There is potential for revegetation works along the narrow section of the creek adjacent to Northland.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# Preston West



### Precinct character

Preston West is bordered by St Georges Road and is close to Preston Station and the Preston Market in the neighbouring Preston Central precinct. Significant education assets include the Melbourne Polytechnic Preston campus.

The Melbourne Polytechnic Preston campus backs on to the precinct's largest reserve (H.P. Zwar Reserve) which provides football and cricket sports ground and playground facilities as well as a playground in the adjoining Margaret Walker Reserve.

W.K. Larkins Reserve is one of the precinct's larger reserves and runs along the length of Dunstan Street and connects to the railway easement which runs diagonally through the precinct along the back of residential properties from Murray Street through to Regent Street.

J.S. Grey reserve is another smaller reserve which houses the J.S. Grey Kindergarten and provides an important through section from Regent St to Gilbert Rd and Gilbert Rd through to Sheffield St.

The Coburg Pine Ridge Cemetery, which takes up the far western corner of the precinct, is outside the scope of this strategy.

### Biodiversity

Biodiversity values are unclear and more information is required. The completion of a biodiversity audit will provide insight into existing biodiversity values

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Asling Reserve	0.04	Local	Type A
H.P. Zwar Reserve	4.59	District	Type B
J.S. Grey Reserve	0.79	Local	Type A
Jacka Reserve	0.06	Local	Type B
L.W. Williams Reserve	0.65	Local	Type A
McNamara - Symons Pedestrian Link	0.04	Local	Type B
Murray & St. Georges Rd Reserve	0.03	Local	Type A
Paywitt Reserve	0.13	Local	Type A
Railway Easement (Murray St to Regent St)	1.07	District	Type A
Regent Street to Elizabeth Street Reserve	0.57	District	Type B
Spring Street Reserve	0.1	Local	Type B
St. Georges Road Reserve	0.48	Regional	Regional
Union Reserve	0.11	Local	Type B
W.K. Larkins Reserve	1.23	District	Type B

### Access to open space

25 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres (the largest proportion of households without access of the precincts). The assessment of the future rate of provision sees the precinct undersupplied. 5.7 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 9,736  
Projected 2028 population: 13,560  
Growth rate: 39.3%

### Population density

Preston West is characterised by medium to low density housing with most of the precinct housing between 0 - 20 dwellings per hectare. However, higher density housing, in the form of townhouses and apartments is beginning to appear along transport corridors such as St Georges Rd and in locations able to take advantage of access to Preston Station.

In the future, medium and higher density development will continue with an increase in the number of apartments.

### Implications for open space planning

This precinct has a high growth rate (39.3%), with a lot of new development being medium and higher density, so considerable intensification of public open space use is expected. As a result six reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A.

Over a quarter of the population of Preston West currently doesn't have access to public open space within 500m so acquisition and/or repurposing of land in the centre and south-west of the precinct is vital to ensure an adequate amount of public open space is provided for the fast-growing population. There is potential to build on the connections to the adjacent Merri Creek corridor. Improvements are needed in both north-south and east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# Preston Central



### Precinct character

Preston Central is home to the High Street Activity Centre and Preston Market, a large fresh food market and visitor attraction.

Education assets include Melbourne Polytechnic. Preston Station and tram services along St Georges Linear Reserve make the precinct a highly accessible location by public transport.

The precinct has a limited number of council owned open space assets. These are limited to a handful of small reserves and the areas surrounding the civic buildings including the Municipal Offices, Darebin Civic Forecourt and Preston Court House surrounds.

The largest open space is the Preston City Oval, a VFL stadium which also has a grandstand with a capacity of 5,000.

### Biodiversity

The Preston City Oval is of local natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
A.G. Davis Park	1.22	District	Type B
Adams Reserve	0.85	Local	Type A
Darebin Civic Forecourt	0.13	Local	Type A
Preston City Oval	3.68	District	Type B
Preston Library Forecourt	0.31	Local	Type A
Walter Reserve	0.19	Local	Type A

### Access to open space

7 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

4.6 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028. Significant population growth and substantial higher density development indicates the future rate of open space will be undersupplied.

### Population growth

Current population: 9,472  
Projected 2028 population: 13,972  
Growth rate: 47.5%

### Population density

Preston Central is currently made up of low to medium density housing, with most of the precinct housing between 0 - 20 dwellings per hectare.

In future, Preston Central is anticipated to see the largest increase in higher density housing (apartments) of all the precincts, with over 2,000 additional dwellings by 2028. Much of the growth is expected to occur in and around the transport corridors and the Preston Market. Preston Central will also see most growth in the number of young children aged 0-4 (58 per cent increase) and for young people aged 5-17 (49 per cent).

### Implications for open space planning

This precinct has the highest growth rate in the municipality (47.5%), with proposed high density development, so considerable intensification of public open space use is expected. As a result four reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A.

Acquisition and/or repurposing of land within this precinct is vital to ensure an adequate amount of public open space is provided within 500m for the fast-growing population. In some cases there is scope to acquire properties adjacent to existing reserves (for example Adams Reserve). A high proportion of the existing public open space is very small and/or urban in character so the focus should be on acquiring properties that broaden the offering. Improvements are needed in both north-south and east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy, and taking into account a projected increase in 58% of children under 4 and a 49% increase in children aged 5-17 in the area.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# Preston Industrial



### Precinct character

Preston Industrial is characterised by large areas of big box retail and industrial land which borders the Darebin Creek corridor from Bell St to Murray Road. The industrial area has very little tree cover and there are poor links through it to the creek corridor and trail.

The Darebin Creek corridor is home to areas of state and national natural heritage significance and the length of the trail has important shared paths for cyclists and pedestrians.

H.L.T. Oulton Reserve and the T.W. Blake are larger open spaces with sporting ovals for football and cricket. The H.L.T. Oulton has a pavilion and greater tree coverage than the T.W. Blake reserve which has no shaded area.

The T.A. Cochrane Reserve serves the west of the precinct and abuts the Preston South Primary School. The reserve is home to a local tennis club with two courts and bordered by established trees. Other smaller reserves include Walsh Reserve which is well vegetated with a playground forming a pedestrian through link from Walsh to Mornane Street. Lahinch Reserve also provides a suburban through link for pedestrians and is bordered by private properties. It includes a playground and small basketball court is also available.

G.H. Mott Reserve is a larger linear reserve along the length of Patterson Street and is largely comprised of unshaded flat lawn with a playground and seating area which is shaded by established trees.

The precinct is set to see substantial change with planning for the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct now underway.

### Biodiversity

The Darebin Creek corridor includes areas of state and national natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Darebin Creek Corridor	2.77	Regional	Regional
G.H. Mott Reserve	1.85	District	Type C
H.L.T. Oulton Reserve	5.03	District	Type C
Lahinch Reserve	0.41	Local	Type A
T.A. Cochrane Reserve	1.85	District	Type C
T.W. Blake Park	6.1	District	Type C
Walsh Reserve	0.25	Local	Type A

### Access to open space

11 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

A future undersupply of open space is expected. 15.6 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 7,394  
 Projected 2028 population: 9,926  
 Growth rate: 34.2%

### Population density

Preston Industrial is currently comprised of low to medium density housing with most of the precinct housing between 0-20 dwellings per hectare. There is some medium density villa style housing close to the Preston South Primary school and along Bell Street.

Future dwellings are expected to be predominantly medium to higher density, which will in part be accommodated by the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct development. The precinct will also see an increase in the number of children and young people, with more families moving into the area.

### Implications for open space planning

This precinct has a high growth rate (34.2%), with a lot of new medium and higher density development, so considerable intensification of public open space use is expected. As a result two reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m. As in other precincts improvements are needed in east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

The industrial area currently forms a barrier between the residential area in the west of the precinct and the Darebin Creek, which forms the eastern border of the precinct. This should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

Although the Darebin Creek corridor does form part of the public open space in this precinct the space between the creek and the property boundary is quite narrow in most places, with industrial buildings backing onto it, so under current conditions provides little opportunity for recreational use. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along the creek corridor should be considered to improve its function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.



Precinct

# Thornbury West



### Precinct character

Thornbury West is a precinct with some existing industrial land and significant cultural assets including the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre, Islamic Museum of Australia and Gertrude Contemporary.

The precinct includes Merri Creek Corridor link which houses A.H. Capp reserve. This stretch of Merri Creek is well vegetated with trees and shrubs which mark the interface between the creek and residential and industrial areas. The Islamic Museum of Australia is an important cultural asset accessible from the Merri Creek Trail (Fyffe Street/Normanby Ave). The Merri Creek Trail is an important pedestrian and bicycle link.

H. Swain Reserve is situated to the east of Merri Creek and provides a pedestrian connection from Oakover Road to Robeson Street and Burgess Street. At the centre is a small basketball court and playground. The reserve is relatively shaded and well vegetated in parts.

The Ray Bramham Gardens are in the far east of the precinct situated along St Georges Rd and co-located with cultural asset the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre and St Johns College. While close to Bell Station there is no direct connection or link to the gardens. The gardens are landscaped and are shaded by established trees.

Newman Park also runs along St Georges Road. While providing a connection, the pedestrian experience along St Georges Road is poor. The park includes playground facilities and is shaded by established trees. Nearby there are large tracts of undeveloped residential lots (to the west of St Georges Road) not accessible to the public.

Further south along St Georges Road is the St Douglas Nicholls Sporting Complex and Henderson Park. Henderson Park also has poor pedestrian pathways and interface with the road and limited landscaping.

### Biodiversity

Merri Creek Corridor is home to areas of state and national natural heritage significance, and the Ray Bramham Gardens is recognised for its biodiversity values.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
A.H. Capp Reserve	3.54	District	Type B
Bracken Ave Reserve	0.93	Local	Type A
H. Swain Reserve	1.13	District	Type B
Henderson Park	1.07	District	Type B
Merri Creek Corridor	3.96	Regional	Regional
Newman Reserve	0.68	Local	Type A
Ray Bramham Gardens	2.65	District	Type B
Sir Douglas Nicholls Reserve	3.71	District	Type B
St. Georges Road Reserve	3.21	Regional	Regional
Strettle Reserve	3.75	District	Type B
Thornbury Railway Station	1.6	District	Type B

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Turner Reserve	0.39	Local	Type A
W.H. Robinson Reserve	2.21	District	Type B

### Access to open space

The precinct is currently undersupplied with open space. 4 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

An undersupply is forecast with 15.9 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 10,755

Projected 2028 population: 13,011

Growth rate: 21.0%

### Population density

Thornbury West is predominantly low to medium density with most housing between 0 – 20 dwellings per hectare.

Future dwellings are expected to be largely in the form of higher density apartments as well as more medium density townhouses and villas. It is worth noting the undeveloped residential land and the precinct's industrial land is located close to existing quality open space.

The demographic change in the area to 2028 is reasonably well balanced across each of the cohorts.

### Implications for open space planning

This precinct has a growth rate of 21% therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected, although not to the extent of many other precincts in the municipality. Three reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/ maintained as Type A and the remainder as Type B.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing in the central north of the precinct to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m, and to an adequate area of public open space. The precinct has excellent north-south connectivity via the Merri Creek corridor and St Georges Road cycle path, however in other precincts improvements are needed in east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

The Merri Creek corridor forms an important part of the public open space in this precinct. The precinct also has the St Georges Road central median. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along creek corridors and linear reserves should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

Precinct

# Thornbury East



### Precinct character

Thornbury East shares its border with the Preston Industrial Area and has reasonable share of industrial land along the Darebin Creek Corridor between Darebin Road and Bell Street. The industrial area has very little tree cover and there are poor links through it to the creek corridor and trail.

The precinct is home to education asset Thornbury High School which holds a reasonable amount of the precinct's open space, in the form of sporting fields and outdoor sporting facilities. These areas are bordered by established trees.

The John Cain Reserve is the precinct's largest open space holding and is situated in the far east of the precinct, adjoining the Darebin Creek corridor and trail. The reserve houses several significant recreational and sporting assets, including the DISC velodrome, Darebin International Sports Centre, Darebin Bowls Club and Bowls Australia.

There are also a handful of smaller reserves across the precinct. Hayes Park is the largest of these and contains sporting grounds and a pavilion along the length of Flinders Street and backing on to residential properties. The interface along Flinders Street is of poor quality and there is currently poor access from the street.

Penders Park is a stand-alone, well vegetated park with some landscaped elements, bordered by Pender St, Tharratt Street, Collins St and St David Street. The park is within easy walking distance to the High Street tram and Thornbury Station and provides an important pedestrian through link. The park has opportunities for recreation with shaded picnic tables and areas, BBQ facilities and a playground.

### Biodiversity

Darebin Creek Corridor includes areas of state and national natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Allan Sheppard Reserve	0.05	Local	Type A
Andrew Boyd Reserve	0.49	Local	Type A
Clyde Jones Reserve	0.43	Local	Type A
Darebin Creek Corridor	12.18	Regional	Regional
Harry Reserve	0.14	Local	Type A
Hayes Park	3.27	District	Type B
John Cain Reserve - DISC	17.34	Regional	Regional
Jones Reserve	0.14	Local	Type A
McDonald Reserve	0.07	Local	Type A
Olver Reserve	0.14	Local	Type A
Penders Park	1.91	District	Type B
Roberts Reserve	0.08	Local	Type A

### Access to open space

The precinct is reasonably well supplied with open space and includes recreational assets of regional significance. 9 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

An undersupply of open space in the precinct is forecast. 4.9 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 11,949  
Projected 2028 population: 13,716  
Growth rate: 14.8%

### Population density

Thornbury East is predominantly low to medium density. Most of the housing is between 0-30 dwellings per hectare. Medium and higher density housing is clustered in the west of the precinct along Bell Street and in and around Penders Park and further to the south of the precinct along Clarendon Street.

Future dwellings are expected to be in the form of more medium density and some higher density housing. An increase is expected between the 5-17 age group as more families move into the area and take advantage of good access to primary and secondary education options.

### Implications for open space planning

This precinct has a growth rate of 14.8%, with an increase in medium and high density development, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected, although not to the extent of many other precincts in the municipality. The majority of the reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing in the central north of the precinct to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m, and to an adequate area of public open space. The precinct has north-south connectivity via the Darebin Creek corridor, however access is blocked on the north side of Darebin Road. This should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network. There is also an opportunity to improve the disjointed north-south link created by the five narrow reserves in the west of the precinct, and to better connect it to destinations such as High Street and All Nations Park.

The Darebin Creek corridor forms an important part of the public open space in this precinct. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along creek corridors and linear reserves should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy, and taking into account a projected increase in children living within the precinct.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.

PRECINCT

Northcote West



### Precinct character

Northcote West has significant open space assets along the western border of the precinct, including the Merri Creek Corridor (Westgarth St/High St; Arthurton Rd/Beavers Rd). The corridor is well vegetated with trees and shrubs and is home to areas of state and national natural heritage significance. The trail has important shared paths for cyclists and pedestrians. Just outside the border of the precinct is the not for profit CERES Community Environment Park which covers 4.5 hectares of Merri Creek and draws visitors and tourists to the area.

Northcote Public Golf Club and the adjoining Mayer Park make up the largest council owned tracts of open space. The area is well vegetated with established trees and backs on to residential properties along Bird Avenue and Leinster Grove.

Northcote High School houses a large sporting field which back on to Merri Creek and Merri Park. Merri Park is densely vegetated and connects to the trail. An unsurfaced pedestrian walkway also winds through the area connecting from the Northcote High School to Arthurton Road.

Across the precinct there are several small open space reserves. The largest of these is Batman Park which is situated along the St Georges Rd transport corridor. There are several through connections from Elm Street to Arthurton Road and the park is collocated with Batman Park Kindergarten. The park has landscaped elements and shaded by established trees.

The precinct has open space at the Northcote Station Railway Easement which is currently underutilised.

There are large areas of privately-owned open space in and around the Greek Welfare Centre, Holy Monastery of Axion Estin and St Joseph's Home which are outside the scope of this study.

### Biodiversity

Merri Creek Corridor includes areas of state and national natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Allan Bird Reserve	0.06	Local	Type A
Batman Park	1.64	District	Type A
Bridge Park	0.21	Local	Type C
Caddayes Corner	0.2	Local	Type B
Green Memorial Reserve	0.97	Local	Type B
Grovesland Reserve	2.47	District	Type A
Mayer Park	3.98	District	Type A
Merri Common	0.68	Local	Type B
Merri Creek Corridor	2.22	Regional	Regional
Merri Creek Reserve	0.29	Regional	Regional
Merri Park	12.24	District	Type A
Northcote Civic Square	0.13	Local	Type B
Northcote Community Gardens Reserve	0.48	Local	Type B
Northcote Public Golf Course	24.34	Regional	Golf Course
Northcote Station Railway Easement	0.36	Local	Type B
Pearl Reserve	0.15	Local	Type A
Peters Reserve	0.17	Local	Type B
South Park Reserve	0.61	Local	Type B
Spencer Reserve	0.83	Local	Type A
St. Georges Road Reserve	3.0	Regional	Regional
Stott Reserve	0.71	Local	Type A
Woolhouse Reserve	0.72	Local	Type B
Zoe Reserve	0.02	Local	Type B

### Access to open space

All households have access to public open space within 500 metres.

An undersupply of open space is anticipated. 15.7 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028. This is due to the levels of population growth and concentrated apartment development.

### Population growth

Current population: 13,942

Projected 2028 population: 16,998

Growth rate: 21.9%

### Population density

Northcote West is predominantly low to medium density (including 3-4 storey apartment complexes) with some higher density housing appearing in and around Northcote Station and the St Georges Road tram corridor.

Future dwellings are expected to be in the form of medium to higher density housing. The precinct will see a notable increase in the number of higher density housing in the form of apartments. Next to Preston Central, Northcote West has the second largest increase of higher density housing, with 1,047 new apartments forecast. There will be an increase in the number of young children and young adults between the ages of 0-17.

### Implications for open space planning

This precinct has a growth rate of 21.9%, with an increase in medium and high density development, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected. The majority of the local reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type B, with four recommended to be Type A. District reserves are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing to ensure that future residents have access to an adequate area of public open space. There is potential to repurpose the Northcote Public Golf Course to broaden the range of users. The precinct has excellent north-south connectivity via the Merri Creek corridor, St Georges Road median, and the rail reserve. As in other precincts improvements are needed in east-west connections, and this should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

The Merri Creek corridor forms an important part of the public open space in this precinct. The precinct also has the St Georges Road central median and the railway reserve. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along creek corridors and linear reserves should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy, and taking into account a projected increase in children living within the precinct.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy.





Precinct

# Northcote East



### Precinct character

Northcote East is a well populated precinct which is home to the 12.19 hectare All Nations Park. The park is situated behind the Northcote Shopping Plaza and consists of landscaped areas and large lawn areas, play grounds, a skate park and opportunities for informal leisure activities.

In walking distance from the All Nations Park is the McDonnell Park and Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre. The park is comprised of two large sporting fields with perimeters shaded by established trees. The park is collocated with the Clifton Street Children's centre. The Rubie Thomson Reserve is to the south of the park over Separation Street and provides a pedestrian connection through to Main and Mitchell Street. The reserve is well vegetated with established trees and shrubs and has easy access from the street.

The Baden Morgan Reserve is close to High Street and includes lawn and landscaped areas as well as playground facilities. The reserve is backed by a higher density apartment complex.

Other open spaces not owned by council include the Northcote Cemetery and the sporting fields of Santa Maria College. There is also informal outdoor space outside of the Bulgarian Eastern Orthodox Church along High Street.

### Biodiversity

Merri Creek Corridor includes areas of state and national natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
All Nations Park	12.19	Regional	Regional
Baden Morgan Reserve	0.26	Local	Type B
Dennis St Pedestrian Link	0.02	Local	Type C
Derby Reserve	0.07	Local	Type B
Johnson Park	2.1	District	Type A
McAdam Reserve	0.34	Local	Type C
McDonnell Reserve	6.13	District	Type A
Merri Creek Corridor	1.78	Regional	Regional
Northcote Park (Bill Lawry Oval)	3.1	District	Type A
Oldis Gardens	2.63	District	Type A
Rubie Thomson Reserve	1.75	District	Type A

### Access to open space

3 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

It is anticipated that Northcote East will be undersupplied with open space with 16.5 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 16,116

Projected 2028 population: 17,328

Growth rate: 7.5%

### Population density

Northcote East is low to medium density with a high proportion of separate dwellings. Typically, between 10 to 15 dwellings per hectare on residential streets with far higher densities along High Street.

Future dwellings are expected to be in the form of more medium density and some higher density apartments. Demographics are expected to remain consistent out to 2028 with the largest change occurring in the 65+ cohort. Reasonably low levels of population growth are expected.

### Implications for open space planning

At 7.5% Northcote East has a low growth rate compared to many areas within the municipality, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected to be less than in other precincts. However, the recent growth in residential apartments along High Street has increased pressure on open space. Five reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type A, with the rest of the non-regional reserves designated Type B and C.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m. Atypically for the municipality there is a strong east-west link on Dennis Street, however improvements are needed in north-south connections. This should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

The Merri Creek corridors forms part of the southern border of this precinct. Improvements will be made to amenity, access and planting along the creek corridor and pedestrian links to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy. The needs of a growing population of residents aged 65+ should be considered.

Precinct

# Alphington Fairfield



### Precinct character

Alphington Fairfield is home to the Darebin Creek Corridor between Heidelberg Road and Darebin Road. The corridor is the largest area of open space in the precinct, however, has less vegetation and canopy cover than stretches of the creek corridor further north. The southern end of the corridor includes the Darebin Parklands and a series of small dams/lakes. The area provides BBQ facilities and informal leisure opportunities.

Pitcher Park is to the west of the corridor and consists of a large sporting oval. There are some established trees clustered around the periphery and the space is relatively accessible from street level.

The precinct also has several smaller reserves, including the Breavington Reserve which provides an important pedestrian through connection.

### Biodiversity

Darebin Creek Corridor includes areas of state and national natural heritage significance.

### Existing open spaces

Name	Size (ha)	Hierarchy	Recommended category
Breavington Reserve	0.57	Local	Type B
Broomfield Reserve	0.14	Local	Type C
Darebin Creek Corridor including Darebin Parklands	21.03	Regional	Regional
Fairfield Station Reserve	0.27	Local	Type C
McGregor Street Reserve	0.18	Local	Type B
Pitcher Park	2.78	District	Type C
Susan Walsh Reserve	0.3	Local	Type B
Wingrove Reserve	0.14	Local	Type C

### Access to open space

10 per cent of all households do not have access to public open space within 500 metres.

A minor undersupply of open space is anticipated. 24.5 square metres of open space per capita projected at 2028.

### Population growth

Current population: 8,962  
Projected 2028 population: 10,318  
Growth rate: 15.1%

### Population density

Alphington Fairfield is characterised by low to medium density housing, with most of the housing between 0-30 dwellings per hectare.

Future housing is expected to be medium to higher density infill.

Demographics are expected to remain consistent out to 2028 with the largest change occurring in the 65+ cohort.

### Implications for open space planning

At 15% Alphington Fairfield has a low growth rate compared to many areas within the municipality, therefore intensification of use of the public open space is expected to be less than in other precincts. Three reserves in this area are recommended to be upgraded/maintained as Type B, with the rest of the non-regional reserves designated Type C.

Land should be considered for acquisition or repurposing to ensure that all residents have access to public open space within 500m. There is potential for a strong east-west link along the railway corridor. Improvements are needed in north-south connections. This should be considered in land acquisitions and design of the Green Streets Network.

The Darebin Creek corridor, including Darebin Parklands forms the eastern border of this precinct and comprises a significant part of the public open space in this precinct. Improvements to amenity, access and planting along the creek corridor and pedestrian links should be considered to improve their function in terms of biodiversity, connectivity and public open space.

Playspaces will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Playspace Strategy.

Formal and informal sporting facilities will continue to be developed and upgraded in accordance with the Leisure Strategy. The needs of a growing population of residents aged 65+ should be considered.



**CITY OF DAREBIN**

274 Gower Street, Preston  
 PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072  
**T** 8470 8888 **F** 8470 8877  
**E** [mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au](mailto:mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au)  
[darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au)



**National Relay Service**  
[relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, contact us through the National Relay Service.



**Speak your language**  
**T** 8470 8470

العربية	Italiano	Soomalii
繁體中文	Македонски	Español
Ελληνικά	नेपाली	اردو
हिंदी	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	Tiếng Việt

**8.4 SUBMISSION TO INQUIRY INTO TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IN VICTORIAN COMMUNITIES****Author:** Climate Emergency Darebin Executive Officer**Reviewed By:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee is conducting an 'Inquiry into tackling climate change in Victorian communities.' The inquiry will focus on "what urban, rural and regional communities in Victoria are doing to tackle climate change and how the Victorian Government could support these communities". Darebin City Council was invited, through a letter to the CEO, to provide a submission to this enquiry.

The City of Darebin was the first to declare a climate emergency in 2016 and since then, over 30 local governments across Australia have declared a climate emergency: 12 in New South Wales, 7 in Victoria, 3 in Western Australia, 3 in South Australia, 2 in Tasmania, 1 in Queensland, 1 in Northern Territory, and also the government of the Australian Capital Territory.

It is recognised that local governments have a key role in working with communities to prepare for and manage climate change impacts. However local government cannot deliver the change that is required alone. Therefore Officers have drafted a submission for Council's consideration that includes the following key recommendations:

- Remove the burden of action from communities and councils by committing to and taking climate emergency action at a state level – this means rapidly transforming our economy to zero emissions and beyond as quickly as possible.
- Transition to a 100% renewable electricity system as quickly as possible.
- Commit to ruling out any new fossil fuel developments.
- Increase the frequency, convenience and quality of public transport services, and facilitate high-speed rail services, to enable Victorians to use zero emission transport.
- Develop policies that enable energy efficient buildings so that Victorians can live in thermally comfortable dwellings and reduce their carbon footprint.
- Reduce the urban heat effect by funding and developing enabling policies to increase the amount of urban vegetation, including green rooves and walls.
- Fund and develop policies to increase urban food production as a way of ensuring food security.
- Establish a \$1 billion dollar fund for councils to build the resilience of climate change vulnerable communities.
- Work with councils and other levels of government to pre-emptively understand key economic costs and impacts and take responsibility to address these.
- Engage with first nations to understand the risks and opportunities to protect country, and the need to provide culturally relevant education programs.

**Recommendation**

**That** Council endorses the submission to the Victorian Parliament Legislative Assembly's Environment and Planning Committee, "Inquiry into tackling climate change in Victorian communities".

---

**BACKGROUND**

This report is in response to a request from the Legislative Assembly's Environment and Planning Committee for Darebin City Council to provide a submission to the committee's forthcoming inquiry into tackling climate change in Victorian communities.

The Terms of Reference for the Inquiry are:

*An inquiry into what urban, rural and regional communities in Victoria are doing to tackle climate change and how the Victorian Government could support these communities to the Environment and Planning Committee for consideration and report no later than 30 June 2020.*

The Committee is interested in the views, insights and experiences of Darebin City Council and particular issues the Committee is investigating include:

- Actions being taken by community members and organisations to mitigate the severity of climate change, including actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Actions by community members and organisations to adapt to the current and future impacts of climate change;
- Ways in which the government can best support communities in their efforts; and
- Interstate and overseas best practice models that could be implemented in Victoria

While the closing date for submission is Monday 26 August 2019, council has been granted an extension in order for the submission to be considered by Council. Through the Climate Emergency Plan and other Council endorsed commitments, Council has recognised the need for strategic and planned advocacy to the Victorian Government.

**Previous Council Resolution**

The is not the subject of a previous Council resolution, although elements of the draft submission draw heavily from many previous Council resolutions.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT****Consultation**

Internal consultation has occurred across Council. Given the limited time between the calling for submissions and the closing date, broader community consultation has not been possible. The recommendations in the submission have primarily been sourced from Council's existing policy positions on the climate emergency, and through Council's Climate Emergency Plan which was undertaken with community consultation.

**Communications**

Note that all submissions will be published on the parliamentary website.

---

## **ANALYSIS**

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

Goal 1 - A sustainable city

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

The Inquiry provides Council the opportunity to engage with the Victorian Government on some of the steps that it can take to address the climate emergency and support Victorian Communities in responding to a broad range of challenges, including fast tracking the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to zero in the next decade.

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

The submission includes equity, inclusion and wellbeing considerations, such as the disproportionate impacts of climate, and the need for a just transition to a zero carbon economy.

In addition to urgent greenhouse gas mitigation, there will need to be an increased focus on climate change adaptation under a climate emergency response by all levels of government. This will need to consider the impacts of climate change on different parts of the Darebin community and how to reduce these. Vulnerable people are often the most at risk of climate change, especially extreme heat and storm events as are likely to be experienced more frequently in Darebin in the future.

### **Cultural Considerations**

The submission aims to articulate the need for the Victorian Government to take into account cultural considerations relating to climate change, such as the importance of engaging with first nations to understand the risks and opportunities to protect country, and the need to provide culturally relevant education programs.

### **Economic Development Considerations**

The submission outlines the need for greater support and leadership from the Victorian Government to enable Victoria's transition to a zero emissions economy. Future climate change is anticipated to be a significant risk for economic development in Australia, and Darebin. However there may be indirect economic development opportunities, depending on what action is taken by the Victorian Government as a result of the Inquiry's recommendations. For example significant new investment could occur in renewable energy, zero emissions waste processing, localised food production, zero emission transport infrastructure and energy efficient housing.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

This submission does not have any budget implications.

### **Legal and Risk Implications**

There are no foreseen risks from this submission.



**DISCUSSION**

The Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee's 'Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities' is a welcomed opportunity to advocate for stronger climate action from the Victorian Government.

Failure to meet global emissions reduction targets to limit global warming to below 2 degrees is projected to lead to catastrophic outcomes for humanity, habitat and biodiversity. The overwhelming body of scientific evidence conclusively points to this and scientists have consistently warned that time is running out to act.

The City of Darebin was the first to declare a climate emergency in 2016 and since then, over 30 local governments across Australia have declared a climate emergency: 12 in New South Wales, 7 in Victoria, 3 in Western Australia, 3 in South Australia, 2 in Tasmania, 1 in Queensland, 1 in Northern Territory, and also the government of the Australian Capital Territory.

It is recognised that local governments have a key role in working with communities, to prepare for and manage climate change impacts. Local governments have local knowledge and experience, understanding of community needs and vulnerabilities, and have a key role in shaping our urban landscapes and responding to emergencies. However local government cannot deliver the change that is required alone. Therefore the draft submission calls upon the Victorian Government to immediately take steps to:

- Remove the burden of action from communities and councils by committing to and taking climate emergency action at a state level – this means rapidly transforming our economy to zero emissions and beyond as quickly as possible.
- Transition to a 100% renewable electricity system as quickly as possible.
- Commit to ruling out any new fossil fuel developments.
- Increase the frequency, convenience and quality of public transport services, and facilitate high-speed rail services, to enable Victorians to use zero emission transport.
- Develop policies that enable energy efficient buildings so that Victorians can live in thermally comfortable dwellings and reduce their carbon footprint.
- Reduce the urban heat effect by funding and developing enabling policies to increase the amount of urban vegetation, including green roofs and walls.
- Fund and develop policies to increase urban food production as a way of ensuring food security.
- Establish a \$1 billion dollar fund for councils to build the resilience of climate change vulnerable communities.
- Work with councils and other levels of government to pre-emptively understand key economic costs and impacts and take responsibility to address these.
- Engage with first nations to understand the risks and opportunities to protect country, and the need to provide culturally relevant education programs.

## OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

### Option 1 (Recommended)

That Council endorse the submission, which would then be submitted to Legislative Assembly's Environment and Planning Committee.

This would provide an opportunity for Council to put on the public record its views on the steps the Victorian Government could take to respond to the climate emergency. The report, which will be tabled by the Environment and Planning Committee in the Legislative Assembly, on the Inquiry requires the Victorian Government to respond to each of the Committee's recommendations. This will further the public debate and understanding of the climate emergency and what needs to be done in response by all levels of government.

### Option 2 (Not Recommended)

That Council could also endorse the submission with amendments.

This would provide an opportunity for Council to put on the public record its views on the steps the Victorian Government could take to respond to the climate emergency. The report, which will be tabled by the Environment and Planning Committee in the Legislative Assembly, on the Inquiry requires the Victorian Government to respond to each of the Committee's recommendations. This will further the public debate and understanding of the climate emergency and what needs to be done in response by all levels of government. Note that due to the timeline, there is not time to substantially rewrite the submission.

### Option 3 (Not Recommended)

Not make a submission. This would see Council forgo the opportunity to express to the Victorian Government its views on the actions that the Victorian Government should take in moving to an emergency response. Failure by the State and Federal governments to take action on the climate emergency will see a greater burden of action fall to local government and individuals.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Details

If the Council decides to support the submission officers will take steps to formally lodge the submission with the parliamentary office.

### Communication

All submissions will be published on the parliamentary website. After receiving submissions, the Committee will hold public hearings before tabling a report in the Victorian Parliament by 30 June 2020. The Victorian Government is given up to 6 months to respond in Parliament to the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry's Report.

### Timeline

The submission deadline was officially the 26 August 2019; however Council has been granted a one week extension to allow for formal consideration of the submission by Council.

The submission is therefore due on 3 September 2019.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS****Attachments**

- Submission to the Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee Inquiry into Tackling Climate change in Victorian Communities. (Appendix A) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

**Submission to the to the Victorian Legislative Assembly Environment and Planning Committee's *Inquiry into Tackling Climate Change in Victorian Communities*.**

The inquiry covers:

- actions being taken by community members and organisations to mitigate the severity of climate change, including actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- actions by community members and organisations to adapt to the current and future impacts of climate change;
- ways in which the government can best support communities in their efforts; and
- interstate and overseas best practice models that could be implemented in Victoria.

**City of Darebin**

Darebin City Council welcomes the invitation to provide input into how we can best tackle climate change in Victorian communities.

We are already experiencing the impacts of climate change. The science shows that unless we act to rapidly eliminate and drawdown greenhouse gas emissions, our communities, environment, and economy face catastrophic impacts. We need to act now to avoid dangerous climate change and provide maximum protection for people and nature.

Our best hope of avoiding catastrophic climate change and restoring a safe climate is to move into emergency mode. Business as usual and incremental improvements will not effect change quickly enough. To do this we need a coordinated response which involves state and federal governments rapidly decarbonising our economy.

To restore a safe climate as fast as possible will require action by all levels of society: residents, businesses, schools, council and other levels of government must work together.

Darebin City Council, in our Climate Emergency Plan, acknowledges the significant role communities play in addressing climate change, and the need to mobilise and engage with our community. Communities across Victoria will continue to have a key role in mitigating climate emissions, as well as adapting to the impacts of climate change.

However, it is also clear that policies and actions at a state and federal level which will have the most impact on mitigating climate change. We therefore urge the Victorian Government to declare a climate emergency and take urgent action to restore a safe climate.

In 2016, Darebin City Council made a formal recognition that we are in a state of climate emergency, and that this requires urgent action by all levels of government. Around the world over 850 jurisdictions have now announced a climate emergency, including several nations.

All levels of government need to take responsibility to ensure that our communities are protected now and into the future. The Victorian Government can do more to work with and support communities across Victoria in the actions they are taking, while at the same time taking stronger action which should remove the burden from communities and councils.

**Community climate action across Victoria – leading the way**

Community groups across Victoria have been undertaking amazing work in responding to the climate challenge for many years, often with minimal support from government.

#### Community emissions reduction and mitigation

Communities have been taking leading action to reduce or eliminate emissions in their region. For example, community groups across Victoria, such as in Nillumbik, Baw Baw, Hepburn Shire and Philip Island, are part of a Zero Carbon Communities program run by Beyond Zero Emissions, and have targets of zero net energy or zero net emissions for their region.<sup>1</sup>

Hepburn is also home to Australia's first community-owned wind farm.<sup>2</sup> There are many other renewables projects being driven by communities or organisations, such as CORENA funded renewables projects<sup>3</sup>.

Businesses are also leading the way in emissions reduction. For example, in Darebin many businesses have installed solar and undertaken major energy efficiency upgrades.<sup>4</sup>

Individual actions are also fundamental in climate action and reduction of emissions. In Victoria over 400,000 rooftop solar systems have been installed, and over 320,000 solar hot water and air source heat pump systems.<sup>5</sup> Darebin Council's award winning Solar Saver program seeks to install 500 residential solar systems on household roof each year. These systems are paid off through instalments on the council rates notice over 10 years so that solar energy is accessible to all not just those who can afford the up-front capital costs.

In regional areas, farmers are undertaking a regenerative agriculture approach which increase soil carbon sequestration and decrease in fertilisers (and emissions), such as the Otway Coast Regenerative Farmers network.<sup>6</sup>

#### Just transition

Organisations and community groups have been working to support a just transition in communities which will be most heavily impacted by the phase out of fossil fuels. In the La Trobe Valley, Voices for the Valley is a community group which has been working to protect and inform the community in the face of coal fire power closures.<sup>7</sup> Earth Worker Energy Manufacturing Co-operative is a community co-operative established to create alternative jobs in the La Trobe Valley.<sup>8</sup>

#### Advocacy

Many groups across Victoria, e.g. climate action groups in different areas, have been campaigning for stronger action on climate change and mobilising their communities.<sup>9</sup> For example, in Darebin, an ongoing community campaign from several groups – Darebin Climate Action Now<sup>10</sup> and Council and Community Action in the Climate Emergency<sup>11</sup>, resulted in Darebin Council announcing a climate emergency. School groups have been striking for climate action and are an inspiring story of the empowerment of our youth.<sup>12</sup> Another important example is a coalition of Victorian groups which is advocating for the creation

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://bze.org.au/zero-carbon-communities/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.hepburnwind.com.au/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://corenafund.org.au/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/en/Building-and-Business/Business-in-Darebin/Business-Events-and-Support>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/RET/Forms-and-resources/Postcode-data-for-small-scale-installations#Summary-of-postcode-data>

<sup>6</sup> <https://otwaycoastregenerativefarmers.com.au/#home>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.votv.org.au/about>

<sup>8</sup> <https://earthworkercooperative.com.au/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://vcan.net.au/>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.darebincan.org.au/>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.caceonline.org/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.schoolstrike4climate.com/>

of a Victorian Great Forest National Park, as it is vital to protect this carbon sink and end native forest logging.<sup>13</sup>

#### Education and engagement

Community groups, such as Climate for Change<sup>14</sup>, have been helping Victorians have conversations with their peers to spread awareness and understanding about climate change. Psychology for a Safe climate run workshops on dealing with climate grief.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Examples of best practice that Victoria can draw on**

Around the world there are many examples where communities, and community-government partnerships, have led significant work to mitigate or adapt to climate change, which can serve as models for Victoria to learn from.

- Community renewables have thrived in other countries, particularly in Europe, and have significantly contributed to emissions reduction. One of the best known case studies is the Island of Samsø in Denmark, where the community switch to 100% renewables and is now net carbon negative.<sup>16</sup>
- The role of community energy has been driven by supportive regulations and policies<sup>17</sup>, for example:
  - The Scottish Government implemented financial support mechanisms and set a target of 500 MW by 2020 for community energy.
  - Stable feed-in tariff schemes in Germany have enabled and encouraged investments from communities and individual citizens.
  - Tax credits, net metering and small-scale incentive schemes have helped support community renewables in the United States, Latin America and Asia.
  - Project developers in Denmark are legally required to offer 20% ownership of schemes to local communities.
- Communities have run successful programs to reduce meat consumption and associated emissions, such as Ethical Vegetarian Alternatives in Belgium which has supported entire cities to have official vegetarian days once a week, including Ghent, Brussels, Sint-Niklaas, Hasselt, Mechelen, Kortrijk, Evergem, Ostend and Eupen.<sup>18</sup>
- Stockholm city has a large scale biochar facility, which utilises people's garden waste, reduces emissions and produces biochar which can sequester carbon.<sup>19</sup>
- Cuba after the collapse of the Soviet Union is a classic case study of responding to food insecurity (and a lack of fertilisers), with the solution of a mass roll-out urban farming across backyards and other urban areas.<sup>20</sup>

#### **Ways Victorian Government can support communities**

Key things the Victorian Government can do to support Victorian communities include:

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.greatforestnationalpark.com.au/>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.climateforchange.org.au/about>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.psychologyforasafeclimate.org/>

<sup>16</sup> <https://energiakademiet.dk/en/>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.ren21.net/gsr-2016/chapter07.php>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.evavzw.be/pagina/geschiedenis>

<sup>19</sup> <https://mayorschallenge.bloomberg.org/ideas/biochar-for-a-better-city-ecosystem/>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.fao.org/ag/agp/greencities/en/GGCLAC/havana.html>

- Remove the burden of action from communities and councils by committing to and taking climate emergency action at a state level – this means rapidly transforming our economy to zero emissions and beyond as quickly as possible.
- Increase the RET to 100% and develop policy and programs to transition to a 100% renewable electricity system as quickly as possible, including:
  - Funding renewables projects.
  - Develop enabling policies such as streamlining grid connection regulations and costs; ensuring fair solar feed-in-tariffs; regulations to enable peer-to-peer trading; and changes to the grid to support de-centralised energy.
- Develop enabling policy and regulations, and remove barriers, to support community renewables projects, e.g.:
  - Mechanisms to apply small technology certificates or other solar rebates to community solar models such as solar gardens.
  - Support community groups with resources and training.
- Commit to ruling out any new fossil fuel developments, and extend the ban on unconventional onshore gas development to a complete ban of onshore and offshore gas.
- Drive a just transition and diversification of economies in coal communities, including:
  - Support community initiatives such as the Earthwork Cooperative.
  - Increase funding to affected communities.
  - Develop timely and well thought out plans for the closure of coal fire plans which ensure the closure date is appropriate and well communicated.
  - Support people to transition to different work well before the closure date.
- Increase the frequency, convenience and quality of public transport services, and facilitate high-speed rail services, to enable Victorians to use low emissions transport.
- Transition the public transport system to electricity and 100% renewables.
- Lead the development of bicycle routes and infrastructure to increase bicycle use and safety.
- Develop policies that enable energy efficient buildings so that Victorians can live in thermally comfortable dwellings and reduce their carbon footprint, including:
  - Introduce mandatory disclosure of energy performance for all buildings at sale or lease.
  - Mandate minimum energy efficiency performance standards for rental properties.
  - Provide incentives for low-income home owners to upgrade their homes;
  - Introduce obligations on energy companies to achieve annual energy efficiency reductions.
  - Introduce minimum energy performance standards to at least a 7-star NATHERS equivalent and the introduction of an energy usage budget (whole-of-building) for new builds and major renovations of homes.
  - Increase the resources that the Victorian Building Authority has to address non-compliance.
  - Provide additional funding to ensure all new social housing complies with minimum energy performance standards and that energy efficiency in existing social housing is improved.
- Expand and improve the Solar Homes program, including:
  - Increase the number of solar rebates available and ensure greater social equity in access.
  - Improve the implementation of the program to make sure the program is administered sustainably, and that the current issues are addressed, such as capacity and demand issues, and impacts to solar providers left without work.
- End native forest logging to ensure our forests can act as an important native sink.
- Reduce the urban heat effect by funding and developing enabling policies to increase the amount of urban vegetation, including green rooves and walls.

- Develop funding mechanisms and other supportive policies to enable farmers to undertake lower emissions farming techniques, such as regenerative agriculture which can improve soil carbon and reduce the use of fertilisers.
- Fund and develop policies to increase urban food production as a way of ensuring food security, e.g. recognise urban agriculture in the State Planning Policy Framework so it can be integrated in the Metropolitan Planning Strategy.
- Fund an investigation into the potential for biochar facilities produce biochar to be used in agriculture as a carbon sequestration technique.
- Establish a \$1 billion dollar fund for councils to build the resilience of climate change vulnerable communities.
- Undertake adaptation initiatives that ensure resilience to climate impacts, including:
  - Infrastructure improvements and upgrades e.g. roads, sewerage.
  - Increase funding and capacity of our health services.
  - Increased capacity and funding of emergency services.
  - Ensure the electricity grid is equipped to deal with changes in demand, increased hot weather/heat waves, natural disasters etc.
  - Ensure houses are better equipped to deal with heat waves.
  - Policies to ensure food security, including supporting regional farmers; increasing urban and backyard farming; and programs to ensure access to nutritional food by those affected by homelessness or poverty, and by people in times of extreme weather events.
- Fund essential repairs to infrastructure as they are impacted.
- Work with councils and other levels of government to pre-emptively understand key economic costs and impacts and take responsibility to address these.
- Respond to community advocacy requests in relation to the climate emergency, and meet with community groups regarding climate policies.
- Engage with first nations to understand the risks and opportunities to protect country, and the need to provide culturally relevant education programs.
- Run education campaigns for community to understand the climate emergency, including providing knowledge about local impacts and how to prepare.
- Support community groups to be more effective.
  - Funding through grants programs to support communities.
  - Provide education and training to community groups to be more effective in their work.



## 8.5 STREETS FOR PEOPLE NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR STRATEGY

**Author:** Safe Travel Officer

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

---

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A draft strategy for the Northern Reservoir 'Streets for People' Corridor has been developed and is proposed for public release for consultation.

The draft strategy proposes corridor interventions to reduce vehicle speeds and better manage traffic volume; make it easier to walk, wheel and ride; and make streets greener. It aims to meet the Streets for People Project's vision "*to provide a safe, inviting walking and cycling environment for residents to access their local parks, schools and shops.*"

The draft strategy has been developed with a significant level of input from the community and key stakeholders, which included two stages of consultation.

The draft strategy proposes interventions that would be constructed over time. Funding for most of these would be considered in future years along with priorities across the City.

Council has allocated funding for construction of five street improvements in 2019-20. This would not start until after community feedback on the strategy has been considered and Council considers adoption of a strategy at a future meeting.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** Council:

- (1) Endorse the public release of the draft Northern Reservoir Corridor Strategy, attached as **Appendix A**.
- 

### BACKGROUND

The Streets for People project was initially established in direct response to the Council Plan, specifically Goal 1.2, which included a strategy to "*convert some roads into shared streets where green space, walking and cycling take priority*" and Action Plan Goal 1.2, '*Redesign three streets where green space, walking and cycling take priority*'.

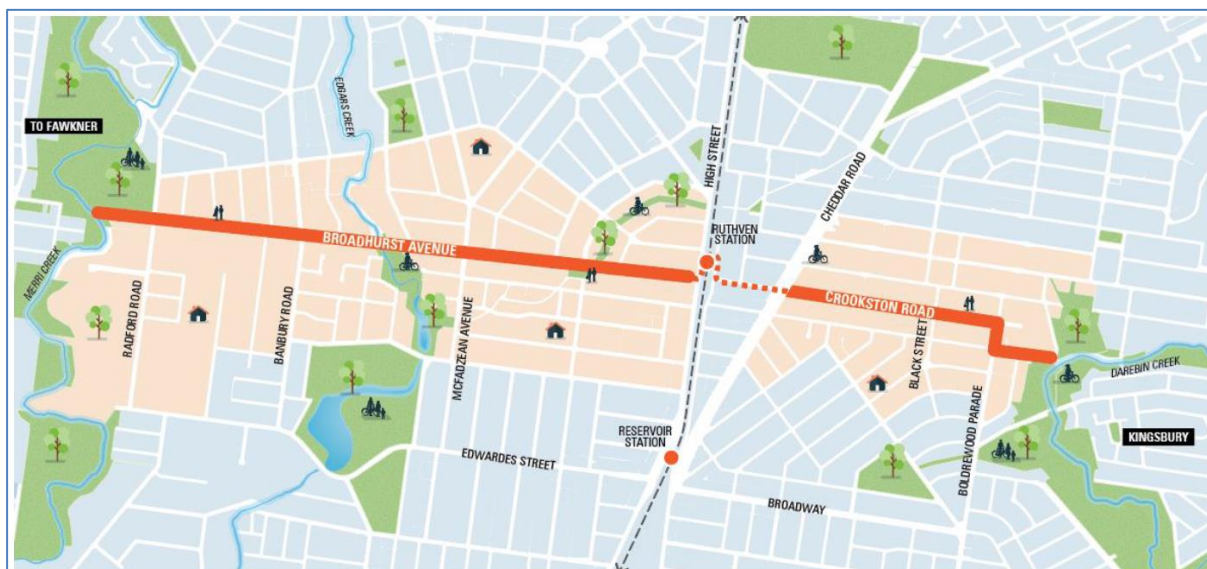
The study area for the Northern Reservoir Corridor was identified from the Feasibility Study and forms part of the local street network linking the Merri Creek in the west, following Broadhurst Avenue across Edgars Creek to High Street, then linking Cheddar Road to Boldwood Parade via Crookston Road and joining the Darebin Creek Trail in the east.

Council officers have been working with the local community to develop a strategy to:

- Prioritise road safety;
  - Reduce vehicle speeds and improve driver behaviour;
  - Develop high-quality places for people walking and cycling; and
-

- Deliver functional and inviting streetscape for those who live, work or study in the local areas.

Draft corridor Concept Plans were prepared based on an extensive study of the local area, drawing on best practice experience from Australia and overseas, and through listening to the issues, needs and ideas from the local community. This draft Concept Plans were released for community feedback in May, which has fed into the development of a final Strategy and recommendations (**Appendix A**) which address the key issues, project vision and objectives.



### Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 15 October 2018, Council resolved:

*'That Council adopts the Gower Street/Cramer Street corridor and Northern Reservoir corridor for the Streets for People project and requests that officers proceed with community and stakeholder engagement and further design during 2018-19.'*

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### Consultation

A summary of the consultation findings can be found in the discussion section of this report and a detailed overview of the communications and engagement activities undertaken is included in **Appendix A-C**.

There have been 2 rounds of community and stakeholder engagement to date, with the following stages in each:

#### Round 1 (Appendix B)

1. A whole of area letterbox drop and local advertising to promote the various engagement activities;
2. A community survey receiving input from local residents, businesses and stakeholders in order to understand how the area is performing now and what the priorities for change are;

3. Meetings with state government agencies and community reference groups to gather further local knowledge and strategic context;
4. A community drop-in session for locals to engage with the draft plans and provide further input on local issues and directions for change;
5. A street champion workshop for local residents from a variety of backgrounds and road user types to provide input into the draft concept designs.

### Round 2 (Appendix C)

1. A whole of area letter-box drop and local advertising to promote the various engagement activities;
2. A community survey to test the draft concept plans and invite feedback;
3. A community drop-in session for locals to engage with the proposed concept plans and ask questions about any changes;
4. A street champion workshop for local residents from a variety of backgrounds and road user types to confirm the direction of the final strategy.

Through the community consultation and the street champion design day, there was a lot of interest around opportunities for existing open space located at either end of the corridor where the creek trails begin. Although such works sit outside of this particular project (which is focussed on road safety and streetscape improvements), some of the aspirational ideas have been documented in the Strategy and acknowledged as potential future community-led, or Council projects.

Consultation for the project occurred via a number of means, including:

- Through a dedicated project page located on Darebin's Your Say website: [yoursaydarebin.vic.gov.au/northern-reservoir-corridor](https://yoursaydarebin.vic.gov.au/northern-reservoir-corridor)
- Two separate mail-outs to some 3,500 households and businesses in the area occurring in March and April
- Advertisements in the Preston Leader
- Through Darebin's website and via social media
- Feedback for the project was collected through online surveys, direct emails, hard copies of surveys at the drop-in sessions, and via the Q&A function of the Your Say page.
- Presentations at Darebin Reference Groups including the Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee, Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (by email) and Darebin Environmental Reference Group.
- Local schools, businesses and community centres were contacted to provide feedback.
- Advertisements were also placed in Staff to Staff news, Councillor e-bulletins, Sustainability News, Disability Access Newsletter, Green Travel, and "What's On for Families" Newsletter.

The Your Say page received around 430 visits during the first round of engagement and over 900 visits to date, with 82 completions of the initial community survey and some 60 recorded in response to the draft concept plans, with a further 50 people attending the drop-in sessions and providing feedback, and 15/10 street champions attending the first/second workshops.

### Consultation on priority locations

Following this feedback, the concept plans were updated and four locations selected for priority delivery this year, as well as 'sharrow' (bike symbol) line marking for the whole corridor.

Community consultation has been completed for the four priority locations:

- 2 x pinch points on the east and west approaches to the Black Street roundabout on Crookston Road (120 households)
- 2 x pinch points on Broadhurst Avenue (103 households)

Feedback was received directly through email or phone from 8 residents, including the following:

Location	Feedback	Officer Response
Crookston Road, east of Black Street (57 residents contacted)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No objections to the treatments.</li> <li>• 2 households contacted Council to support the treatment.</li> </ul>	No change required
Crookston Road, west of Black Street (63 residents contacted)	No objections to the treatment.	No change required
Broadhurst Avenue, east of MacLagan Crescent (45 residents contacted)	<p>3 objections to the treatments, with the main concerns being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One perception there is no need for traffic calming</li> <li>• Concern about the pinch point causing congestion to form at High Street.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Line-marking and 'Give Way' signage to be included on the east approach, so traffic coming from High Street can clear the pinch point first, and not cause congestion</li> </ul>
Broadhurst Avenue, east of Chauvel Street (58 residents contacted)	<p>3 objections to the treatments, with the main concerns being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concern regarding flooding in heavy rainfall</li> <li>• Increased noise from buses</li> <li>• Loss of access to rear of property if it decided to subdivide in the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drainage is considered carefully in all designs</li> <li>• Speed cushions are narrow enough so that buses do not drive over them</li> <li>• Length of northern traffic island to be reduced to allow the current single driveway to be widened to a double driveway in the future if needed.</li> </ul>

## Communications

A detailed communications and engagement plan was prepared for the first round of engagement for the Streets for People Northern Reservoir Corridor project. A communications and engagement plan has been prepared to share the draft strategy with the community and understand feedback engagement that would be incorporated into the final Strategy.

## ANALYSIS

### Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 1 - A sustainable city

Goal 2 - Opportunities to live well

Goal 3 - A liveable city

Goal 5 - Involving our diverse community

The Council Plan 2017-2021 sets the overarching vision for “a greener, bolder, more connected city.” The Streets for People program clearly align with this overarching vision, as well as Council Plan Goal 1, 2, 3 and 5, and many other endorsed Council Strategies.

The Streets for People program also closely aligns with the expected outcomes of several Council policies/strategies, including the Darebin Transport Strategy, Walking Strategy, Safe Travel Strategy, Darebin Cycling Strategy, Greenstreets Streetscape Strategy, draft Open Space Strategy and Climate Emergency Plan.

### Environmental Sustainability Considerations

The Streets for People program focuses on vulnerable road users and improving conditions in the street environment to increase the number of participants in active travel, while minimising the use and impact of vehicles. Where possible, passive irrigation and water sensitive urban design principles are applied to road safety treatments, along with landscaping.

### Climate Emergency

This program has a clear alignment with Key direction 4 of the *Climate Emergency Plan 2017-2022*, in particular Objective 1 “Reduce the number of private vehicle kilometres travelled in Darebin by increasing the share of public transport use, walking and cycling”.

### Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

An EIWPAT assessment sheet was completed for the Streets for People project, through which it was recognised that the project has key outcomes for Darebin’s diverse community including:

- Accessibility compliance through design (DDA).
- Designing of facilities for all ages and abilities.
- Outcomes that encourage more physical activity, general wellbeing & health through walking and cycling.
- Streets becoming safer and less intimidating for local communities to use.

- Providing spaces for people to gather and be socially connected to their neighbourhoods.

### **Cultural Considerations**

A range of community engagement efforts were used for the Northern Reservoir Corridor to ensure a wide level of participation. Officers with expertise in Community Engagement, Access and Inclusion and Equity and Wellbeing were consulted during the process.

During community engagement, locals in the corridor expressed a desire for wayfinding signage and local art to include elements of local character. As a result, this was incorporated into the corridor ambitions, and is outlined in the strategy as “To embrace Reservoir North local identity by promoting community-led street landscaping and public art projects to support ongoing improvement to pedestrian safety and amenity”.

Future design of these elements will consider themes and culture of the local area in line with this ambition.

### **Economic Development Considerations**

There are increasing demands on our public space, and in particular roads and parking. By improving the quality of cycling and walking routes to access our activity and neighbourhood centres, it makes it easier for residents and visitors using any mode of transport to work, shop, recreate and visit local centres which supports thriving local economies. This is due to increasing the number of people walking in activity centres, which activates these centres and means that people are more likely to do multiple activities in the one visit. Such initiatives also reduce road congestion and parking pressure which is expected to increase with Melbourne’s population growth.

The Streets for People corridors are designed to provide high-quality connections between key destinations within the municipality, increasing their catchment potential via diversifying the modes of transport.

The eastern end of this corridor (Area 5) includes a small strip shopping centre on Boldrewood Parade, which currently has one active takeaway food shop, one print store, a music school and three inactive shop fronts. During consultation the community expressed a desire for this location to be better activated and utilised. In response, this location will be considered for a place making project in the shorter term (2-3 years), this could include increasing space for greening, outdoor seating, a wider pedestrian footpath and other uses that encourage activation and passive surveillance. Changing the current 90 degree parking to parallel parking is the simplest means to increase the availability of space. Other programs could also be considered in tandem with improved public space, to aim to attract more business to the location.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

The recommendation in this report only seeks authorisation for release of the draft strategy for final stage of consultation and therefore this decision does not have specific financial implications.

The strategy will then be presented to Council for consideration at a future meeting to consider along with community feedback. Construction of any projects budgeted in 2019-20 would start only after Council has considered the strategy. Council has allocated \$75,000 for detailed design and \$216,000 for construction in the 2019/20 Budget for the Northern Reservoir Corridor.

Delivery of other projects within this strategy will be referred to future budget processes and would need to be weighed with priorities for investment across the City and across a range of services. Construction of the corridor could be staged over many years and/or works can be prioritised within the corridor. The corridor options recommended to Council have preliminary cost estimates of \$2.3 million.

The recommendation in this report only seeks authorisation for release of the strategy for final stage of consultation and therefore this decision does not have specific financial implications.

### **Legal and Risk Implications**

Overall this project is designed to reduce risk by improving both road safety and by making it easier, safer and more enjoyable for people to walk or cycle, to minimise long term risk associated with climate change that vehicle emissions contribute to. Making it easier for people to walk and cycle also contributes to lower community health risks associated with inactivity and local air pollution.

Failure to release the draft Strategy would delay implementation of the Northern Reservoir Corridor. This would present a risk that the projects would not be delivered in this financial year.

### **DISCUSSION**

The attached strategy outlines a range of measures to be implemented over time to improve safety, make the corridor more attractive for walking, wheeling and cycling, etc. These include:

- Landscaped kerb build outs to reduce road widths and help to slow vehicles,
- Creation of safer raised and at-grade crossing points for pedestrian movements,
- Road markings to highlight this as a local bike route, and
- Opportunities to plant more street trees, potentially combined with measures to sustainably manage stormwater

### **Engagement to date has found strong support overall**

85% of respondents to the feedback survey supported the proposed Strategy vision, with between 73% and 86% of respondents supporting each of the six key principles (page 22, **Appendix C**). Based on the background analysis and community engagement efforts, the recommended vision for the Northern Reservoir Corridor is *“The Northern Reservoir Corridor will provide a safe, inviting walking and cycling environment for residents to access their local parks, schools and shops”*.

The draft Strategy includes changes made due to input from the community. These are detailed below. Page 15-23 of the final Strategy (**Appendix A**) shows the measures recommended along the corridor.

#### **Area 1 - Heavy vehicle use and safety**

Some feedback from the community in Area 1 (Broadhurst Ave – Merri Creek to Godley St) raised concerns about trucks and other heavy vehicles using these streets. Community members reported that this made it dangerous and difficult to cross safely.

Officer response: Tighten the kerb radius at the Broadhurst Avenue and Radford Road roundabout to further slow vehicle movement.

**Area 2: Roundabouts and traffic calming**

Some feedback from the community in Area 2 (Broadhurst Ave – Banbury Rd to McFadzean Ave) reported that roundabouts made it difficult and intimidating for people walking and riding bikes. Calming traffic was also seen as important.

Officer response: Change the raised crossing on the Edgars Creek Bridge to a surface treatment due to engineering concerns with the amount of weight that current bridge can safely accommodate. Widen the footpath on the southern side to a shared width to allow ease of movement for people on bikes to the crossing point.

Add a raised pedestrian crossing and kerb buildouts on the south approach to the Broadhurst Avenue and McFadzean Avenue roundabout, to further slow vehicle speeds and assist with pedestrian crossing and bicycle movement.

**Area 3: Treatments for people riding bikes and walking**

Some feedback from the community in Area 3 (Broadhurst Ave – Chauvel St to High St) reported that people walking and riding bikes was welcome and that bike lanes and treatments to assist bikes and vehicles being together on the road should be considered.

Officer response: Add a raised platform on the southern and western approaches to the roundabout at Broadhurst Avenue and Hobbs Crescent to further slow vehicle speeds and assist with pedestrian crossing and bicycle movement.

Line-marking and 'Give Way' signage to be included on the east approach of the pinch point east of MacLagan Cr, so traffic coming from High Street can clear the pinch point first, and not cause congestion.

**Area 4: Speed humps and pinch points**

Some feedback from the community in Area 4 (Crookston Rd – Cheddar Rd to Black St) raised concerns about replacing the existing speed humps with pinch points as it may impact traffic movement.

Officer response: Further consultation was undertaken with residents on these and other pinch points throughout the corridor. No objections were received to these pinch points. As a result, no changes are proposed.

**Area 5: Pedestrian access, hooning, vehicle priority, shopping strip improvements and shared paths**

Some feedback from the community in Area 5 (Boldrewood Pde to McMahon Rd) raised concerns about hooning on McMahon Rd, poor pedestrian access across Boldrewood Pde and requests for a shared path. There was also a desire for local street improvements near the shops and the potential for green space and beautification. Other concerns were raised about the proposed changed vehicle priority at Crookston Rd and Boldrewood Pde potentially causing long wait times for vehicles accessing the east side of Crookston Rd.

Officer response:

Several changes were made in response to this:

- Change the design of the Boldrewood Parade and Crookston Road intersection back to the original priority, but add a raised pedestrian crossing on the west approach, and two pinch points, one of the north and south approaches to slow vehicle traffic.



- Change the design of the raised intersection back to a roundabout (current form) and include raised pedestrian crossings on each approach.
- Change the 90 degree parking outside the shops (current) to parallel parking to increase the green space and potential for an off-road bike lane.
- Add a second pinch point on McMahon Road to further slow vehicle speeds.

#### *Corridor outcomes*

Measures recommended in the corridor Strategy include landscaped build outs to reduce road widths and help to slow vehicles, creation of safer raised and at-grade crossing points for pedestrian movements, road markings to highlight this as a local bike route, and identifications of opportunities to increase the street tree coverage, potentially combined with water sensitive urban design measures to deal with stormwater events.

A full list of feedback is available on pages 27-32 of **Appendix C**.

#### *Additional project options for future years*

Further to the additions above, there was significant community interest in improving the green space along the corridor and at the creek entrances. Street trees are scheduled to be improved, but other work including support for nature strip refreshing and creek corridor improvements were not included as part of the project delivery.

## **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Option 1 (recommended):**

That a third round of community engagement be conducted to share the final draft Strategy and confirm support for the projects. Council would consider adoption of a strategy at a future meeting.

### **Option 2 (not recommended)**

Do not continue to release the draft strategy or commence the final engagement and leave the current streetscape as-is. Failure to release the draft Strategy would delay implementation of the Northern Reservoir Corridor.

## **IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY**

### **Details**

#### Streets for People Northern Reservoir Corridor

- Release of draft Northern Reservoir Strategy (September 2019)

Consultation on draft strategy would include:

- Three weeks consultation period
- Social media posts targeted to local neighbourhood and which are automatically translated for other language speakers by social media platforms
- Communication with previous participants who have registered for updates.
- A media release
- Endorsement of final Strategy by Council (November 2019)

- Construction and installation of five priority treatments by June 2020, and detailed design of three 'hot spot' locations
- Remainder of recommended corridor treatments referred to future year budgets, with full delivery targeted by 2022.

### Communication

After consultation and when council considers a final strategy, the final Streets for People Northern Reservoir Corridor Report will be made available via the project page on 'Your Say', shared with internal and external stakeholders, and those that have contributed or expressed interest in the strategies will be notified.

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Safe Travel Strategy 2018-2028

### Attachments

- Streets for People Northern Reservoir Report (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Streets for People Northern Reservoir Phase 1 Engagement (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)
- Streets for People Northern Reservoir Phase 2 Engagement (**Appendix C**) [↓](#)

### DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

# STREETS for PEOPLE



## NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR ←

June 2018

Prepared by Hansen Partnership, Trafficworks & Martyn Group for City of Darebin

STREETS FOR PEOPLE PROJECT | NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR | PART A: INTRODUCTION

## HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

### Part A: Introduction & Process

This section describes the Project's intent and the 2 Study Corridors. It describes the project's process and explains key drivers for Streets for People.

### Part B: Corridor Concept

This section describes the vision, principles and ideas to achieve Streets for People, informed by the Reservoir North community.

Concept designs for the Study Corridor demonstrates how the vision can potentially be achieved.

Part B also includes concept designs for 4 key priority locations to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety, as well as to contribute to the overall amenity of the public realm.

### Appendices

This section comprises additional information that support the Streets for People Project Development for Corridors 4 and 5.

Version	Draft	Final
Issue Date	20.06.2019	28.06.2019
Checked by	GR	GR

## CONTENTS

<b>A</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION &amp; CONTEXT</b>	
	The Northern Reservoir Corridor	4
	Streets For People Project Objectives	5
	Implementing Streets For People (Kit Of Parts)	6
	Project Methodology	8
<b>B</b>	<b>NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR CONCEPT</b>	
	Understanding the Corridor & Its Users	10
	Vision for the Corridor & Guiding Principles	13
	Northern Reservoir Corridor Concepts	14
	Area 1: Broadhurst Avenue – Merri Creek to Godley Street	15
	Area 2: Broadhurst Avenue – Bunbury Road to McFadzean Avenue	17
	Area 3: Broadhurst Avenue- Chauvel Street to High Street	19
	Area 4: Crookston Road – Cheddar Road to Black Street	20
	Area 5: Crookston Road – New Street to Darebin Creek	22
	Design Themes for the Northern Reservoir Corridor	24

<b>APPENDICES</b>
Appendix A - Concept Design for Northern Reservoir Corridor (by Trafficworks)
Appendix B - Summary of Community Engagement for Northern Reservoir Corridor

### PROJECT TEAM & COLLABORATORS

**Client: City of Darebin**  
 Che Sutherland – Coordinator Transport Strategy  
 Jennifer McIntyre – Senior Transport Planner  
 Allan Middlemast – Coordinator Transport Engineering

**Lead Consultant: Hansen Partnership**  
 Gerhana Waty - Urban Designer (Project Manager)  
 Danielle Jewson - Urban Designer  
 Constanza Jara Herrera- Urban Designer

**Sub Consultant: Traffic Works**  
 Bernard Chan - Traffic Engineer  
 Alison Dewar - Traffic Engineer

**Sub Consultant: Martyn Group**  
 Cameron Martyn - Integrated Transport



Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Streets for People project builds on Council’s adopted **Streets for People Feasibility Study** (Hansen Partnership, September 2018). It seeks to restore a balance in the role of streets between their functional modal requirements and their role in defining places and spaces for people.

In 2019, two corridors in Reservoir and Preston (Referred to in the Feasibility Report as Corridor 4- Northern Reservoir and Corridor 5- Preston Activity Link) have been identified for further work comprising the development of Concept Designs, to realise innovative, yet cost – effective Streets for People outcomes that are informed by the Community and Stakeholders. This report addresses the Northern Reservoir corridor and a separate report is also being prepared for the Preston Activity Link corridor.

The 2018 Streets for People Feasibility Study project provides the foundation for future corridor concept designs based on the following key principles:

### Streets for People should:



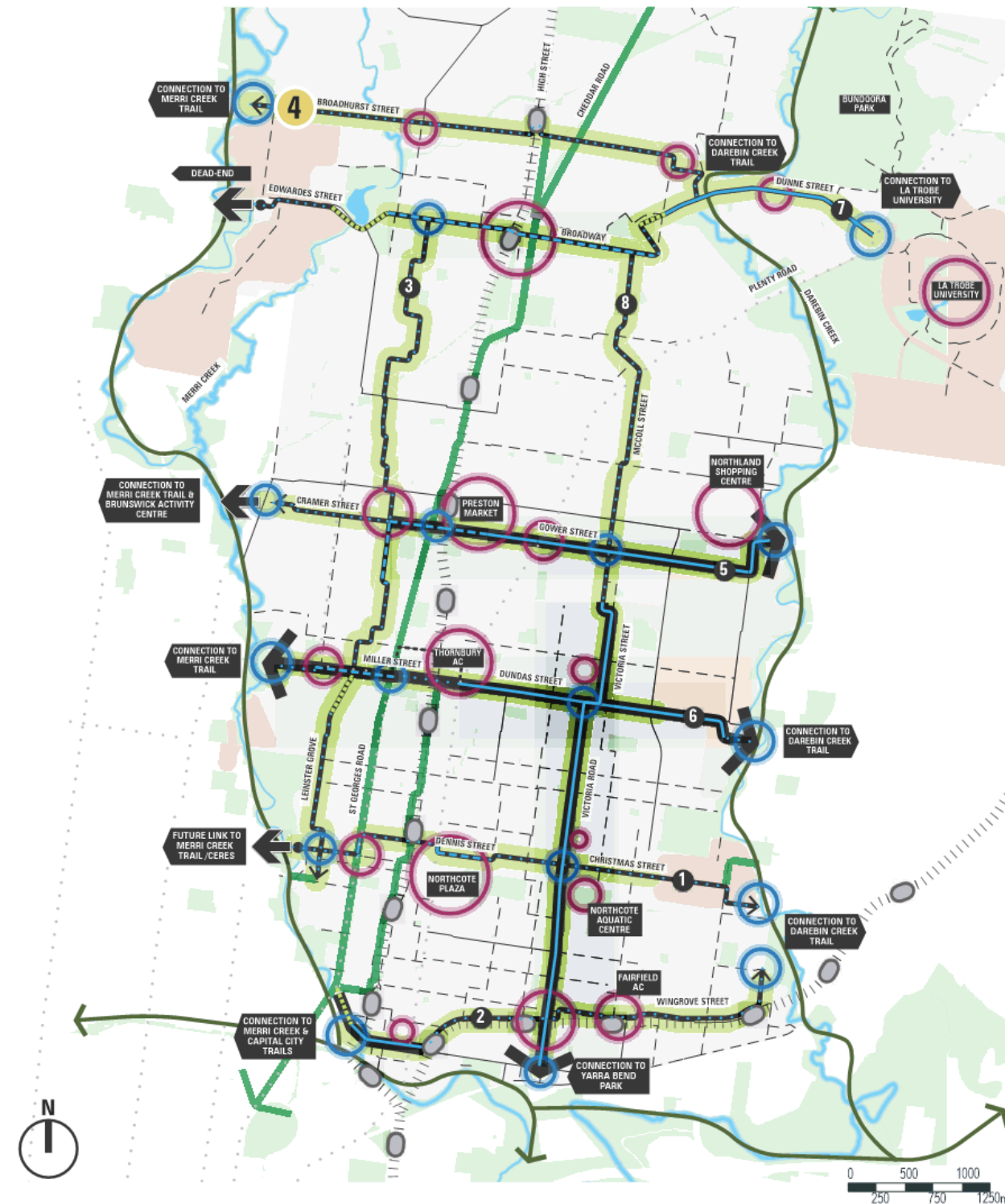
- **Prioritise People** as the main users of streets and that future street design should maximise opportunities to improve pedestrian safety and amenity.



- **Minimise conflict** between the varying modes of transport, with higher priority given to pedestrian and cyclists without compromising the functional role of streets and requirements to support adjacent existing and future uses.



- **Increase cycling confidence** along the corridors by providing high-quality cycling infrastructure that is well connected, easily navigated with varying degrees of separation and safety from moving traffic.



Overall Framework Concept Plan (City of Darebin Streets for People Feasibility Study, 2018)

### PRINCIPLE 01: PRIORITISE PEOPLE

- Corridor Legibility**  
To improve the connectivity and sense of place along each corridor
- Activity Node**  
To create distinctive places with high quality pedestrian and cycle infrastructure
- Green Network**  
To reinforce network of open spaces and environmental corridors as a distinctive characteristic of Darebin

### PRINCIPLE 02: DESIGN TO MINIMISE CONFLICT

- Public Transport**  
To support efficient public transport operations while improving pedestrian amenity around public transport nodes.
- Role of Streets**  
To ensure street design is consistent with the designated role or function.
- Employment Nodes**  
To acknowledge existing industry and employment nodes while managing improved pedestrian and cycle connections
- Future Mixed Use Precinct**

### PRINCIPLE 03: INCREASE CYCLING CONFIDENCE

- Protected Cycle Facility**  
To provide a physically marked and separated bike lane with a vertical barrier.
- Dedicated Cycle Facility**  
To provide on-road lanes dedicated to cycling and excluding all motorised traffic with an appropriate painted buffer.
- Shared Facility**  
To provide for continuous cycling facility along lower order local streets.
- Off-Road Bike Path**  
To provide safe and convenient access between off-road bike paths and on-road facilities.
- Environmental Links (Trails)**  
To provide safe and convenient connections to surrounding north-south trails
- Designated shimmy route & bike corridors**  
To ensure new infrastructure connects with and complements Council’s designated Shimmy Routes.

STREETS FOR PEOPLE PROJECT | NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR | PART A: INTRODUCTION

# THE CORRIDOR

## Corridor 4: Northern Reservoir Corridor

The Northern Reservoir Corridor is an east-west aligned corridor at the northern reaches of the municipality, extending from Merri Creek to Darebin Creek Reserves. The corridor traverses through predominately low density residential streets and crosses major roads including High Street and Cheddar Road. Sections of this route are being considered for designation as a primary or secondary transport cycling route as part of the State Government’s Strategic Cycling Network. This corridor is divided into two precincts, defined as:

- **Reservoir West:** along Broadhurst Avenue, between Merri Creek & High Street.
- **Reservoir East:** along Crookston Road, Boldrewood Parade and McMahon Road, between Cheddar Road & Darebin Creek.

Specific portions of the Study Corridor have been excluded from this project, in response to other on-going projects undertaken by Level Crossing Removal Project (LXRP) and Darebin Council. The exclusion area has effectively set the Study Corridors into 2 sections: east and west.

The City of Darebin ‘Streets for People’ Feasibility Report (adopted, 2018) provides the starting point for the preparation of Concept Plans for the corridor (Part B of this report). It has identified the following opportunities for the Northern Reservoir Corridor:



Corridor 4: Northern Reservoir Corridor

## Reservoir Corridor Framework Concept (Extract from City of Darebin ‘Streets for People’ Feasibility Study, 2018)

Cycle Infrastructure		
0km PROTECTED	0km DEDICATED	4.41km SHARED
<b>Shared/ Slow Point</b>	<b>Wayfinding</b>	<b>Street Greening</b>
2	6	2.6 KM
<b>Junction Upgrades</b>	<b>Traffic Calming</b>	<b>Vehicle Restriction</b>
1	8	2

A detailed map of the Reservoir Corridor Framework Concept. It shows the corridor route from Merri Creek to Darebin Creek, including various streets, reserves, and landmarks. The map is color-coded to show different types of infrastructure and land use. A legend at the bottom explains the symbols used.

PRIORITISE PEOPLE	MINIMISE CONFLICT	INCREASE CYCLING CONFIDENCE	LEGEND	LAND USE
Activity node	Junction improvement	Protected cycle facility	Streets for People Corridor 4	Commercial
Key destination	Traffic calming	Dedicated cycle facility	Other Streets for People Corridors	Residential (medium-high density)
Shared zone/slow zone	Integrated station node	Shared vehicle & cycle facility	Major roads	Residential (low- medium density)
Wayfinding improvement	Maintain efficient tram movement & improve stops		Neighbourhood connector road	Institution
Street greening opportunities	Vehicle restriction		Existing trail/ off road	Existing industrial (potential future medium-high density mixed use)
Retain / Improve existing street planting				Open space/ reserve

## FOR PEOPLE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

### 1 To Deliver Council’s Plan 2017-2020: “A Greener, Bolder, More Connected City”

- Goal 1.2 states that Council will “increase sustainable transport through safer streets for walking and cycling, and advocacy for public transport”
- Goal 1.3 states that Council 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 3.3 states that Council will “manage local roads, buildings and public spaces to make our city safer, cleaner and more attractive.”

### 2 To Increase Road Safety for All Users

**The Facts:**

- 14% of Darebin’s household do not have a vehicle, (compared to 9.4 – Melbourne)
- More than 30% of urban spaces are taken up by streets
- 57% of all car trips in Darebin are made by people living outside of Darebin
- 44% of short trips to work in Darebin (<2km) are completed by car
- 2.8km Average car trip distance for Darebin residents

**The Ambitions:**

- As more people walk and ride bikes there is a corresponding increase in the awareness of how to drive safely around people who are walking and cycling.
- For Darebin residents in particular, improving non-car forms of transport will be beneficial for a larger proportion of our population and increase accessibility to daily needs.

Reference: ABS 2016 census

### 3 To Reduce Carbon Emissions

**The Facts:** 18% of Darebin’s carbon emissions derive from transport.

**The Ambitions:**

- Reduce the number of private vehicle kilometres travelled in Darebin by increasing the share of public transport use, walking and cycling.
- Improve the walkability of our city, public transport nodes, interchanges and access to public transport services.
- Create a cohesive and safe high-quality network of bicycle routes to key destinations including workplaces, schools, shops and services.

Reference: <https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/transport-emissions-and-climate-solutions>

### 4 To Define the Character of a Place

**The Ambitions:**

- The “Streets for People” program will facilitate a re-imagining of what a local street in metropolitan Melbourne can be for the community and its users.

### 5 For Health Benefits

**The Facts:** \$13.8 billion of total economic cost of physical inactivity is an addition to Australian Economy

**The Ambitions:**

- Encourage children to feel safer in the streets and to increase walking for complementary physical activity.
- For adults, 30-minute walking a day can prolong life expectancy by up to 3 years.
- By making our streets friendlier for pedestrians, more people can engage in safe walking activities.

Reference: Medibank Private (October 2008): The cost of physical inactivity

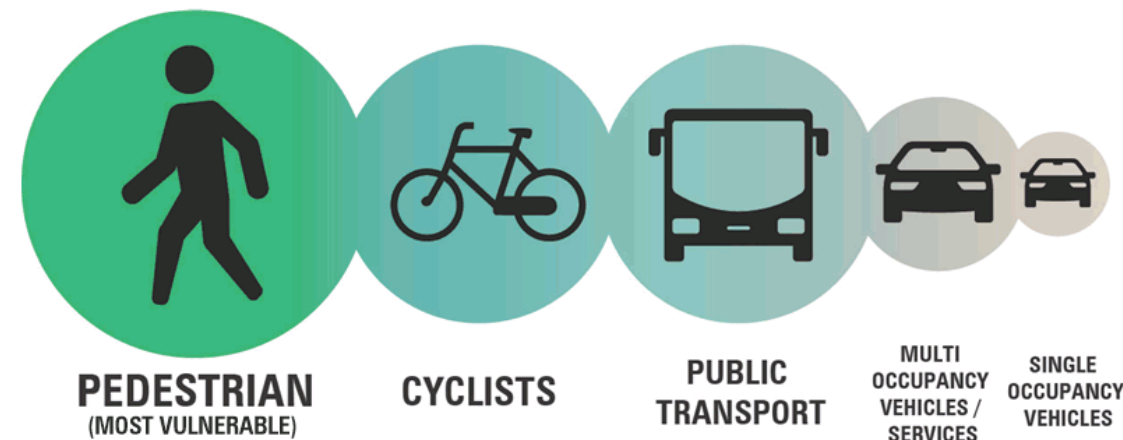


Diagram demonstrating “Streets for People” modal hierarchy

STREETS FOR PEOPLE PROJECT | NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR | PART A: INTRODUCTION

# IMPLEMENTING STREETS FOR PEOPLE (KIT OF PARTS)

The following section provides a summary for each potential treatment to deliver Streets for People, including its application, benefits, considerations and an approximate cost range.

Potential treatments that could be adopted include:

**Cost Range**  
 \$ - < \$50,000  
 \$\$ - \$51,000 - \$100,000  
 \$\$\$ - > \$100,000

## TRAFFIC CALMING TREATMENTS

### Raised side street treatment (with/without kerb extensions)



A raised side street treatment (with optional kerb outstands) is intended to reduce vehicle speeds on approach to intersections with collector roads. The treatment comprises a flat top road hump on the discontinuing leg of a T-intersection to slow vehicular traffic, as well as optional kerb outstands on the main road to separate on-street car parking. This treatment can be used with or without on-street bicycle lanes.



### Raised shared path crossing (priority / non-priority)



A raised shared path crossing is intended to reduce vehicle speeds to the pedestrian / cyclist crossing point and raise the awareness of the potential conflict point. The raised profile will require motorists to reduce speeds through the crossing. It is desirable to provide kerb extensions to create a pinch point to further slow vehicle speeds and to reduce the crossing point.



### T-intersection with Kerb Outstands



A T-intersection with kerb outstands is intended to reduce speeds of through-traffic. The treatment comprises kerb outstands on the through-road.



### Pinch point with raised cushion



A pinch point is intended to reduce vehicle speeds. The treatment comprises kerb extensions to narrow the trafficable width to 3.5 m (one lane) and may also include a centrally located road cushion to slow vehicular traffic.



### Raised wombat crossing



A raised wombat crossing is intended to allocate priority to crossing pedestrians and reduce vehicle speeds. The treatment comprises kerb extensions to narrow the trafficable width to 5.5 m and a zebra crossing to allocate pedestrian priority on top of a flat top road hump to slow vehicular traffic.



### Raised T-intersection



A raised T-intersection is intended to reduce vehicle speeds on all legs at local roads intersections. The treatment comprises a flat top road hump through the intersection to slow vehicular traffic on all approaches. This treatment can include kerb extensions where road width permits.



### Chicane



A chicane is intended to reduce vehicle speeds. The treatment comprises kerb extensions to narrow the trafficable width to 3.5 m (one lane) and provides an angled traffic lane to slow vehicular traffic. This treatment also includes bicycle sharrows to warn motorists of cyclists and to encourage cyclists to take the lane.



### Kerb outstand zebra crossing



A kerb outstand zebra crossing is intended to allocate priority to crossing pedestrians and reduce vehicle speeds. The treatment comprises of the same components as the wombat crossing, except the crossing is not raised.



### Tighter radius intersection



A semi-mountable area with contrasting material is intended to provide a visual effect to reduce speeds of vehicles approaching an intersection.





**Cost Range**  
 \$ - < \$50,000  
 \$\$ - \$51,000 - \$100,000  
 \$\$\$ - > \$100,000

**TRAFFIC CALMING TREATMENTS**

**Shared zone**



A shared zone is intended to reduce vehicle speeds and provide equal priority to pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles. The treatment generally comprises a contrasting road pavement and a 10 km/h speed limit.

\$+

**Contraflow bike lane for intersections with one-way exits**



Contra-flow bicycle lanes are exclusive bicycle lanes deployed on one side (to the left of the opposing traffic flow) of a one-way road serving cyclists travelling against what is otherwise the legal direction of travel. Physical separation between the contra-flow bicycle lane and the traffic lane should be considered where vehicle speeds are 60 km/h or greater.

\$+

**JUNCTION TREATMENTS**

**Roundabout with raised platforms on each approach**



A roundabout with raised platforms on each approach is intended to reduce vehicle speeds and improve pedestrian connectivity at roundabouts.

\$\$\$

**Diamond-shaped roundabout**



A C-roundabout is a modified roundabout where the central island is of an irregular shape to increase deflection through the roundabout, slow vehicle speeds and increase cyclist safety. This treatment may also include narrow traffic lanes, bicycle sharrows, raised platforms and bicycle signage on the approaches.

\$\$\$

**Roundabouts with sharrow linemarking**



A roundabout with sharrow linemarking is intended to increase vehicle awareness of cyclists at the intersection and encourage cyclists to take the lane through the roundabout.

\$

**Reverse priority treatments**



A reverse priority treatment is intended to allocate priority at a T-intersection (or cross intersection) to turning traffic rather than traffic travelling straight along the roadway. This is usually in response to high volumes performing the turning movement. This treatment comprises linemarking and may include kerb outstands and/or traffic islands to reinforce the priority.

\$\$+

**Roundabouts with protected bicycle lanes**



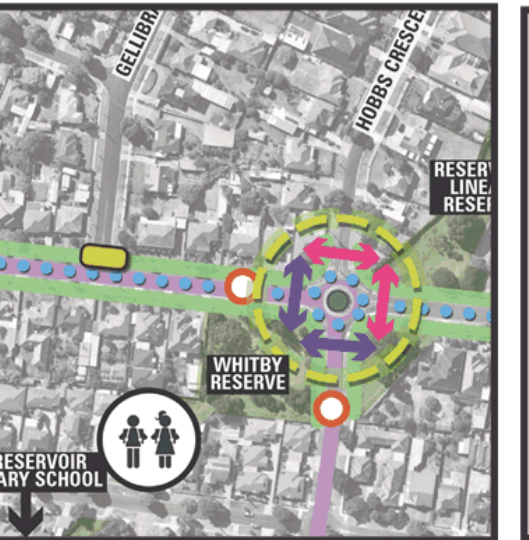




A roundabout with protected bicycle lanes is intended to separate cyclists from vehicular traffic and allocated priority to pedestrians and cyclists at the intersection. This treatment includes raised pedestrian and cyclist crossings on each leg and separated off-road bicycle lanes surrounding the intersection.

\$\$\$

## PROJECT METHODOLOGY

The following section describes the process to deliver the Streets for People project.

<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>STEP 1: PLACE AUDIT (ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES)</b></p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>STEP 2: VISION + IDEAS (ENGAGING WITH STREET USERS + STAKEHOLDERS)</b></p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>STEP 3: DRAFT CONCEPTS FOR CORRIDOR &amp; PRIORITY AREAS</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>STEP 4: CONFIRMATION OF DRAFT CONCEPT (ENGAGING WITH STREET USERS + STAKEHOLDERS)</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>STEP 5: FINALISE CONCEPTS</b></p>
<p>The first step of the project process is to ground proof recommendations found in the 2018 Streets for People Feasibility Report to respond to Northern Reservoir context.</p>	<p>This process involves engaging with street users and Stakeholders who live, work and visit the Study Corridor. Street users are key contributors in informing the Visions for Streets for People and how future interventions can improve their experience in the streets.</p> <p>Engagement with street users and Stakeholders was conducted via online surveys, public drop-in sessions, street champion workshops and stakeholder workshops.</p> <p>A detailed summary of the Engagement Process is provided in Appendix B.</p>	<p>Draft Concept Plan were prepared based on feedback received from street users and Stakeholders regarding the vision for their streets and insights into how these streets are used and perceived. Street Champion group has also identified priority areas to improve cycling/ walking safety and amenity within the public realm.</p> <p>Technical testing of emerging concept designs for these priority areas was undertaken to ensure they could be achieved, whilst delivering street users' aspiration for their streets.</p>	<p>This process involves going back to street users and Stakeholders to inform them of the emerging concept designs for the Study Corridor. This gave an opportunity to discuss the designs in more depth and provide a better understanding of the Streets for People approach.</p> <p>Engagement with street users and Stakeholders was conducted via online surveys, public drop-in sessions, street champion workshop and stakeholder workshop.</p> <p>A detailed summary of the Engagement Process is provided in Appendix B.</p>	<p>Feedback received from street user and Stakeholder groups are integrated into the final concept designs and recommendations. The concept design for Northern Reservoir is found in Part B of this report.</p>
				

DRAFT

PART **B**

STREETS for  
PEOPLE



NORTHERN  
RESERVOIR  
CORRIDOR



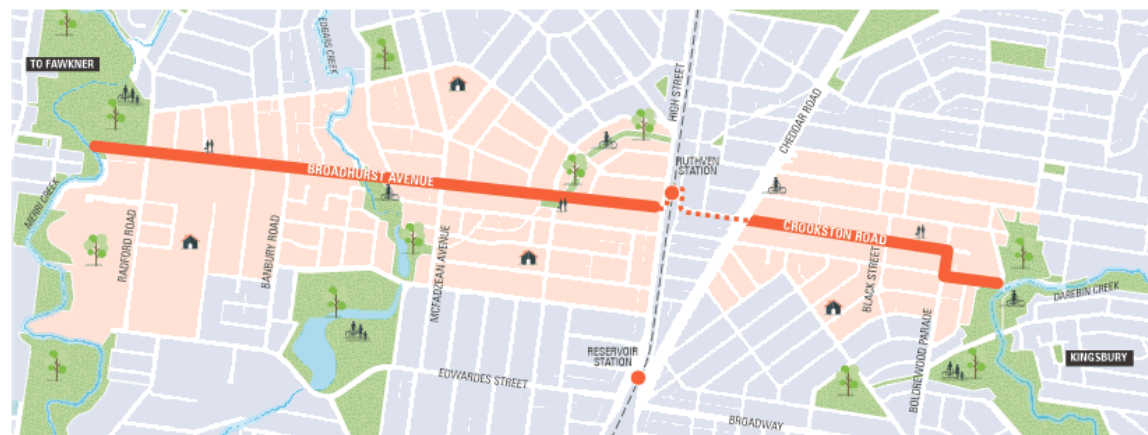
## UNDERSTANDING THE CORRIDOR AND ITS USERS

### A bit about the Corridor

The Northern Reservoir Corridor is an east-west aligned street network, extending between Merri Creek and Darebin Creek defined by Broadway Avenue, Crookston Road and part of Boldrewood Parade and McMahon Road. The corridor is divided into 2 precincts (east and west) separated by the exclusion area between High Street and Cheddar Road including Ruthven Station. Important in defining the study area as a 'Streets for People' Corridor is acknowledging its important role as a conduit between neighbourhood and municipal destinations, such as primary schools, local activity centres, public transport and multiple public open spaces.

The corridor traverses through a highly intact and celebrated suburban residential setting, comprising predominately traditional single storey post-war brick dwellings and low brick front fences, framing established front gardens of open lawn and perimeter plantings. The streetscape profile is reflective of a typical residential setting found in Reservoir, comprising an unmarked carriageway accommodating vehicle movement and informal parallel parking with grassed nature strips and standard concrete footpaths on both sides of the road.

The key distinction between the 2 precincts is the narrower road profile of the east, including larger canopy street trees enclosing the streetscape, contrasting from the more open, broad profile of Broadhurst Avenue to the west. While both precincts are flanked by a significant creek corridor, the western precinct also benefits from Edgars Creek, intersecting the middle of Broadhurst Avenue. These important environmental assets offer substantial opportunities for the guidance of new landscape interventions, effectively 'spilling out' along the Streets for People corridor.

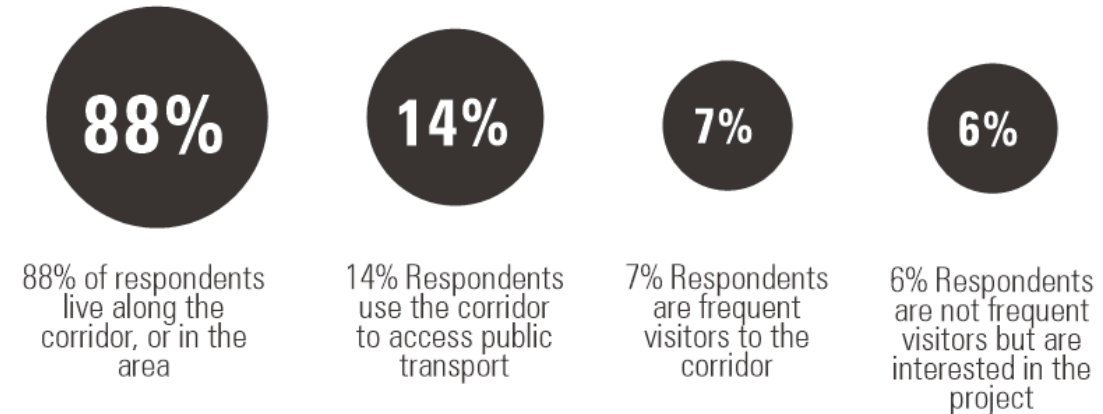


Map showing study corridor extent

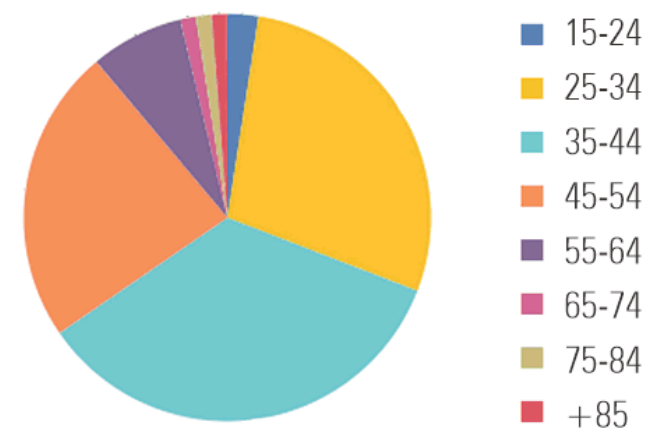
### WHO CONTRIBUTED TO SETTING THE VISION



### WHO USED THE CORRIDOR



### AGE GROUPS OF ONLINE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS



**Key issues**

- Lack of accessibility and convenience to existing public transport, particularly to Ruthven Station.
- High volume of trade vehicles, semi-trucks and buses at the western end of Broadhurst Avenue.
- Concerns about 'rat- running' and vehicles traveling at high speed along the study corridors which poses safety issues for pedestrian, including children walking to schools.
- Lack of legibility, or wayfinding to guide pedestrian and cyclists to key destinations.
- Limited awareness that the Study Corridor is intersected by three creeks/ green corridors.
- No infrastructure to support safe cycling.
- Concerns about footpath widths and conditions.
- Underutilised shop fronts and underutilised commercial area.

**Valued attributes for Reservoir corridor**

**Reservoir East**

- Sense of openness
- Quiet street
- Street trees and greenery
- Destinations along the corridor
- Community oriented

**Reservoir West**

- Community oriented
- Public transport convenience
- Street trees and greenery
- Quiet Street
- Sense of openness

*"Streets for people should allow all road users to use the street equally"*



*"Streets for People should recognise the unique character of Reservoir"*

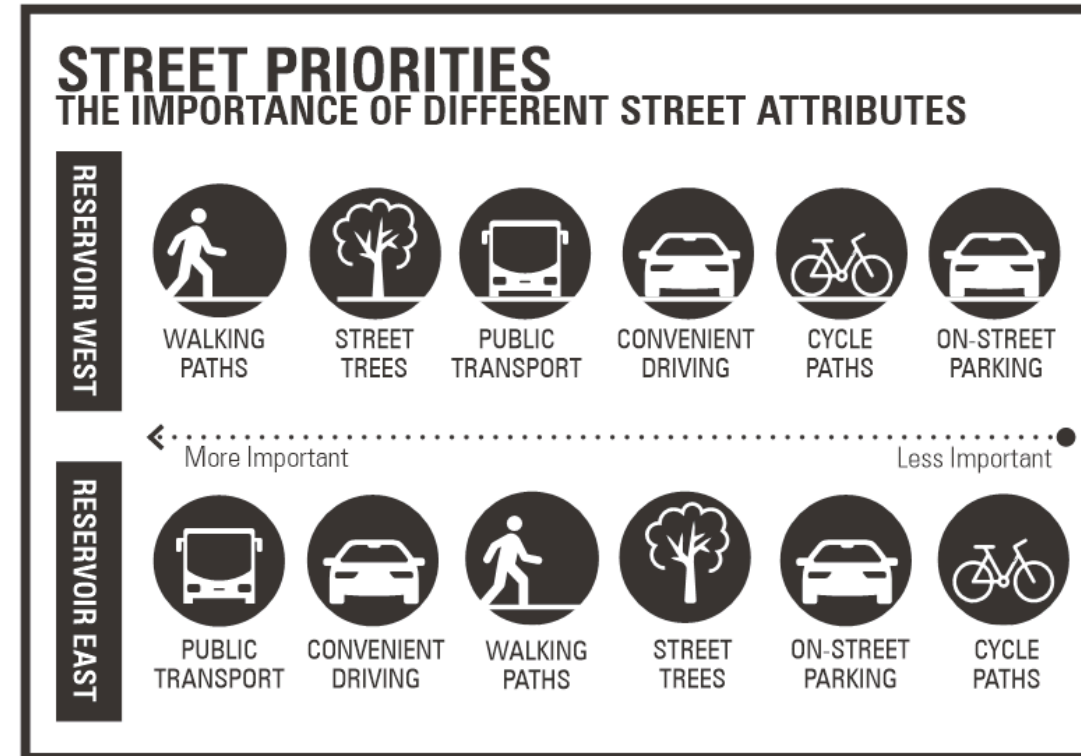
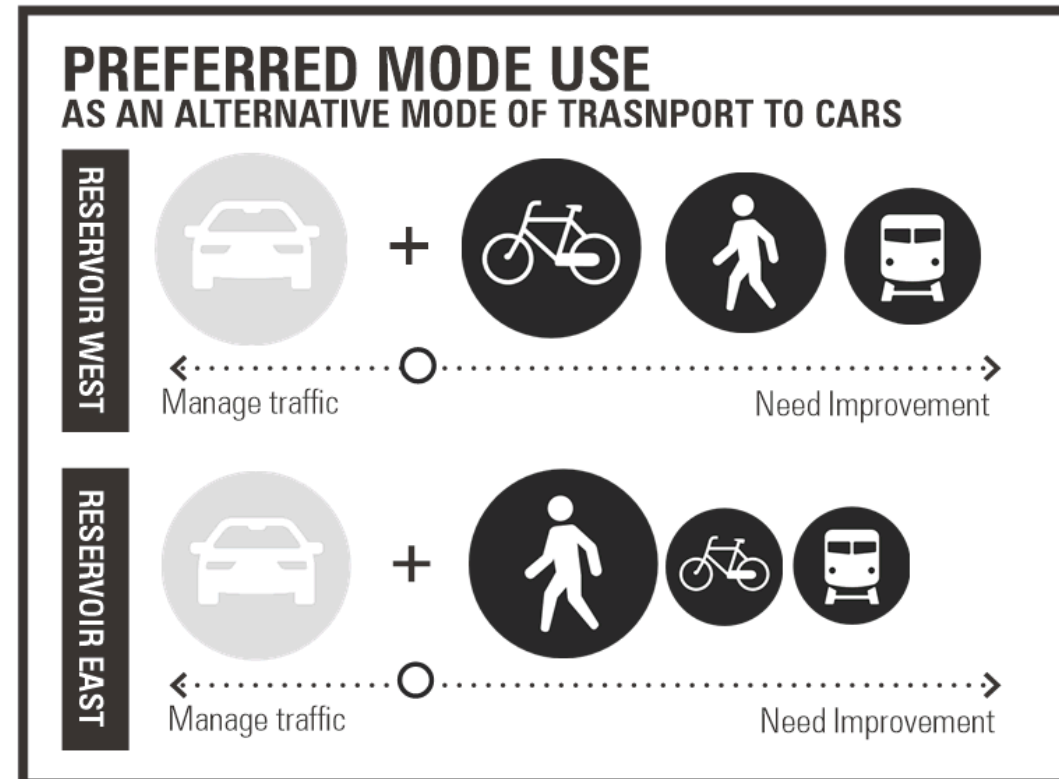


*"Streets for People should assist families to ride safely together"*

*"Streets for People should provide more trees and greenery"*

## WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE COMMUNITY

The following infographics provides a high level summary of the feedback received during the community engagement process. This information was used to guide the concept designs and recommendations for future streetscape improvements along the Northern Reservoir Corridor.



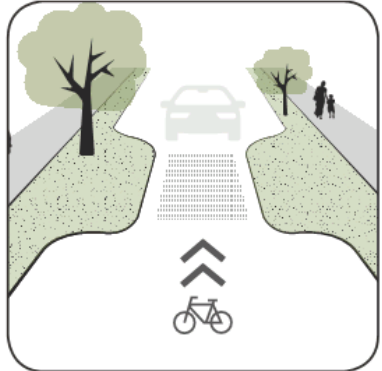





## VISION FOR THE CORRIDOR

In understanding community and stakeholder aspirations for the future of their streets, the following Vision has been tailored for the Northern Reservoir corridor:

*“The Northern Reservoir Streets for People Corridor will provide a safe, inviting walking and cycling environment for residents to access their local parks, schools and shops.”*

## CORRIDOR AMBITIONS

The following corridor ambitions have been tailored for the Northern Reservoir Streets for People corridor. These corridor ambitions have been informed by feedbacks received during community and stakeholder engagement processes to inform the concept designs. Importantly, they do not seek to contradict, or duplicate recommendations and key principles found in the 2018 Feasibility Study but builds upon a 'place and community-specific' response that distinguishes Northern Reservoir corridor. The Northern Reservoir Streets for People Concept Designs have been underpinned by the following ambitions:

<p><i>To modify the street by allocating more space for walking and vegetation, reduce vehicle speeds and rat-running to support safer cycling and retain the valued quiet nature of the street.</i></p>		<p><i>To improve wayfinding along the corridor by installing signage and public art, guiding pedestrians and cyclists to local destinations.</i></p>	
<p><i>To make it safer for pedestrian to cross the streets to access local destinations such as parks, schools, public transport and shops.</i></p>		<p><i>To make public transport more attractive by providing new pedestrian crossings and seating at bus stops and creating a more pleasant walking environment to the station.</i></p>	
<p><i>To connect creeks and open space by creating welcoming and green streets with shade and lighting, as well as on going support for native landscaping within the streets.</i></p>		<p><i>To embrace Reservoir North local identity by promoting community-led street landscaping and public art projects to support ongoing improvement to pedestrian safety and amenity.</i></p>	

## CORRIDOR CONCEPTS

The conditions along the extent of the Study Corridor is somewhat varied. This is influenced by existing land use (industrial, residential, or commercial), road width and street trees. For the purpose of this project, the Corridor has been broken into **5 Areas** including an overarching concept plan for each. These are defined as:

- Area 1:** Broadhurst Avenue - Merri Creek to Godley Street
- Area 2:** Broadhurst Avenue - Banbury Road to McFadzean Avenue
- Area 3:** Broadhurst Avenue - Chauvel Street to Plenty Road
- Area 4:** Crookston Road - Cheddar Road to Black Street
- Area 5:** Crookston Road - Black Street to Darebin Creek

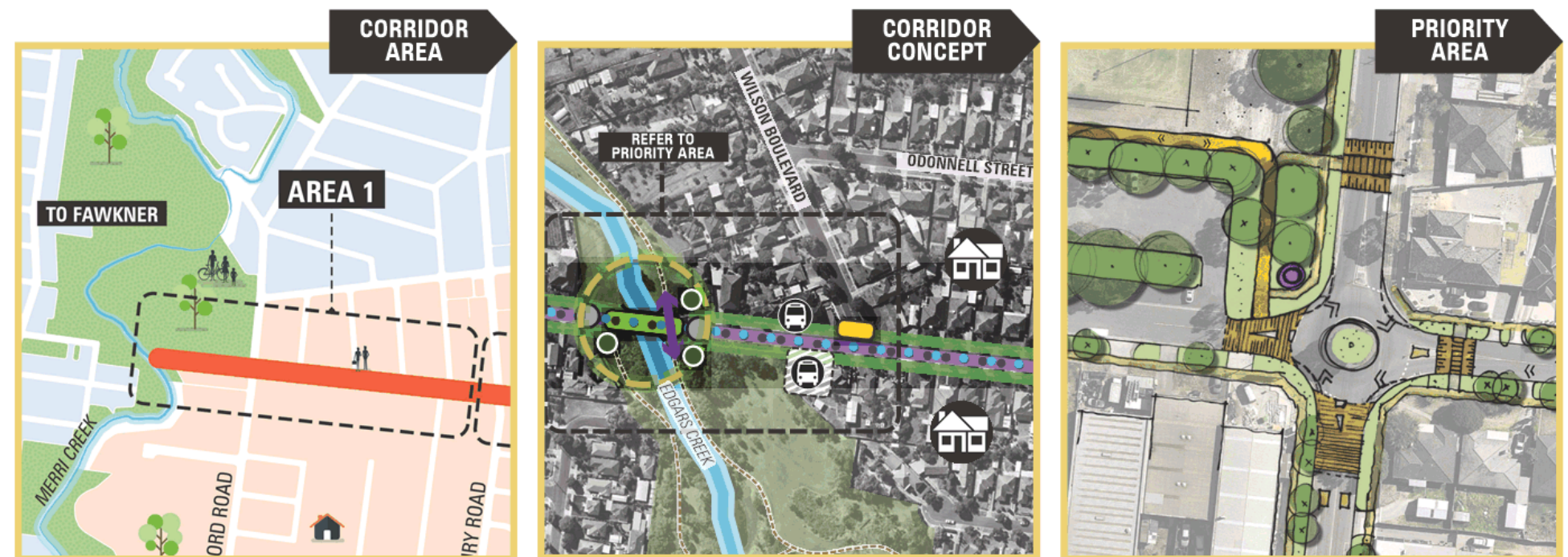
### Demonstration Project of Priority Area

In addition to the Corridor Concepts, four key areas have been selected with the Street Champion group as priority areas, where implementation for Streets for People is encouraged. The sites were studied in detail to identify opportunities for streetscape management befitting the Streets for People ideology. An indicative sketch concept is prepared for each priority area, demonstrating how design recommendations and suggestions can potentially be achieved.

#### The 4 Priority Areas identified:

- Area 1: BT Connor Reserve and Radford Road junction
- Area 2: Edgars Creek bridge
- Area 3: Black Street junction
- Area 4: Boldrewood Parade shops

### Reservoir Corridor Study Corridor & Areas





# 1 Area 1: Broadhurst Avenue - Merri Creek to Godley Street

Streets/ Locations	Recommended Treatment	Objective
Along Broadhurst Avenue	Shared vehicle and cycling, or 'sharrow'.	To encourage cyclists to use Broadhurst Avenue as a cycling route by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols to assist with wayfinding.
	Bus stop improvement	Improve pedestrian amenity and encourage greater public transport use by integrating seating, lighting, bike racks and/or wayfinding signs with bus stop.
	Infill street tree planting	Nature strip to increase shade and street beautification
	Community-driven nature strip planting	Council to further encourage community-driven nature strip planting, supporting native and drought tolerant species.
Merri Creek Trail entry	A new off-road shared user path.	To provide a safe pedestrian and cycle connection along the southern, vacant portion, of BT Connor Reserve connecting Merri Creek to Broadhurst Avenue.
	A new bike station (bike racks, bike pump, water fountain, seating, lighting and wayfinding)	For cyclists and pedestrians to rest, surrounded by native landscape of the creek environment as a gateway treatment into the City of Darebin.
Broadhurst Avenue & Radford Road	Raised pedestrian crossing at the northern & eastern legs.	To discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety when crossing the roundabout.
	Threshold treatment at the southern (with speed cushion) and western legs.	To raise driver's awareness and slow down traffic entering/ exiting the intersection through line markings/ contrasting material, acknowledging the frequency of large/commercial vehicles along this street.
Broadhurst Avenue & Radford Road	Public art installation	Opportunity for public art installation which references the unique characteristics of Reservoir residential areas and/or surrounding creek corridors.
Broadhurst Avenue & Ashfield Street	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down vehicles and improving pedestrian safety/access across Ashfield Street.
Broadhurst Avenue & Barron Street	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down vehicles and improving pedestrian safety/access across Barron Street.
Broadhurst Avenue & Fiddes Street	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down vehicles and improving pedestrian safety/access across Fiddes Street.
Broadhurst Avenue & Lakeside Avenue	Tighter radius intersection	To visually narrow turning circles, through line markings, at the intersection to slow traffic entering and exiting along Broadhurst Avenue, acknowledging the frequency of large/commercial vehicles.
Broadhurst Avenue & Godley Street	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/access across Godley Street.

## Concept Plan



<b>CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared cycle &amp; vehicle/ Sharrow symbol on road</li> <li>Shared cycle/ pedestrian off-road path</li> <li>Bike station/ seating node</li> </ul>	<b>PEDESTRIAN &amp; VEHICLE IMPROVEMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raised pedestrian crossing</li> <li>Raised side street treatment</li> <li>Tighter intersection / Surface treatment</li> <li>Speed cushion</li> </ul>	<b>STREET GREENING &amp; IDENTITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional street trees / nature strip refresh</li> <li>Potential future playground</li> <li>Wayfinding signage</li> <li>Lighting upgrade</li> <li>Public art node</li> </ul>	<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-road trail</li> <li>Bus route/ bus stop</li> <li>Public open space</li> <li>Creek</li> <li>Residential area</li> <li>Industrial area</li> <li>Sports ground</li> </ul>
---	---	---	---



Maximise safe pedestrian and cyclists access to Merri Creek



Support safe pedestrian crossing at intersections



Provide for cycling amenity and servicing at key node along the corridor

# 1 Area 1: Broadhurst Avenue - Merri Creek to Godley Street

## Priority Area: BT Connor Reserve

The Broadhurst Avenue and Radford Road intersection has been identified as a priority area to improve pedestrian and cycle safety and amenity to BT Connor Reserve and Merri Creek Trail (refer to concept sketch below).

### Strategies

1. Merri Creek Trail: Create a safer cycling and walking route to Merri Creek trail by introducing a new, 2-way off-road shared user path along the north side of the car park (within the BT Connor Reserve) and the west side of Radford Road within the nature strip.
2. Add a new bike station and rest area (including bike rack, bike pump, water fountain, seating, lighting and wayfinding) surrounded by native landscape of the creek environment as a gateway treatment into the City of Darebin.
3. Across Radford Road (north): Improve pedestrian safety and give priority to pedestrians across Radford Road by implementing a new raised pedestrian crossing, connecting to new off-road shared user path, where large vehicles (including buses) are common.

4. Across Radford Road (south): Improve driver's awareness on approach and slow traffic on approach to the roundabout through contrasting material treatment (on road) and speed cushion.
5. Across Broadhurst Avenue (east): Improve pedestrian safety and give priority to pedestrian across Broadhurst Avenue ( by implementing a new raised pedestrian crossing where large vehicles (including buses) are common.
6. Across Broadhurst Avenue (west): Improve driver's awareness on approach and slow traffic on approach to the roundabout through contrasting material treatment (on road) around existing crossing.
7. At the roundabout: Install warning signs and sharrow (bike symbol) line marking to assist in raising the awareness of cyclists through the roundabout.
8. Encourage infill street tree planting within the nature strip.
9. At the roundabout: Install new wayfinding, or signage near the roundabout to provide directions to Merri Creek and BT Connor Reserve.
10. Council to investigate opportunity for a new neighbourhood level playspace at BT Connor Reserve, in accordance with the Darebin Playspace Strategy (2010-2020).

### Indicative Sketch Ideas



Artist's impression of Radford Avenue looking north



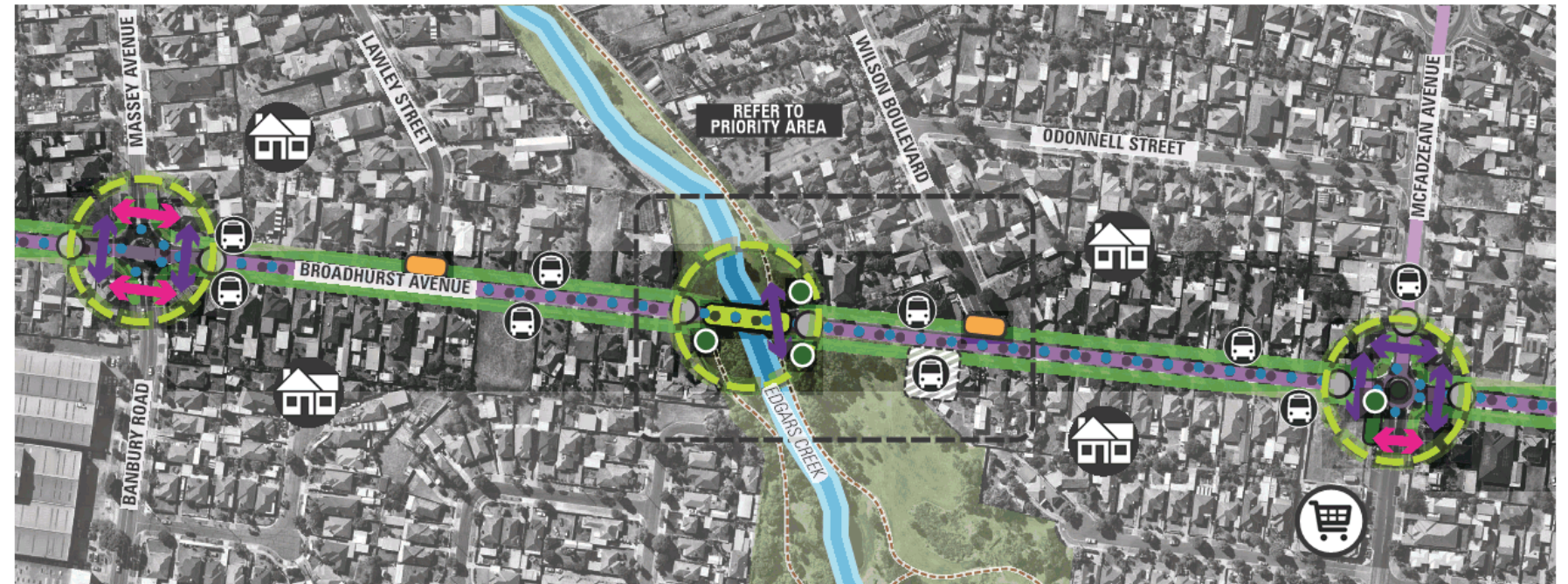
Existing conditions

2

Area 2: Broadhurst Avenue - Banbury Road to McFadzean Avenue

Streets/ Locations	Recommended Treatment	Objective
Along Broadhurst Avenue	Shared vehicle and cycling, or 'sharrow'	To encourage cyclists to use Broadhurst Avenue as a cycling route by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols to assist with wayfinding.
	Bus stop improvement	Improve pedestrian amenity and encourage greater public transport use by integrating seating, lighting, bike racks and/or wayfinding signs with bus stop.
	Infill street tree planting	Nature strip to increase shade and street beautification
	Community-driven nature strip planting	Council to further encourage community-driven nature strip planting, supporting native and drought tolerant species.
Broadhurst Avenue & Banbury Road/ Massey Avenue roundabout	Raised pedestrian crossing on northern and southern legs	To discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety when crossing the roundabout.
	Zebra crossing with speed cushion on eastern and western legs	To improve pedestrian safety across Broadhurst Avenue (east-west) giving priority to pedestrian, when large vehicles (including buses) are common.
Broadhurst Avenue & Lawley Street	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/access across Lawley Street.
Broadhurst Avenue & Edgars Creek Bridge	Kerb extension (south side) and contrasting material treatment	To raise driver's awareness and slow down traffic on approach to the narrow bridge through line markings/ contrasting material, acknowledging the frequency of bus movement along this street.
	Zebra crossing with speed cushions on approach	To provide for safe pedestrian and cyclist connections to existing trails along Edgars Creek, including across Broadhurst Avenue.
Broadhurst Avenue & Wilson boulevard	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/access across Wilson Boulevard.
Broadhurst Avenue & McFadzean Avenue roundabout	Zebra crossing on northern, eastern and western legs with speed cushion.	To improve pedestrian safety on all approaches at roundabout and improve wayfinding to local shops along McFadzean Avenue, acknowledging the frequency of bus movement at this intersection along Broadhurst Avenue and Botha Avenue.
	Raised pedestrian crossing on the southern leg	
	Kerb extension adjacent to raised crossing	To provide for improved pedestrian amenity (through footpath widening and landscaping opportunity). To ensure sufficient distance between vehicle crossover/ on street car parking from the roundabout.

Concept Plan



Shared cycle & vehicle/ Sharrow symbol on road	Raised pedestrian crossing	Additional street trees / nature strip refresh	Off-road trail	Public open space
Zebra crossing	Raised side street treatment	Kerb extension & landscaping opportunity	Bus route/ bus stop	Creek
Surface treatment & Footpath widening on south side	Speed cushion	Street greening opportunity	Potential bus stop relocation (subject to PTV's approval)	Residential area
		Wayfinding signage	Local shops	



Support resting point with good pedestrian amenity along the corridor



Promote a unique street feature and identity



Improving pedestrian safety when crossing at a roundabout

2

Area 2: Broadhurst Avenue - Banbury Road to McFadzean Avenue

Priority Area: Edgars Creek

The Edgars Creek bridge has been selected as a priority area to improve safe pedestrian and cyclist access to Edgars Creek shared trail and reduce vehicle speeds along the narrow bridge (refer to concept sketch).

Strategies

1. Kerb extension on the south side for a new 2-way, off- road shared user path connecting existing trails.
2. Provide zebra crossing at the eastern end of the bridge to connect the Edgars Creek trail across Broadhurst Avenue.
3. Improve driver's awareness on approach to the bridge and slow traffic entering and exiting the bridge by applying contrasting surface treatment with additional speed cushions on approach.
4. Footpath upgrade on both sides of the bridge to minimise tripping hazard and create a consistent 'look and feel' along the bridge.
5. Council to investigate opportunity with Public Transport Victoria for the relocation of existing bus stop to be closer to No. 111 Broadhurst Avenue for improved passive surveillance. Future bus stop at this location will be provided with additional lighting, seating and bike racks.
6. Implement wayfinding signage at the raised pedestrian crossing (including opportunity for public art, or interpretive signage) that provide direction to Edgars Creek, Merri Creek and Darebin Creek. Its design should reference the creek character and native wildlife.
7. Additional native landscaping at the entrance to Edgar Creek trail to beautify the streetscape.
8. Implement raised side street treatment at Wilson Boulevard to discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down vehicles and improving pedestrian safety/access across Ashfield Street.

Indicative Sketch Ideas

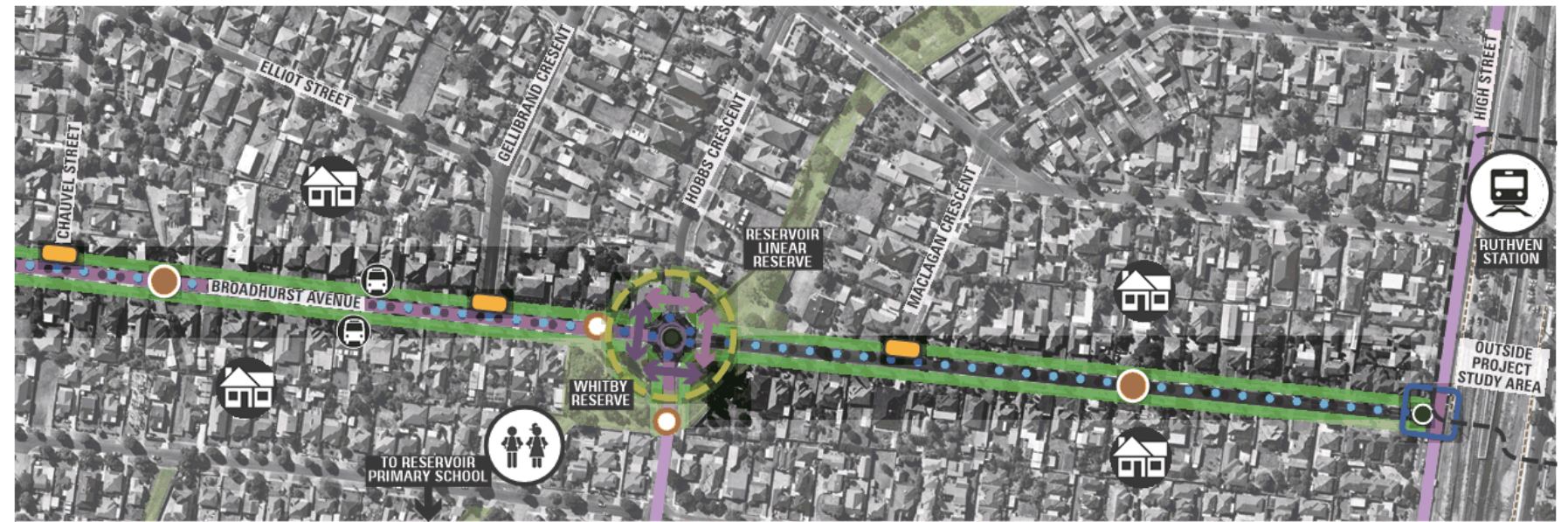


3

Area 3: Broadhurst Avenue - Chauvel Street to High Street

Streets/ Locations	Recommended Treatment	Objective
Along Broadhurst Avenue	Shared vehicle and cycling, or 'sharrow'	To encourage cyclists to use Broadhurst Avenue as a cycling route by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols to assist with wayfinding.
	Bus stop improvement	Improve pedestrian amenity and encourage greater public transport use by integrating seating, lighting, bike racks and/or wayfinding signs with bus stop.
	Infill street tree planting	Nature strip to increase shade and street beautification
	Community-driven nature strip planting	Council to further encourage community-driven nature strip planting, supporting native and drought tolerant species.
Broadhurst Avenue & Chauvel Street	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat-running along Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/ access across Chauvel Street.
Broadhurst Avenue between Chauvel Street and Gellibrand Crescent	Landscaped pinch point with raised table	To discourage traffic rat-running along Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and reduce the perception of a wide road, acknowledging the frequency of bus movement.
Broadhurst Avenue & Gellibrand Crescent	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat-running along Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/ access across Gellibrand Street.
Broadhurst Avenue & Hobbs Crescent roundabout	Zebra crossing with raised table on approach (western and southern legs)	To improve pedestrian safety on all approaches at roundabout ensuring vehicles give way to pedestrians. To discourage traffic rat-running along Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic on approach to the roundabout, acknowledging the frequency of bus movement.
	Raised pedestrian crossing (northern and eastern legs)	To discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety when crossing the roundabout.
Broadhurst Avenue & Maclagan Crescent	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/ access across Maclagan Street.
Broadhurst Avenue between Maclagan Crescent & High Street	Landscaped pinch point with raised table	To discourage traffic rat-running along Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and reduce the perception of a wide road.

Concept Plan



Shared cycle & vehicle/ Sharrow symbol on road	Raised pedestrian crossing	Additional street trees / nature strip refresh	Bus route / bus stop	Residential area
Zebra crossing	Raised side street treatment	Street greening opportunity	Public open space	School
Landscape pinch-point with raised table	Wayfinding signage	Existing signalised intersection	Station	
Raised table				



Improving pedestrian safety when crossing at a roundabout



Encourage Water Sensitive Urban Design solution to street design



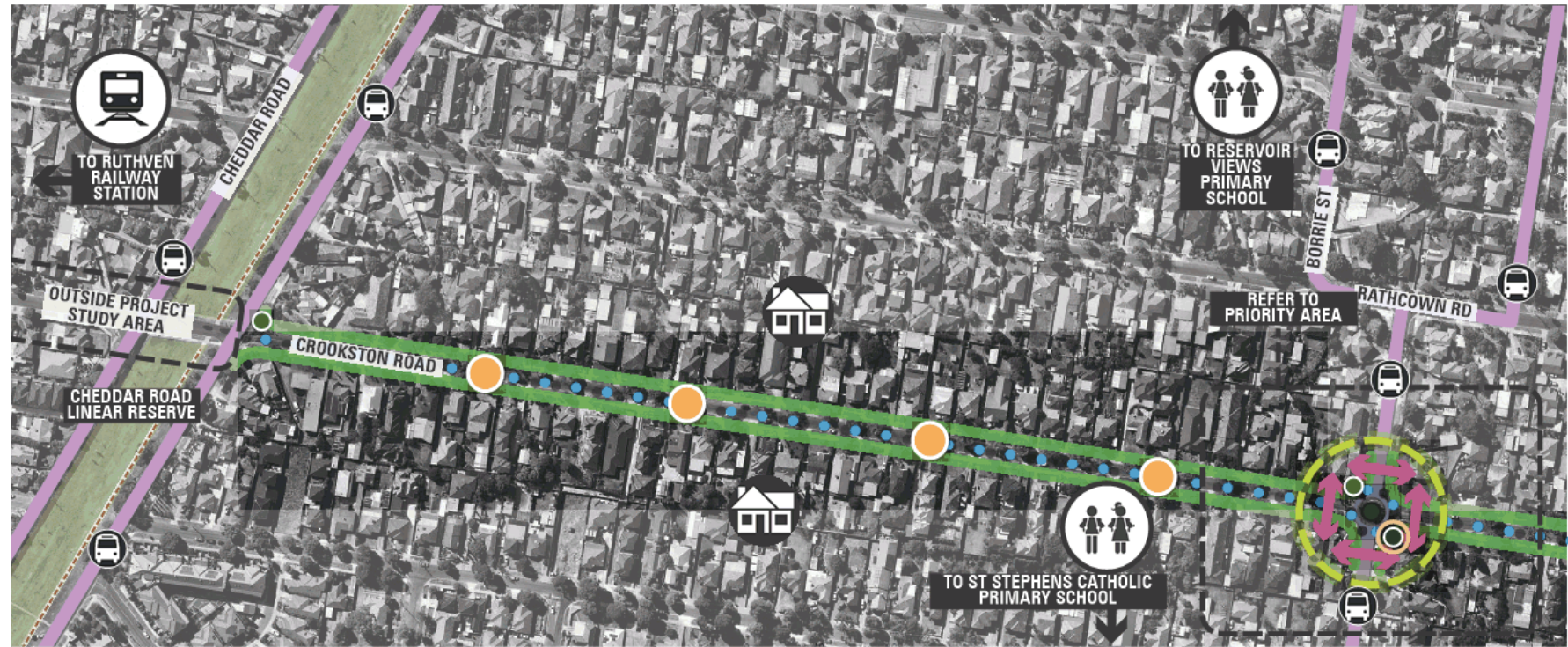
Foster community's involvement in beautifying the nature strip

4

Area 4: Crookston Road- Cheddar Road to Black Street

Streets/ Locations	Recommended Treatment	Objective
Along Crookston Road	Shared vehicle and cycling, or 'sharrow'	To encourage cyclists to use Crookston Road as a cycling route by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols to assist with wayfinding.
	Bus stop improvement	Improve pedestrian amenity and encourage greater public transport use by integrating seating, lighting, bike racks and/ or wayfinding signs with bus stop.
	Infill street tree planting	Nature strip to increase shade and street beautification
	Community-driven nature strip planting	Council to further encourage community-driven nature strip planting, supporting native and drought tolerant species.
	Implement wayfinding and signage	To provide directions to Ruthven Railway Station, bus route along Broadhurst Avenue, Edgars Creek and Merri Creek at Crookston Road and Cheddar Road intersection.
Crookston Road (mid-block)	Landscaped pinch point with raised cushion	To discourage traffic rat- running along Crookston Road by slowing down traffic. Safe cycle movement is achieved by providing bike lanes (on either side of raised cushion) to avoid some of the stress of negotiation space with oncoming cars.
Crookston Road & Black Street Roundabout	Raised pedestrian crossing (all legs)	To discourage traffic rat- running along Crookston Road by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety when crossing the roundabout.
	Kerb extension	To reduce the perception of a wide road and create opportunities for additional landscaping at the corners of the roundabout.
	Public art installation	Opportunity for public art installation which references the unique characteristics of Reservoir residential areas and/ or surrounding creek corridors.

Concept Plan



<p><b>CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared cycle &amp; vehicle/ Sharrow symbol on road</li> </ul>	<p><b>PEDESTRIAN &amp; VEHICLE IMPROVEMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raised pedestrian crossing</li> <li>Landscape pinch-point with speed cushion</li> </ul>	<p><b>STREET GREENING &amp; IDENTITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional street trees / nature strip refresh</li> <li>Street greening opportunity</li> <li>Wayfinding signage</li> <li>Public art node</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXISTING CONDITIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus route / bus stop</li> <li>Public open space</li> <li>Residential area</li> <li>School</li> </ul>
---	--	---	---



Support safe pedestrian crossing and slowing down traffic



Wayfinding and signage to key destinations along the corridor



Public arts that tell the story of Reservoir and its community

# 4 Area 4: Crookston Road- Cheddar Road to Black Street

## Priority Area: Black Street

Crookston Road and Black Street roundabout has been selected as a priority area to facilitate improved pedestrian and cyclist safety. This location is identified to cater for higher pedestrian volume, including children traveling to schools (Reservoir Views Primary School and St Stephen's Catholic Primary School) along Black Street (refer to concept sketch).

### Strategies

1. Discourage traffic rat-running and improve pedestrian safety by implementing raised pedestrian crossings on all sides across Black Street and Crookston Road roundabout.
2. Install warning signs and sharrow (bike symbol) line marking to assist in raising the awareness of cyclists through the roundabout.

3. Slow the speed of vehicles traversing through roundabout by installing kerb extensions at each street corner with opportunity for additional landscaping.
4. Implement wayfinding signage for cyclist/ pedestrians to schools, bus stop (along Black Street) and Darebin Creek.
5. To discourage traffic rat-running along Crookston Road by slowing down traffic. Safe cycle movement is achieved by providing bike lanes (on either side of raised cushion) to avoid some of the stress of negotiating space with oncoming cars.
6. Infill tree planting within nature strip for additional shading and street beautification.

### Indicative Sketch Ideas



Artist's impression of Crookston Road looking west.



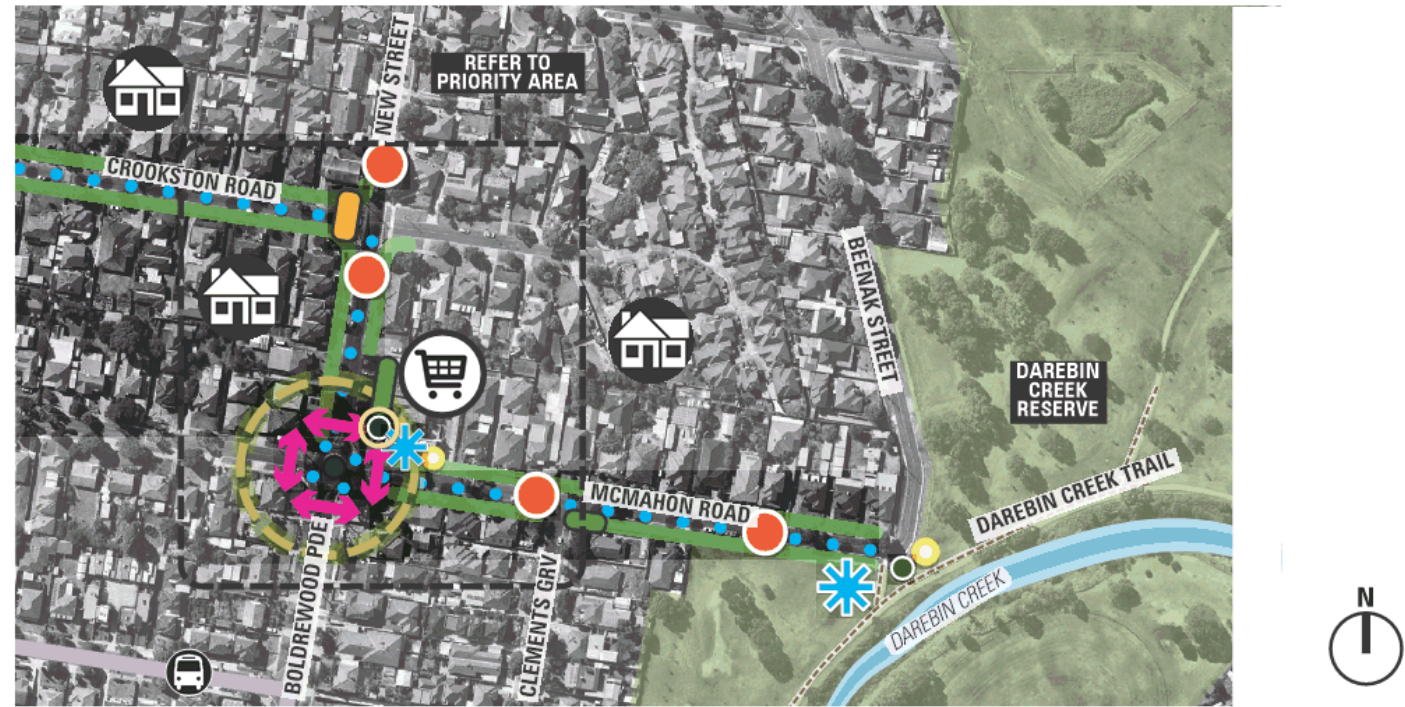
Existing Conditions

5

Area 5: Crookston Road- New Street to Darebin Creek

Streets/ Locations	Recommended Treatment	Objective
Along Crookston Road, Boldrewood Parade and McMahon Road	Shared vehicle and cycling, or 'sharrow'.	To encourage cyclists to use Crookston Road, Boldrewood Parade and McMahon Road as a cycling route by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols to assist with wayfinding.
	Implement wayfinding and signage	To provide directions to Ruthven Railway Station, bus route along Broadhurst Avenue, Edgars Creek and Merri Creek at Crookston Road and Cheddar Road intersection.
	Infill street tree planting	Nature strip to increase shade and street beautification
	Community-driven nature strip planting	Council to further encourage community-driven nature strip planting, supporting native and drought tolerant species.
Crookston Road & New Street intersection	Raised side street treatment	To discourage traffic rat- running into Boldrewood Parade by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/ access across Crookston Road.
New Street & Boldrewood Parade	Landscaped pinch point with raised table	To discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic when entering and exiting Boldrewood Parade and Crookston Road.
Boldrewood Parade & McMahon Road roundabout	Raised pedestrian crossing (all legs)	To discourage traffic rat- running into Boldrewood Parade and McMahon Road by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety when crossing the roundabout.
	Public art installation	Opportunity for public art installation which references the unique characteristics of Reservoir residential areas and/or surrounding creek corridors.
Clements Grove & McMahon Road	Landscaped pinch point with raised cushion	To discourage traffic rat- running along McMahon Road by slowing down traffic. Safe cycle movement is achieved by providing bike lanes (on either side of raised cushion) to avoid some of the stress of negotiation space with oncoming cars.
	Tighter radius intersection	To visually narrow turning circles, through kerb extension, at the T- junction to slow traffic entering and exiting McMahon Road.

Concept Plan



<p><b>CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared cycle &amp; vehicle/ Sharrow symbol on road</li> <li>Bike station/ seating node</li> </ul>	<p><b>PEDESTRIAN &amp; VEHICLE IMPROVEMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raised pedestrian crossing</li> <li>Zebra crossing</li> <li>Raised side street treatment</li> <li>Landscape pinch-point with raised table/ speed cushion</li> <li>Kerb extension &amp; landscaping opportunity</li> <li>Parallel parking &amp; footpath upgrade</li> </ul>	<p><b>STREET GREENING &amp; IDENTITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional street trees / nature strip refresh</li> <li>Street greening opportunity</li> <li>Wayfinding signage</li> <li>Lighting upgrade</li> <li>Public art node</li> </ul>	<p><b>EXISTING CONDITIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-road trail</li> <li>Bus route/ bus stop</li> <li>Public open space</li> <li>Creek</li> <li>Residential area</li> <li>Local shops</li> </ul>
---	---	---	--



Support safe pedestrian crossing and slowing down traffic at the roundabout



Footpath widening and additional landscaping to create an inviting community meeting place



Wayfinding and signage to key destinations along the corridor



5

Crookston Road- New Street to Darebin Creek

Priority Area: Boldrewood Parade

Boldrewood Parade (between Crookston Road and McMahon Road) is an important local walking route to Darebin Creek. It has been selected as a priority area for improved pedestrian and cycle safety and amenity as well as mitigating rat-running through local streets (refer to concept sketch).

Strategies

1. Implement raised side street treatment at Crookston Road to slow down traffic entering and exiting Boldrewood Parade.
2. Implement landscaped pinch point with raised table along New Street and Boldrewood Parade to slow down through traffic and discourage rat-running along Boldrewood Parade. Additional landscaping will also contribute in reducing the perception of a wide road.
3. Infill tree planting within nature strip for additional shading and street beautification.
4. Re-organise on street car park (parallel parking) for kerb extension to widen existing footpath. Improvement of footpath paving and new landscaping along the Boldrewood Parade shops frontage to create a welcoming space for community gathering and encourage activation of shops. Parallel parking is also a safer option for cyclists traveling along Boldrewood Parade.
5. Boldrewood Parade and McMahon Road roundabout: Implement raised pedestrian crossings at all approaches to improve pedestrian safety, increase driver awareness and reduce vehicle speeds.

6. Landscape upgrade with the potential for new seating at the nature strip on McMahon Road, or on the south side of 26b McMahon Road.
7. Wayfinding: Implement wayfinding and signage, providing directions to Darebin Creek, Ruthven Station and local schools at McMahon Road and Boldrewood Parade intersection.

Indicative Sketch Ideas



Existing Conditions



Artist's impression of Radford Avenue

## DESIGN THEMES FOR NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR

The experience of travelling along the Reservoir corridor is predominantly influenced by its quiet, residential character. Notably, this corridor is unique being intersected by three creek corridors, influencing the sense of arrival and wayfinding along its length. These environmental corridors and distinctive residential character are key consideration for materiality and design detailing in future stages. The aim is to enhance valued attributes identified by the Community in order to distinguish the corridor's unique characteristic.

Wayfinding is an important aspect of traveling along the corridor, noting that wayfinding is defined by ways in which people (residents/ visitors) orient themselves in physical space and navigate from place to place. Wayfinding can be facilitated through items such as material and landscape palette, signage, directional markings and public arts. The Design Themes matrix below highlights how the varied characters of west and east parts of the Reservoir Corridor can be designed to achieve a cohesive experience as one travel along its entire length.

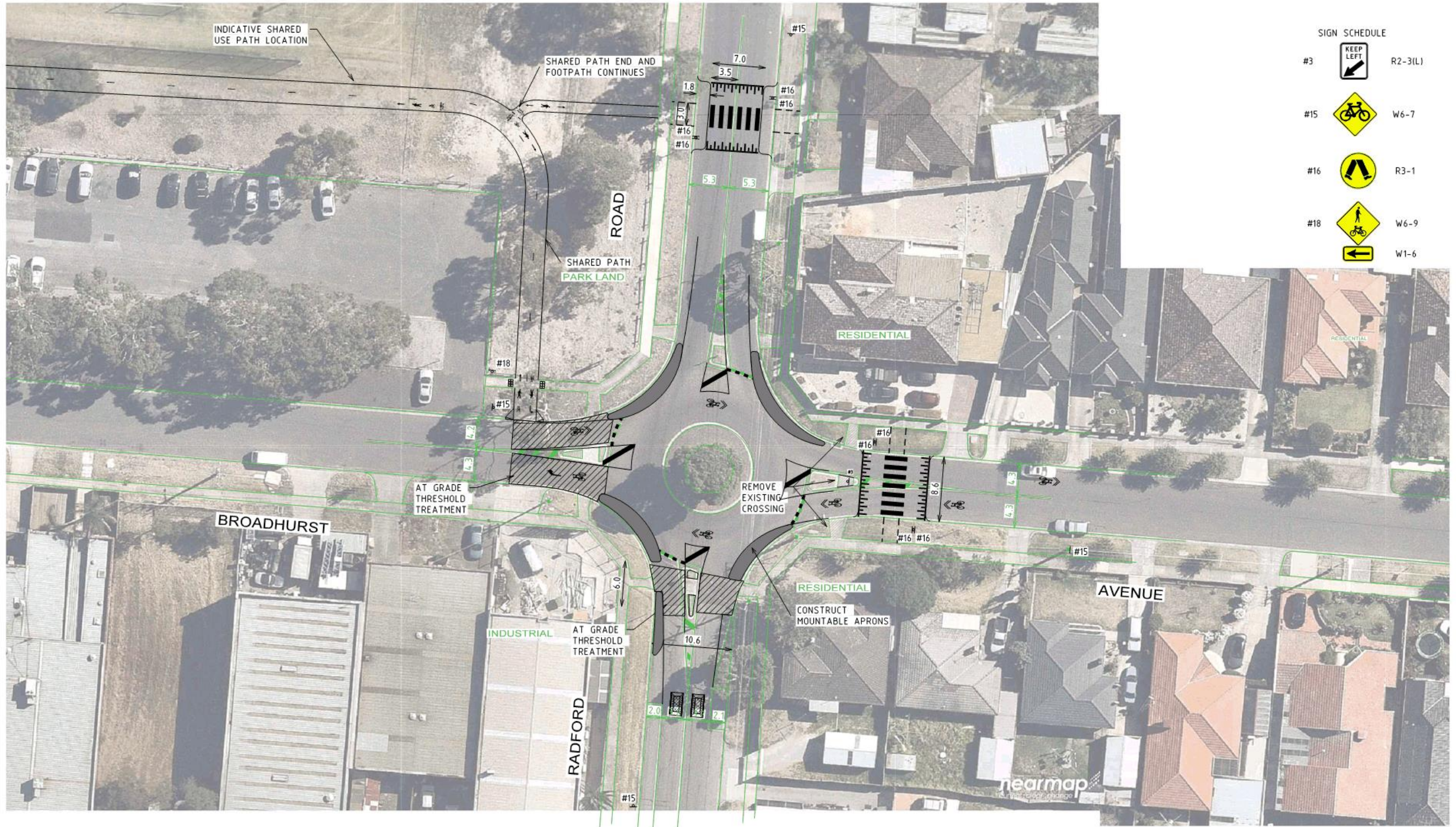
	RESERVOIR WEST (BROADHURST AVENUE) →				← RESERVOIR EAST (CROOKSTON ROAD)			
CHARACTER								
ENVIRONMENT								
GROUND PLANE								
FEATURES								

# STREETS for PEOPLE



APPENDIX A: ←

CONCEPT DRAWINGS: **NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR**



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#3		R2-3(L)
#15		W6-7
#16		R3-1
#18		W6-9
		W1-6

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-01 12:50:02 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 B3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 5 10

<b>Broadhurst Avenue and Radford Street</b>		
Darebin City		
<b>Intersection Treatment Concept Plan</b>		
SHEET NO. 01 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-01	ISSUE P4



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#2		R1-2
#14		W5-10
#15		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-02 12:50:04 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

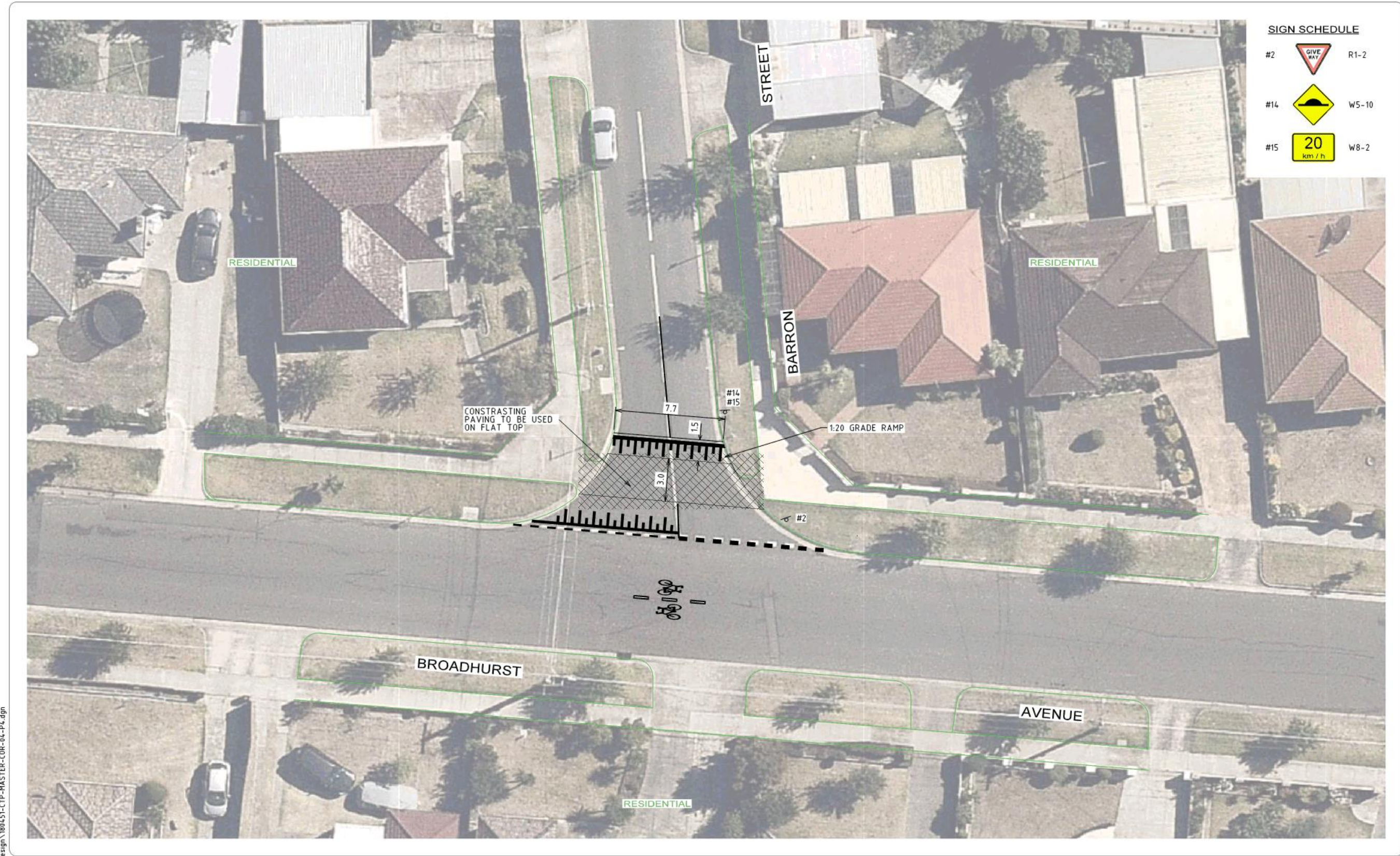
1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 B3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

<b>Broadhurst Avenue and Ashfield Street</b>		
Darebin City		
<b>Intersection Treatment Concept Plan</b>		
SHEET NO. 02 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-02	ISSUE P4



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#2		R1-2
#14		W5-10
#15		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-03 12:50:04 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

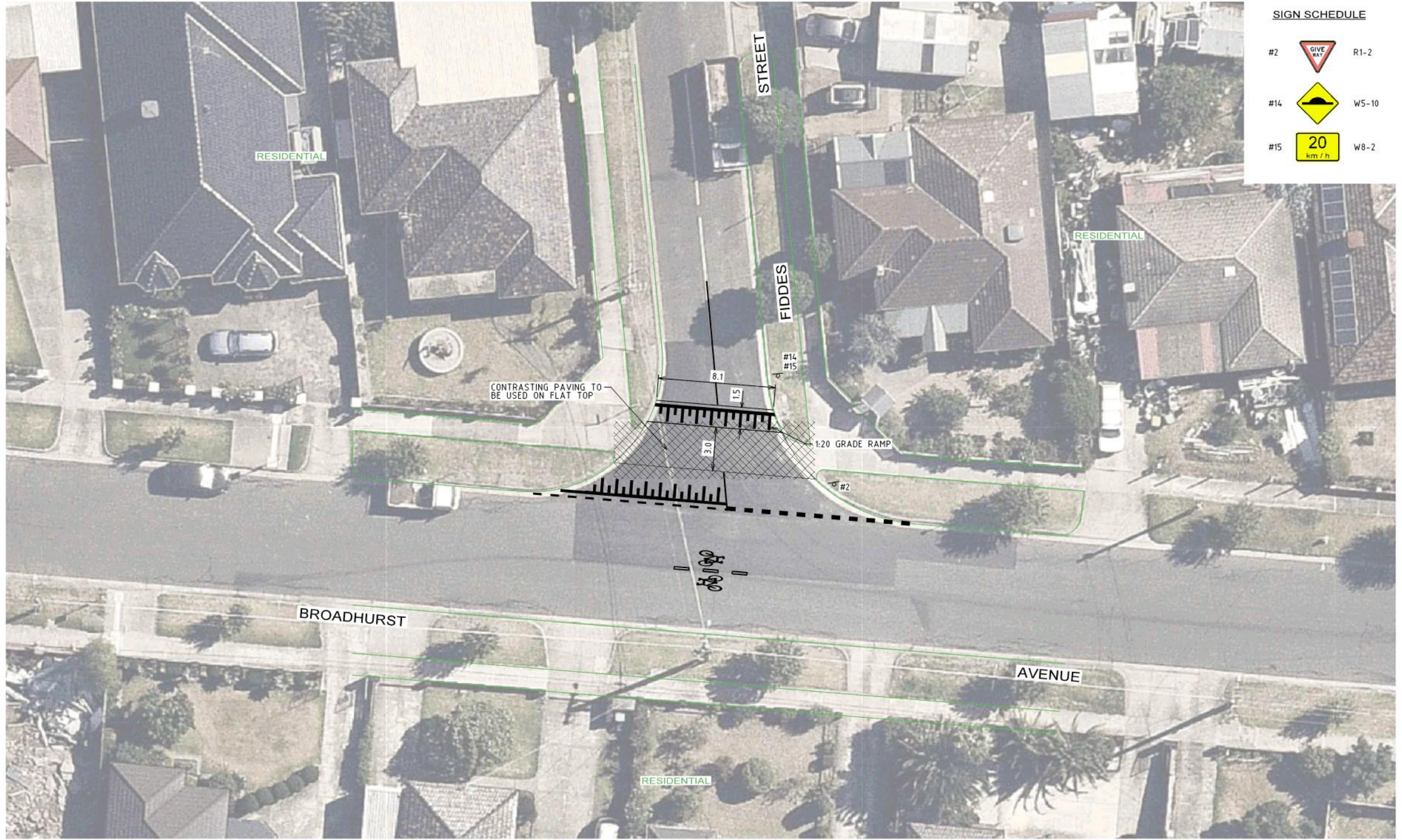
MELWAY MAP 18 C3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

**Broadhurst Avenue and Barron Street**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 03 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-03	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#2		R1-2
#14		W5-10
#15		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-04 12:50:05 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451\Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

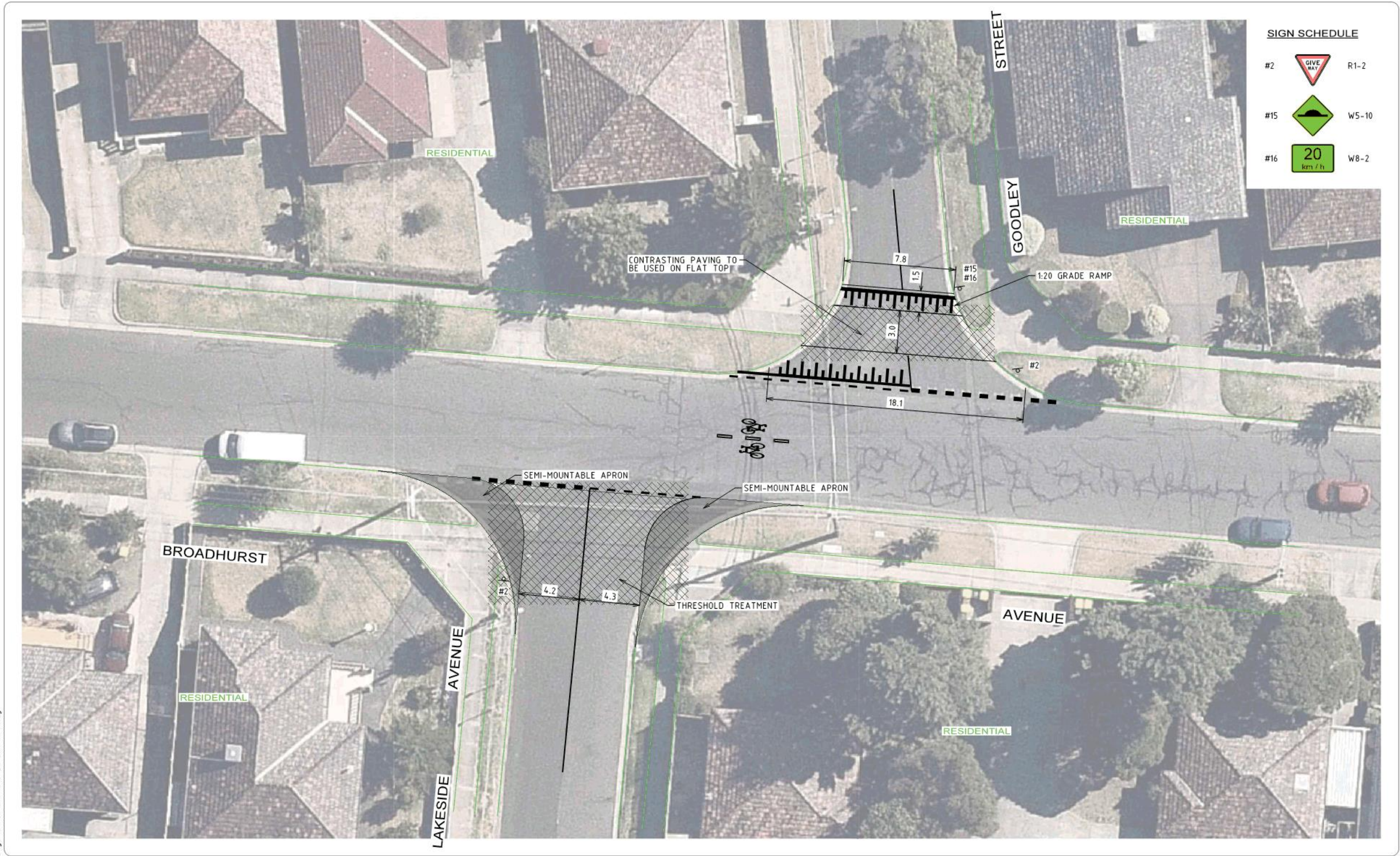
1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 C3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

<b>Broadhurst Avenue and Fiddes Street</b>		
Darebin City		
<b>Intersection Treatment Concept Plan</b>		
SHEET NO. 04 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-04	ISSUE P4



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#2		R1-2
#15		W5-10
#16		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-05 12:50:06 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT the place to live

MELWAY MAP 18 A3 RESERVOIR

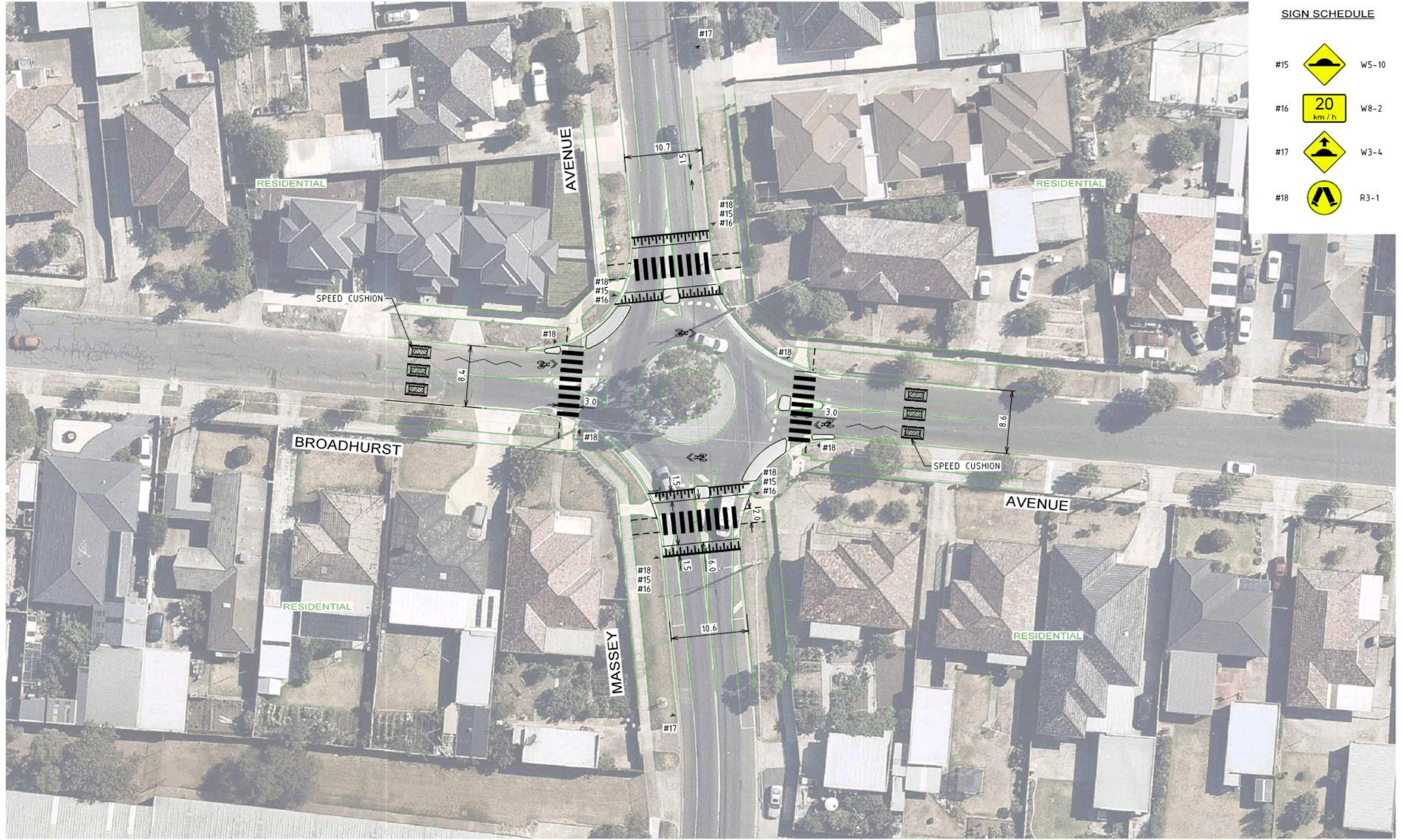
SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

**Broadhurst Avenue and Lakeside Avenue and Goodley Street**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 05 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-05	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------





SIGN SCHEDULE

- #15 W5-10
- #16 W8-2
- #17 W3-4
- #18 R3-1

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-06 12:50:07 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION

DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT the place to live

MELWAY MAP 18 D3 RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 5 10




**Broadhurst Avenue and Massey Avenue**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 06 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-06	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

- #2  R1-2
- #20  W5-10
- #21  W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-07 12:50:05 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-PA.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19


**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT 



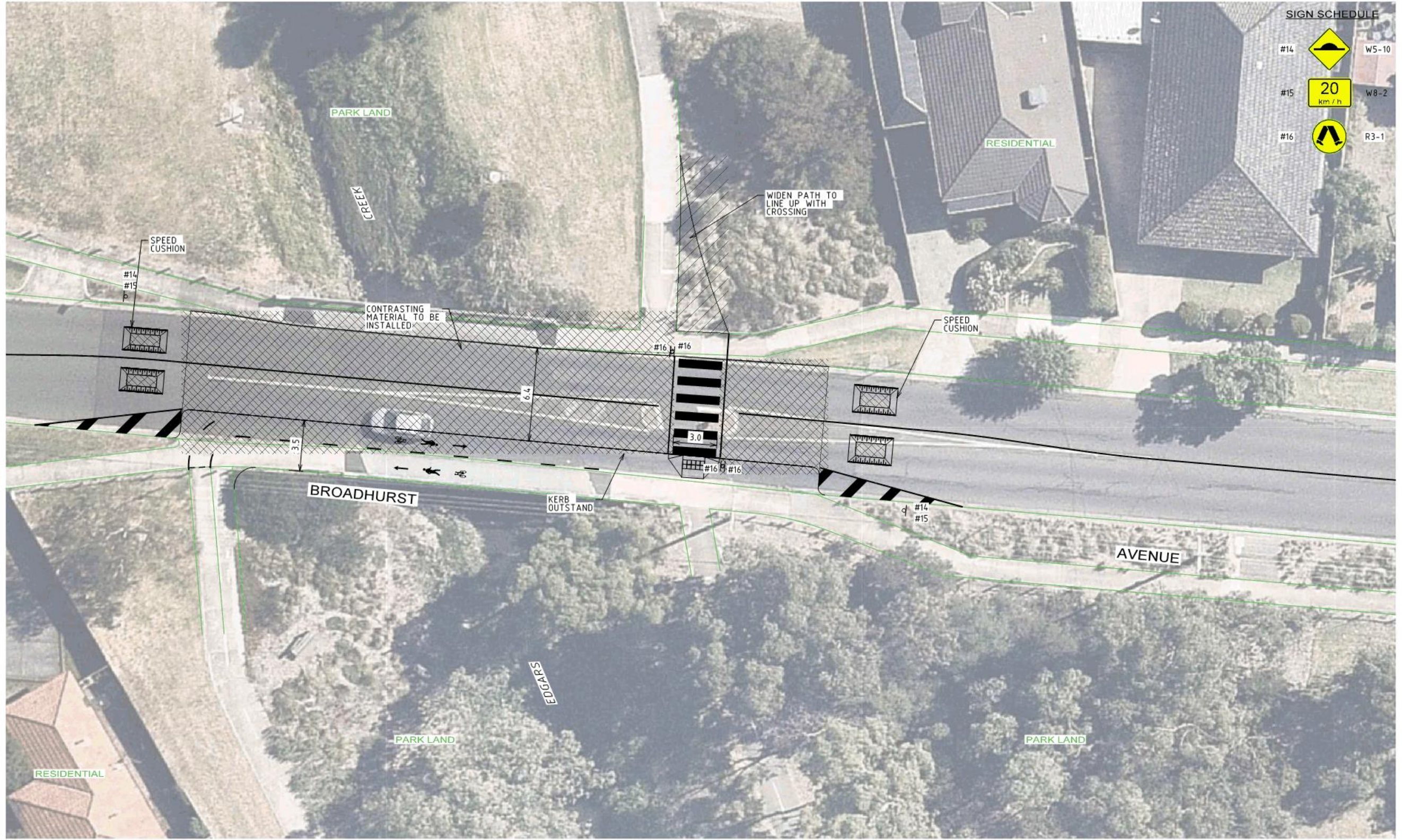
MELWAY MAP 18 D3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 5 10

**Broadhurst Avenue and Lawley Street**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 07 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-07	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-08 12:50:10 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451\Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

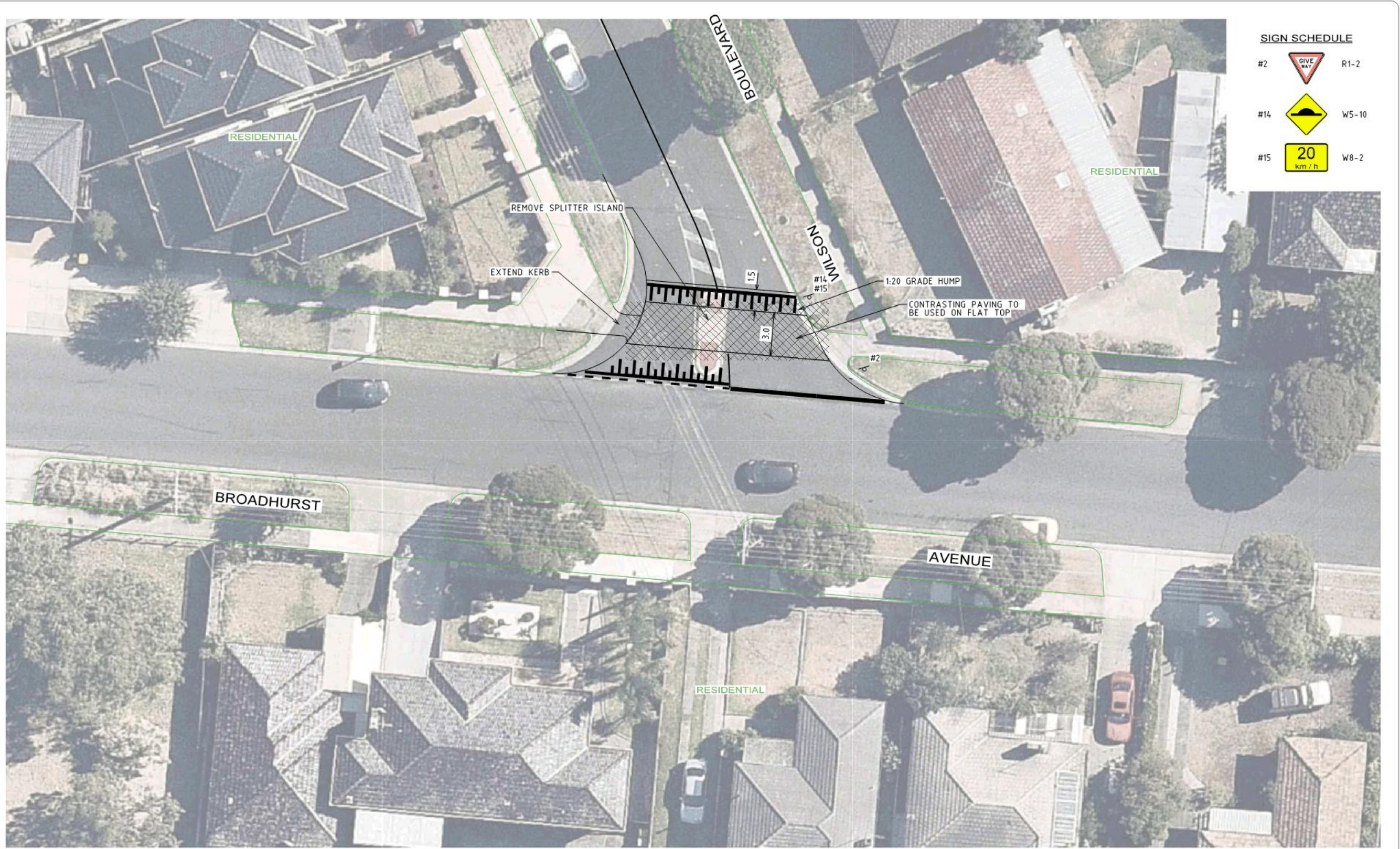
CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 E3 RESERVOIR  
SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

**Broadhurst Avenue Between Edgars Creek and Wilson Boulevard**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 08 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-08	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#2		R1-2
#14		W5-10
#15		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-09 12:50:11 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451\Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

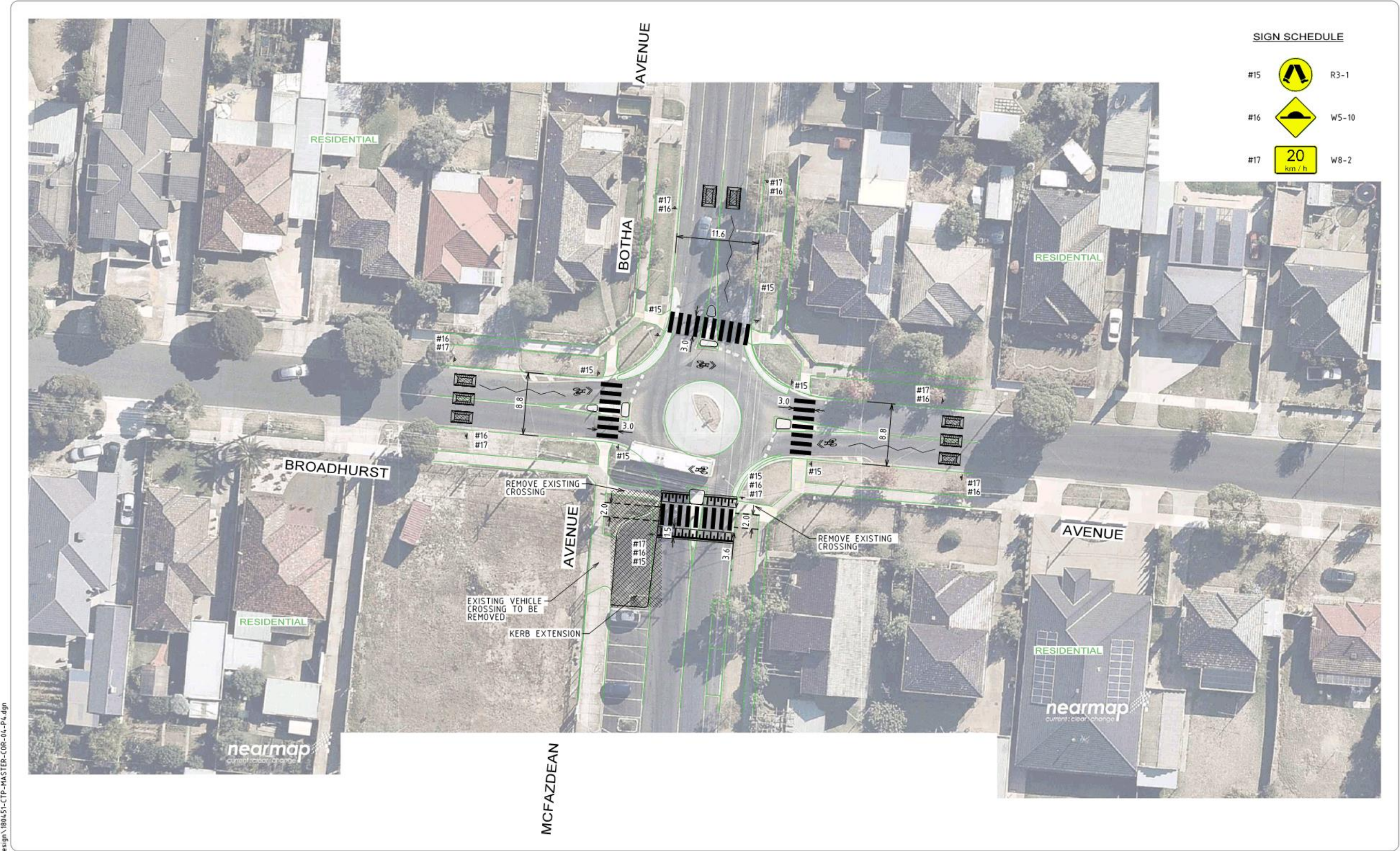
MELWAY MAP 18 E3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

**Wilson Boulevard and Broadhurst Avenue**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 09 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-09	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-10 12:50:12 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS**  
PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 F3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES

**Broadhurst Avenue and  
McFazdean Avenue and Botha Avenue**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 10 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-10	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#2		R1-2
#15		W5-10
#16		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-11 12:50:13 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451\Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.  
1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 F3 RESERVOIR  
SCALE OF METRES 2.5

**Broadhurst Avenue and Chauvel Street**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 11 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-11	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-12 11:34:46 AM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-PA.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION

DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

MELWAY MAP 18 G3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES

**Broadhurst Avenue and Gellibrand Crescent and Hobbs Crescent**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 12 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-12	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-13 12:50:14 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-PA.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION

DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS**  
PTY LTD

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

the place to live

MELWAY MAP 18 G3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 5 10

**Broadhurst Avenue and Maclagan Crescent**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 13 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-13	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------





**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#4		D4-1-2(L)
#15		W5-10
#16		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-14 12:50:15 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

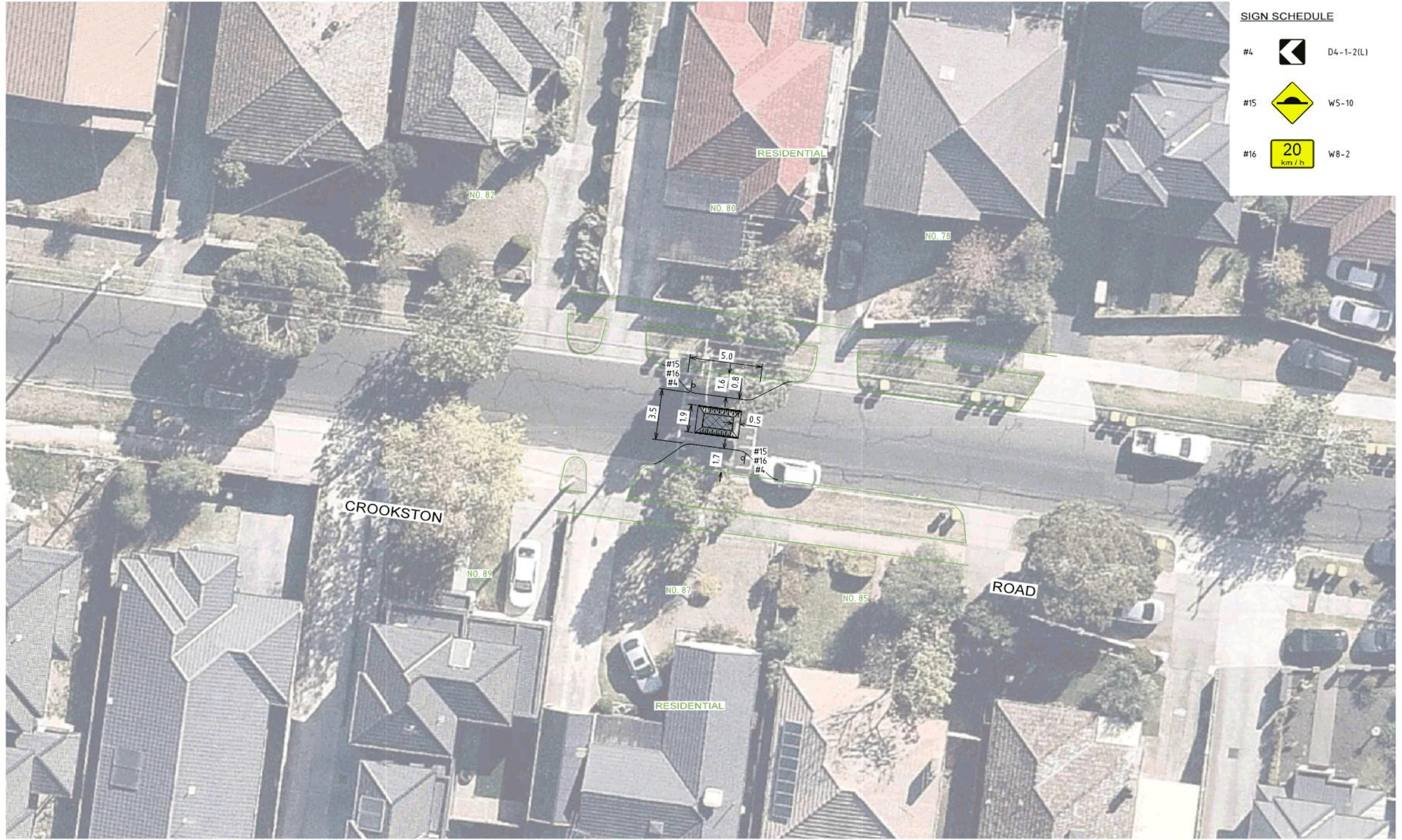
CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 J3 RESERVOIR  
SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

**Crookston Road**  
**Between Cheddar Road and Black Street**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 14 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-14	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#4		D4-1-2(L)
#15		W5-10
#16		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-15 12:50:16 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 J3  
RESERVOIR  
SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

<b>Crookston Road Between Cheddar Road and Black Street Darebin City</b>		
<b>Intersection Treatment Concept Plan</b>		
SHEET NO. 15 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-15	ISSUE P4



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#4		D4-1-2(L)
#15		W5-10
#16		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-16 12:50:17 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451\Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES

THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY

SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION

DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS**  
PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 K3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

**Crookston Road**  
**Between Cheddar Road and Black Street**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 16 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-16	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

#4		D4-1-2(L)
#15		W5-10
#16		W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-17 12:52:10 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

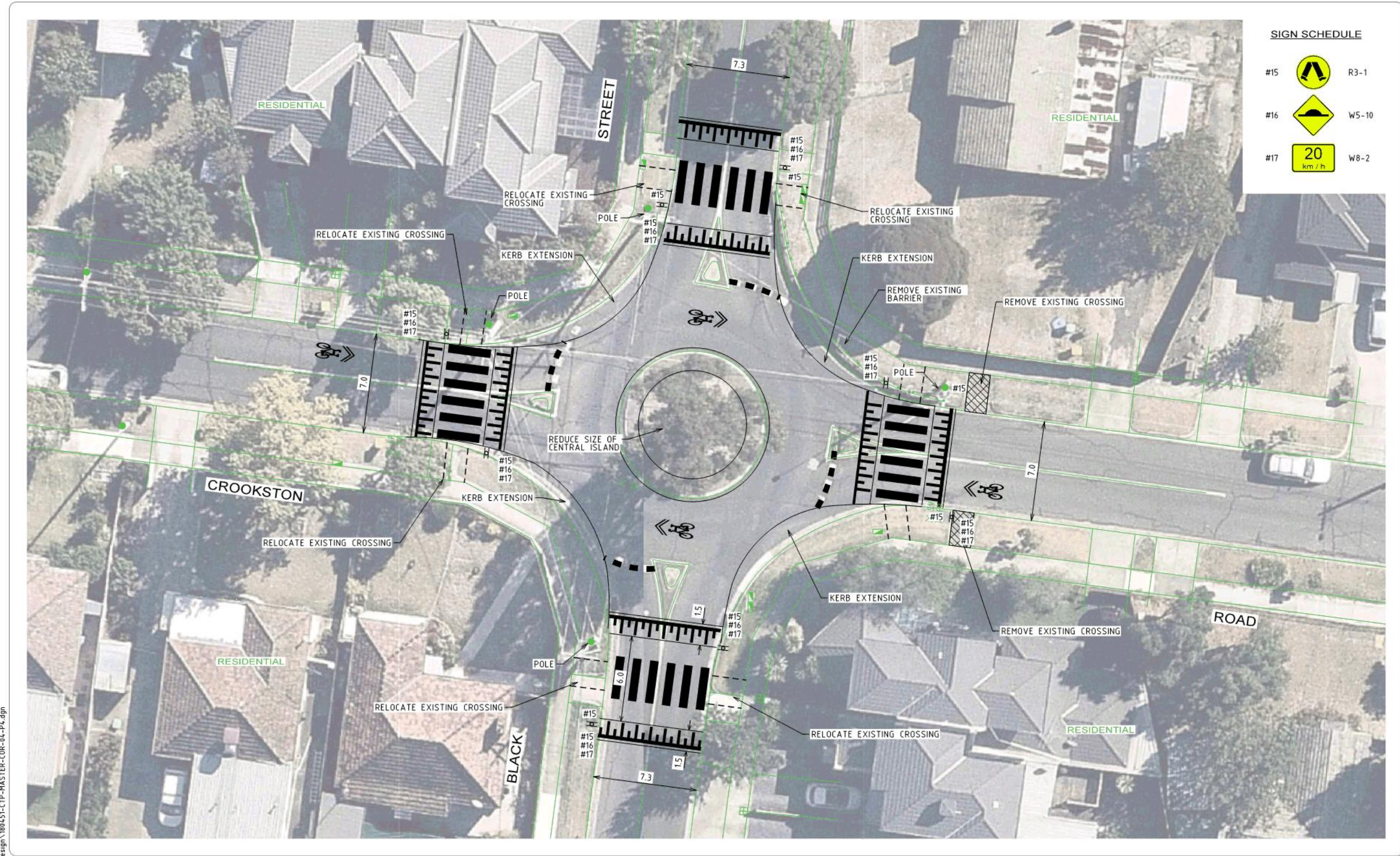
CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 K3 RESERVOIR  
SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

**Crookston Road**  
**Between Cheddar Road and Black Street**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 17 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-17	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-18 12:50:19 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS**  
PTY LTD

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

MELWAY MAP 18 K3  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5




**Crookston Road and Black Street**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 18 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-18	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



**SIGN SCHEDULE**

- #4  D4-1-2(L)
- #16  W5-10
- #17  20 km/h W8-2

14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-19 12:50:20 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**

BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**

FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19


**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT  **the place to live**



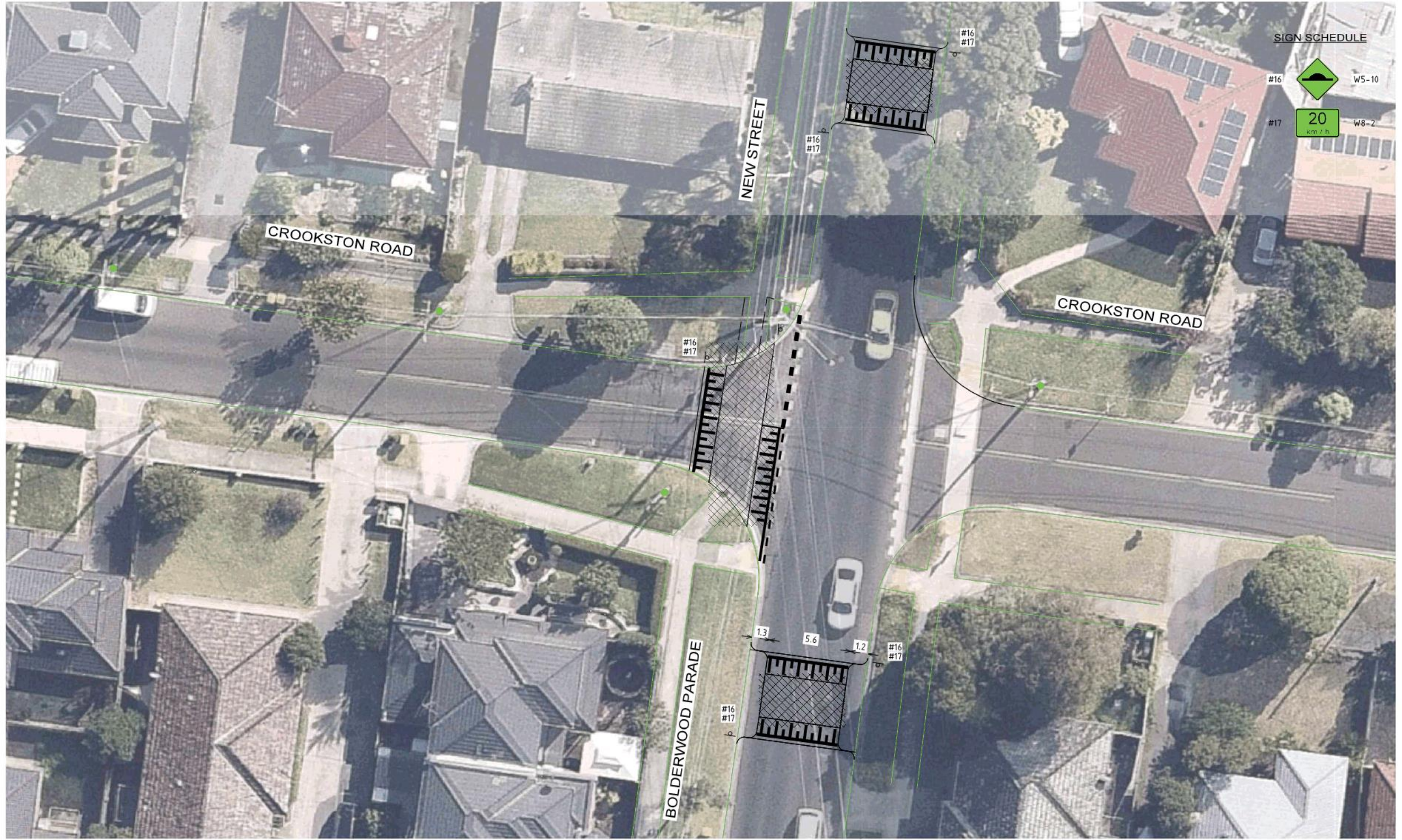
MELWAY MAP 19 A4  
RESERVOIR

SCALE OF METRES  
0 5 10

**Crookston Road Between  
Black Street and Balderwood Parade  
Darebin City**

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 19 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-19	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------



14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-20 12:50:21 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

<p><b>WARNING</b> BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.</p>	<p><b>PRELIMINARY PLAN</b> FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19</p>
--	--

**Notes & Legend**

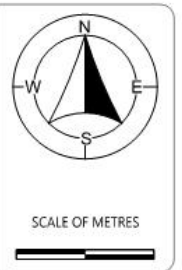
1. AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
2. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS**  
PTY LTD.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

the place to live



Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. of 22	DRAWING NO.
ISSUE P4	



14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-21 12:50:22 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451-Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-PA.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT

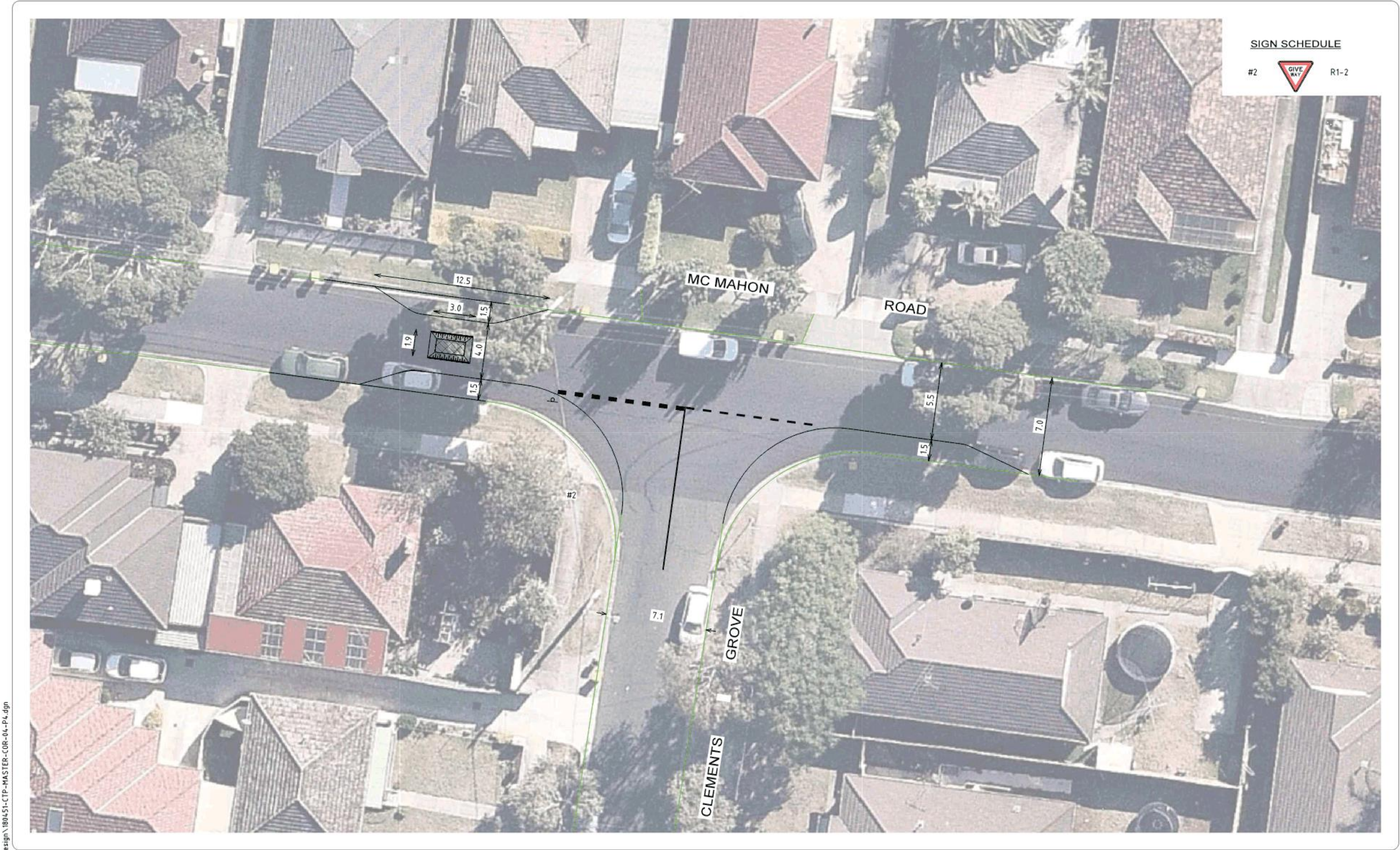
MELWAY MAP 19 A4  
RESERVOIR

**McMahon Road and Bolderwood Parade**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 21 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-21	ISSUE P4
-----------------------	------------------------------------	-------------





14/06/2019 180451-CTP-COR04-22 12:50:24 PM T:\1819 Projects\180451\Design\180451-CTP-MASTER-COR-04-P4.dgn

Drawing Record				
ISSUE	DRAWN	APP'D	DATE	AMENDMENT
P4	BC	BC	14.06.19	INCORPORATING DAREBIN COUNCIL COMMENTS

**WARNING**  
BEWARE OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES  
THE LOCATIONS OF UNDERGROUND SERVICES ARE APPROXIMATE ONLY AND THEIR EXACT POSITION SHOULD BE PROVEN ON SITE. NO GUARANTEE IS GIVEN THAT ALL EXISTING SERVICES ARE SHOWN.

**PRELIMINARY PLAN**  
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY  
SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTIFICATION  
DATE OF ISSUE: 14/06/19

**Notes & Legend**

- AERIAL IMAGE FROM NEARMAP UNDER LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH TRAFFICWORKS PTY LTD.
- ALL DIMENSIONS ARE TO FACE OF KERB UNLESS SHOWN OTHERWISE.

**TRAFFICWORKS** PTY LTD.  
1st Floor 132 Upper Heidelberg Road IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
P.O. Box 417 IVANHOE VIC. 3079  
Tel (03) 9490 5900 Fax (03) 9490 5910 www.trafficworks.com.au

CLIENT: the place to live

MELWAY MAP 19 A4 RESERVOIR  
SCALE OF METRES  
0 2.5 5

**McMahon Road and Clements Grove**  
Darebin City

**Intersection Treatment Concept Plan**

SHEET NO. 22 of 22	DRAWING NO. 180451-CTP-COR04-22
ISSUE P4	

# STREETS for PEOPLE



## APPENDIX B: ←

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY: NORTHERN RESERVOIR CORRIDOR



# STREETS for PEOPLE

CONSULTATION  
SUMMARY:  
PHASE 1 (NORTHERN  
RESERVOIR)

Prepared by **Hansen Partnership**  
for **City of Darebin**

APRIL 2018



# Introduction

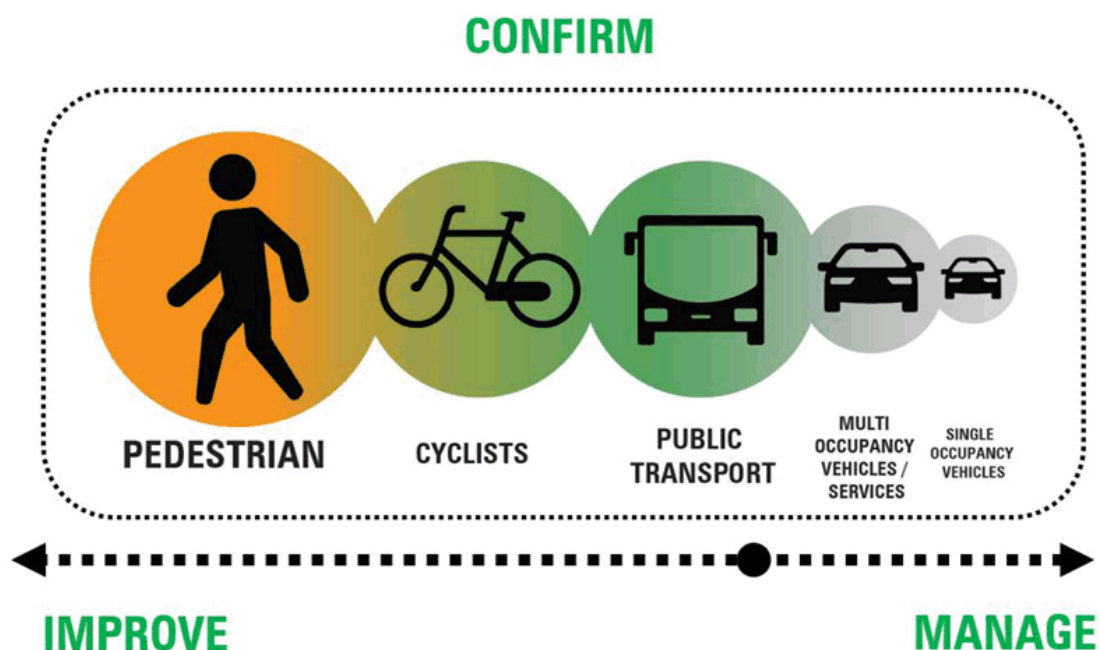
## About the Project

The Streets for People project builds on a significant body of work prepared in the earlier Feasibility Study in 2018, which sought to restore a balance in the role of streets between their functional modal requirements and their role in defining places and spaces for people.

Out of the 8 corridors that formed part of the Feasibility Study, this project seeks to further **develop 1 designated corridor in Reservoir North (Corridor 4)** into Concept Designs, to deliver the ambitions of the evolving Framework Concept Plans in an innovative yet cost-effective manner.

The Streets for People project is influenced by the following Guiding Principles:

- **Prioritise People** - Recognising people as the main users of streets and that future street design should maximise opportunities to improve pedestrian safety and amenity.
- **Minimising conflict** between the varying modes of transport, with higher priority given to pedestrian and cyclists without compromising the functional role of streets and requirements to support adjacent existing and future uses.
- **Increasing cycling confidence** along the corridors by providing high-quality cycling infrastructure that is well connected, easily navigated with varying degrees of separation and safety from moving traffic.



**Study Corridor**

Certain portions of the Study Corridor has been excluded from this Project in response to other on-going projects undertaken by LXRA and Council. The exclusion areas have effectively set the Study Corridor into 2 halves:

**Corridor 4: Reservoir North**

- Reservoir West (along Broadhurst Avenue, between Merri Creek & High Street)
- Reservoir East (along Crookston Road, between Cheddar Road & Dunne Street)



**Project Process**

This project has been undertaken based on the following process:



# Community Engagement Summary – Phase 1

There are 2 phases of community engagement processes including:

- Phase 1: Issues and Opportunities (March 2019) – included in this report
- Phase 2: Confirming the Ideas (May 2019) – not included in this report

## **PHASE 1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY**

In February 2019, Hansen Partnership were engaged by Darebin City Council (Council) to gather feedback on issues and opportunities for streetscape improvements and sustainable transport upgrades in Corridor 4 (Northern Reservoir Corridor). The community engagement also sought to present location specific ideas for improvement and gain an appreciation of community aspirations for the future of their streets based on a detailed understanding of place.

The first round of community consultation was undertaken from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 during Stage 2 of the overarching 'Streets for People' project. Stage 1 of the project sought to clarify Draft Framework Plans for the corridor, based on the earlier Streets for People Feasibility Study (prepared in 2018). This material formed a key part of the consultation phase where project ideas could be tested and discussed by consultation participants.

The purpose of the community engagement is to inform the refinement of the Framework Plans, ensuring that recommended future streetscape improvements and transport upgrades will appreciate the complexities that make up each neighbourhood and will ultimately be championed by the community who live, work and visit these areas.

### **About this Engagement Summary**

The following report provides an overview of the engagement process followed by a summary of the feedback received for each corridor and key issues for further investigation and refinement by the Project Team.

Corridor 4 is effectively divided into 2 segments (east and west), with an exclusionary zone in the centre, due to pending Level Crossing Removal projects. The consultation summary seeks to clarify the key issues and themes that have emerged from each segment along the corridor, acknowledging the variations in street condition, neighbourhood character, activities and population which may warrant alternative solutions for future upgrades and improvements.

### **Community Engagement Process**

The community engagement process sought to gain an appreciation of the complexity of each corridor, focusing on how people currently use the study area and their appetite for future upgrades and improvements centred around the 'Streets for People' ethos. The process also sought to identify key concerns relating to the various modes of transport (driving, walking, cycling) as well as the look and feel of the study area.

Hansen Partnership and Council curated a range of platforms for the community to be informed and contribute to the future of the streets. Activities included:

- Online Survey open from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- Flyer drop to local residents in each study area (distributed to 7000 households).
- Online Survey for each corridor
- Have your Say page including a question forum moderated by Council

## Corridor 4: Northern Reservoir Corridor



### Drop-in Session Summary

Number of Participants: Approximately 30 people in attendance

Format:

The Drop-in session was held at the Reservoir Library Forecourt between 2-4pm on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2019. Material used at the venue included:

- Draft Framework Plans printed at A1 and displayed on tables. Participants were able to review emerging ideas and provide feedback or ideas for specific areas using Post-It-notes.
- Dot-What's-Hot poster illustrating precedent images of activities, landscape, transport and treatments where participants could place a sticker on the images they liked.
- An interactive street cross-section allowing people to design and discuss their dream street based on standard dimensions of transport infrastructure and street elements.
- A1 aerial maps for visual reference and detailed discussion about locations along the corridor.
- Existing conditions maps from the Feasibility Study to communicate the network of corridors and the purpose of the project.

### Summary of Key Challenges

- There is a perceived conflict of ambitions between local residents who rely on vehicles (specifically trade vehicles) and cycling or walking as their primary mode of transport to access services and employment.
- It is acknowledged that public transport is not a common form of transport for residents along the study area due to lack of accessibility and convenience, therefore increasing car dependency.
- While some participants were supportive of slower vehicle speeds through traffic calming measures at intersections, roundabouts or mid-block pinch-points, a high portion of participants raised concerns with the restriction of vehicle movement and exacerbation of existing traffic flow conditions associated with any street improvements.
- We note the high volume of trade vehicles, semi-trucks and buses that operate to the west of the study area, Broadhurst Avenue, that may restrict opportunities for round-about upgrades and intersection 'tightening', particularly at Radford and Massey Streets.
- A number of participants identified streets within and adjacent to the study area which facilitate high levels of rat-running during peak times and are concerned for flow on effects if limitations are put in place

in certain streets (as opposed to others). This was common along Bolderwood Parade in the east of the study area.

- A number of participants also raised concerns for the reduction of on-street parking, to accommodate cycle infrastructure or traffic calming treatments, and the impact of car parking availability for their families and friends.
- There are concerns about the condition of footpaths along the corridor (and in all of Reservoir more broadly), where surfaces are uneven or present tripping hazards for the elderly and pedestrians with mobility limitations.
- Some participants were also concerned about the lack of legibility or sense of belonging for cyclists along the corridor, although they rely on the east-west corridor to access off-road bike paths. They felt there was a general perception, they were not welcome in the space due to the behaviour of drivers and lack of wayfinding dedicated to cycling.
- The Edgars Creek bridge was a key concern for both pedestrians and cyclists given the narrow road width and footpath extent to facilitate safe movement. The existing pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road is considered helpful for the elderly to stage their crossing. However a raised crossing was generally well received to slow vehicles and increase sightlines to pedestrians.
- While outside of the projects scope, there was considerable discussion surrounding the intersection with High Street and the underpass at Ruthven Station, and this was seen by many as a missing link for pedestrians and cyclists.

#### Summary of Key Opportunities

- There was general support for an increase in street planting (trees and understorey) with an appropriate plant selection to maintain visibility from residential driveways while ensuring they are low maintenance and drought tolerant. Participants would like to see a rethink of nature strip plantings with the potential to coordinate working bees with local residents in key pockets along the corridor.
- Participants were supportive of more pedestrian crossings associated with bus stops along Bolderwood Parade in association with shelters.
- Participants were supportive of the opportunity to improve the East-West cycle link with wayfinding signage and bike stations.
- Many participants requested more areas of open space or better use of existing areas for activities and recreation (specifically at Edgars Creek and Broadhurst Avenue Reserve).

#### Emerging ideas and considerations

- Council to undertake further traffic investigations to identify opportunities to divert large vehicles away from Corridor 4 (west) particularly at roundabouts on Radford and Massey Streets, associated with the industrial area to the south of Broadhurst Avenue.
- Broadhurst Avenue at the Edgars Creek bridge presents considerable opportunity for improvements to provide safer access to pedestrians entering the street from the existing creek trail and manage cycle movement across the bridge given its narrow width.
- Council to undertake further traffic investigations (as part of existing Local Area Traffic Management Study) to identify opportunities to restrict rat-running along Bolderwood Parade and Rathcown Road.
- Council to undertake further work (potentially through a detailed audit) to identify pedestrian paths or low quality, which prevent or restrict people with limited mobility to explore their neighbourhood.

#### Online Feedback Summary



The Darebin Have Your Say Website provided opportunity for readers to leave comments or queries about the project. Key issues raised include:

- Concern surrounding the number of multi-residential developments being approved and built, causing more cars to be parked on the street and creating a dangerous environment for cyclists. Consider more permit only parking or parking bay lines along the corridor to avoid car parking too close to driveways.
- A number of responses identified the need to maintain the quiet character of their street by providing substantial canopy trees and shade, seating areas for the elderly, wide footpaths and pedestrian crossings, improving safety for pedestrians.
- Consideration for a dedicated and safe cycle path along Broadhurst Avenue to Merri Creek path was recommended. It was identified that roundabouts were unsafe environments for cyclists, often conflicting with vehicle movement.
- Consideration of the impact in surrounding streets where limiting or restricting vehicle movement along Crookston Road.
- While outside of the study area (excluded zone), a number of responses identified the need for improved pedestrian crossing at the Cheddar and Crookston Road intersection.

## Online Survey Summary

Number of Survey Participants: 82

### Age Groups:

- 14 and under: 0%
- 15-24: 2.47%
- 25-34: 28.40%
- 35-44: 34.57%
- 45-54: 23.46%
- 55-64: 7.41%
- 65-74: 1.23%
- 75-84: 1.23%
- 85 and above: 1.23%

### Distribution of participants:

- Reservoir West: 42.5%
- Reservoir East: 57.5%

*Note: 2 skipped*

### Relationship to the study area:

- Resident: 88.89%
- Access public transport: 14.81%
- Occasional visitor: 7.41%
- Frequent visitor: 3.7%
- Business: 2.47%
- Employee: 1.23%
- Student: 0%
- First time visitor: 0%

### Accessibility

- 5% of participants stated to have physical limitations that prevent them from walking, bicycling, or driving.

## What We Heard

### Reservoir West

#### Existing Transport and Movement

- During weekdays, 45% of participants rely on a car as the primary mode of travel. Walking and Train both accounted for 18% and cycling 15%.
- On weekends, car usage increased to 60% as the primary mode of travel, walking accounted for 24% and cycling 12%.
- We acknowledge car use is generally the most reliant mode of transport for participants given the corridor comprises lower order residential subdivision and proximity to services is limited.

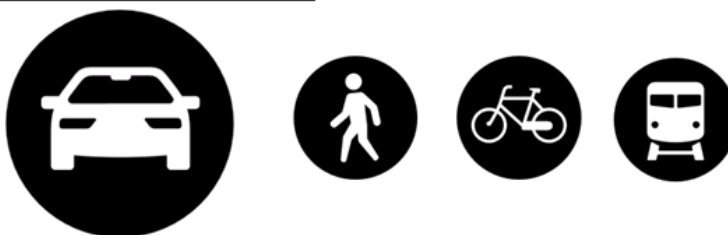
#### Alternative Mode of Transport

- Participants were also asked to select a preferred 'alternative' mode of transport to be promoted to reduce car traffic. A generally even mix of responses between cycling (60%), walking (52%) and public transport (48%) options was recorded.

## CORRIDOR 4: RESERVOIR WEST



### EXISTING MODE OF TRANSPORT



### ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TRANSPORT (TO REDUCE TRAFFIC)



#### Street Priorities

Where participants were asked to rank the importance of various movement and streetscape attributes according to their preference:

- Walking paths was the highest ranked streetscape attribute, with 75% of participants ranking it in their top 3. Street trees and vegetation scored second highest, with 63% of participants ranking it in their top 3.
- Followed by Public Transport, convenient driving and cycling paths.
- On-street parking scored the lowest, with 45% of participants ranking this attribute as least important (Number 6).

Quality of Streets

Participants were asked to rate the quality of movement and streetscape attributes in their area:

- On-Street parking was considered to be very good or good for over 48% of participants.
- Convenient driving was considered 'OK' or 'Good', equating to over 63% of responses.
- The quality of walking paths received a mixed response, with 85% of participants generally rating the quality equally between 'Poor', 'OK' and 'Good'
- Cycling paths were generally considered of very poor or poor quality according to over 55% of participants.
- Street trees and vegetation were also considered to generally be of an OK or poor quality according to approximately 75% of participants.

## CORRIDOR 4: RESERVOIR WEST



### CURRENT STREET PRIORITIES vs QUALITY OF STREET

RESERVOIR (WEST)	
1. Walking paths	OK
2. Street trees and vegetation	POOR
3. Public transport access	OK
4. Convenient driving	GOOD
5. Cycle paths	POOR
6. On-street parking	GOOD

Streets for People scenarios

Participants were asked to rank a series of scenarios about how they use their street for movement and amenity.

- I would allow my children to walk or cycle to school by themselves (33% agree, 33% disagree):
- I consider cycling a risky form of transport along my street (63% agree or strongly agree).
- I frequently walk to my local convenient store/ parks (80% agree or strongly agree).
- I consider walking and/or running in my neighbourhood important to my health and wellbeing (72% strongly agree).
- I do not rely on on-street parking (even).
- I do not rely on signage to find my way around my neighbourhood (77% agree or strongly agree).
- My street will benefit from more trees and landscaping (69% strongly agree).
- I would rely less on my car if there were safer bike paths (42% strongly agree).
- I feel safe walking at night along my street (70% strongly agree or agree).

Special attributes

Participants were asked to describe what is special about their streets. The common attributes included:

- The presence of trees and street trees;
- Its width;
- It is quiet and has a sense of community;
- Connections to open space, public transport and shops; and
- Heritage houses and character of houses.

Convenience of Movement

Participants were asked to select interventions or upgrades improve convenience of access and transport. The top 5 selected interventions include:

- Improved crossings and junctions (72% of participants selected).
- Improved lighting (55% of participants selected).
- Bicycle lanes and more street trees (equal 42% of participants selected).
- Less cars and wider footpaths (30% of participants selected).
- More outdoor activities and shade (27% of participants selected).

Several additional suggestions related to improved public transport connections and facilities as well as improving flow of vehicle traffic along the corridor.

Ideas for improvements

Participants were asked to select ideas and images which describe their understanding of people-friendly streets. The top 5 responses include:

- Street greening;
- Improved lighting;
- More pedestrian crossings;
- More seating and gathering spaces; and
- Water sensitive urban design.

## CORRIDOR 4: RESERVOIR WEST

### STREET IDENTITY & ASPIRATION

#### **RESERVOIR (WEST): Valued Street Qualities**

- Sense of openness
- Quiet
- Trees / Green
- Destinations along the corridor
- Community oriented

#### **RESERVOIR (WEST): Wish List**

- Greening/ WSUD
- Improved pedestrian safety
- Wider Footpaths/ Less car
- Lighting & Seating
- Bike safety



## Reservoir East

### Existing Transport and Movement

- During weekdays, 58% of participants rely on a car as the primary mode of travel. Cycling and Train both accounted for 13% and walking 8%.
- On weekends, car usage increased to 85% as the primary mode of travel. Walking accounted for 8%.

### Alternative Mode of Transport

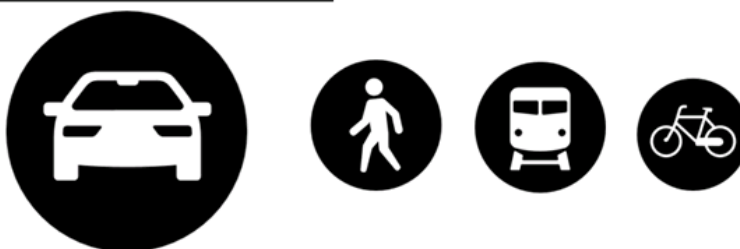
Participants were also asked to select a preferred 'alternative' mode of transport to be promoted to reduce car traffic.

- Walking was the most popular mode, equating for 58% of responses.
- Cycling accounted for 49% of responses and public transport options (bus 47% and tram 36%).

## CORRIDOR 4: RESERVOIR EAST



### EXISTING MODE OF TRANSPORT



### ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TRANSPORT (TO REDUCE TRAFFIC)



### Street Priorities

Where participants were asked to rank the importance of various movement and streetscape attributes according to their preference:

- Public transport accessibility was the highest ranked streetscape attribute, with 67% of participants ranking it in their top 3.
- Convenient driving scored second highest, with 57% of participants ranking it in their top 3.
- Followed by walking paths, street trees/vegetation and on street parking.
- Cycling paths scored the lowest, with 43% of participants ranking this attribute as least important (Number 6).

Quality of Streets

Participants were asked to rate the quality of movement and streetscape attributes in their area:

- The quality of walking paths received a mixed response, with 72% of participants rating the quality equally between 'Poor' and 'OK'.
- Cycling paths were considered of 'Poor' or 'OK' quality according to over 67% of participants.
- The Convenient driving was considered 'OK' or 'Good', equating to over 65% of responses.
- The rating of on-Street parking was mixed, with 35% of participants considering it to be 'OK', 22% considered it to be good and 24% considered it as poor.
- Only 24% of participants ranked streets trees of a good or very good quality.

## CORRIDOR 4: RESERVOIR EAST

### CURRENT STREET PRIORITIES vs QUALITY OF STREET

RESERVOIR (EAST)	
1. Public transport access	<span style="background-color: #90EE90; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px;">GOOD</span>
2. Convenient driving	<span style="background-color: #8B4513; color: white; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px;">POOR</span>
3. Walking paths	<span style="background-color: #8B4513; color: white; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px;">POOR</span>
4. Street trees and vegetation	<span style="background-color: #00B0F0; color: white; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px;">OK</span>
5. On-street parking	<span style="background-color: #00B0F0; color: white; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px;">OK</span>
6. Cycle paths	<span style="background-color: #8B4513; color: white; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px;">POOR</span>



Streets for People scenarios

Participants were asked to rank a series of scenarios about how they use their street for movement and amenity.

- I would allow my children to walk or cycle to school by themselves was evenly scored across the categories.
- I consider cycling a risky form of transport along my street (47% agree or strongly agree).
- I frequently walk to my local convenient store/ parks (50% agree).
- I consider walking and/or running in my neighbourhood important to my health and wellbeing (81% agree or strongly agree).
- I do not rely on on-street parking was evenly scored across the categories.
- I do not rely on signage to find my way around my neighbourhood (77% agree or strongly agree).
- My street will benefit from more trees and landscaping (47% strongly agree).
- I would rely less on my car if there were safer bike paths (even).
- I feel safe walking at night along my street (51% disagree, 20% strongly disagree).

Special attributes

Participants were asked to describe what is special about their streets. The common attributes included:

- Sense of community;
- Access to station;
- Street trees;
- Connections to Darebin Creek; and
- Width of street.

Convenience of Movement

Participants were asked to select interventions or upgrades improve convenience of access and transport. The top 5 include:

- Improved crossings and junctions (70%);
- Less cars (37%);
- Improved lighting (35%);
- Bicycle lanes and more street trees (equal 32%); and
- Slower car speeds (26%).

Several additional suggestions included the provision of new pedestrian crossings, improved access to the station and management of car parking congestion.

Ideas for improvements

Participants were asked to select ideas and images which describe their understanding of people-friendly streets. The top 5 responses include:

- Street greening;
- Improved lighting;
- Protected bike paths;
- More pedestrian crossings; and
- Water sensitive urban design.

## CORRIDOR 4: RESERVOIR EAST



### STREET IDENTITY & ASPIRATION

#### **RESERVOIR (EAST): Valued Street Qualities**

- Community oriented
- Public transport convenience
- Trees/ Green
- Quiet
- Sense of openness

#### **RESERVOIR (EAST): Wish List**

- Greening/ Water Sensitive Urban Design
- Lighting
- Bike safety
- Improved pedestrian safety



## **Street Champions Workshop Summary**

### Format:

The Street Champions Workshop for the Northern Reservoir Corridor was held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Preston Shire Hall. The structure of the workshop included:

- Introductory presentation about the project, Council's ambition for sustainable transport and the role of the Street Champion in the project process.
- Individual introductions of Street Champion participants presenting their idea for the future of their street.
- Table discussions for each side of the corridor (east and west) to present and gain feedback from the participants about the proposed design treatments.
- Presentation of preliminary sketch concepts of two Hot Spots and engage in further design discussion and drawing to refine the proposed treatments at these locations.
- Street Champion presentation to the wider group to discuss workshop outcomes and ideas.

## **RESERVOIR EAST AND WEST**

### Key Issues

Ideas and ambitions for achieving Streets for People as recommended by participants included the following (in no particular order):

- Safe cycling;
- Greenery;
- Consistent streetscape and identity;
- Improved wayfinding;
- Parking/ traffic management;
- Less large vehicles/ trucks;
- Better access and facility at public transport;
- Safe pedestrian access;
- Family children safety;
- Less traffic / rat running; and
- Playful streets.

## **RESERVOIR EAST**

### Key issues:

The key issues identified by the participants along this section of the corridor included:

- Rat running issue around Bolderwood Parade and New Street junction to access Cheddar Roads.
- Junctions of Black Street and Rathcown Road and Hickford Street is perceived to be dangerous (possible black spots) from pedestrian's perspective (acknowledge these are outside the project study area).
- Black Street and Borrie Street are key pedestrian route connecting Reservoir Views Primary School (north) and St Stephen's Catholic Primary School (south).
- Local flooding issue at Bolderwood Parade and Crookston Road junction (west side).
- Chicane treatments often invite 'Hoon' behaviour and not preferred.



### Hot Spot 02: Black Street and Crookston Road Junction

- Minimise rat running along Crookston Road and Black Street through traffic calming.
- Improve pedestrian safety by adding new zebra crossings around existing roundabout at Crookston Road and Black Street junction.
- Reduction of roundabout size through kerb extensions for improved pedestrian safety and amenity. This idea will need to be ensure north – south bus movement along Black Street is not compromised.



Hot Spot 2: Sketch Concept

## RESERVOIR WEST

### Key issues:

The key issues identified by the participants along this section of the corridor included:

- The presence of large vehicles along the corridor including buses and trucks from the surrounding industrial areas.
- Rat -running along corridor
- Lack of pedestrian crossings along the corridor to access key actives and destinations safely (particularly with children).
- Roundabouts at Radford Road, Banbury Road, McFadzean Avenue at Hobbs Crescent are difficult to cross.
- Lack of legibility of creek entries and trails at Merri and Edgars Creek.
- Underutilised public open space at BT Connor Reserve and Hobbs Crescent intersection.
- Inconsistent street trees along the corridor.
- While outside of the study area, High Street and the rail corridor were considered significant movement barriers for pedestrians and cyclists, limiting the ability for families to feel safe enough to cross.

### Proposed Framework Ideas:

Participants are generally supportive of the framework as presented and encourage further exploration of the following:

- Participants showed high support for intersection upgrades to side streets as a way to slow the speed of vehicles entering and exiting Broadhurst Avenue. Specifically, raised side intersections were highly encouraged acknowledging the additional benefit of improved pedestrian accessibility and in some cases pedestrian priority (zebra crossing).
- A combination of raised and standard zebra crossings at roundabouts were supported (depending on bus routes). Banbury Road roundabout could incorporate raised crossings at the north and south.
- It was acknowledged that some kerbside planting can often look unmaintained and disrupt pedestrian flow (particularly along narrow paths). Any new planting should be resilient and not impact on pedestrian movement.
- With regard to greening, participants expressed interest in improving the presence of shade and canopy trees along the street, particularly focusing new trees and plantings at intersections and Creek entries.
- It is acknowledged that the current trees are recently planted and opportunity exists for additional trees to be established in an effort to create a consistent boulevard effect.
- Participants also expressed interest in streetscape treatments which provide colour and playful elements to encourage families to walk and cycle to the important creek corridors (Merri and Edgars Creek, with Darebin Creek to the far east).
- Opportunity to improve wayfinding and signage at the Cheddar Road intersection to improve access to creek trails and public open spaces.

### Hot spot 1: Edgars Creek

Participants were generally supportive of the proposed concept sketch with additional items to consider including:

- A strong preference for stone and brick details (as opposed to surface paint) to reinforce the character of Reservoir.
- Opportunities to demarcate the entry to the Edgars Creek trail through native planting and trees.
- Opportunity to incorporate wayfinding art or sculpture referencing native birds which frequent the environmental corridors.





# STREETS for PEOPLE

CONSULTATION  
SUMMARY:  
PHASE 2 (NORTHERN  
RESERVOIR)

Prepared by Hansen Partnership  
for City of Darebin

JUNE 2018



# Community and Stakeholder Engagement Summary: Reservoir Corridor – Phase 2

In May 2019, Hansen Partnership were engaged by Darebin City Council (Council) to gather feedback on the proposed streetscape improvements and sustainable transport upgrades in Corridor 4 (Northern Reservoir Corridor) following a previous round of engagement in March 2019. The Community engagement also sought to present more detailed sketch ideas for 4 'Hot Spots' which Council will aim to deliver as priority projects. The second round of community consultation was undertaken from 8<sup>th</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019 during Stage 3 of the overarching 'Streets for People' project.

The purpose of the Community Engagement was to confirm the revised Framework Plans and present the key ambitions of the Hot Spots, based on the feedback received during Phase 1 of consultation, where issues and opportunities were identified by the community.

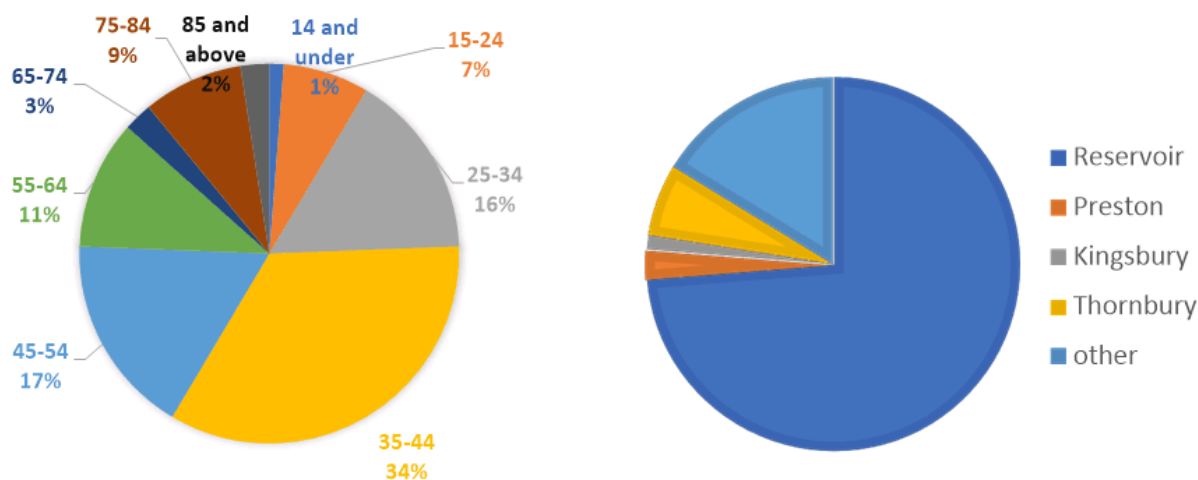
## Community Engagement Process

Hansen Partnership and Council curated a range of platforms for the community to be informed and contribute to the future of the streets. Activities included:

- Online Survey open from 23<sup>rd</sup> April to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019.
- Postcard drop to residents in the study area.
- Have your Say page including a question forum moderated by Council.
- A drop-in session for each corridor on the 18<sup>th</sup> April at the Reservoir Library forecourt.
- A Street Champion Workshop on the 18<sup>th</sup> April at the Reservoir Library.

## Breakdown of Consultation Participants

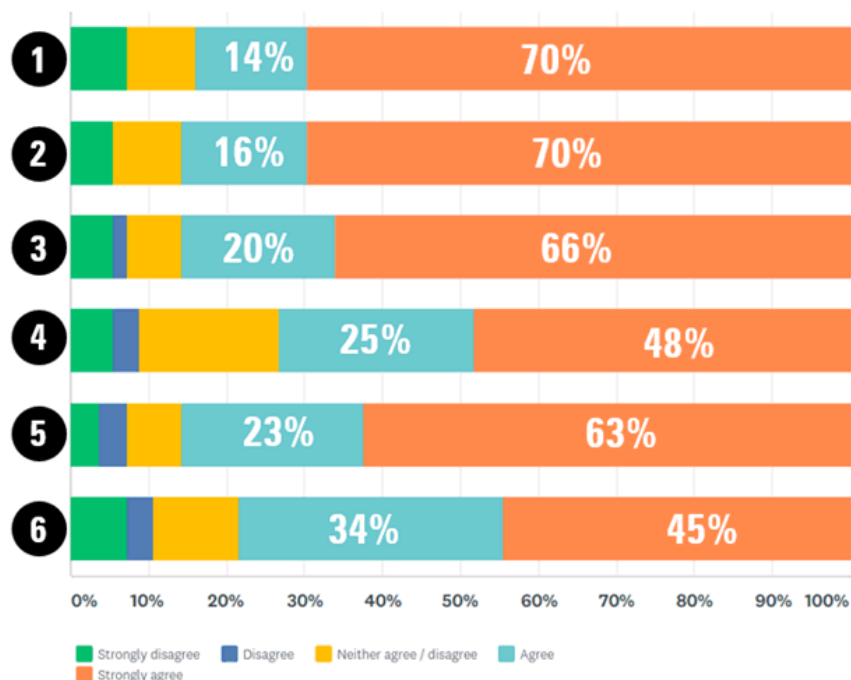
- A total of 91 Participants;
- 57 online surveys were completed;
- 34 people attended the drop-in session;
- 10 people returned to the Street Champions Workshop
- Age profile: 34% of participants were between the age of 35-44.
- 74% of participants were Reservoir Residents.



### Online Survey

The Online Survey was open to the public for 4 weeks between 23rd April and 19th May. The survey was designed to allow participants to review the Vision and Principles for improvements along the Northern Reservoir Corridor as well as provide feedback on the revised Framework Plans and Hot Spots. A total of 57 responses were collected.

1. Participants were asked to rate their level of agreement with the Corridor Vision Statement, which scored 85 out of 100. Participants were asked to rate the 6 key principles. The percentage of responses for agree and strongly agree includes:
2. To modify the street by allocating more space for walking and new vegetation, reducing vehicle speeds and rat-running as well as retaining the valued quiet nature of the street. **84%**
3. To make it safer for pedestrian to cross the streets to access local destinations such as parks, schools, public transport and shops. **86%**
4. To connect creeks and open space by creating welcoming and green streets with shade and lighting, as well as on going support for native landscaping within the streets. **86%**
5. To improve wayfinding along the corridor by installing signage and public art, guiding pedestrians and cyclists to local destinations. **73%**
6. To make public transport more attractive by providing new pedestrian crossings and seating at bus stops and creating a more pleasant walking environment to the station. **86%**
7. To embrace Reservoir North local identity by promoting community-led street landscaping and public art projects to support ongoing improvement to pedestrian safety and amenity. **79%**





The Northern Reservoir Corridor Draft Framework Plan is divided into 5 areas and includes a total of 4 Hot Spots, or priority areas for streetscape improvements. Refer to map below for breakdown of areas.



Survey participants were presented with these 5 areas along the Streets for People corridor to select and review the proposed concept plans and indicative sketch ideas for key improvement areas. Each area included a breakdown of the proposed treatments (including their objective in delivering streets for people and a picture reference), allowing participants to provide feedback on each treatment. Participants were able to review and comment on 1 or multiple areas of interest.

**Area 1: Broadhurst Avenue - Merri Creek to Godley Street**

Framework

Proposed streetscape improvements	Yes	No	Unsure
Shared cycle	86%	0%	14%
Bike Station and rest Area	86%	0%	14%
Barron Street: raised side street treatment	93%	0%	7%
Barron Street: raised side street treatment	86%	0%	14%
Fiddes Street: side street treatment	85%	0%	15%
Godley Street: side street treatment	86%	0%	14%
Lakeside Avenue: Carriageway narrowing through linemarking	79%	0%	21%
Upgrade bus stops	71%	0%	29%
Infill street trees	93%	0%	7%
Nature strip refresh	77%	0%	23%
Public art opportunity at round-about	64%	0%	63%

Hot Spot

The Broadhurst Avenue and Radford Road intersection has been identified as a priority area to improve pedestrian and cycle safety and amenity to BT Connor Reserve and Merri Creek Trail. 85% of Participants supported the ambitions of the Hot Spot proposal.

**Area 2: Broadhurst Avenue - Banbury Road to McFadzean Avenue**Framework

Proposed streetscape improvements	Yes	No	Unsure
Shared cycle	91%	9%	0%
Banbury Rd roundabout: raised pedestrian crossings	91%	9%	0%
Banbury Rd roundabout: zebra crossings	91%	9%	0%
Lawley St: Implement raised side street treatment	82%	18%	0%
Wilson Boulevard: Implement raised side street treatment	91%	9%	0%
McFadzean Avenue roundabout: zebra crossings	91%	9%	0%
Upgrade bus stops	91%	9%	0%
Infill street trees	91%	9%	0%
Nature strip refresh	91%	0%	9%

Hot Spot

The Edgars Creek bridge has been selected as a priority area to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety to access Edgars Creek shared trail and reduce vehicle speeds along the narrow bridge. 90% of Participants supported the ambitions of the Hot Spot proposal.

**Area 3: Broadhurst Avenue - Chauvel Street to High Street**Framework

Proposed streetscape improvements	Yes	No	Unsure
Shared cycle	93.33%	6.67%	0.00%
Chauvel St: Implement raised side street treatment	93%	7%	0%
Gellibrand Crescent: Implement raised side street treatment	93%	7%	0%
Chauvel St - Gellibrand Cres: pinch-point	80%	13%	7%
Hobbs Cres roundabout: Raised pedestrian crossings	100%	0%	0%
Maclagan Cres: raised side street treatment	93%	7%	0%
Between Maclagan Crescent and High Street: landscaped pinch point with raised cushion	80%	13%	7%
Upgrade bus stops	93%	0%	7%
Infill street trees	100%	0%	0%
Nature strip refresh	87%	7%	7%

**Area 4: Crookston Road - Cheddar Road to Black Street**Framework

Proposed streetscape improvements	Yes	No	Unsure
Shared cycle	95%	5%	0%
Existing speed humps: Pinch points	80%	10%	10%
public art	65%	15%	20%
Wayfinding	90%	5%	5%
Street Trees	100%	0%	0%
Nature Strip Refresh	85%	5%	10%

Hot Spot

Crookston Road and Black Street roundabout has been selected as a priority area to facilitate improved pedestrian and cyclist safety. This location is identified to cater for higher pedestrian volume, including children traveling to schools (Reservoir Views Primary School and St Stephen's Catholic Primary School) along Black Street. 95% of Participants supported the ambitions of the Hot Spot proposal.

**Area 5: Boldrewood Parade to McMahon Road**Framework

Proposed streetscape improvements	Yes	No	Unsure
Shared cycle	100%	0%	0%
Clements Grove: Kerb Outstand	92%	0%	8%
McMahon Road: Point Point	83%	4%	13%
Creek entry	92%	0%	8%
Public art	75%	8%	17%

Hot Spot

Boldrewood Parade (between Crookston Road and McMahon Road) is an important local walking route to Darebin Creek. It has been selected as a priority area for improved pedestrian and cycle safety and amenity as well as mitigating rat-running through local streets. 79% of Participants supported the ambitions of the Hot Spot proposal.

## Drop-In Session

### Format

The Drop-in session was held on Saturday 18th March 2019 at Reservoir Library forecourt between 10:30am and 12pm. Approximately 34 people were in attendance, most of which were local Reservoir residents living in surrounding residential streets.

The Drop-in Session allowed participants to view the revised Framework plans and Hot Spots which included precedent images of proposed treatments to clearly communicate Council's ambitions for the corridor. Participants were able to provide both verbal and written feedback which was recorded/collected by workshop facilitators.

### Summary

There was general support for the revised Framework Plans and proposed streetscape improvements among the participants. Many discussions were centred around the need for safer and more accessible footpaths for people of all abilities and at all times of the day. This included consideration of more lighting, wider paths, pedestrian crossings and support of raised side street treatments. Improved landscape and street greening was also highly supported as a way to enhance the character of residential streets.

## Street Champions Workshop

The Street Champions Workshop was held on Saturday 18th March 2019 at Reservoir Library Function Room between 1-2pm. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants from the earlier session in March to review the revised framework plans and Hot Spots, stemming from their earlier inputs. The participants viewed a presentation highlighting the revised changes to plans as well as emerging feedback from the online survey.

### Summary

Overall, participants were all generally supportive of the revised Framework Plans, noting many of the improvements remain consistent with the ambitions defined in the first workshop.

The four Hot Spot sketches were also supported in principle; however, several considerations were highlighted for each location, which are to be addressed prior to the finalisation of the project. Most of the considerations relate to detailed design issues and clarification of movement priority that can be addressed through notations and guidelines for future stages.

## Recommendations and Considerations

Key considerations for the finalisation of the Framework Plan Areas collected from the Online Survey as well as discussions and written notes from the Drop-in Sessions and Workshop include:

### **Area 1: Broadhurst Avenue - Merri Creek to Godley Street**

#### **Survey Feedback:**

##### Transport and Movement

- Separate cycle lanes to encourage more cyclists. Sharrows have minimal value.
- Pedestrian access to BT Connor reserve from Radford Rd is difficult.
- Merri Creek bridge path is very steep. Can it be improved for all abilities?
- Many heavy vehicles along Broadhurst to Massey Avenue.

##### Quality of Streets

- Public art looks cheap in Reservoir and needs guidelines. Gellibrand Crescent shops are a fantastic example.
- Seating at bus stops encourages vandalism. Ensure new furniture is resilient.

#### **Drop-in / Workshop Feedback:**

##### Transport and Movement

- Footpaths should be wide enough for 2 wheelchairs/prams to pass.

##### Quality of Streets

- Ensure nature strip planting considers people exiting cars and bin collection.
- Wayfinding promoting pedestrians and cyclists given close proximity to industrial area.
- Fill in nature strips with trees.
- Seating, food gardens, indigenous garden - narrative of food gardening in Rezza.
- Lighting on one side of road- consider whether more lighting is needed.

### **Area 2: Broadhurst Avenue - Banbury Road to McFadzean Avenue**

#### **Survey Feedback:**

##### Transport and Movement

- Maintain traffic flow without reducing speeds.
- Bikes knock over pedestrians.
- No more one way streets (due to car parking).
- Roundabouts are intimidating for cyclists and pedestrians. Traffic calming at these intersections is very important.

Quality of Streets

- Use neutral colours for seats.
- How are nature strips maintained?

**Drop-in/ Workshop Feedback:**Transport and Movement

- Roundabout at Cooktson. Remove hard edge. Smaller footprint for turning.
- Improvements are great for bikes and pedestrians and to slow down cars.

Quality of Streets

- Consider trees species that won't cause trip hazard from dropping fruit/flowers.
- Opportunity for street and creek connections and wayfinding.
- Something to read at bus stops that talks about history/ quirkiness of Rezza.
- Yes to seats at bus stops.
- Communicate to wider community about streets for people.

**Area 3: Broadhurst Avenue - Chauvel Street to High Street****Survey Feedback:**Transport and Movement

- Bike paths should be along streets without buses.
- Consider raised crossing at Gellibrand to slow cars and improve safety.
- The proposed treatments will reduce fears associated with high speeds of vehicles.
- Provide bicycle lanterns at High Street.
- Will traffic impact surrounding residential streets with proposed improvements to Broadhurst.

Quality of Streets

- Consider streets for greening that are also popular train station routes.
- Improve lighting and BBQ area at Whitby St reserve.
- Ensure new trees species are carefully selected to ensure they don't drop fruits that cause trip hazards.

**Drop-in/ Workshop Feedback:**Transport and Movement

- Yes, make it easier to ride my bike along the corridor.
- Consider the alignment of pram crossings (ramps) to footpaths at intersections.
- Create more bike lanes!

Quality of Streets

- More greenery and raised thresholds
- Love the pinch points.
- Opportunity for residents 'ownership' 'adopt a tree'
- Viaduct under railway line for truck
- More greenery and raised threshold
- Love the pinch points. Opportunity for residents 'ownership' 'adopt a tree'
- Yes, make it easier to ride my bike through
- Alignment of pram crossing (ramps on/off footpaths)
- Add more bike lanes!

#### **Area 4: Crookston Road - Cheddar Road to Black Street**

##### **Survey Feedback:**

##### Transport & movement

- Prefer to keep speed humps rather than pinchpoints so there isn't a back up of traffic.
- Pinchpoints could make traffic movement more difficult (noting existing parking).
- Concern there will be more cars on Rathcoun Rd. Consider surrounding streets.
- Reduce car parking to one side to improve flow of traffic.

##### Quality of Streets

- Wayfinding not necessary as path to station is clear.
- Improve street lighting.
- Public art guidelines to make reservoir look nice.

##### **Drop-in/ Workshop Feedback:**

##### Transport & Movement

- Roundabout Black/Crookston needs a 'soft' edge to improve access.
- Use lots of 'yellows' point on roads as early warning for cars, pedestrians and bikes.
- Parking 'bays' into nature strip.

##### Quality of Streets

- Community dev. street trees. More ownership and trees.
- Pay for people to protect new trees. I.e. tree sponsors.

**Area 5: Boldrewood Parade to McMahon Road****Survey Feedback:**Transport & Movement

- Disappointed the eastern end of Crookston Road is not included.
- Pedestrians crossing Boldrewood is important.
- Considering Boldrewood Parade into shared path given high levels of vehicle movement.

Quality of Streets

- Support community led planting of indigenous plants on nature strips.
- New Street intersection proposal is safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Unsure if improvements will reduce rat-running along Boldrewood.
- McMahon Rd & Beenak St needs traffic calming around the road bend.
- Public art in reservoir looks cheap. Consider engaging local youth.

**Drop-in/ Workshop Feedback:**

- Bikes and pedestrians travelling east onto Darebin Creek Trail from McMahon Road need a ramp/better access.
- Stop, look, listen. Think signs on footpath.



**Hot Spot Feedback**Hot Spot 1: Radford Road to Merri Creek**Survey Feedback:**

- The area needs to be safe and secure.
- Radford Rd carries a lot of heavy, industrial traffic.
- Create more separated bike lanes.
- BT Connor Reserve needs a playground for surrounding families.

**Workshop Feedback:**

- Clarify bike link through round-about to new SUP. Align the north-south link to the inside of the car park crossover rather than to Radford Rd side.
- Add traffic calming treatment to the southern roundabout approach.
- Signage to warn pedestrians through signage or landscape crossing new path from car park to field.
- Ensure warning signage is placed at all roundabout approaches.

Hot Spot 2: Edgars Creek Bridge**Survey Feedback:**

- Support street trees and drought proof vegetation.
- Support seating example. No blue street furniture
- Include signage to warn drivers of pinch-point and raised crossing.

**Workshop Feedback:**

- Confirm the extent of warning signs and lighting required to allow for the prioritised and safe crossing of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Consider extending traffic calming surface treatments to align with park boundaries.

Hot Spot 3: Black Street**Survey Feedback:**

- Maintain safe bus movement through intersection.
- Will sharrows make it safe for cyclists?
- It would slow down cars in a black spot area.

**Workshop Feedback:**

- Consider warning signs on approached for drivers entering the roundabout.
- Acknowledge the uneven road surface due to buses along Black Street.

Hot Spot 4: Boldrewood Parade and New Street**Survey Feedback:**

- The raised intersection will be expensive and hold up vehicles. Consider kerb extension or refuge.
- Roundabouts are dangerous to ride in.
- Reverse priority intersection may encourage more cars along Crookston Road.
- Reverse priority may make it difficult to exit the east side of Crookston Road onto Boldrewood Parade.
- Improvements will make the area more accessible and safe for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Slowing traffic and prioritising pedestrians is good.
- Unsure how improvements will help to upgrade shops.

**Workshop Feedback:**

- Clarify the turning movements for vehicles entering and exiting the eastern side of Crookston Road.
- Confirm pedestrian crossing points at reverse priority intersection.
- Consider expanding the raised traffic calming treatment or surface treatment along the shop frontage to demarcate the street as a special place.
- Consider vehicles reversing in and out of shop car park.
- Explore opportunity to retain roundabout configuration and tree in combination with a raised intersection.
- Confirm signage and lighting required at approached to warn vehicles of pedestrian crossings.

# APPENDIX 1:

## ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS



# Streets for People Survey (Reservoir)

1. The Study Area is split into 2 precincts (refer to map below). Please select the precinct you are responding to.

- Reservoir (West)
- Reservoir (East)

## Reservoir Corridor



**2. What's your relationship with the study area?**

- Resident
- Employee
- Student
- Frequent visitor (more than 4 times a week)
- Business
- Occasional visitor (less than 4 times a week)
- First time visitor
- Access the train station or tram stop
- Other (please specify)

**3. Do you have physical limitations that prevent you from walking, bicycling, or driving?**

- Yes
- No

**4. What's your primary mode of travel on weekdays?**

- Cycling
- Walking
- Car
- Bus
- Train
- Tram
- Other

**5. What’s your primary mode of travel on weekends?**

- Cycling
- Walking
- Car
- Bus
- Train
- Tram
- Other:

**6. Rank each of these from most important (1) to least important (6) for you?**

☰	⬇	On street car parking
☰	⬇	Walking paths
☰	⬇	Cycling paths
☰	⬇	Convenient driving
☰	⬇	Public transport accessibility
☰	⬇	Street trees and vegetation

**7. How would you rate each of these today for your area?**

	Very Poor	Poor	Okay	Good	Very good
Convenient driving	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Walking paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
On street car parking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cycling paths	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Public transport accessibility	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Street trees and vegetation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**8. What alternate modes of transport do you think should be promoted to reduce car traffic (private car, taxi's, ride share) in the study area?**

- Cycling
- Walking
- Bus
- Tram
- Other:

**9. On a scale from 'strongly agree' to 'strongly disagree', respond to the following statements:**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
I would allow my children to walk or cycle to school by themselves.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I consider cycling a risky form of transport along my street.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I frequently walk to my local convenient store/ parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I consider walking and/or running in my neighbourhood important to my health and wellbeing.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I would rely less on my car if there were safer bike paths.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do not rely on on-street parking.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure
I feel safe walking at night along my street.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do not rely on signage to find my way around my neighbourhood.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My street will benefit from more trees and landscaping.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**10. What if anything would make your journey to work/ university/ school more convenient? (Select at least 3)**

- less cars
- slower car speeds
- wider footpaths
- bicycle lanes
- more street trees
- public art and creative engagement i.e live exhibitions, workshops, markets, buskers
- more seating
- more interactive with retail and cafes i.e more café seating, edible gardens, outdoor
- more shade
- improved lighting
- improved crossings and junctions
- improved signage and information
- Other (please specify)

**11. What do you think is special about your street?**



12. What does a people-friendly street mean to you? (Select all that apply)



Pop-up parklets



Water Sensitive Urban Design



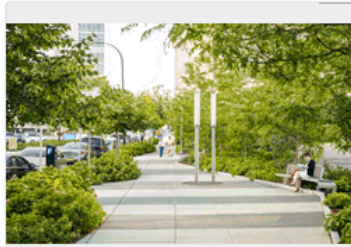
More pedestrian crossings



Temporary play spaces



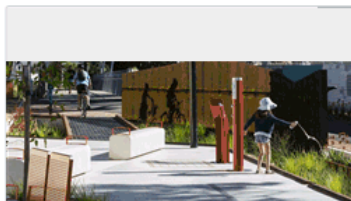
Protected bike paths



Street greening



Less car parking



More seating and gathering spaces



Slower car speeds



Improved lighting

**13. What is your age?**

***(The information collected will only be used for the purpose of this survey and Council will treat your privacy confidentially)***

0 - 14

35 - 44

65 - 74

15 - 24

45 - 54

75 - 84

25 - 34

55 - 64

85+

▪

# APPENDIX 2:

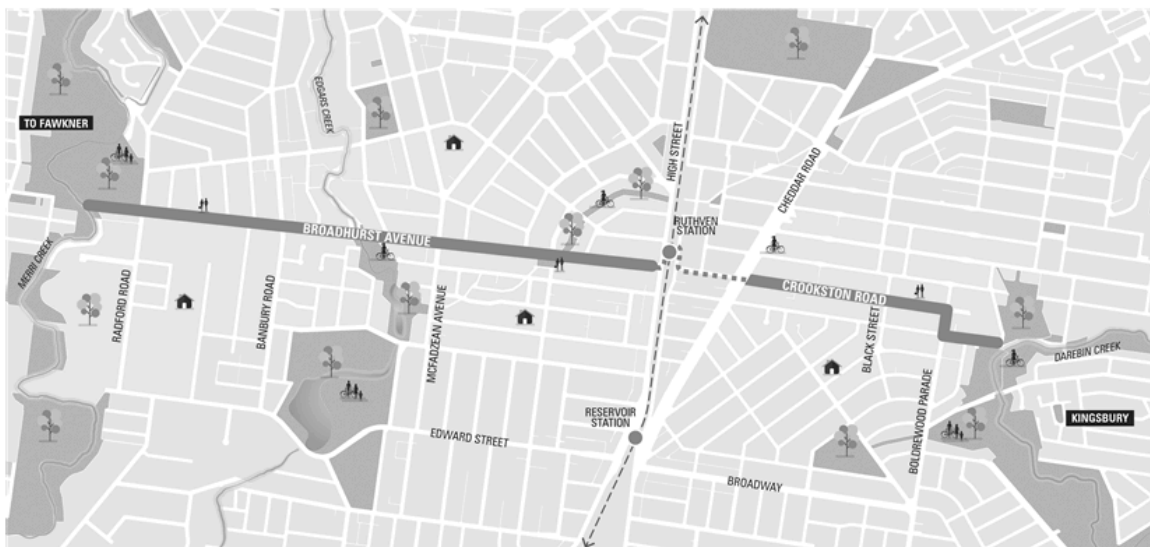
## ONLINE SURVEY QUESTIONS

Streets for People Survey : Northern Reservoir Corridor

Future Ambitions

Using the feedback we received from surveys, drop-in sessions and workshops during the first round of community engagement in March 2019, we have developed draft concept plans for the Northern Reservoir Streets for People Corridor.

We are now seeking feedback on what you like about the draft plans and what needs work. Complete this survey to view the draft plans and provide your feedback.



1. Do you agree with the future vision of the Northern Reservoir Streets for People Corridor?

"The Northern Reservoir Streets for People Corridor will provide a safe, inviting walking and cycling environment for residents to access their local parks, schools and shops."

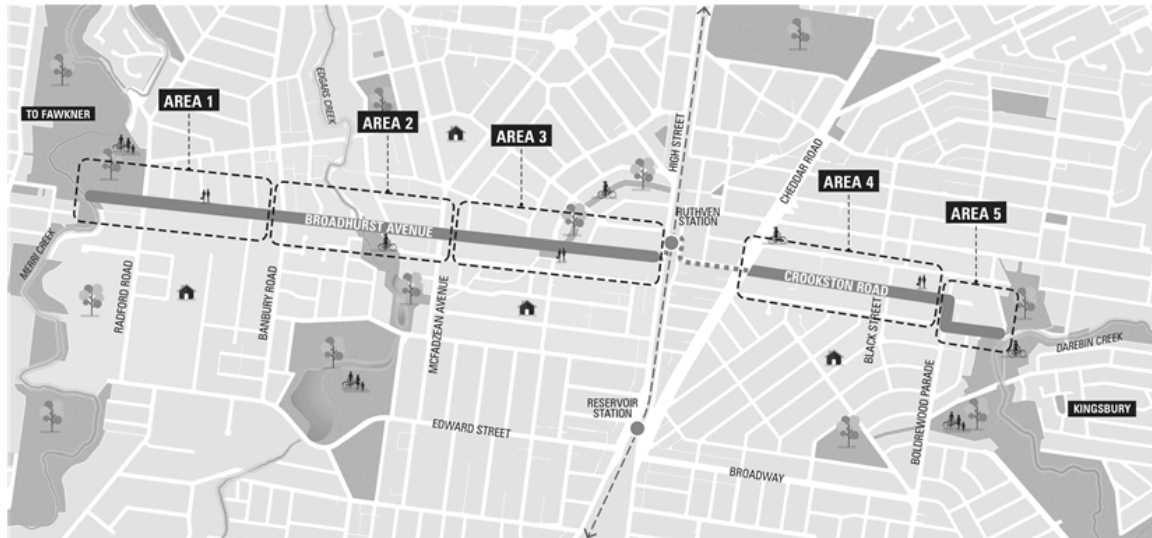
Strongly Disagree      Neither agree or disagree      Strongly Agree

2. Do you agree with the following statements guiding streetscape improvements along the entire Northern Reservoir Corridor?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree / disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
To modify the street by allocating more space for <b>walking and new vegetation, reducing vehicle speeds and rat-running</b> as well as retaining the valued <b>quiet nature</b> of the street.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To make it <b>safer for pedestrian</b> to cross the streets to access local destinations such as parks, schools, public transport and shops.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To connect creeks and open space by creating <b>welcoming and green streets</b> with shade and lighting, as well as on going support for native landscaping within the streets.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To improve wayfinding along the corridor by installing <b>signage and public art</b> , guiding pedestrians and cyclists to local destinations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To make <b>public transport</b> more attractive by providing new pedestrian crossings and seating at bus stops and creating a more pleasant walking environment to the station.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
To embrace Reservoir North local identity by promoting <b>community-led</b> street landscaping and public art projects to support ongoing improvement to <b>pedestrian safety and amenity</b> .	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Streets for People Survey : Northern Reservoir Corridor

Area Selection



1. The Northern Reservoir Corridor Survey has been divided into 5 sections. Which area would you like to provide feedback on?

- Section 1: Broadhurst Avenue (Merri Creek to Godley Street)
- Section 2: Broadhurst Avenue (Banbury Road to McFadzean Avenue)
- Section 3: Broadhurst Avenue (Chauvel Street to High Street)
- Section 4: Crookston Road (Cheddar Road to Black Street)
- Section 5: Crookston Road (New Street to Darebin Creek)
- I've completed the areas I'm interested in (Finish Survey)

Streets for People Survey : Northern Reservoir Corridor

Area 1: Broadhurst Avenue - Merri Creek to Godley Street

Proposed Streetscape Improvements



CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE	PEDESTRIAN & VEHICLE IMPROVEMENTS	STREET GREENING & IDENTITY	EXISTING CONDITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shared cycle &amp; vehicle/ Sharrow symbol on road</li> <li>Shared cycle/ pedestrian off-road path</li> <li>Bike station/ seating node</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raised pedestrian crossing</li> <li>Raised side street treatment</li> <li>Tighter intersection radius (line marking)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional street trees / nature strip refresh</li> <li>Potential future playground</li> <li>Wayfinding signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Off-road trail</li> <li>Bus route/ bus stop</li> <li>Public open space</li> <li>Creek</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential area</li> <li>Industrial area</li> <li>Sports ground</li> </ul>

**1. Do you support the following proposed streetscape improvements to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions?**

Yes No Unsure

**Broadhurst Avenue (between Radford Road and Godley Street) :**



Encourage cyclists to use Broadhurst Avenue as a cycling path by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols on the road surface to assist with wayfinding.



**Merri Creek Trail entry:** Add a new bike station and rest area (including bike rack, bike pump, water fountain, seating, lighting and wayfinding) surrounded by native landscape of the creek environment as a gateway treatment into the City of Darebin.





	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>Ashfield Street:</b> Implement <u>raised side street</u> treatment to discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down vehicles and improving pedestrian safety/access across Ashfield Street.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Barron Street:</b> Implement <u>raised side street treatment</u> to discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down vehicles and improving pedestrian safety/access across Barron Street.</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Fiddes Street:</b> Implement <u>raised side street treatment</u> to discourage traffic rat-running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down vehicles and improving pedestrian safety/access across Fiddes Street.</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Godley Street:</b> Implement <u>raised side street treatment</u> to discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/access across Godley Street.</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Lakeside Avenue:</b> Implement line marking to <u>visually narrow turning circles</u>, through line markings, at the intersection to slow traffic entering and exiting traffic along Broadhurst Avenue, acknowledging the frequency of large/commercial vehicles along this street.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>At Bus Stops:</b> Improve pedestrian amenity and encourage greater public transport use by integrating <u>seating, lighting, bike racks and/or wayfinding signs</u> with existing bus stops.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Street Trees:</b> Infill <u>tree planting</u> within nature strip to increase shade and street beautification.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Yes No Unsure

**Nature Strip Refresh:** Council to further encourage community-driven nature strip planting, supporting native and drought tolerant species.



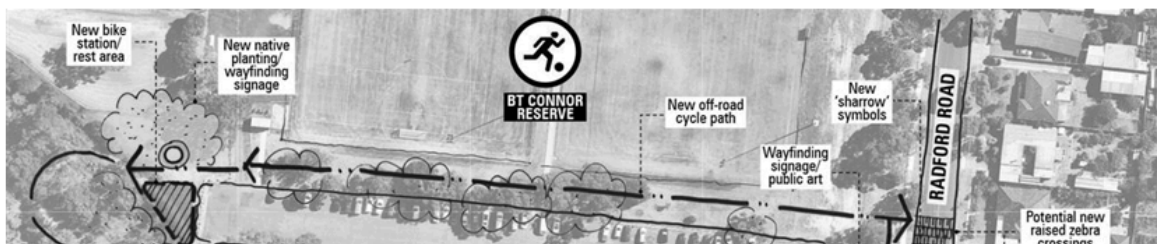
**Public Art Node:** Investigate opportunity for public art installation at Radford Road junction which references the unique characteristics of Reservoir residential areas and/or surrounding creek corridors.

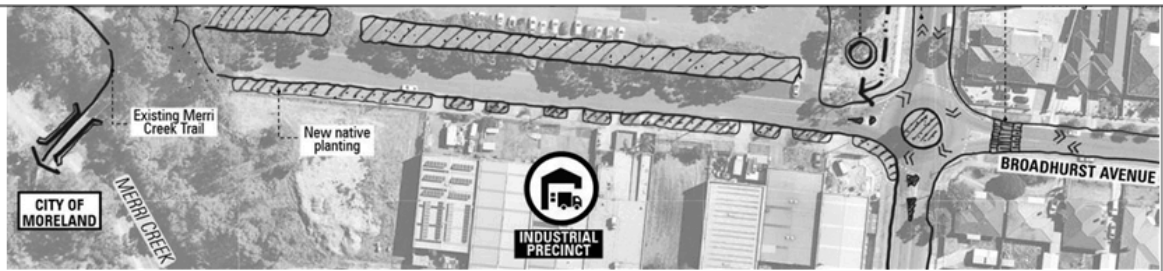


If you answered 'No' or 'Unsure' for any of the proposed improvements, please tell us why.

[Empty text box for providing reasons]

2. The **Broadhurst Avenue and Radford Road intersection** has been identified as a priority area to improve pedestrian and cycle safety and amenity to BT Connor Reserve and Merri Creek Trail (refer to concept sketch below).





The following individual treatments are all inter-related to create a complete concept for the priority area. Do you broadly support the following proposed ideas as whole to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions? If not, tell us why in the 'Comments' box.

- **Merri Creek Trail:** Create a safer cycling and walking route to Merri Creek trail by introducing a new off-road shared path along the north side of the car park (within the BT Connor Reserve) and the west side of Radford Road within the nature strip.
- **Across Redford Road:** Improve pedestrian safety and give priority to pedestrians across Radford Road by implementing a new raised pedestrian crossing, connecting to new off-road shared path, where large vehicles (including buses) are common.



- **Across Broadhurst Avenue:** Improve pedestrian safety and give priority to pedestrian across Broadhurst Avenue (by implementing a new raised pedestrian crossing where large vehicles

Broadhurst Avenue ( by implementing a new raised pedestrian crossing where large vehicles (including buses) are common.

- **At the roundabout:** Install warning signs and sharrow (bike symbol) line marking to assist in raising the awareness of cyclists through the roundabout.
- **At the roundabout:** Install new wayfinding, or signage near the roundabout to provide directions to Merri Creek and BT Connor Reserve.



- Council to investigate opportunity for anew play space between Radford Road and BT Connor Reserve (at Glasgow Avenue).

Yes  No  Unsure

Comments

3. Is there anything else you would like to add in relation to this Area?

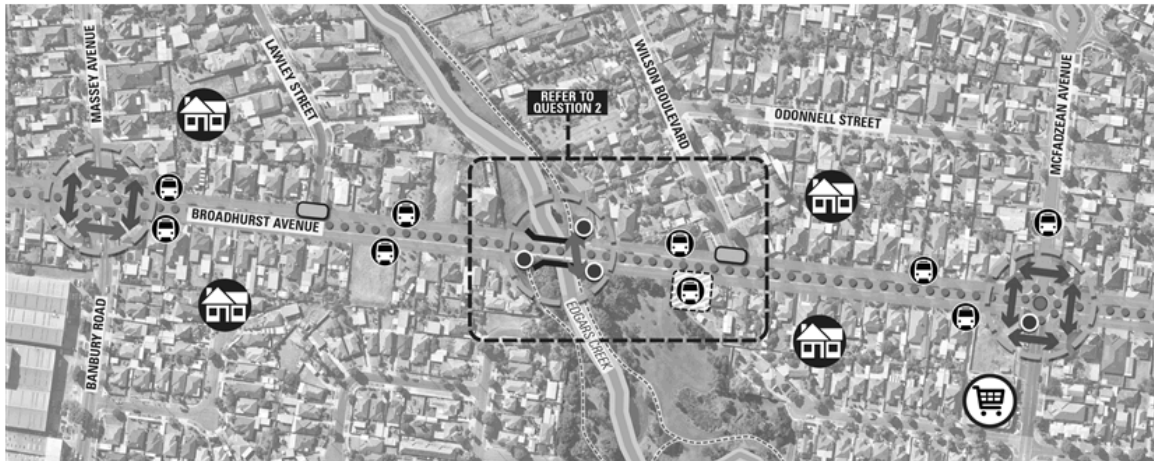
4. Would you like to complete the survey for other areas?

Yes  
 No

Streets for People Survey : Northern Reservoir Corridor

Area 2: Broadhurst Avenue - Banbury Road to McFadzean Avenue

Proposed Streetscape Improvements



CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE	PEDESTRIAN & VEHICLE IMPROVEMENTS	STREET GREENING & IDENTITY	EXISTING CONDITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Shared cycle &amp; vehicle/Sharrows symbol on road</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Raised pedestrian crossing</li> <li> Zebra crossing</li> <li> Raised side street treatment</li> <li> Potential bus stop relocation (subject to PTV's approval)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Additional street trees / nature strip refresh</li> <li> Street greening opportunity</li> <li> Wayfinding signage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Off-road trail</li> <li> Bus route/ bus stop</li> <li> Public open space</li> <li> Creek</li> <li> Residential area</li> <li> Local shops</li> </ul>

1. Do you support the following proposed streetscape improvements to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions?



Yes No Unsure

**Broadhurst Avenue (between Banbury Road and McFadzean Avenue) :**  
Encourage cyclists to use Broadhurst Avenue as a cycling path by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols on the road surface to assist with wayfinding.






**Banbury Road/ Massey Avenue roundabout:** Discourage traffic rat-running and slow down traffic along Banbury Road/ Massey Avenue (north-south) to improve pedestrian safety when crossing the roundabout by implementing raised pedestrian crossings. Traffic entering Broadhurst Avenue will have to slow down, giving priority to pedestrian traveling along Broadhurst Avenue.

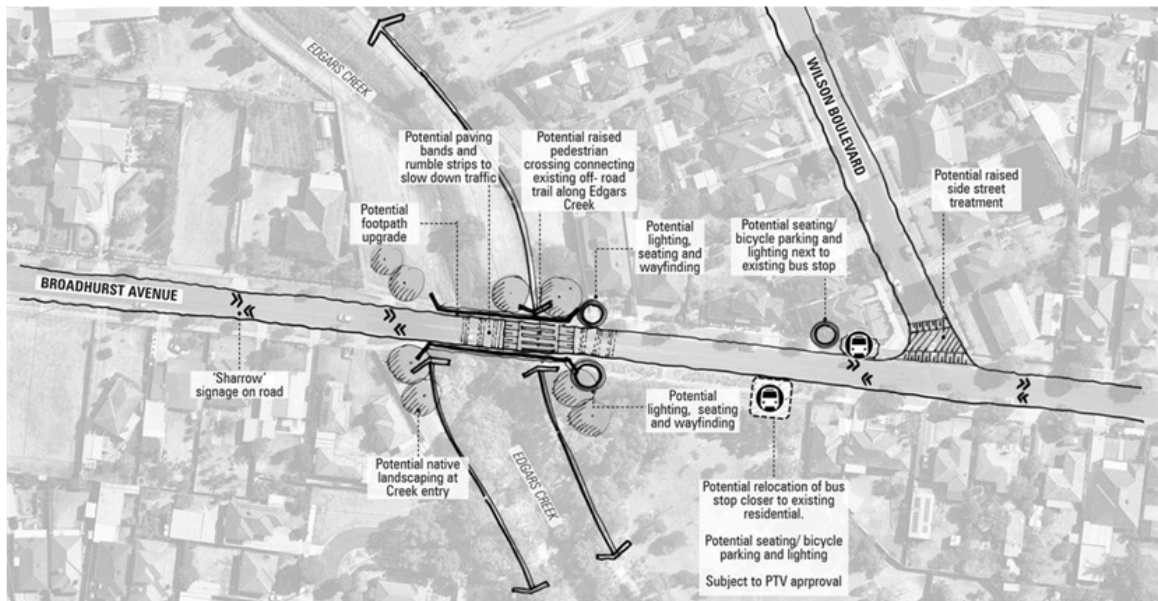


	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>Banbury Road/ Massey Avenue roundabout:</b> Improve pedestrian safety by implementing <u>zebra crossings</u> across Broadhurst Avenue (east-west) giving priority to pedestrian, where large vehicles (including buses) are common.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Lawley Street:</b> Implement <u>raised side street treatment</u> to discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/access across Lawley Street.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Wilson Boulevard:</b> Implement <u>raised side street treatment</u> to discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety/access across Wilson Boulevard</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>McFadzean Avenue roundabout:</b> Improve pedestrian safety on all approaches at roundabout by implementing <u>zebra crossings</u> and improve wayfinding to local shops along McFadzean Avenue.</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>At Bus Stops:</b> Improve pedestrian amenity and encourage greater public transport use by integrating <u>seating, lighting, bike racks and/or wayfinding signs</u> with existing bus stops.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Street Trees:</b> Infill <u>tree planting</u> within nature strip to increase shade and street beautification.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Nature Strip Refresh:</b> Council to further encourage <u>community-driven nature strip planting</u>, supporting native and drought tolerant species.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>If you answered 'No' or 'Unsure' for any of the proposed improvements, please tell us why.</p>			

2. The **Edgars Creek bridge** has been selected as a priority area to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety to access Edgars Creek shared trail and reduce vehicle speeds along the narrow bridge (refer to concept sketch).



The following individual treatments are all inter-related to create a complete concept for the priority area. Do you broadly support the following proposed ideas as whole to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions? If not, tell us why in the 'Comments' box.

- Provide a raised pedestrian crossing at the eastern end of the bridge to connect the Edgars Creek trail across Broadhurst Avenue. The raised pedestrian crossing has been designed to give priority to pedestrians crossing the road, to improve turning circles for cyclists onto Broadhurst Avenue and to maintain bus movement along the street.





- Council to investigate opportunity with Public Transport Victoria for the relocation of existing bus stop to be closer to No. 111 Broadhurst Avenue for improved passive surveillance. Future bus stop at this location will be provided with additional lighting, seating and bike racks.
- Footpath upgrade on both sides of the bridge to minimise tripping hazard and create a consistent 'look and feel' along the bridge.
- Implement wayfinding signage at the raised pedestrian crossing (including opportunity for public art, or interpretive signage) that provide direction to Edgars Creek, Merri Creek and Darebin Creek. Its design should reference the creek character and native wildlife.



- Additional native landscaping at the entrance to Edgar Creek trail to beautify the streetscape.



Yes  No  Unsure

Comments about the proposed improvements

[Empty rectangular box]

3. Is there anything else you would like to add in relation to this Area?

[Empty rectangular box]

4. Would you like to complete the survey for other areas?

- Yes
- No

Streets for People Survey : Northern Reservoir Corridor

Area 3: Broadhurst Avenue - Chauvel Street to High Street

Proposed Streetscape Improvements



CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Shared cycle & vehicle/ Sharrow symbol on road

PEDESTRIAN & VEHICLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Raised pedestrian crossing
- Zebra crossing
- Landscape pinch-point with speed cushion
- Raised side street treatment

STREET GREENING & IDENTITY

- Additional street trees / nature strip refresh
- Street greening opportunity
- Wayfinding signage

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Bus route / bus stop
- Public open space
- Existing signalled intersection
- Residential area
- School
- Station

1. Do you support the following proposed streetscape improvements to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions?

Yes No Unsure

**Broadhurst Avenue (between Chauvel Street and High Street):**




Encourage cyclists to use Broadhurst Avenue as a cycling path by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols on the road surface to assist with wayfinding.



**Chauvel Street:** Implement raised side street treatment to discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety across Chauvel Street.



**Gellibrand Crescent:** Implement raised side street treatment to discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety across Gellibrand Crescent.

	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>Chauvel Street and Gellibrand Crescent (mid-block):</b> Implement <u>landscaped pinch point with</u> raised cushion to discourage traffic rat- running along Broadhurst Avenue. Safe cycle movement is achieved by providing bike lanes (on either side of raised cushion) to avoid some of the stress of negotiating space/ yielding to oncoming cars when traveling through the pinch point.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Hobbs Crescent roundabout:</b> Improve pedestrian safety on all approaches at this roundabout by implementing <u>pedestrian crossings ensuring</u> vehicles <u>give way</u> to pedestrians. <u>Raised pedestrian crossings</u> will be provided on the north and east approaches of the roundabout to discourage traffic rat- running into and along Broadhurst Avenue.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Maclagan Crescent:</b> Implement raised <u>side street treatment</u> to discourage traffic rat- running into Broadhurst Avenue by slowing down traffic and improving pedestrian safety across Maclagan Crescent.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>Between Maclagan Crescent and High Street (mid-block):</b> Implement <u>landscaped pinch point</u> with raised cushion to discourage traffic rat- running along Broadhurst Avenue. Safe cycle movement is achieved by providing bike lanes (on either side of raised cushion) to avoid some of the stress of negotiating space/ yielding to oncoming cars when traveling through the pinch point.</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>At Bus Stops:</b> Improve pedestrian amenity and encourage greater public transport use by integrating <u>seating, lighting, bike racks and/or wayfinding signs</u> with existing bus stops.</p>			
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Street Trees:</b> Infill <u>tree planting</u> within nature strip to increase shade and street beautification.</p>			
	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



Yes No Unsure

**Nature Strip Refresh:** Council to further encourage community-driven nature strip planting, supporting native and drought tolerant species.



If you answered 'No' or 'Unsure' for any of the proposed improvements, please tell us why.

[Empty text box for providing reasons for 'No' or 'Unsure' responses]

**2. Is there anything else you would like to add in relation to this Area?**

[Empty text box for additional comments related to the area]

**3. Would you like to complete the survey for other areas?**

Yes  
 No

Streets for People Survey : Northern Reservoir Corridor

Area 4: Crookston Road - Cheddar Road to Black Street

Proposed Streetscape Improvements



CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Shared cycle & vehicle/  
Sharrow symbol on road

PEDESTRIAN & VEHICLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Raised pedestrian crossing
- Zebra crossing
- Landscape pinch-point  
with speed cushion

STREET GREENING & IDENTITY

- Additional street trees /  
nature strip refresh
- Street greening  
opportunity
- Wayfinding signage

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Bus route / bus  
stop
- Public open space
- Residential area
- School

1. Do you support the following proposed streetscape improvements to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions?



Yes No Unsure

**Crookston Road (between Cheddar Road to Black Street):** Encourage cyclists to use Crookston Road as a cycling path by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols on the road surface to assist with wayfinding.



**Crookston Road existing speed humps (Mid-block):** Replace existing speed hump with landscaped pinch point with raised cushion to discourage traffic rat-running. Safe cycle movement is achieved by providing space for bikes (on either side of raised cushion) to avoid some of the stress of negotiating space with oncoming cars.



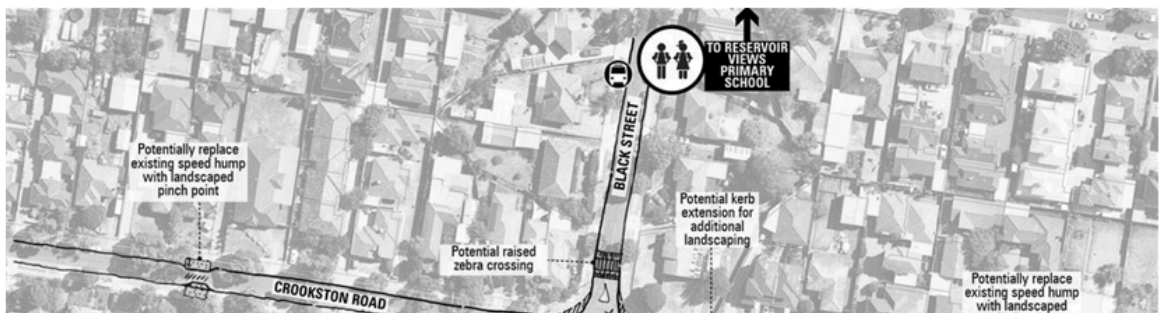
	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>Public Art Node:</b> Investigate opportunity for public art installation in association with new pinch points referencing the unique character of Reservoir's residential areas and/or surrounding creek corridors.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Wayfinding:</b> Implement wayfinding and signage, providing directions to Ruthven Railway Station, bus route along Broadhurst Avenue, Edgars Creek and Merri Creek at Crookston Road and Cheddar Road intersection.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

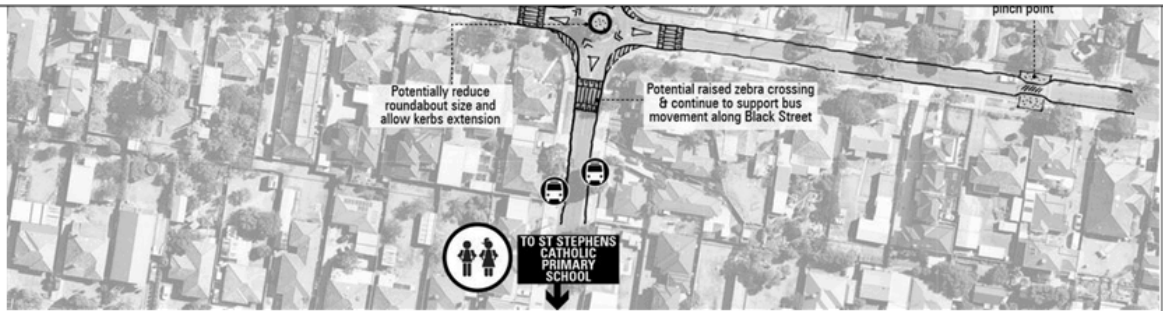
	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>Street Trees:</b> Infill <u>tree planting</u> within nature strip to increase shade and street beautification.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p><b>Nature Strip Refresh:</b> Council to further encourage <u>community-driven nature strip planting</u>, supporting native and drought tolerant species.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
--	-----------------------	-----------------------	-----------------------

If you answered 'No' or 'Unsure' for any of the proposed improvements, please tell us why.

**2. Crookston Road and Black Street roundabout** has been selected as a priority area to facilitate improved pedestrian and cyclist safety. This location is identified to cater for higher pedestrian volume, including children traveling to schools (Reservoir Views Primary School and St Stephen's Catholic Primary School) along Black Street (refer to concept sketch).





The following individual treatments are all inter-related to create a complete concept for the priority area. Do you broadly support the following proposed ideas as whole to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions? If not, tell us why in the 'Comments' box.

- Discourage traffic rat-running and improve pedestrian safety by implementing raised pedestrian crossings on all sides across **Black Street and Crookston Road roundabout**



- Install warning signs and sharrow (bike symbol) line marking to assist in raising the awareness of cyclists through the roundabout.
- Slow the speed of vehicles traversing through roundabout through installation of kerb extensions at each street corner with opportunity for additional landscaping.



- Implement wayfinding signage for cyclist/ pedestrians to schools, bus stop (along Black Street) and Darebin Creek.

Yes  No  Unsure

Comments

[Empty rectangular box]

3. Is there anything else you would like to add in relation to this Area?

[Empty rectangular box]

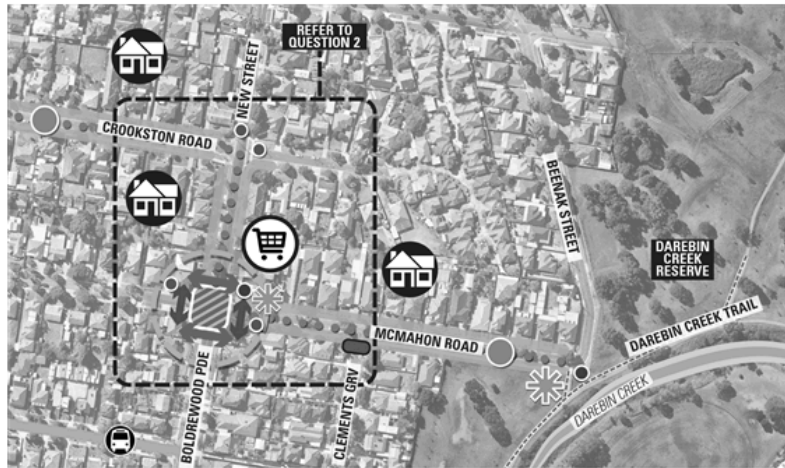
4. Would you like to complete the survey for other areas?

- Yes
- No

Streets for People Survey : Northern Reservoir Corridor

Area 5: Crookston Road - Cheddar Road to Black Street

Proposed Streetscape Improvements



CYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE

- Shared cycle & vehicle/ Sharrow symbol on road
- Bike station/ seating node

PEDESTRIAN & VEHICLE IMPROVEMENTS

- Raised pedestrian crossing
- Zebra crossing
- Landscape pinch-point with speed cushion
- Raised intersection
- Giveaway sign

STREET GREENING & IDENTITY

- Additional street trees / nature strip refresh
- Landscaped kerb extension
- Street greening opportunity
- Wayfinding signage

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Off-road trail
- Bus route/ bus stop
- Public open space
- Creek
- Residential area
- Local shops



1. Do you support the following proposed streetscape improvements to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions?

Yes No Unsure

**Crookston Road, Boldrewood Parade and McMahon Road (between Black Street and Darebin Creek):** Encourage cyclists to use Crookston Road as a cycling path by formalising it as a shared road with 'sharrow' symbols on the road surface to assist with wayfinding.





**Clements Grove:** Reduce vehicle speeds entering and exiting McMahon Road and increase driver awareness of pedestrians and cyclists by implementing a kerb-outstand at the T-intersection.

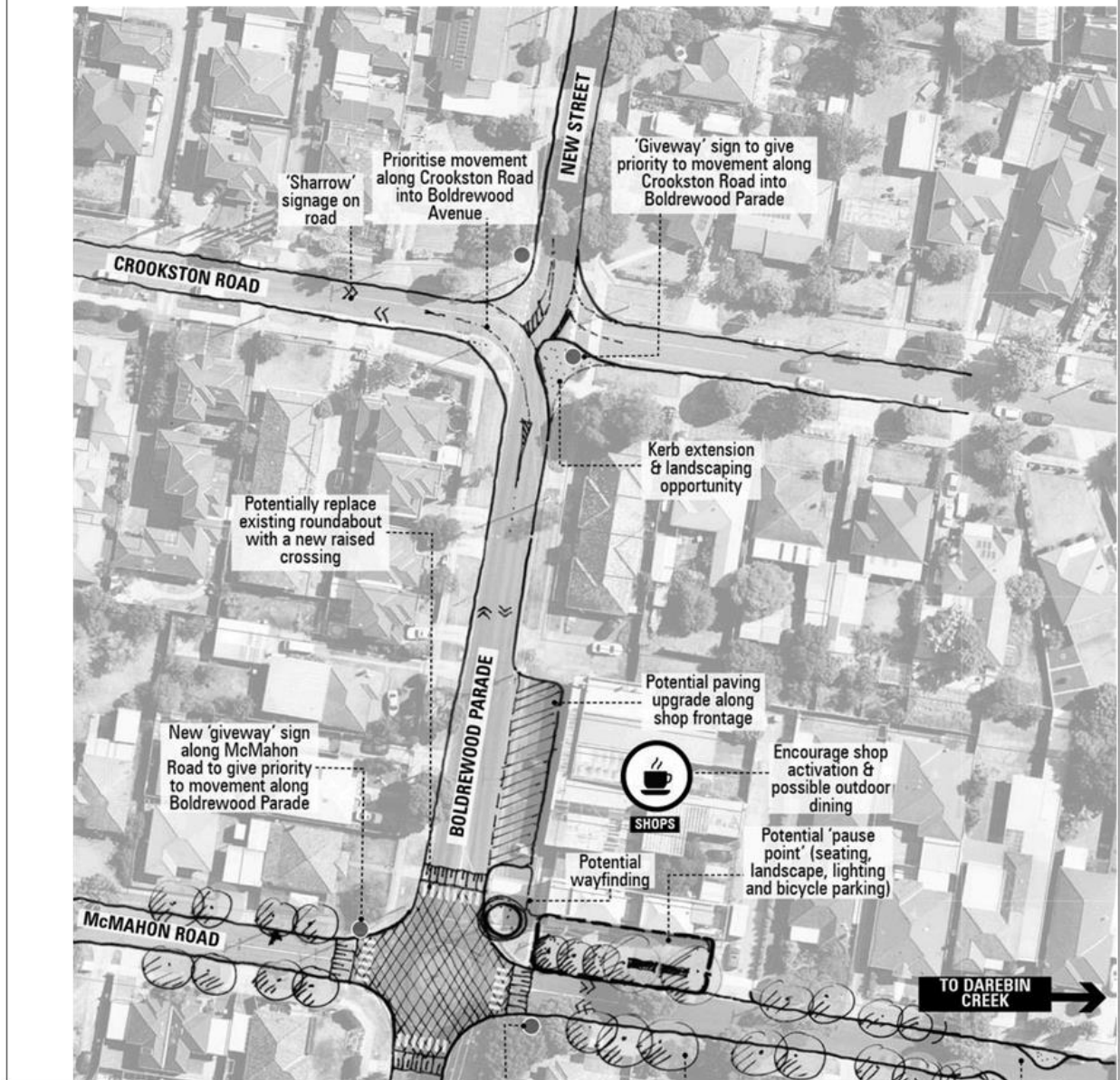


**McMahon Road between Boldrewood Parade and Beenack Street (mid-block):** Implement landscaped pinch point with raised cushion to discourage traffic rat-running. Safe cycle movement is achieved by providing space for bikes (on either side of raised cushion) to avoid some of the stress of negotiating space with oncoming cars.



	Yes	No	Unsure
<p><b>Darebin Creek trail entry:</b> implement a new <u>bike station</u> (including bike rack, bike pump, water fountain, seating, lighting and wayfinding) for cyclists and pedestrians to rest, surrounded by native landscape and creek environment.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p><b>Public Art Node:</b> Investigate opportunity for <u>public art installation</u> at the McMahon Road/ Boldrewood Parade junction referencing the unique character of Reservoir's residential areas and/or surrounding creek corridors.</p> 	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>If you answered 'No' or 'Unsure' for any of the proposed improvements, please tell us why.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>			
<p>2. <b>Boldrewood Parade (between Crookston Road and McMahon Road)</b> is an important local walking</p>			

route to Darebin Creek. It has been selected as a priority area for improved pedestrian and cycle safety and amenity as well as mitigating rat-running through local streets (refer to concept sketch).





The following individual treatments are all inter-related to create a complete concept for the priority area. Do you broadly support the following proposed ideas as whole to achieve Council's 'Streets for People' ambitions? If not, tell us why in the 'Comments' box.

- Implement a 'reverse priority intersection' at **Crookston Road** and New Street junction to prioritise west and south-bound movements and slowing down through traffic traveling north- south along Boldrewood Parade. This includes the installation of new giveaway signs at New Street and kerb extension (with landscaping opportunity) at the south eastern corner of the junction.
- Investigate opportunity for improvement of footpath paving and road paving to the frontage of the **Boldrewood Parade shops** (existing 90 degree parking) to create a welcoming space and encourage activation of shops.
- **Boldrewood Parade and Mc Mahon Road roundabout**: replace existing roundabout with a raised intersection including zebra crossings at all approaches. North-South vehicle movement will have priority (giveaway or stop sign). The aim of this treatment is to improve pedestrian safety, increase driver awareness and reduce vehicle speeds.



- Landscape upgrade with the potential for new seating at the **nature strip on McMahon Road**, or on the south side of the Metro Music Academy (26b McMahon Road).



- **Wayfinding:** Implement wayfinding and signage, providing directions to Darebin Creek, Ruthven Station and local schools at McMahon Road and Boldrewood Parade intersection.



Yes  No  Unsure

Comments

3. Is there anything else you would like to add in relation to this Area?

4. Would you like to complete the survey for other areas?

Yes  
 No

## Streets for People Survey : Northern Reservoir Corridor

## About You

*The information collected will only be used for the purpose of this survey and Council will treat your privacy confidentially*

**1. On a day to day basis, what is your preferred primary mode of transport?**

- Walking
- Driving
- Cycling
- Public Transport
- Other (please specify)

**2. What is your relationship to the Northern Reservoir Corridor?**

- Resident (on Broadhurst Avenue, Crookston Road or Boldrewood Parade)
- Resident (in surrounding streets)
- Frequent visitor (more than 4 times a week)
- Occasional visitor (less than 4 times a week)
- Business owner/ employee
- Public transport access
- Other (please specify)

**3. What suburb do you live in?**

- Reservoir (between High Street and Merri Creek)
- Reservoir (between High Street and Darebin Creek)
- Preston
- Kingsbury
- Thornbury
- Other (please specify)

4. What is your age?

- 14 and under
- 15-24
- 25-34
- 35-44
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 65-74
- 75-84
- 85 and above

**8.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT****Author:** Energy Project Officer**Reviewed By:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

---

**PURPOSE**

For Council to consider expanding its participation in the Local Government Power Purchase Agreement Project to also include small market electricity accounts.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council previously endorsed the participation in the Local Government Power Purchase Agreement (LG PPA) Project at Council meeting held on 11 June 2019. At the time of endorsement, Council's participation included large market and unmetered streetlighting accounts, with Council officers intending to investigate alternative options to produce similar outcomes for Council's small market accounts, from more local sources of renewable energy.

However, due to the number of other Councils joining the project and increasing the overall aggregate electricity load (especially for small market account types), the LG PPA project is much more likely to attract viable offers from retailers, for this market type than previously expected. Together with other variables, such as a declining renewable energy certificate price, make the LG PPA project the most relevant option for securing 100% renewable energy supplies for all of Council's electricity accounts.

The financial analysis for small market account types demonstrates that compared with purchasing renewable energy under current contacting methods, a retail aligned PPA could deliver costs between 11-23% cheaper, and expanding to be between 29% cheaper and 6% more expensive when taking into consideration low and high forecasts of how the electricity market might change in the future. These results are similar to those of other market types (large and unmetered street lighting) already committed to the project.

By including small market accounts into the LG PPA Project, Council could source 100% of its electricity supplies sooner and with more certainty in securing such a deal, as well as deliver the same outcome for our tenanted sites with electricity.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That Council:**

- (1) Approves the expansion of Council's commitment to the Local Government Power Purchase Project, to include all of Council's Small Market account types
  - (2) Delegates the authority of the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the retail supply agreement contract(s) on behalf of Darebin Council, subject to the final offer(s) being within the agreed financial limits of: that the net present cost of the PPA offer to be no more than the cost of business as usual based on the mid-renewables scenario.
-



## BACKGROUND

Council previously endorsed the participation in the Local Government Power Purchase Agreement (LG PPA) Project at Council meeting held on 11 June 2019. At the time of endorsement, Council's participation included large market and unmetered street lighting accounts, with Council officers intending to investigate alternative options to produce similar outcomes for Council's small market accounts, from more local sources of renewable energy.

Since that time the following has occurred:

- **Other Council commitments:** at the time the LG PPA business case was completed, there was a risk that due to the low overall load and their high administrative nature, that small market accounts may struggle to attract a viable market offer. However, with higher than expected Council participation (currently 43 Councils in total) the aggregated load for small market accounts has exceed previous estimates, making it much more likely to attract viable offers from retailers.
- **Electricity payments of tenanted facilities:** Council officers have now confirmed that those Council facilities that are occupied by other organisations (e.g. sporting clubs) utilise Council's electricity contracts, with Council initially paying the bill and then seeking reimbursement. In addition, nearly all these circumstances fall within the small market account types. By including all accounts into the LG PPA project (Council operated and tenanted sites) it presents a unique opportunity to reduce the operational costs for the groups, whilst supplying these groups with 100% renewable energy.
- **Renewables Energy Certificate price decline:** The alternative arrangements that Councils Officers were investigating included procuring more localised renewable energy from local generators in the form of Largescale Generation Certificates (LGCs). From this arrangement, it was anticipated that this would stimulate more localised installations (e.g. largescale rooftop solar PV). However, the price of LGCs have dropped in value significantly over the past 3 months (\$10/LGC), and is no longer likely to provide enough incentive for owners of rooftops who haven't already, to install solar PV, without Council offering to pay a substantive premium compared to market rates.

With these factors considered, it is Council Officer's opinion that including Council's small market accounts into the LG PPA Project is the most effective pathway of Council achieving 100% renewable energy supplies.

## Previous Council Resolution

At its meeting held on 11 June 2019, Council resolved:

*'That Council'*

- (3) *Approves Council's participation including role as the lead organisation, in all future stages of the Local Government Power Purchase Project.*
- (4) *Approves the commitment of all of Council's Large Market and Unmetered Streetlighting accounts to the Local Government Power Purchase Project*
- (5) *Delegates the authority of the Chief Executive to finalise and execute the retail supply agreement contract(s) on behalf of Darebin Council, subject to the final offer(s) being within the agreed financial limits of: that the net present cost of the PPA offer to be no more than the cost of business as usual based on the mid-renewables scenario.*
- (6) *Receives a subsequent report at the conclusion of the tendering process that provides an update on the outcomes of the project.*

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### Consultation

There will be no impacts to the original consultation considerations, as a result of Council including its small market sites to this LG PPA Project.

### Communications

Communications will remain unchanged, except for if the tender is successful, Council will be able to claim all of its electricity supplies come from 100% renewable energy from the commencement of the new contract, rather than just large market and unmetered streetlight market accounts.

## ANALYSIS

### Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 1 - A sustainable city

Goal 1.1 - Create and enact a local Climate Emergency Plan to address and climate change and mitigate risks

### Environmental Sustainability Considerations

This proposal specifically responds to the climate emergency.

#### Climate Emergency

The proposal of this report directly aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, to the already committed loads of large market and unmetered street lighting (approximately 6.3 GWh or 7,245tCO<sub>2</sub>-e annually), adding in small market accounts would increase Council's electricity load to the project by 1.25GWh. Combined, this would reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 9,056tCO<sub>2</sub>-e annually.

### Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

There are no factors that have equity, inclusion or wellbeing implications.

### Cultural Considerations

There are no factors that have cultural implications.

### Economic Development Considerations

Significant economic development opportunities can be delivered from renewable energy facilities, particularly facilitating new jobs and/or additional revenue, if the project is yet to be constructed. This can happen via:

- Manufacturing: Manufacture of components such as mountings for solar farms or
- Towers for wind turbines.
- Construction: Employment associated with building a renewable energy facility. This includes constructing the power plant, access tracks, erecting wind turbines and solar panels.

- Operation and Maintenance: Renewable energy facilities require ongoing maintenance to ensure they operate effectively.
- Lease/Sale of property: Land owners either lease or sell their land to wind or solar farm generators.
- Service industries: Increase in local services like catering, accommodation, retail and staff transport in communities hosting renewable energy projects.

If the project proceeds, future stages such as tender specifications will consider these types of aspects when assessing submissions.

**Financial and Resource Implications**

As Table 1 highlights, compared with purchasing renewable energy under current contacting methods, a retail aligned PPA could deliver costs between 11-23% cheaper, and expanding to be between 29% cheaper and 6% more expensive when taking into consideration low and high sensitivities.

Based on the modelling considerations and key inputs, it is recommended that reference is made to the medium range scenario. This is due to this option representing the most reasonable and likely scenario.

Range	Financial Comparison
Medium Range	11-23% Cheaper
<i>Lower Range Sensitivity</i>	<i>20-29% Cheaper</i>
<i>Higher Range Sensitivity</i>	<i>11% cheaper to 6% more expensive</i>

*Table 1 Summary financial cost comparison including sensitivities*

Price	10 Year Costs - Business As Usual	10 year costs - Lower Range PPA	10 year costs - Higher Range PPA
Medium Range	\$ 904,136	\$ 694,019	\$ 800,805
<i>Lower Range Sensitivity</i>	\$ 1,002,563	\$ 712,267	\$ 806,298
<i>Higher Range Sensitivity</i>	\$ 745,730	\$ 664,661	\$ 790,092

*Table 2 10 year costs comparison of BAU and PPA- excluding non-contestable costs*

It should be noted however, that the calculations in Table 1 and 2 only consider power and renewable energy certificate prices. They exclude “non-constable” cost items of an electricity bill such as network, metering and other environmental charges that are typically 50% of the total bill spend.

**Legal and Risk Implications**

Retail PPA contracts differ significantly from standard retail services contracts. In addition, no single PPA is the same. Therefore, the project will be engaging external legal advisors with PPA experience to act on behalf of the Buyers’ Group during the tender development, evaluation, negotiation and contract award stages. This will ensure all regulatory, legal and counter-party responsibilities are captured and enforceable in the appropriate documentation. The legal and risk implications of this proposal are unchanged from Council’s previous resolution.

## DISCUSSION

Involvement in the LG PPA Project is a unique opportunity to demonstrate leadership in the local government sector, and help drive a significant emissions reduction opportunity at the group level.

Since Darebin's confirmation of involvement, the uptake from other Councils has exceeded expectations, with 43 in total now confirmed. This has significantly improved the commercial viability of attaining a contract for small market accounts under a PPA.

By including all of its electricity accounts, not only does it enable Council to achieve 100% renewable energy for all of its sites, but also all of its tenanted facilities.

## OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

### **Option 1 - Continue with current electricity procurement practices**

#### **Not recommended**

Under this option, Council would not include small market accounts in the LG PPA project and revert to typical 2-3 year fixed price (or possibly progressive procurement) contract with an aggregator such as Procurement Australia. Council could choose to purchase GreenPower either via the same electricity contract or separately. The modelling suggests this has the potential to be more costly to Council.

### **Option 2 - Explore other renewable energy purchasing alternatives**

#### **Recommended**

This option would seek to explore other options for renewable energy for small market account types, such as purchasing renewable energy certificates from local solar PV installations. This option would potentially cost more for the certificates (as the LG PPA is expected to achieve lower costs due to scale), and without reducing power prices.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Details

If Council adopts the officers' recommendations, the next steps remain the same for the project:

#### Tender development

Key aspects of this stage will include:

- Final composition of the Buyers' Group
- Establishing evaluation criteria
- Establishing tender specifications and response schedules
- Draft commercial contract terms.

#### Tender period

The key milestone the project will work through during this period include:

- Market engagement and tender response period
- Evaluation including, price and non-price criteria as well as due diligence assessment
- Negotiation with preferred supplier
- Contract award and execution.

## Communication

There will be an excellent opportunity to communicate this widely at the right time. Officers are planning for public and sector communications at the point a decision to progress with a future tender and to establish a Buyers' Group for that has been confirmed.

- This will ensure that communications are coordinated across all the participants – and reach will be maximised, including into communities and sectors that are hard to reach with climate emergency messaging.
- Included in this will be outward promotions and engagement activities relating to the leadership of Council and the Buyers' Group, as well as 'priming' the energy sector of the upcoming tender opportunity.
- Climate emergency messaging will be integrated and officers will work with climate emergency Darebin to integrate communications with other mobilisation and engagement activities to maximise their effectiveness.
- If a contract is secured for all sites, specific communications will also be developed for Council's tenants highlighting the change in contract, the benefits and how they can promote their organisation's environmental credentials.

## Timeline

The following provides an indicative indication of the key next steps and dates:

Aspect	Duration	Date(s)
Tender Development	8 weeks	August – end September
Tender Period	4 weeks	October
Tender Evaluation	6 weeks	November to early December
Negotiations with preferred supplier	10 weeks	December – late February 2020
Contract execution	1 week	March 2020
Report back to Council on tender outcomes		Early-mid 2020

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- N/A

## Attachments

Nil

## DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

**8.7 ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW - PROPOSED COUNCIL SUBMISSION TO VICTORIAN ELECTORAL COMMISSION PRELIMINARY REPORT**

**Author:** Acting Coordinator Governance, Council Business & Civic Services

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

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) requires the Victorian Electoral Commission (the VEC) to conduct electoral representation reviews (ERR) before every third Council General Election, approximately every 12 years. The last ERR for Darebin City Council (DCC) was in 2007.

The ERR will examine –

- Whether DCC has the appropriate number of Councillors
- Whether DCC should be unsubdivided with Councillors elected from the whole local Council, or subdivided into wards
- Of subdivided, the number of wards, ward boundaries and number of Councillors per ward

At its Ordinary meeting on Monday 22 July 2019, Council finalised its preliminary submission to the VEC as follows:

- Ward structure – That multi-member wards continue to meet the current and future needs of Council and the community
- Councillor numbers – That whilst DCC has a high number of voters per Councillor compared to other metropolitan councils, Darebin is a relatively compact and developed municipality and thus nine Councillors is appropriate. It was also noted that effective community outcomes are achieved not just through representation ratios, but also through a strong strategic focus, effective decision making and robust governance processes.
- Ward names – Whilst not a component of the ERR, Council expressed its willingness to explore the renaming of all or some of the existing wards to recognise and respect the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people.

The VEC Preliminary Report (Appendix A) on the electoral structure for DCC was released on Wednesday 21 August 2019. The following options only are being considered by the VEC:

**Option A (VEC Preferred Option)**

- Darebin City Council consist of nine Councillors elected from three wards with adjustments to the current ward boundaries (three x three–councillor wards)

**Option B (VEC Alternate Option)**

- Darebin City Council consist of nine Councillors elected from three wards with adjustments to the current ward boundaries, different to Option A (three x three–councillors wards)

Any person or group, including the Council, can make a submission to the VEC in response to the options contained in the VEC Preliminary report. To this extent, officers are of the view that the **VEC Option A** is the option that Council should support in its formal submission.

### Recommendation

**That** Council:

- (1) Endorse the lodgement of a submission to the Darebin City Council – Electoral Representation Review – Preliminary Report supporting the VEC’s Preferred Option A.
- (2) Request to be heard in support of its submission at the VEC’s public hearing on Tuesday 24 September 2019.

---

### BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

The process for the electoral representation review of Darebin City Council is as follows:

Tuesday 25 June @ 7pm	Public Information Session (Preston Shire Hall)
Wednesday 26 June	Preliminary submissions open
Wednesday 24 July @ 5pm	Preliminary submissions close
Wednesday 21 August	Preliminary report published Response submissions open
<b>Monday 2 September</b>	<b>Council consideration of and response to the Preliminary Report</b>
Wednesday 18 September @ 5pm	Response submissions close
Wednesday 24 September @ 6pm	Public Hearing, if required (Preston Shire Hall)
Wednesday 16 October	VEC publishes Final Report with recommendations for Minister of Local Government

### Previous Council Resolution

At its Ordinary meeting on 22 July 2019, Council considered a report on the background to the ERR and resolved as follows:

**That** Council:

- (1) Receives and notes the report.
- (2) Endorses the attached submission (provided as Appendix A) for lodgement to the VEC’s Electoral Representation Review 2019 of Darebin City Council.
- (3) Requests the Chief Executive Officer to ensure that Council’s submission is lodged with the VEC by 24 July 2019.

In summary, Council’s submission argued for the retention of the existing three ‘east-west’ ward structure with three Councillors in each ward, with boundary adjustments to cater for population number movements.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **Consultation**

An electoral representation review is a statutory process and communities and interested individuals are invited to make submissions directly with the VEC. The VEC has undertaken all the public consultation throughout the process.

Internal consultation has taken place with Council's Strategic Planning Department on the proposed ward boundary changes in the preliminary submission, particularly in relation to anticipated population / demographic change.

### **Communications**

In initiating the electoral representation review of DCC, the VEC advertised and held an information session for interested individuals on Tuesday 25 June 2019 in the Preston Shire Hall.

The VEC has advertised the representation review through local newspapers, its website and via posters and other collateral. Council has supplemented this by providing information on its website and social media channels.

The Preliminary Report was released on Wednesday 21 August 2019 and has been placed on exhibition at all Council Offices and libraries.

## **ANALYSIS**

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

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

There are no environmental or sustainability considerations arising from the preparation of this report.

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

Considerations relating to equity and inclusion were identified in Council's preliminary submission lodged with the VEC in July. The VEC has referenced these specifically in its Preliminary report.

### **Cultural Considerations**

There are no cultural considerations arising from the preparation of this report

### **Economic Development Considerations**

There are no economic development considerations arising from the preparation of this report



## Financial and Resource Implications

The VEC has advised the anticipated cost of the ERR is approximately \$50,000. This cost has been provided for in Council's 2019/20 budget.

## Legal and Risk Implications

There are no direct legal or risk considerations arising from the preparation of this report.

## DISCUSSION

Officers provide the following comments on the VEC's Preliminary Report:

- The retention of the three Councillors x three Wards model in both VEC options is consistent with Council's submission and is a positive acknowledgement of the view of the majority of submitters.
- Most submitters (14 out of 16 submitters) supported retaining 9 Councillors, with no support for single member wards.
- Both the VEC's Preferred Option (A) and Alternative Option (B) maintain the integrity of the current east-west ward boundary structure which acknowledges that Darebin's demographics and communities of interest are heavily influenced by the distance from the Melbourne CBD.

### Option 1 (VEC's Preferred Option)

1. Represents a change of ward for an estimated 3,725 voters (3.18% of voters); i.e. from Cazaly Ward to LaTrobe Ward in the Reservoir / Regent area.
2. Delivers a -6.25% variance from the average number of voters in Cazaly Ward which will accommodate projected growth in this ward over the next 8 years.
3. Represents no boundary change for Rucker Ward.
4. Proposes a boundary between LaTrobe and Cazaly along the railway and main roads.

### Option 2 (VEC's Alternative Option)

1. Represents a change to approximately 75% of the existing internal boundaries.
2. Delivers Cazaly and Rucker wards with similar voter numbers (-3 to -4% variation from average no. of voters).
3. Proposes a change to the boundary between Latrobe and Cazaly that is not as definitive as Option A.

## Renaming Wards

While the VEC's Preliminary Report acknowledges Council's interest in exploring new ward names with guidance from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, it notes that the Act provides for ward name changes outside of the representation review. Officers suggest that Council wait until resolution of the Minister for Local Government's current proposal to mandate single councillor wards only (in most municipalities) before further considering the possible re-naming of wards in Darebin.

### Officers Recommendation

It is recommended that the VEC's Preferred Option A be supported by Council for the following reasons:

- Option A represents less overall change than Option B, in that it will only impact a discreet area of Reservoir / Regent.
- Option A delivers the voter variance numbers that appear to best cater for projected growth in the Cazaly Ward and across Darebin more generally.
- Option A proposes boundaries that are more clearly defined and logical than Option B.

### OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

**Option 1** – Council submits a response to the Darebin City Council ERR Preliminary Report released by the VEC supporting Option A. (Recommended)

**Option 2** – Council submits a response to the Darebin City Council ERR Preliminary Report released by the VEC supporting Option B or a different option as determined by Council. It is not recommended that Council support an option other than the VEC's options A or B, as history suggests the Minister is highly likely to support a VEC option rather than an alternate option.

**Option 3** – Council does not submit a response to the Darebin City Council ERR Preliminary Report released by the VEC. This option is not recommended as Council is well placed to make a valuable contribution to the VEC's review.

### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Subject to Council's resolution, the next step is to prepare a formal submission to the VEC. There is also an opportunity for submitters to the Preliminary Report to speak about their submission to a public hearing.

### Timeline

Submissions are due to the VEC by Wednesday 18 September 2019. Any subsequent public hearing will be held on Tuesday 24 September 2019 at 6.00 pm at the Preston Shire Hall.

Following the public hearing, the VEC will consider all submissions and will publish a final report for the Minister for Local Government containing a recommended electoral structure. This report is scheduled to be published on Wednesday 16 October 2019 with any changes applying to the October 2020 general elections.

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

Nil

### Attachments

- Darebin City Council Preliminary Report August 2019 (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)

**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

The Local Government Act (Section 79C(k)) provides that a Councillor does not have a conflict of interest in regard to a submission to an ERR.

# Local Council Representation Review

Preliminary  
Report



**DAREBIN CITY  
COUNCIL**  
August 2019

Victorian Electoral Commission 

© State of Victoria (Victorian Electoral Commission)  
Wednesday 21 August 2019

Version 1



This work, Local Council Representation Review Preliminary Report – Darebin City Council, is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence [<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>]. You are free to share this work under that licence, on the condition that you do not change any content and you credit the State of Victoria (Victorian Electoral Commission) as author and comply with the other licence terms. The licence does not apply to any branding, including Government logos.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

## Contents

<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>BACKGROUND.....</b>	<b>3</b>
Legislative basis .....	3
Public engagement.....	3
The VEC's principles .....	4
Developing recommendations .....	5
<b>PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS (PRELIMINARY) .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>THE VEC'S FINDINGS AND OPTIONS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
Preliminary report findings .....	11
Options.....	20
<b>NEXT STEPS .....</b>	<b>21</b>
Response submissions.....	21
Public hearing.....	22
Final report.....	22
<b>APPENDIX 1: OPTION MAPS.....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: LIST OF PRELIMINARY SUBMISSIONS.....</b>	<b>26</b>



Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

## Executive summary

The *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act) requires the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct an electoral representation review of each local council in Victoria at least before every third council general election.

The purpose of a representation review is to recommend an electoral structure that provides 'fair and equitable representation for the persons who are entitled to vote at a general election of the Council.'<sup>1</sup> The matters considered by a review are:

- the number of councillors
- the electoral structure of the council (whether the council should be unsubdivided or divided into wards and, if subdivided, the ward boundaries and the number of councillors per ward).

The VEC conducts all reviews based on three main principles:

1. taking a consistent, State-wide approach to the total number of councillors
2. if subdivided, ensuring the number of voters represented by each councillor is within plus-or-minus 10% of the average number of voters per councillor for that local council
3. ensuring communities of interest are as fairly represented as possible.

### Current electoral structure

Darebin City Council currently comprises nine councillors elected from three three-councillor wards. More information on Darebin City Council and the current electoral structure is available in the council fact sheet on the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au).

Prior to the last representation review in 2007, Darebin City Council was comprised of nine councillors elected from single-councillor wards. Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) to access a copy of the 2007 review final report.

### Preliminary submissions

The VEC invited preliminary submissions from the commencement of the Darebin City Council review on Wednesday 26 June 2019. The VEC received 16 submissions by the deadline for submissions at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 24 July 2019. These submissions can be viewed on the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) and a list of people or organisations who made a submission is available at Appendix 2.

---

<sup>1</sup> Section 219D of the *Local Government Act 1989*.



Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

### VEC options

The VEC is considering the following options for further consultation:

- Option A (preferred option)  
**Darebin City Council consist of nine councillors elected from three wards with adjustments to the current ward boundaries (three three-councillor wards).**
- Option B (alternative option)  
**Darebin City Council consist of nine councillors elected from three wards, with adjustments to the current ward boundaries, different to Option A (three three-councillor wards).**

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

## Background

### Legislative basis

The Act requires the VEC to conduct a representation review of each local council in Victoria before every third general council election, or earlier if gazetted by the Minister for Local Government.

The Act specifies that the purpose of a representation review is to recommend the number of councillors and the electoral structure that provides 'fair and equitable representation for the persons who are entitled to vote at a general election of the Council.'<sup>2</sup>

The Act requires the VEC to consider:

- the number of councillors in a local council
- whether a local council should be unsubdivided or subdivided.

If a local council should be subdivided, the VEC must ensure that the number of voters represented by each councillor is within plus-or-minus 10% of the average number of voters per councillor for that local council.<sup>3</sup> On this basis, the review must consider the:

- number of wards
- ward boundaries
- number of councillors that should be elected for each ward.

### Public engagement

#### Public information program

The VEC conducts a public information program to inform the community of the representation review, including:

- public notices printed in local and state-wide papers
- a public information session to outline the review process and respond to questions from the community
- a media release announcing the commencement of the review
- sponsored social media advertising geo-targeted to users within the local council area

---

<sup>2</sup> Section 219D of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

## Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report Darebin City Council 2019

---

- an information email campaign targeted at known community groups and communities of interest in the local council area
- a submission guide and fact sheet to explain the review process and provide background information on the scope of the review
- ongoing information updates and publication of submissions on the VEC website.

### Public consultation

Public input is accepted by the VEC in:

- preliminary submissions at the start of the review
- response submissions to the preliminary report
- a public hearing that provides an opportunity for people who have made a response submission to expand on their submission.

Public submissions are an important part of the review process but are not the only factors considered during a review. The VEC ensures its recommendations comply with the Act and are formed through careful consideration of public submissions, independent research, and analysis of all relevant factors.

### The VEC's principles

Three main principles underlie all the VEC's work on representation reviews:

**1. Taking a consistent, State-wide approach to the total number of councillors.**

The VEC is guided by its comparisons of local councils of a similar size and category to the council under review. The VEC also considers any special circumstances that may warrant the local council having more or fewer councillors than similar local councils.

**2. If subdivided, ensuring the number of voters represented by each councillor is within plus-or-minus 10% of the average number of voters per councillor for that local council.**

This is the principle of 'one vote, one value', which is enshrined in the Act. This means that every person's vote counts equally.

**3. Ensuring communities of interest are as fairly represented as possible.**

Each local council contains a number of communities of interest. Where practicable, the electoral structure should be designed to ensure they are fairly represented, and that geographic communities of interest are not split by ward boundaries. This allows elected councillors to be more effective representatives of the people and interests in their particular local council or ward.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

### Developing recommendations

The VEC bases its recommendations for particular electoral structures on the following information:

- internal research specifically relating to the local council under review, including Australian Bureau of Statistics and .id data<sup>4</sup>; voter statistics from the Victorian electoral roll; and other State and local government data sets
- small area forecasts provided by .id for relevant local council areas
- the VEC's experience conducting previous electoral representation reviews of local councils and similar reviews for State elections
- the VEC's expertise in mapping, demography and local government
- careful consideration of all input from the public in written submissions received during the review
- advice from consultants with extensive experience in local government.

### Deciding on the number of councillors

The Act allows for a local council to have between five and 12 councillors but does not specify how the appropriate number of councillors is to be decided.<sup>5</sup> In considering the number of councillors for a local council, the VEC is guided by the Victorian Parliament's intention for fairness and equity in the local representation of voters under the Act.

The starting point in deciding the appropriate number of councillors for a local council is comparing the local council under review to other local councils of a similar size and type (Principle 1). Generally, local councils that have a larger number of voters will have a higher number of councillors. Often large populations are more likely to be diverse, both in the nature and number of their communities of interest and the issues of representation.

However, the VEC also considers the particular circumstances of each local council which could justify more or fewer councillors, such as:

- the nature and complexity of services provided by the Council
- geographic size and topography
- population growth or decline
- the social diversity of the local council.

---

<sup>4</sup> .id is a consulting company specialising in population and demographic analysis and prediction information products in most jurisdictions in Australia and New Zealand.

<sup>5</sup> Section 5B(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

### Deciding the electoral structure

The Act allows for a local council to be unsubdivided, with all councillors elected 'at-large' by all voters or subdivided into a number of wards.

If the local council is to be subdivided into wards, there are three options available:

1. single-councillor wards
2. multi-councillor wards
3. a combination of single-councillor and multi-councillor wards.

A subdivided electoral structure must be developed with internal ward boundaries that provide for a fair and equitable division of the local council.

The Act allows for wards with different numbers of councillors, as long as the number of voters represented by each councillor is within plus-or-minus 10% of the average number of voters per councillor for that local council (Principle 2). For example, a local council may have one three-councillor ward with 15,000 voters and two single-councillor wards each with 5,000 voters. In this case, the average number of voters per councillor would be 5,000.

Over time, population changes can lead to some wards in subdivided local councils having larger or smaller numbers of voters. As part of the review, the VEC corrects any imbalances and takes into account likely population changes to ensure ward boundaries provide equitable representation for as long as possible.

In considering which electoral structure is most appropriate, the VEC considers the following matters:

- the VEC's recommendation at the previous representation review and the reasons for that recommendation
- the longevity of the structure, with the aim of keeping voter numbers per councillor within the 10% tolerance for as long as possible (Principle 2)
- communities of interest, consisting of people who share a range of common concerns, such as geographic, economic or cultural associations (Principle 3)
- the number of candidates in previous elections, as outcomes from previous elections indicate that large numbers of candidates can lead to an increase in the number of informal (invalid) votes
- geographic factors, such as size and topography
- clear ward boundaries.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

## Public submissions (preliminary)

The VEC received 16 preliminary submissions by the deadline at 5.00 pm on Wednesday 24 July 2019 including submissions from residents living in the City of Darebin (and one submission from a former resident), a personal submission from Councillor Susanne Newton, and submissions from Darebin City Council, the Darebin Ratepayer Group and the Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Victoria-Tasmania) Inc. (PRSA). These submissions can be viewed on the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) and a list of people or organisations who made a submission is available at Appendix 2.

The matrix below provides an overview of preferences in the preliminary submissions. A detailed analysis of the submissions follows.

	Submitter wanted fewer wards	Submitter wanted ward number to remain unchanged	Submitter wanted more wards	Submitter did not comment on number of wards
Submitter wanted fewer councillors	—	—	—	—
Submitter wanted councillor number to remain unchanged	2	14	—	—
Submitter wanted more councillors	1	1*	—	—
Submitter did not comment on number of councillors	—	—	—	1

\*This submitter wanted no fewer than nine councillors

Note: Submitters who wanted fewer wards also expressed support for the current model.

### Number of councillors

Most submitters (14 out of 16) supported retaining nine councillors. Two submitters indicated support for more councillors. No submitters wanted to reduce the number of councillors. One submitter did not comment on the appropriate number of councillors for Darebin City Council.

Most submitters supported retaining nine councillors in relation to the current electoral structure of three three-councillor wards, which they commented, has 'worked well' for the community.

## Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report Darebin City Council 2019

---

Darebin City Council's submission acknowledged that the City of Darebin is at the higher end of the average voter-to-councillor ratio compared to other nine-councillor metropolitan councils. The Council commented that despite the size and anticipated growth of the population, nine councillors remains appropriate. The Council stated that the City of Darebin is a 'relatively compact and developed municipality', which justifies continuing with nine councillors. The Council also stated that a 'strong strategic focus', 'effective decision-making' and 'robust governance processes' have supported current councillors in effectively representing the community. The Council suggested that these factors are probably more important in determining the appropriate number of councillors than the ratio of average voters per councillor. The Council concluded its comments on the number of councillors by stating that the current 'smaller Councillor group' will 'more efficiently support strong governance and decision-making processes'.

Of the two submitters that supported more councillors, one favoured the maximum number of 12 councillors, commenting that it would enable the representation of more minority views and support greater political diversity in council. Another submitter wanted 'no fewer than the current nine councillors' without further discussion regarding their preferred number of councillors.

### **Electoral structure**

Most submitters supported the current electoral structure, stating that it has 'worked well' in representing the diversity of community groups and views within this local council area. Two submitters favoured an unsubdivided electoral structure but also supported the current model. There was no support for single-councillor ward electoral structures, with some submitters providing comments on the disadvantages of returning to single-councillor wards.

### **Support for the current structure**

All submitters supported the current three three-councillor ward structure, with two submitters favouring an unsubdivided electoral structure but also supporting the current model. Submitters commonly stated that the current electoral structure has facilitated the election of diverse councillors who have been able to represent a wide range of interests in the City of Darebin. Submitters commented on the importance of electing diverse representatives with several submitters, including Darebin City Council, emphasising that multi-councillor wards do more to promote gender equity in council compared to single-councillor wards. The Council commented that the average percentage of female councillors for metropolitan councils is 46%; 'however, the percentage of female councillors for metropolitan councils with single-member ward structures averages at 35%'. Submitters commented that retaining the current structure and proportional representation would continue to promote diversity on Darebin City Council, which appropriately reflects diversity in this community.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

The Council stated that the City of Darebin is made up of geographic communities of interest, based on its suburbs, and many non-geographic communities of interest (for example, older people, socio-economically disadvantaged people, people with disabilities, residents from culturally and linguistically diverse communities and a comparatively large Indigenous population). The Council stated that it has a range of policies and programs in place to address the particular needs of these communities with the current larger multi-member wards supporting a 'strategic and collaborative approach', which is important to the success of these initiatives. The Council noted that councillors are more likely to work together and support one another and adopt 'a broader municipal-wide perspective' in their work under multi-member wards as opposed to single-councillor wards.

Submitters also supported the current electoral structure of the City of Darebin into three wards as a good reflection of local geographic communities of interest, while representing non-geographic communities of interest. In a separate submission, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Suzanne Newton, stated that her ward is 'the right size' for her 'to have a broad scope *and* a strong understanding of each local area and various communities of interest'.<sup>6</sup> Cr Newton represents La Trobe Ward, which she argued has 'many different communities of interest and socio-economic areas' as well as 'the largest employer in Darebin, La Trobe University'.

Generally, submitters described the current electoral structure as accurately reflecting the different 'character' of the geographic communities of interest across the City of Darebin. Several submitters also highlighted the 'east-west', 'horizontal' boundaries, with one submitter stating that it 'is the most logical as affluence and demographics in general in Darebin are predominately shaped by distance from the city'.

Submitters identified other advantages to the current multi-councillor ward structure for the City of Darebin. Multi-councillor wards provide voters with a choice of councillors in each ward, as well as assurance of continued representation should one or more councillors be unavailable or fail to respond. A small number of submitters commented that multi-councillor wards were more likely than single-councillor wards to prevent corruption in the Council as it is generally more difficult to influence three councillors compared to a single councillor. They noted that this is a local council area with 'multiple large scale development occurring'. One submitter wrote that having more than one councillor in a ward may prevent bullying and intimidation of councillors.

The PRSA also supported the current structure, commenting that wards with the same number of councillors are intrinsically more democratic than electoral structures that have wards with different numbers of councillors, as the latter have different quotas for election.

---

<sup>6</sup> Emphasis in submission.



Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

### **Unsubdivided electoral structure**

Three submitters expressed support for an unsubdivided electoral structure, commenting that it would extend on the benefits offered in the current structure by further promoting the representation of diversity in the local council area. One of these submitters commented that they supported an unsubdivided structure because residents commonly 'identify as Melbournians and not as part of small local areas'. However, this submitter also indicated that the current multi-councillor ward structure would be their second preference. Another submitter preferred an unsubdivided council or multi-councillor wards to allow for a greater diversity of views on the Council. The PRSA expressed some support for an unsubdivided structure but acknowledged that the large number of candidates at Darebin City Council's elections would make this option impractical.

### **Opposition to single-councillor ward structure**

There was no support in submissions for single-councillor wards. Some submitters stated their opposition to single-councillor wards more explicitly, and commented that single-councillor wards would not reflect the diversity within the City of Darebin and tended to support the election of 'major party and conventional (white male) candidates' over female candidates and those of diverse political, cultural and linguistic backgrounds, ages and abilities, among other under-represented groups.

Lyle Allan, a former resident of the City of Darebin also spoke to this issue in his submission. Mr Allan commented that 'councillors elected under previous voting systems were occasionally good' in the City of Darebin, 'but the Council lacked diversity, and this often resulted in bad decisions'. He stated that between 1994 and 2007, Darebin City Council had nine single-councillor wards and 'all councillors during that time were members of one political party'. Mr Allan strongly opposed returning to single-councillor wards.

Submitters further commented that single-councillor wards would necessitate constant alterations to ward boundaries to accommodate population changes. Submitters argued that single-councillor wards are also more likely to encourage 'parochialism', reduce opportunities for the Council to 'rejuvenate' through the election of new councillors, increase the likelihood of uncontested wards at elections, and limit the choice of councillors for voters to one councillor per ward.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

## The VEC's findings and options

### Preliminary report findings

#### Number of councillors

The VEC considers that nine is the most appropriate number of councillors for Darebin City Council.

The VEC takes a consistent, state-wide approach to the total number of councillors and is guided in its recommendations by comparing local councils of a similar size and category to the council under review. As the table below indicates, Darebin City Council has a higher voter-to-councillor ratio than most other nine-councillor metropolitan councils. This, alongside projected population growth, suggests that there is the possibility to increase the number of councillors in Darebin City Council. However, such considerations should be balanced with the arguments presented in submissions, communities of interest and any circumstances that might influence the appropriate number of councillors.

#### *Comparable Metropolitan councils to Darebin City Council*

Local council	Area (km <sup>2</sup> )	Population (2016 Census)	Number of voters at last review	Current estimate of voters	Number of councillors	Number of voters per councillor
Boroondara City *	60	167,231	125,742	133,357	10	13,335
Moreland City	51	162,558	109,744	132,790	11	12,071
Monash City	81	182,618	120,779	123,695	11	11,245
Kingston City *	91	151,389	105,316	122,333	9	13,592
Melbourne City	36	135,959	104,929	119,595	9 <sup>^</sup>	13,288
Knox City	114	154,110	116,335	118,678	9	13,186
Whitehorse City *	64	162,078	111,384	117,705	10	11,770
<b>Darebin City *</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>146,719</b>	<b>96,334</b>	<b>117,261</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13,029</b>
Frankston City	131	134,143	95,979	109,662	9	12,184
Glen Eira City	38	140,875	97,582	106,440	9	11,826
Greater Dandenong City *	130	152,050	93,970	101,846	11	9,258
Banyule City *	63	121,865	90,094	99,158	7	14,165
Moonee Valley City	44	116,671	88,394	94,682	9	10,520

\* The local council is undergoing an electoral representation review by the VEC during 2019–20.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

Darebin City Council has an estimated current population of voters at 117,261 and an average of 13,029 voters per councillor. Towards the top of the range of nine-councillor metropolitan council areas is Knox City Council with a similar estimated population of voters and a slightly higher 13,186 average voters per councillor. At the top of the range is Kingston City Council currently with 13,592 average voters per councillor, which is 563 more voters per councillor compared to Darebin City Council. At present, Darebin City Council remains within the nine-councillor metropolitan local council areas. Its population is, however, expected to increase substantially in the next decade. At the bottom of the range is Yarra City Council with an estimated population of voters at 81,669 and 9,074 average voters per councillor.

According to .id, the City of Darebin's population is forecast to increase at an average annual rate of +1.59% to reach a total of 204,136 people by 2031, representing an estimated 49,120 additional people.<sup>7</sup> The latest figures published by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning forecast a similar average annual rate of change of +1.5% between 2019 to 2036.<sup>8</sup> Based on the expected growth, there would be some basis to considering an increase in the number of councillors. However, the VEC considers the current number of nine councillors to be warranted for the reasons discussed below.

The City of Darebin is a well-established local council area with notable activity centres in Preston, Northcote and Reservoir, and Northland Shopping Centre. The Council operates service centres at Preston, Northcote and Reservoir. The City's suburbs and activity centres are well connected by trains, trams and buses, and accessibility is generally high for residents. Melbourne's CBD is located between five and 15 kilometres away. Moreover, as the Council's submission indicated, the City of Darebin is relatively small and compact. Encompassing an area of 53 square kilometres, the City of Darebin is below the average size (65 square kilometres) for metropolitan local council areas with nine councillors, making it more likely that constituents and their issues are reasonably accessible to councillors.

The VEC's research shows that there have been shifts in the demographics of the local council area but not the special circumstances that would immediately prompt an increase in the number of councillors on the Council. Currently, the proportion of people aged 65-years and above in the City of Darebin is at 14.2%, the proportion of people aged 65-years and above in Greater

---

<sup>7</sup> .id, 'Population Forecast: City of Darebin – Population Summary', .id, accessed 7 August 2019, <https://forecast.id.com.au/darebin/population-summary>. Council's submission noted that their forecast population growth is 2%. The VEC draws primarily on forecasts from .id. which indicates an annual average rate of change from 2016-2041 at 1.59%. It has however, updated the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning forecast which is now 1.5% from 2019-2036. See, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victoria), *Victoria in Future: Population and household projections 2016 to 2056*, State Government of Victoria, Melbourne, 2019, p. 12.

<sup>8</sup> Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (Victoria), *Victoria in Future*, p. 12.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

Melbourne generally is at 14%.<sup>9</sup> While the population is expected to age steadily in the period to 2031, individuals aged 25-34 and 35-49 are forecast to remain the largest demographic group in the City over the next 20 years.<sup>10</sup>

In the decade past, the City of Darebin has become increasingly culturally and linguistically diverse and this trend is likely to continue. About one-third of residents are born overseas and the top five countries of birth other than Australia include Italy, China (excluding SARs and Taiwan), India, Greece and England – and a comparatively higher percentage of people born in China and India than a decade ago.<sup>11</sup> There is a larger percentage of residents who were born overseas in the City of Darebin that are not proficient in English at 18.6% compared to Greater Melbourne (13.3%).<sup>12</sup> However, no submissions described a need for more councillors in relation to the City of Darebin's migrant population. Submissions instead described the City's culturally and linguistically diverse communities as one of many possible traditionally under-represented demographics that would continue to benefit from proportional representation in the current multi-councillor wards as proportional representation can encourage diversity on Council. Submitters considered that the traditionally under-represented groups, which would benefit from multi-member wards are wide ranging and include women, people of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, the LGBTIQA+ community, and people living with disability (among others).

The VEC found that there are discernible differences in social and economic disadvantage in the City of Darebin. Suburbs in the southern areas of the City, closer to Melbourne's CBD, such as Fairfield, Northcote and Thornbury, are generally more affluent compared to areas in the centre and north of the City, such as Preston (West), Reservoir and Kingsbury.<sup>13</sup> There is also a discernible difference in the dominant occupations in these areas. A greater percentage of residents in the southern area are employed as 'professionals' and 'managers'. Based on the

---

<sup>9</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), '2016 Quickstats – Darebin (C)', accessed 7 August 2019, [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA21890?opendocument](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA21890?opendocument).

<sup>10</sup> Darebin City Council, *Darebin Housing Strategy 2013-2033*, Darebin City Council, (2013), p. 23, accessed 7 August 2019, <https://www.yoursaydarebin.com.au/darebin-housing-strategy>.

<sup>11</sup> ABS, '2016 Quickstats – Darebin (C)'. See also, ABS, '2016 Quickstats – Greater Melbourne', accessed 7 August 2019, [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/2GMEL?opendocument](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/2GMEL?opendocument). See also, ABS, 'Quickstats 2006 Darebin (C) LGA21890', accessed 8 August 2019, [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2006/quickstat/LGA21890?opendocument&navpos=220](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2006/quickstat/LGA21890?opendocument&navpos=220).

<sup>12</sup> ABS, 'Data by Region – Darebin (C) (LGA) (21980)', accessed 7 August 2019, [https://itt.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary&region=21890&dataset=ABS\\_REGIONAL\\_LGA2018&geocconcept=LGA\\_2018&maplayerid=LGA2018&measure=MEASURE&datasetASGS=ABS\\_REGIONAL\\_ASGS\\_2016&datasetLGA=ABS\\_REGIONAL\\_LGA2018&regionLGA=LGA\\_2018&regionASGS=ASGS\\_2016](https://itt.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary&region=21890&dataset=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2018&geocconcept=LGA_2018&maplayerid=LGA2018&measure=MEASURE&datasetASGS=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS_2016&datasetLGA=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2018&regionLGA=LGA_2018&regionASGS=ASGS_2016). See also, ABS, 'Data by Region – Greater Melbourne (2GMEL)', accessed 7 August 2019, [https://itt.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary&region=2GMEL&dataset=ABS\\_REGIONAL\\_ASGS2016&geocconcept=ASGS\\_2016&measure=MEASURE&datasetASGS=ABS\\_REGIONAL\\_ASGS2016&datasetLGA=ABS\\_REGIONAL\\_LGA2018&regionLGA=LGA\\_2018&regionASGS=ASGS\\_2016](https://itt.abs.gov.au/itt/r.jsp?RegionSummary&region=2GMEL&dataset=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS2016&geocconcept=ASGS_2016&measure=MEASURE&datasetASGS=ABS_REGIONAL_ASGS2016&datasetLGA=ABS_REGIONAL_LGA2018&regionLGA=LGA_2018&regionASGS=ASGS_2016).

<sup>13</sup> .id, 'City of Darebin: SEIFA by profile area', accessed 7 August 2019, <https://profile.id.com.au/darebin/seifa-disadvantage-small-area>.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

Australian Bureau of Statistics, in comparison, the most popular occupations are more varied, including ‘technicians and trade workers’ and ‘labourers’ in the northern parts of the City.<sup>14</sup>

Submitters generally supported the current electoral structure as a reflection of these demographic differences and the current three councillors per ward as appropriate to ensure representation of the diverse communities of interest in each ward and across the City of Darebin. There was little indication that the current number of councillors has been unable to provide adequate and appropriate representation of the socially and economically diverse communities in the City of Darebin.

Demographics in the local council area are gradually shifting. In the last decade, the proportion of the population renting in the City of Darebin has steadily increased from 31.5% at the 2006 Census, 35.1% at the 2011 Census and 38.3% at the 2016 Census.<sup>15</sup> Current Census statistics also indicate that there is generally a greater percentage of renters and a correspondingly smaller percentage of home owners in the south compared to the north. The central area of Preston has seen a growing percentage of renters over the past decade.<sup>16</sup>

Several submissions, including that of Council, commented that more concentrated growth is expected in Cazaly Ward which includes Preston. According to Darebin City Council’s housing strategy, the key activity centres including the major Preston Activity Centre will sustain more high- and medium-density development.<sup>17</sup> As a metropolitan local council area that is close to and has good public transport connections to Melbourne’s CBD, the City of Darebin faces changes to its housing and population that will bring its own challenges, over the next decade.<sup>18</sup> These challenges however, are likely to be shared across the number of similar metropolitan council areas that surround the City of Melbourne.

The VEC notes that there was little call in the submissions to increase the number of councillors. Instead, the dominant view was to retain nine councillors elected from the current electoral structure as an efficient model for representing the diverse and complex, but also compact, local council area. Despite the anticipated growth and shifting demographics in the City of Darebin, the VEC found that the City of Darebin fits within the band of metropolitan councils with nine councillors. There appears to be a level of demand that is managed well by the current councillors. Instead, the VEC notes that Darebin City Council has a range of policies and programs in place to address the needs of its diverse communities; as well as strategies to

---

<sup>14</sup> Drawn from ABS, 2016 Quickstats for the suburbs in the City of Darebin.

<sup>15</sup> ABS, ‘Quickstats 2016 Darebin (C)’. See also, ABS, ‘Quickstats 2006 Darebin (C) LGA21890’.

<sup>16</sup> Drawn from ABS, 2016 Quickstats for the suburbs in the City of Darebin. See also, ABS, ‘2016 Quickstats Preston (Vic.)’, accessed 7 August 2019, [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC22109?opendocument](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/SSC22109?opendocument); ABS, ‘2006 Quickstats Preston SSC21553 (SSC)’, accessed 7 August 2019, [https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2006/quickstat/SSC21553?opendocument](https://quickstats.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2006/quickstat/SSC21553?opendocument).

<sup>17</sup> Darebin City Council, *Darebin Housing Strategy 2013-2033*, (Revised 2015), pp. 75-6.

<sup>18</sup> *ibid.*, p. 6.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

manage future growth.<sup>19</sup> Based on its research, the VEC supports the view that nine councillors continue to be appropriate until the next scheduled review prior to the 2032 local council elections.

### Electoral structure

Most submissions supported the current electoral structure of three three-councillor wards. Only two submissions indicated a preference for an unsubdivided electoral structure.

The VEC recognises that an unsubdivided structure would have some benefits for the City of Darebin. An unsubdivided structure could promote more diversity on the Council, which submitters described as an important feature of the current Council. An unsubdivided structure could also contribute to a whole-of-council approach and it would remove the need to continually modify internal ward boundaries as populations change. However, the VEC does not consider this electoral structure to be practicable given the large number of candidates at Darebin City Council's elections. From the last three general elections, there were 60 candidates in 2016, 52 candidates in 2012, and 48 candidates in 2008. An unsubdivided structure would result in a lengthy and unwieldy ballot paper. In the VEC's experience, longer ballot papers can be confusing for voters and more difficult to fill out correctly, leading to higher levels of informal voting through voter error and effectively disenfranchising these voters.<sup>20</sup>

For example, at the 2016 election, Rucker Ward had 17 candidates for its three vacancies and an informal vote of 9.29%, Cazaly Ward had 25 candidates and 12.37% informal vote, and La Trobe Ward had 18 candidates and 9.81% informal votes.<sup>21</sup> An unsubdivided structure would likely increase the informal vote and place a barrier for voters to effectively participate in Darebin City Council's elections.

Numbers of candidates tend to be smaller in single-councillor wards than in multi-councillor wards, providing an argument in favour of single-councillor wards. However, the VEC notes that there tended to be a relatively high number of candidates even under Darebin City Council's previous single-councillor ward structure. For example, at the 2004 general election under the single-councillor ward structure, the single-councillor Cazaly Ward had 15 candidates and the

---

<sup>19</sup> Darebin City Council, 'Community Support', accessed 9 August 2019, <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Darebin-Living/Community-support>. For a list of the Council's strategies see, Darebin City Council, 'Organisation and Performance', accessed 9 August 2019, <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/Your-Council/How-council-works/Organisation-and-Performance>.

<sup>20</sup> See Figure 9 in Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), *Local Government Elections Report, 2016*, VEC: Melbourne, (2017), p. 26, accessed 7 August 2019, <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/files/Report%20on%20the%20conduct%20of%20the%202016%20Local%20Government%20Elections.pdf>.

<sup>21</sup> At the 2012 election, Rucker Ward had 17 candidates and 7.82% informal vote, Cazaly Ward 18 candidates and 7.73% informal vote, and La Trobe Ward 17 candidates and 7.59% informal vote. At the 2008 election, Rucker Ward had nine candidates and 3.29% informal vote, Cazaly Ward 16 candidates and 6.47% informal vote, and La Trobe Ward had 23 candidates and 8.81% informal vote. Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC), 'Darebin City Council profile', accessed 7 August 2019, <https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/ElectoralBoundaries/DarebinProfile.html>.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

single-councillor Rucker Ward had 13 candidates. In the 2004 general election there was a total of 70 candidates across all wards. In the Council's 2002 general election, there was a total of 97 candidates across all single-councillor wards. The VEC considers that the current three-member multi-councillor wards strike a balance between ensuring that the community benefits from proportional representation and the number of councillors is not so large that it would lead to an informal vote that is consistently above 10% of the total votes.

The VEC has found that the current multi-councillor ward electoral structure is working well. There have been no uncontested wards over the past three elections and the electoral structure has been able to keep more suburbs together within larger wards – without these suburbs being divided by internal ward boundaries, which was the case in the previous single-councillor ward structure.

The VEC also considers that the current multi-councillor ward structure is more likely to ensure that wards stay within the legislated +/- 10% deviation from the average number of voters to councillor, therefore upholding the core principle of 'one vote one value'. In the current multi-councillor ward structure, two out of three wards have stayed within the legislated +/- 10% deviation from the average number of voters to councillor (Cazaly Ward +3.28% and Rucker Ward +7.18%). One Ward (La Trobe) is just outside of the tolerance at -10.46%. The VEC reasoned that given the anticipated population growth in this council area, smaller wards would increase the chance that there would be wards outside of the legislated number of voters per councillor, which would not provide fair or equitable representation to this community.

Based on the strong community support for the current three three-councillor wards and the VEC's findings that the current electoral structure is working well, the VEC focused on modelling ward boundary variations to the current electoral structure. In doing so, it considered submitters' suggestions regarding ward boundary changes. The VEC found the following two options to be the strongest models to include in this report for further consultation with the community.

Option A is a minimal-change option that makes a proposed ward boundary modification to return La Trobe Ward within the legislated +/- 10% average number of voters per councillor. This option drew on a map submitted by one resident (Damien Dempsey) that was included in his submission.

Option B considers different ward boundary changes to the first option and draws on the suggestions in the maps submitted by Darebin City Council and by a resident (Zaccheus Evangelides), which were included in their respective submissions. Option B would also return La Trobe Ward to within the legislated tolerance.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

### **Option A: Retaining the current model with modified ward boundaries**

Due to relatively lower growth in voter numbers in the City's northern areas, La Trobe Ward is presently below the 10% tolerance. Conversely, current and projected growth is anticipated through the central area in Cazaly Ward. The areas in the south encompassed by Rucker Ward will also continue to grow, but not at the same rate as Cazaly Ward. While returning La Trobe Ward to the legislated tolerance was the aim in modelling Option A, the VEC also considered the anticipated growth in Cazaly Ward, in making its ward boundary adjustment.

La Trobe Ward is presently outside the legislated tolerance at -10.46%. Option A returns La Trobe Ward to be within the legislated +/- 10% deviation and ensures that all wards satisfy the legislated deviation in the present and to the next review. In Option A:

- A section of the northern boundary (close to Regent railway station) between La Trobe and Cazaly Wards is shifted southwards to McNamara, Regent and the railway line. This ward boundary modification returns La Trobe Ward to the legislated tolerance.
- The southern boundary between Rucker and Cazaly Wards remains the same as the current structure.

In Option A, the VEC sought to model a least-change option that would respond to community support for the current three three-councillor ward electoral structure. In making this change, the VEC consulted the maps provided in the submissions, including an option mapped by Mr Dempsey. Mr Dempsey proposed a slight modification of the northern ward boundary, which would return La Trobe Ward to the legislated tolerance.

The ward boundary adjustments proposed in Option A affect a total of 3,725 voters or 3.18% of Darebin City Council's total enrolment. The VEC recognises that this is a bigger change than Mr Dempsey's proposed modification, which would have affected 2,567 voters. However, in its modelling, the VEC attempts to follow major roads, rivers or landmarks where possible. The VEC considered the merits of Mr Dempsey's proposal and revised his boundary by using major roads and fewer roads overall for the La Trobe and Cazaly Ward boundary. The proposed boundary broadly follows the locality boundary between Reservoir and Preston, and uses the railway line. The VEC considers that clear identifiable boundaries are important to enable voters to identify their ward; these boundaries also often reflect geographic community of interest.

The VEC considered it sound to make ward boundary adjustments that would ensure Cazaly Ward has less than the average voters per councillor (but still within the +/-10% tolerance) to allow for it to get closer to the required number of voters per councillor in the period to the next review.

The VEC did not consider there to be any significant disadvantages to Option A in light of the support for retaining the current electoral structure in the submissions.



Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

**Option B: Current model with different ward boundaries**

The VEC also considered the maps provided in submissions from Darebin City Council and Mr Evangelides, which presented some similarities, notably by proposing changes to both the northern and southern internal ward boundaries in the current structure. The exact boundary changes were not replicated in full as the VEC sought to improve on those suggested in the submissions. The proposed changes in Option B include:

- Changing the northern boundary between La Trobe and Cazaly Wards, which is moved south along the entire boundary to follow Bourke, Powell, Queen and Tyler Streets and several smaller streets.
- A section of the southern boundary between Rucker and Cazaly Wards is moved south to Mansfield Street and High Street. The VEC was able, in this model, to retain a section of the boundary using Normanby Road, which is a particularly strong boundary as it is a main thoroughfare and is easily identified by residents of the area.

Option B returns La Trobe Ward to be within the legislated +/- 10% voter-to-councillor ratio and responds to submissions by the Council and Mr Evangelides. Reservoir is a large suburb and while it is mainly included in La Trobe Ward, areas in Reservoir's south are in Cazaly Ward. Another positive feature of Option B is that more of Reservoir would be located within La Trobe Ward.

However, the VEC considered that there are potential disadvantages to this option:

- The boundary adjustments in Option B would affect a total number of 10,952 electors or 9.34% of the total enrolment in Darebin City Council, which is significantly greater than the number of voters affected in Option A.
- The VEC considers that the ward boundaries in Option B are less clear than those in Option A.
- Option B would further divide Thornbury, which is mainly in Rucker Ward in the current electoral structure. As Option A, does not propose any adjustment to the southern boundary between Rucker and Cazaly Wards, more of Thornbury would remain in Rucker Ward in Option A compared to Option B.

**Ward names**

The VEC has used the same ward names as in the current electoral structure to identify the wards in Options A and B. Four submitters (25% of submissions) however identified a strong preference for names that reflect local Indigenous history and ties to the land, with these submitters suggesting that the re-naming of the three wards be led by the Wurundjeri People who are the traditional owners of the land on which Darebin City Council stands. In its

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

submission, Darebin City Council expressed interest in exploring appropriate new ward names with guidance from the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. The VEC continues to invite comments from the community on appropriate ward names as part of submissions responding to the preliminary report. It notes that thorough community consultation can be a lengthy process and the Act provides for ward names to be changed outside of this representation review.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

### Options

The VEC is required by the Act to include a preferred option and may include one or more alternative options for the electoral structure in the preliminary report. The VEC considers that all the options outlined below offer fair and equitable representation for voters in the local council. Please see Appendix 1 for detailed maps of these options.

#### Option A (preferred option)

**Darebin City Council consist of nine councillors elected from three wards with adjustments to the current ward boundaries (three three-councillor wards).**

#### Option B (alternative option)

**Darebin City Council consist of nine councillors elected from three wards, with adjustments to the current ward boundaries, different to Option A (three three-councillor wards).**

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

## Next steps

### Response submissions

Any person or group, including the council, can make a submission to the VEC in response to the options contained in this report. Response submissions to the preliminary report should address the models proposed by the VEC within this report. Response submissions must be received by the VEC by 5.00 pm on Wednesday 18 September 2019. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions must include the full name and address of the submitter. Submissions without this information cannot be accepted.

### Submission methods

Submissions can be made via:



The online submission form at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)



Email at [darebin.review@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:darebin.review@vec.vic.gov.au)



Post to  
Victorian Electoral Commission  
Level 11, 530 Collins Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

### Public access to submissions

To ensure transparency in the electoral representation review process, all submissions will be available for public inspection at:

- the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)
- the VEC office at Level 11, 530 Collins Street, Melbourne.

The VEC will remove personal information such as the address, phone number, and signature, if applicable, of submitters from all public copies. However, the full name and locality of submitters will be displayed.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

### Public hearing

There is an opportunity for people or organisations who have made a response submission to speak about their submission at a public hearing. The public hearing is scheduled for:

Time: 6.00 pm

Date: Tuesday 24 September 2019

Venue: Preston Shire Hall, 286 Gower Street, Preston

Participation in the public hearing is encouraged. If you wish to speak at the public hearing, you **must** indicate this on your response submission. If there are no requests to speak at the hearing, it will not be held. Visit the VEC website at [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) for more information on public hearings.

### Final report

Following the public hearing, the VEC considers all the evidence it has gathered and publishes a final report for the Minister for Local Government containing a recommended electoral structure. The report is scheduled to be published on Wednesday 16 October 2019. Any changes resulting from the final report will apply at the October 2020 general election.

The final report will be available from the VEC by visiting [vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au) or calling 131 832. It will also be available for inspection at the offices of Darebin City Council.

Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

## Appendix 1: Option maps

The following maps are included in this report:

---

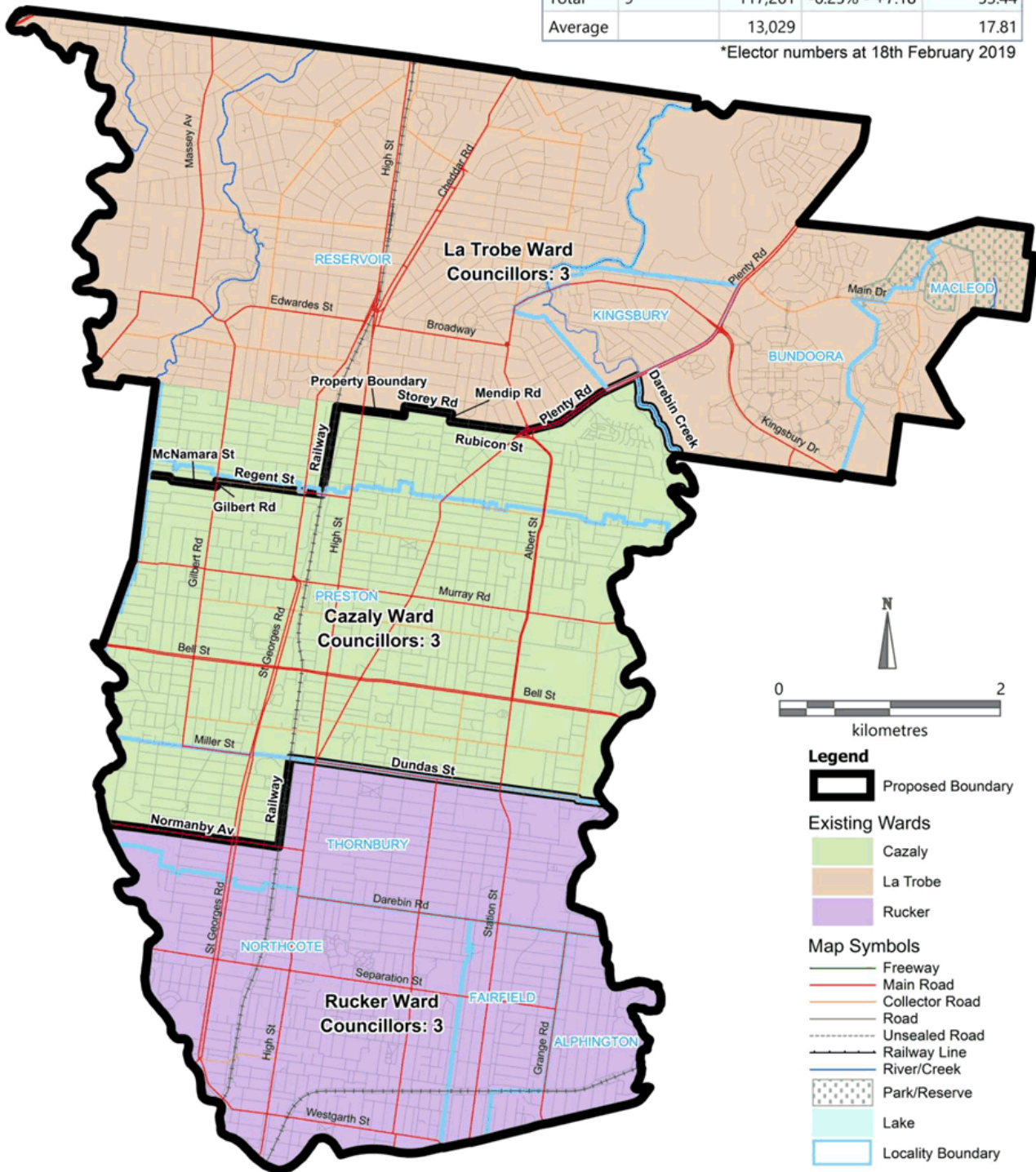
<i>Map</i>	<i>Page</i>
Option A (preferred option)	24
Option B (alternative option)	25

---

# Darebin City Council Option A (Preferred Option)

Ward	Councillors	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Cazaly	3	36,644	-6.25%	15.31
La Trobe	3	38,724	-0.93%	25.38
Rucker	3	41,893	+7.18%	12.75
Total	9	117,261	-6.25% - +7.18	53.44
Average		13,029		17.81

\*Elector numbers at 18th February 2019



Map prepared by:



Data use:



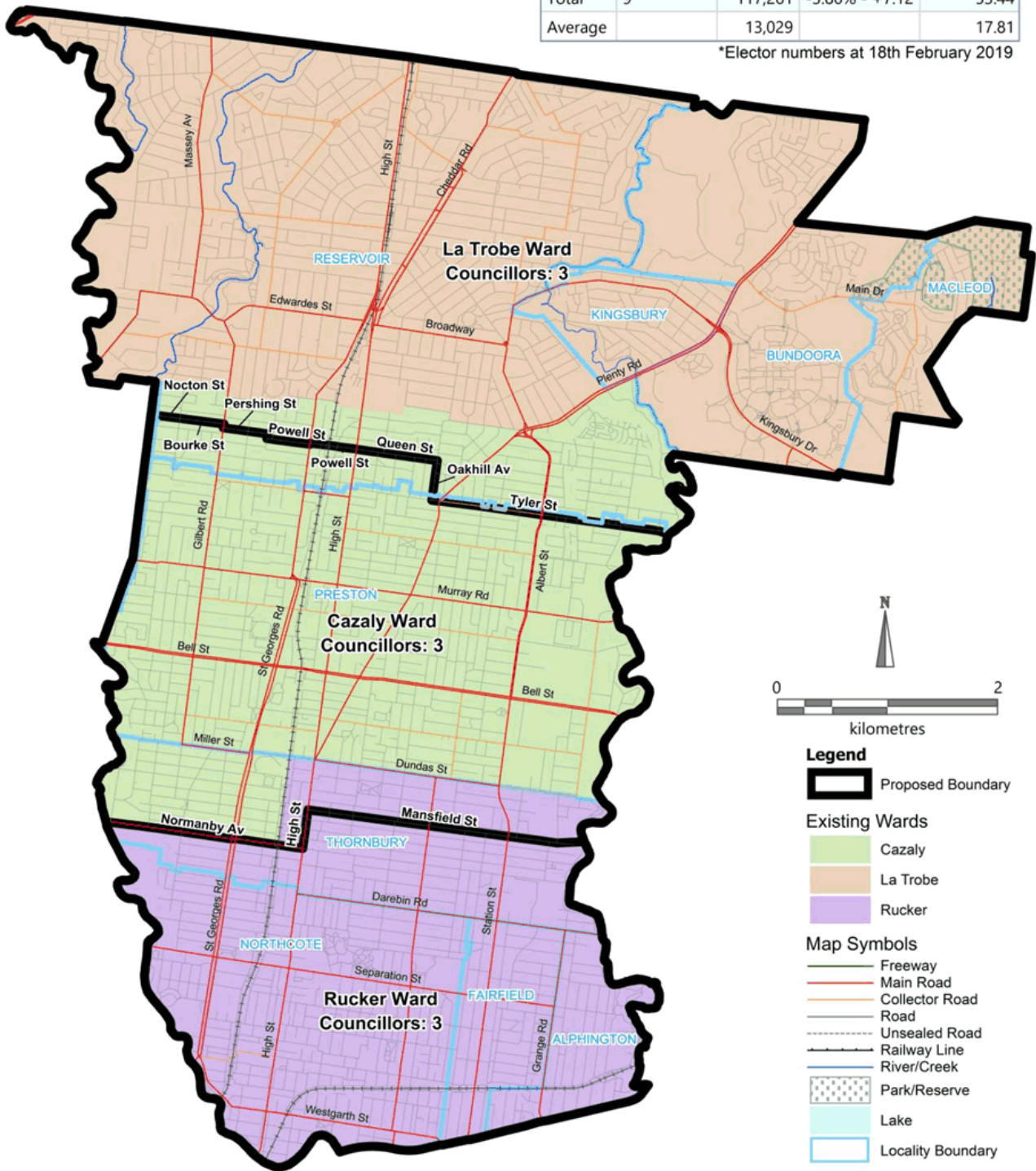
Copyright © 2019- State Government Victoria,  
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.

# Darebin City Council Option B (Alternative Option)

Ward	Councillors	Electors*	Deviation	Area sq km
Cazaly	3	37,579	-3.86%	15.02
La Trobe	3	41,870	+7.12%	27.01
Rucker	3	37,812	-3.26%	11.41
Total	9	117,261	-3.86% - +7.12	53.44
Average		13,029		17.81

\*Elector numbers at 18th February 2019



Map prepared by:

Victorian Electoral Commission **VEC**

Data use:



Copyright © 2019- State Government Victoria,  
Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Disclaimer: This content is provided for information purposes only. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy and authenticity of the content, the Victorian government does not accept any liability to any person for the information provided.



Local Council Representation Review – Preliminary Report  
Darebin City Council 2019

---

## Appendix 2: List of preliminary submissions

Sixteen preliminary submissions were received in total. Submissions were made by:

Allan, Lyle

Atkinson, Gary

Banks, Christine

Brown, Jen Jewel

Darebin City Council

Darebin Ratepayer Group

Dempsey, Damien

Evangelides, Zaccheus

Lewis, Marcia

Nechwatal, Rose

Newton, Susan (Councillor)

Peisker, Andy

Proportional Representation Society of Australia (Victoria-Tasmania) Inc.

Thorne, Alison

Walker, Leslie

Wauchope, Gindi

This page has been left intentionally blank



Victorian Electoral Commission

Level 11, 530 Collins Street Melbourne Victoria 3000

Ph: 03 8620 1100 | Fax: 03 9629 8632

[vec.vic.gov.au](http://vec.vic.gov.au)

2019

**8.8 DEMOLITION OF TOILET BLOCK, EDWARDES LAKE PARK  
DISPOSAL OF COUNCIL ASSET****Author:** Senior Project Manager**Reviewed By:** General Manager Operations and Capital

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The existing toilet block at Edwardes Lake Park, fronting Griffiths Street, is planned to be removed to enable the construction of a new, fully accessible, Changing Places toilet facility. As the existing toilet block has a current value of over \$100,000, Council resolution is required in accordance with Asset Disposal and Rationalisation Procedure.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** Council approves the demolition of the existing public toilet block at Edwardes Lake Park, Griffiths Street (Central) to enable the design and construction of a new compliant Changing Places facility at this location.

---

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

Officers are currently designing the Edwardes Lake Park Changing Places facility approved for delivery as part of Council's 2019/2020 Capital Works Program. This facility was recommended for delivery as part of the Darebin Public Toilet Strategy 2015–2025. However, the Public Toilet Strategy was unclear on whether it should be a new build or a refurbishment.

In relation to this toilet, the Darebin Public Toilet Strategy 2015–2025 stated (in part), that:  
*This public toilet facility is highly utilised by the many visitors to the park. This facility can definitely be developed to increase air and light into the facility and include a significantly better accessible toilet. Consider a 'changing place' facility in this site.*

**Priority** – High/Medium – *redevelop this toilet facility to match the use of the park.*

Officers have considered the option of refurbishing the existing public toilet to accommodate a compliant Changing Places facility but do not believe it is practical to do so for the following reasons;

- The footprint of the existing public toilet will not accommodate a compliant Changing Places facility.
- The cost of a refurbished toilet will be more expensive than a new build. Retrofitting challenges include slab modifications, structure, hydraulics, roof lines and Disability Discrimination Act requirements.
- Appending a new facility to the existing facility would result in two facilities with associated maintenance costs.

There is support from Council's City Design team who believe the existing toilet has few, if any, redeemable features and does not appropriately respond to crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) issues in the park. A new build can be designed to better relate to its immediate surroundings, contribute more authentically to the overall character of the park and can provide improved functionality, in addition to the provision of a new Changing Place and accessible toilets.

The Asset Disposal and Rationalisation Procedure states, in part, that a Director can authorise the demolition of a building up to \$100,000 value. Beyond this value, a Council resolution is required. The current written down value of this facility is \$118,792.

### Public toilets at Edwardes Lake Park

There are 3 existing toilet blocks at Edwardes Lake Park:

- Edwardes Lake Athletics Track (No. 16 in the Public Toilet Strategy),
- Edwardes Lake Central (No. 17 in the Public Toilet Strategy) proposed to be demolished. As referenced in the map below.
- Scout Hall (No. 18 in the Public Toilet Strategy)



Council is proposing to design 3 changing places facilities in 2019/2020 – Edwardes Lake Park (subject of this report), All Nations Park Northcote and Bundoora Park - and to construct the Changing Places facility at Edwardes Lake Park.

The following is a photograph of the existing facility subject of the demolition recommendation



The existing facility was built in 1995 and is beginning to show signs of its age. Council's Facilities Management team has attended the site 37 times over the past 3 years for repairs and maintenance. This is significantly more than other comparable facilities elsewhere in the municipality.

### **Previous Council Resolution**

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **Consultation**

In formulating the Darebin Public Toilet Strategy 2015–2025 community consultation was undertaken to prioritise locations for Changing Places. A new toilet at Edwardes Lake Park was one of the highest priorities that the community voted for.

While the consultation did not specifically address the refurbishment or demolition options, to deliver a compliant Changing Places facility will require either demolition of the existing toilet, demolition of part of the existing facility or construction of a new toilet adjacent to the existing toilet resulting in increasing maintenance costs.

### **Communications**

A communication plan will be developed to inform residents of the demolition of this facility and to advise on key stages of the construction phase of a new facility.

## ANALYSIS

### Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 2 - Opportunities to live well

The Council Plan is to deliver four (4) Changing Places in its current term. Edwardes Lake Park will be the second of these, following the recent construction of a Changing Place at Kelvin Grove, Preston.

Demolishing the existing toilet at Edwardes Lake Park and designing and building a new Changing Places facility at the site delivers on this action.

### Environmental Sustainability Considerations

The contractor procured to demolish the existing facility will be expected to submit an environmental management plan which will include a plan to recycle all possible materials from the existing facility and a plan to protect the local environment during the works.

#### Climate Emergency

There is no relevant Climate Emergency issue related to the demolition of the asset to be retired. The design of a new Changing Places facility will incorporate sustainable design features and sustainably sourced materials where appropriate.

### Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Considerations

The purpose of the new building is to provide more access and inclusion for all park users including those with disabilities. It will also more appropriately address CPTED issues identified as part of the scoping phase for the design of the new Changing Places facility.

### Cultural Considerations

A planning permit will need to be obtained for demolition due to the heritage nature of Edwardes Lake Park.

### Economic Development Considerations

The costs to demolish will be included in the contract to build the new Changing Places facility.

### Financial and Resource Implications

An amount of \$470,000 has been allocated this financial year for the Public Toilets Strategy including Changing Places Program. The demolition costs will be covered by existing program budgets.

The Asset Disposal and Rationalisation Procedure states, in part, that a Director (General Manager) can authorise the demolition of a building up to \$100,000 value. Beyond this value, a Council resolution is required. The current written down value of this facility is \$118,792.

## Legal and Risk Implications

There are no identified legal risks. OH&S risk management will be addressed in the demolition and construction contracts

## DISCUSSION

A new and modern facility to provide better facilities for the public will be provided by the development of a Changing Places facility at the site. This development requires demolition of the existing asset.

## OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

### **Option 1 – Support Officers recommendation for demolition**

#### **Recommended**

Council approves the demolition of the existing public toilet facility to allow for the design and construction of a new, fully compliant, Changing Places facility for Edwardes Lake Park.

### **Option 2 – Not Support Officers recommendation and retain existing building**

#### **Not Recommended**

Retain the existing public toilet and refurbish it to ensure it can accommodate a compliant Changing Places facility. This option will be a significantly more costly option that requires fundamental changes to the slab, hydraulic services, structure and roof. The look of the existing facility cannot be guaranteed with this option.

### **Option 3 – Not Support Officers recommendation and retain existing building and construct an additional toilet**

#### **Not Recommended**

Retain the existing public toilet and design and construct a new, fully compliant Changing Places facility adjacent to the existing public toilet. This option would result in 2 facilities with associated maintenance and renewal costs.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Details

Assuming Council approves the recommendation in this report, a demolition contractor will be appointed as per Council's procurement policies. Tenders will then be prepared for the construction of a Changing Places facility at Edwardes Lake Park.

### Timeline

Works are planned for the first few months of 2020.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

This project relates to the Darebin Public Toilet Strategy 2015–2025.

## Attachments

Nil



**DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST**

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

**8.9 CT20193 - RESERVOIR HIGH NETBALL COURTS****Author:** Senior Project Manager**Reviewed By:** General Manager Operations and Capital

---

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's approval to award Contract No. CT20193 – Reservoir High School Netball Courts (Nos. 4 & 5) to an appropriately qualified experienced civil contractor.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Reservoir High School is a co-educational public education facility for years 7 to 12 attended by approximately 700 students, located at 855 – 859 Plenty Road, Reservoir. Its outdoor sports fields include severely damaged netball and basketball courts located near Nicholson Avenue. Their playing surfaces are no longer acceptable under current safety standards.

The addition of two dedicated netball facilities with lighting ready for competition play will not only add to the sports and recreation amenity provided by the existing three multi-use courts, but also foster inter-school and inter-club competition events during and outside school hours.

Council had been allocated project funding for the 2018/2019 by SRV. Whilst design and tendering of the works were completed by 30 June 2019, the funding for the construction costs was carried forward into the financial year ending 30 June 2020.

The scope of works includes:

- Removal and salvage of existing sports furniture for retention by the high school
- Provision of shop drawings as required
- Installation, maintenance and removal of temporary access track and site compound
- Site excavations and shaping, sub-surfaces preparation works, installation of new drainage and pits
- Construction of two competition compliant netball court playing fields with 200 Lux lighting on four 15m high light poles
- Installation of new asphalt base and acrylic sports surface
- Line marking for new netball courts
- Supply and installation of new netball goal posts and other furniture such as bench seating and player shelters as specified
- Installation of new 3.6m high chain mesh fencing with pedestrian and vehicle access
- Concrete pathways and other minor works related to the new courts
- Landscaping works and re-turfing of the area at completion

The appointment of an experienced contractor for the construction of the Reservoir High School Netball Courts (Nos. 4 & 5) and associated works was sought via a competitive public open tender process, advertised in The Age and on Council's eTender web portal on 1 June 2019. The tender closed on 27 June 2019.

The proposed contract arrangement is a lump sum contract. Works are programmed to commence in late September 2019 and be completed by the end of January 2020. The project will be delivered by Darebin City Council on behalf of the Victorian State Government (SRV).

The Tender Evaluation Panel has evaluated the tenders and recommends awarding the contract to the preferred Tenderer.

### Recommendation

**That Council:**

- (1) Awards Contract No. CT20193 for the Reservoir High School Netball Courts \_\_\_\_\_ for the contract sum of \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) Approves a contingency amount of \_\_\_\_\_, being approximately 8% of the Contract amount in addition to the above, to be used if required for variations and other unforeseen items as part of Contract No. CT20193.
- (3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to finalise and execute the contract documentation on behalf of the Council.

### BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION

This report deals with the award of Contract No. CT20193 for the Reservoir High School Netball Courts.

The project is an initiative and part of the Victorian Government's \$9.6 million Inner City Netball Program funding for building 64 competition compliant netball courts in inner-Melbourne. Darebin City Council already completed fourteen (14) netball courts with lighting using funds allocated to it under this program. The Reservoir High School netball courts inclusive of lighting are the final 2 courts to be completed in 2019 / 2020 by Darebin Council with SRV funding.

### Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

### COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

#### Consultation

During the design phase, key stakeholders have been consulted and have provided input to the design process.

**Table 1 – Stakeholder Consultation**

Title
Manager Recreation & Libraries
Team Leader Leisure Services
Coordinator Procurement and Contracting
Senior Procurement Officer
General Manager Operations and Capital

Title
Manager Assets and Capital Delivery
Coordinator Project Management
Coordinator Facilities Management
Coordinator Statutory Planning
Principal Statutory Planner
Senior Building Surveyor
Planning Arborist
Coordinator Bushland Management
Portfolio Analyst
Probity Advisor
Sport and Recreation Victoria staff
Reservoir High School principal and staff

### Communications

It is intended that the above stakeholder groups will be advised once a Contract is awarded. They will continue to be kept informed and updated regularly as construction progresses.

The Reservoir High School principal Mr Andrew McNeil has been notified of certain netball playing restrictions potentially being required on the existing three courts whilst construction for the two additional courts is underway. Tenderers have been informed of 'noisy work activities' restrictions during the students' VCAL / VET / VCE exam sitting period between late October and early November 2019.

### ANALYSIS

#### Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 2 - Opportunities to live well

This project is part of the initiatives under Council's Leisure Strategy 2010 – 2020 and associated Action Plan.

Goal 2 - Opportunities to live well

2.2 Opportunities for participation and social connection through sports, physical activity, arts, culture and other leisure activities.

The addition of two dedicated netball facilities with lighting ready for competition play will not only add to the sports and recreation amenity provided by the existing three multi-use courts, but also foster inter-school and inter-club competition events during and outside school hours.

Goal 5 - Involving our diverse community

5.1 Ensure our services, facilities and programs benefit all, including our most vulnerable

Reservoir High School supports a multi-cultural school community and well-established International Student Program. The Department of Education and Training (DET)

emphasizes the inclusion of sporting activities in the school curriculum to support physical exercise as an important part of mental and psychological well-being of students.

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

Darebin Council's ESD Building policy has been followed to the extent possible by including the following considerations in the planning and design stage:

- Use of LED flood lighting system (four poles and 8 luminaires) – obtrusive lighting calculations prove that nearby residences will not be affected.
- The removal of native trees and shrubs at the buffer zone to the Darebin Creek Bushland has been avoided by the careful siting of the two new court locations.
- Areas that were grassed or turfed will be re-instated at the completion of the works.

### **Climate Emergency**

Darebin Council is a member of the Northern Alliance for Greenhouse Action (NAGA). This is an alliance of the Councils of Banyule, Darebin, Hume, Manningham, Melbourne, Moreland, Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Yarra, and Moreland Energy Foundation Limited, aiming to create a low-carbon society resilient to the impacts of climate change. In August 2017, Council put into place its 'Darebin Climate Emergency Action Plan'. This plan sets out nine key considerations to help Council reach its environmental core goals:

- (1) Climate Emergency mobilisation and leadership
- (2) Energy efficiency
- (3) Renewable energy and fuel switching
- (4) Zero emissions transport
- (5) Consumption and waste minimisation
- (6) Fossil fuel divestment
- (7) Adaptation and resilience
- (8) Engaging the community
- (9) Darebin Energy Foundation

In the context of the proposed additional netball courts for Reservoir High School, the opportunity of addressing climate emergency in a major way was limited. Nonetheless, the project team included the following measures: re-use of topsoil won from the site (item 5), balancing the design of 'cut to fill' earthworks quantities for the works to limit transport of materials to a licenced landfill (items 4 and 5), use of energy efficient LED sports fitting type luminaires (item 2) and assessment of the flood lighting system's obtrusive effect on the school and neighbouring residences (item 7), as well as several discussions, consultation and partnering with the Victorian State Government, Sports Recreation Victoria and the Reservoir High School community (item 8).

By including these limited active measures in the netball field project, Council effectively demonstrates its consideration of and leadership in climate emergency action (item 1).

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

Participation in sport by both teenage male and female players is expected to foster the cross-cultural understanding amongst the students, i.e. acceptance and support for students born locally and overseas as a direct result of the upgrade works.

Lighting promotes safe play and minimises antisocial behaviours outside daylight hours.

## Cultural Considerations

The Outdoor Netball Courts facility is designed to be accessible to and cater to (student) netball players from all cultural and religious backgrounds, age and gender.

The site and proposed works were assessed on whether the preparation of a mandatory Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) is required due to its proximity to the Darebin Creek Corridor. The assessment confirmed that a mandatory CHMP is not necessary.

## Economic Development Considerations

A local business assessment was carried out for each Tenderer as part of the evaluation process in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and Guidelines. The mandatory 10% weighting was allocated to this criterion.

## Financial and Resource Implications

The Victorian State Government provided a grant of \$1,030,000 exclusive of GST to Council in the 2018/2019 budget. The amount spent including commitments currently is \$119,583 exclusive of GST leaving \$910,417 exclusive of GST remaining to complete the project.

Refer to Confidential **Appendix A** for details of the budget and financials.

## Legal and Risk Implications

### Probity

RSM was engaged as external Probity Adviser at the start of the procurement process. The Advisor assessed all documents produced and issued for tender prior to them being advertised publicly. RSM's services were retained through to the completion of tender evaluations by Council's Evaluation Team. The Probity Report received from external advisor RSM on 8 August 2019 concluded that Council's probity requirements and procedures had been adhered to by Council staff.

Refer to Confidential **Appendix D** for details of the Probity Report provided by external advisor RSM.

A Risk Management Plan was prepared as part of the approved Strategic Procurement Plan for the construction works.

### Planning

Councils' Statutory Planner was consulted to determine whether a planning permit is required for the netball court works. The advice received is that no planning permit is needed.

Council's building surveyor advised that certain structures, such as the 15m high flood lighting poles and the player shelter structures did need to be assessed and require a building permit. A building permit will be obtained for the new works from an external registered building surveyor. The application documents for this have been submitted.

### Contract Works

The nature of the contract works is considered low to medium risk with respect to Occupational Health & Safety. The contractor is required to compile Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) for construction activities and site inductions for all suppliers and subcontractor staff, to undertake regular risk assessment of each task as work proceeds and to have measures in place to eliminate or reduce risk.

The contractor is required to provide evidence that Public Liability and WorkCover insurances are in place and current before commencing works on site.

### Financial Check

A financial credit report check was completed on the shortlisted contractor through Illion Direct (formerly known as Dun and Bradstreet). This check was undertaken on 20 July 2019 and verified the financial capacity of the recommended contractor to complete the works.

Refer to confidential **Appendix B** for the Illion Direct Comprehensive Report.

## DISCUSSION

### Request for Tender

The Request for Tender (RFT) for Contract No. CT20193 – Reservoir High School Netball Courts was advertised on 1 June 2019 in 'The Age' newspaper and on the Council eTender web portal. The tender was opened for a minimum of 19 days as per Council's Procurement Policy. A non-mandatory Tender Briefing Session was held on 12 June 2019 and attended by most submitting Tenderers to have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the site and ask specific questions. The RFT closed on 27 June 2019.

The Tender and contract are based on a lump sum contract using Australian Standard AS 4000 - 1997 – General Conditions of Contract. Details of contractors that submitted proposals before the closing date and time are provided in Confidential **Attachment A** circulated to Councillors under separate cover.

**Table 2 –Tender Evaluation Criteria**

Evaluation Criteria
Price
Program and Timeline
Demonstrated Experience & Team Capability
Proposed Methodology
Local Business Content
Social Procurement
Environmental Sustainability
Quality Management Systems, Insurances and OH&S, Financial Viability

The members of the panel, evaluation details, pricing and scoring for the evaluation is provided in Confidential **Appendix A** circulated to Councillors under separate cover.

## OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Refer to Confidential **Attachment A** circulated to Councillors under separate cover for the three options for consideration.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Details

**Table 3 – Implementation Strategy**

Task	Timeframe
Award Contract CT20193 to the successful contractor	Early September 2019
Commence construction	Mid-September 2019
Complete construction works and handover	Mid-February 2020

Following award of the contract, the Contractor will be required to exchange signed documents, commence procurement and establish on site within 2 weeks. Construction works are programmed to start in mid-September to be largely completed by the commencement of Term 1 of the 2020 school year. Ordering long lead time items such as light poles and luminaires, shelters and bench seats and providing evidence of this to Council's Project Manager will be of key importance.

### Communication

The community groups and organisations already consulted with and adjoining potentially affected local residents will be kept informed of progress of the works. This will be achieved via letterbox drops, one-on-one meetings, information issued to the Reservoir High School community via one-on-one discussions with and emails to the Principal and Business Manager, over the phone or by community presentation arranged by the project team and potential press release statements provided by Council's Communications and Community Engagement teams.

The Victorian State Government and SRV will be kept updated by Council's Project Manager and the Coordinator Leisure Services.

### Timeline

The project is required to be completed within 17 weeks of the date of award, excluding the Christmas holiday period and any extensions of time granted for inclement weather or scope changes, particularly caused by unforeseeable complications.

Weekly site meetings with the contractor are designed to monitor milestone dates and enforce the tight delivery program.



**Table 4 – Planned Target Dates**

The following table provides the target dates for planned completion milestones for Council staff and the engaged building contractor:

Milestone Date / Task	Target Date - Timeframe
Expenditure Approval received	2 September 2019
Letter of Award	9 September 2019
Contract Documentation and Execution	3 September – 13 September 2019
Site Establishment	16 September 2019
Construction	16 September 2019 – 31 January 2020
Christmas Shutdown	19 December 2019 – 10 January 2020
Practical Completion and Handover	3 February to 14 February 2020

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

Documents related to Contract No. CT20193 – Reservoir High School Netball Courts are:

- Strategic Procurement Plan
- Risk Assessment
- Probity Plan
- Request for Tender
- Conflict of Interest Declaration for Council staff
- Confidentiality Agreement with external providers
- Evaluation Endorsement
- Evaluation Matrix

## Attachments

- Reservoir High School Netball Courts Report CT20193 (**Appendix A**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Illion Direct Comprehensive Report (**Appendix B**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Final Evaluation Matrix signed (**Appendix C**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover
- Probity Auditor Report (**Appendix D**) Confidential - enclosed under separate cover

## DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

**8.10 DRAFT 2018-19 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT****Author:** Financial Accountant**Reviewed By:** Acting General Manager Governance and Engagement

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Under the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), Council is required to prepare an annual report in respect of each financial year consisting of three parts:

- Report of operations: information about the operations of the council
- Performance Statement: audited results achieved against the prescribed performance indicators and measures
- Financial Statements: audited Financial Statements prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards.

The Act requires that the annual report be submitted to the Minister within three months of the end of the financial year. Council is required to pass a resolution giving approval in principle to each of the Statements and authorise two Councillors to certify each of the Statements after any changes recommended, or agreed to, by the auditor have been made.

Regulations 21 of the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 (the Regulations), specify that the Financial Statements must be certified by the Principal Accounting Officer, two Councillors and the Chief Executive Officer, prior to the Auditor-General signing the audit report.

To assist Council in approving in principle the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for year ended 30 June 2019, the Audit Committee should review the draft Statements with the benefit of comments by Council management and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office representative. The Audit Committee, after it is satisfied with comments of Council management and the Victorian Auditor-General's Office representative, should then make a recommendation to Council to adopt in principle each of the statements for the year ended 30 June 2019. The statements were presented to Council's Audit Committee at its meeting on 26 August.

The Financial Statements and the Performance Statement provide, as part of the annual report, a transparent account of Council's operations in line with good governance. The annual report forms part of a comprehensive public accountability process and reporting that includes:

- The Council Plan
- The Strategic Resource Plan
- The Annual Budget
- Internal and External Audit; and
- The Annual Report.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That Council:**

- (1) Approves in principle the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 as per **Appendix A** to this report.
  - (2) Authorises Councillors ..... and ..... to sign the Financial Statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Auditor-General have been made.
  - (3) Approves in principle the Performance Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 as per **Appendix B** to this report.
  - (4) Authorises Councillors ..... and ..... to sign the Performance Statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Auditor-General have been made.
- 

## **BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

The Act requires a Council's annual report to contain audited Financial Statements.

Sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act state that:

- The Financial Statements must be prepared in accordance with the regulations and include any other information required by the regulations.
- The Financial Statements must be submitted to the auditor as soon as possible after the end of the financial year and certified in their final form by two Councillors, the CEO and principal accounting officer.
- The annual report must contain a copy of the auditor's report on the Financial Statements.
- The annual report must be submitted to the Minister for Local Government within three months of the end of each financial year (30 September).

The Regulations require a Council's Financial Statements to be prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report.

Regulations 19 and 20 in part four of the regulations state that:

- The Financial Statements must be prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report.
- The Financial Statements must contain a statement of capital works.
- The Financial Statements must include specified other information as notes.

The Local Government Model Financial Report is underpinned by the following guiding principles:

- The presentation of the Financial Statements should promote transparency and accountability of local government to stakeholders.
- The pursuit of consistency in local government Financial Statements is important but the primary role is to recognise and report responsibly on relevant local issues.

- By law the Financial Statements must be prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report which has been developed to illustrate as widely as possible the minimum disclosure requirements for Councils.
- While the Local Government Model Financial Report is used as a basis for preparing the Financial Statements, subject to each Council's individual circumstances, the statements must also be an accurate and transparent representation of local issues.
- Local government finance professionals are in the best position to make informed decisions about the appropriateness or otherwise of relevant disclosures and the exercise of professional judgement, in excess of the minimum requirements, in preparing the Financial Statements.
- In the event of any conflict between the requirements of the Local Government Model Finance Report and the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards, the requirements of the Australian Accounting Standard take precedence.
- When preparing Financial Statements, local government finance professionals should have regard to the principles of sound financial management set out in section 136 of the Act.

### **Previous Council Resolution**

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **Consultation**

- Chief Executive Officer
- Executive Management Team
- Manager Finance
- Audit Committee
- Victorian Auditor-General's Office

## **ANALYSIS**

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

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

The Financial Statements and the Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 incorporate Council's funding and delivery of environmental operations in a range of areas including waste collection, recycling services, street cleaning, litter collection, park and sporting field maintenance and improvements in the context of drought, water-saving and energy efficiency measures.

### **Climate Emergency**

The Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 incorporate Council's funding and delivery of initiatives to address the climate emergency including greater use of renewable energy, progression of the Local Government power purchase agreement project, transitioning Council's light fleet to hybrid and fully electric vehicles, implementation of single use plastic and all other climate emergency initiatives undertaken by Council in 2018-19.

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

The Financial Statements and the Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 reflect and incorporate the equity, inclusion and wellbeing initiatives delivered during 2018-19.

### **Cultural Considerations**

The Financial Statements and the Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 reflect and incorporate cultural activities including festivals, arts programs and the operation of community venues during 2018-19.

### **Economic Development Considerations**

The Financial Statements and the Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 reflect and incorporate the economic development initiatives delivered during 2018-19

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

All matters raised in this report which have a financial implication have been reflected in the Financial Statements and the Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019.

### **Legal and Risk Implications**

There have been no legal or risk issues which have been identified that impact on this report.

The Draft Annual Financial Report and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 were presented to Council's Audit Committee on Monday 26 August 2019. The Audit Committee recommended that Council:

- (1) Approves in principle the Financial Statements and Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 subject to a management representation letter, minor amendments to the Statements and the Auditor-General's review, and
- (2) Authorises two Councillors to sign the Financial Statements in their final form after any changes recommended or agreed to by the Auditor-General have been made.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards ("AIFRS"). As per Regulation 19 and 20 in part four of the regulation, the financial statements must be prepared in accordance with the Local Government Model Financial Report.

Some of the more significant disclosure changes in the 2018-19 financial statements include:

- A separate note showing disaggregated disclosures by function in accordance with *AASB 1052 Disaggregated Disclosures* reinstated as Note 2.
- Additional disclosure added to reflect the need to estimate the impact of the implementation of *AASB 16 Leases*.

### **Financial Statements – overview of reported results**

The Comprehensive Income Statement shows that for the year ended 30 June 2019, the Council achieved an operating surplus of \$19.27 million which was a \$7.40 million increase

from the 2017-18 result. The main items contributing to this movement between years are as follows:

- Rates (\$7.31 million increase) – The increase in general rates is in line with the general increase in rates approved by Council for the 2018-19 year (2.25%) together with supplementary rate income generated, Solar Saver special charge, and an increase in green waste charges (refer note 3.1);
- User fees, statutory fees and fines (\$1.09 million decrease) – The decrease in user fees, statutory fees and fines resulted mainly from a decrease in animal registration, statutory planning, arts venues, leisure centres and recreation, and recycling offset by an increase in traffic enforcement fines and the annual price increases on most services with some fluctuations within individual services (refer notes 3.2 and 3.3). The decrease in arts venues fees were mainly due to the Darebin Arts Centre being closed for foyer work longer than planned;
- Grants – operating (\$ 0.11 million increase) – The increase in operating grants reflects a mix of factors including timing of receipt of the 2018-19 and 2019-20 Victorian Grants Commission funding, and normal CPI increases in recurrent Government grants (refer note 3.4);
- Grants – capital (\$2.30 million increase) – The increase in capital grants is reflected by a decrease in the 2018-19 roads to recovery funding, offset by SRV funding for the inner-city netball program, sports lighting and pavilions, black spot funding, and DELWP creek trail funding (refer note 3.4);
- Contributions – monetary (\$2.63 million increase) – The increase in cash contributions is mainly due to higher open space contributions received and receipt of small-scale technology certificates associated with the Solar Saver installations (refer note 3.5);
- Contributions – non-monetary assets (\$0.16 million increase) – This movement represents an increase on the property and infrastructure assets received from developers during the year (refer note 3.5);
- Net gain on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (\$1.58 million increase) – This movement is mainly due to the sale of discontinued roads which were disposed during 2018-19 (refer note 3.6);
- Employee costs (\$0.69 million increase) – The increase in employee costs reflects the increase in casual staff, superannuation, and an increase in the WorkCover premium paid, offset by vacant positions not being filled (refer note 4.1);
- Materials and services (\$6.17 million increase) – The materials and services category includes contract payments, utilities, major maintenance and other items such as waste disposal fees. The increase reflects higher utilities expenditure and an increase in consultant and contract payments (refer note 4.2);
- Depreciation and amortisation (\$0.64 million decrease) – The decrease in depreciation arises from decreases in depreciation on plant and equipment, and infrastructure resulting from the previous year revaluation offset by asset additions during the financial year (refer note 4.3);
- Bad and doubtful debts (\$0.63 million increase) – The increase in bad and doubtful debts reflects increases in debt provision for outstanding parking, local law fines, animal related fines and other debtors (refer note 4.4);

- Other expenses (\$0.19 million decrease) – The decrease in other expenses reflects increases in contributions and community support funding, legal expenses offset by the reduction of the amount of the write-off of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer note 4.5).

The Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2019 shows that net assets decreased by \$76.51 million for the year to \$1,444.10 million. The main items contributing to this increase are as follows:

- Cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets (\$3.33 million increase) – Cash balances at year end increased due to a number of factors including delays in completing capital works projects, an increase in the level of rates and contributions received during the year, and an increase in holdings of term deposits with a greater than 90 day maturity (refer note 5.1);
- Trade and other receivables (\$4.54 million increase) – This increase primarily reflects the increase in current rate receivables, non-current Solar Saver special charge and June GST refund owed by the Australian Taxation Office (refer note 5.1);
- Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment (\$85.76 million decrease) – This decrease reflects the net impact of the revaluation of land and building assets (\$95.78 million), contributed assets, asset disposals, additions and depreciation on all fixed asset classes. The revaluation of land was undertaken due to the significant decrease of land values identified during the 2019 general revaluation (refer note 6.1);
- Intangible assets (\$0.32 million increase) - This increase reflects the net impact of additions and amortisation of the class (refer note 5.2);
- Trade and other payables (\$1.91 million decrease) – This decrease represents lower accrued employee costs unpaid and lower trade creditors held (refer note 5.3);
- Trust funds and deposits (\$0.76 million decrease) – This decrease is due to lower contract retentions and security deposits held at year end (refer note 5.3);
- Provisions (\$0.58 million increase) – This increase represents higher employee provisions for annual leave and long service leave provided offset by staff redundancy paid during the year (refer note 5.4);
- Reserves (\$87.51 million decrease) – The decrease in reserves is due to the net asset revaluation decrement of land and building assets and an increase in contributions to the open space reserve (refer note 9.1).

The Cash Flow Statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 shows that total cash and investments increased by \$11.92 million to \$55.4 million. The main movements during the year were a cash inflow from operating activities of \$34.12 million, offset by a cash outflow from investing activities of \$22.2 million and no financing cash outflows.

The Statement of Capital Works shows that for the year ended 30 June 2019, Council had achieved total Capital Works expenditure of \$32.74, a decrease of \$0.1 million from the previous year. The main items of capital works for the year are as follows:

- Property (\$12.07 million) – The main items of expenditure include purchase of land and buildings at 421 High St, Merrilands Community Centre, Preston Neighbourhood House, DAC improvements, public toilets, Pitcher Park pavilion, WH Robinson pavilion and other various building improvements.

- Plant and equipment (\$3.90 million) – The main items of expenditure include information technology (\$0.54 million), fleet replacement (\$1.70 million), library resources (\$0.5 million) and refuse bin replacements (\$0.3 million).
- Infrastructure (\$16.77 million) – The main items of expenditure include roads and transport (\$5.3 million), footpaths and cycle ways (\$4.9 million), bridges (\$2.0 million) and parks and open space (\$2.4 million).

### Performance Statement – overview of reported results

The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014. The performance measures cover the following activities:

#### Sustainable Capacity Indicators

Indicator	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Population (expense per head of population)	\$967	\$1,013	\$1,035
(Infra. per head of population)	\$3,934	\$4,552	\$4,499
(Population per km of road)	305	311	318
Own-source revenue	\$940	\$936	\$973
Recurrent grants	\$117	\$104	\$98
Disadvantage	5	7	7

#### Service Performance Indicators

Indicator	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Aquatic facilities	5.4	5.3	5.3
Animal management	8	3	2
Food safety	92.1%	100%	100%
Governance	65.0	66.7	70.8
Libraries	15.0%	14.7%	15.6%
Maternal and child health services	78.5%	81.4%	80.0%
MCH by Aboriginal children	91.5%	90.9%	90.8%
Roads	70.4	69.9%	71.5%
Statutory planning	41.3%	46.1%	44.9%
Waste collection	48.0%	49.1%	46.4%

#### Financial Performance Indicators

Indicator	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Revenue level	\$1,487	\$1,519	\$1,553
Expenditure level	\$2,175	\$2,290	\$2,344
Workforce turnover	9.6%	12.0%	14.2%
Working capital	259.6%	242.0%	261.8%
Unrestricted cash	116.8%	127.0%	130.7%



Indicator	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019
Asset renewal	79.0%	101.6%	83.4%
Loans & borrowing	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Loans & borrowing repayments	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Indebtedness	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%
Adjusted underlying result	8.6%	6.2%	7.9%
Rates concentration	72.3%	71.5%	69.6%
Rates effort	0.26%	0.26%	0.21%

Comments are included in the Statements on any significant variances.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Communication

A copy of the Council Minutes and signed certified Financial Report and Performance Statement will be provided to the Victorian Auditor General's office for consideration for certification.

The certified Financial Report and Performance Statement will be incorporated into Council's Annual Report which will be provided to the Minister for Local Government by 30 September 2019.

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Plan 2017-2021
- Annual Budget 2018-2019

### Attachments

- Annual financial report for the year ended 30 June 2019 (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- Performance statement for the year ended 30 June 2019 (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)

### DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.

# Darebin City Council Annual Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019



**Darebin City Council**  
**Financial Report**  
**Table of contents**

<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	<b>Page</b>
Certification of financial statements	1
Victorian Auditor-General's Office Audit Report	
<b>Financial Statements</b>	
Comprehensive Income Statement	2
Balance Sheet	3
Statement of Changes in Equity	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Statement of Capital Works	6
<b>Overview</b>	7
<b>Notes to Financial Report</b>	
Note 1 Performance against budget	8
1.1. Income and expenditure	8
1.2. Capital works	10
Note 2.1 Analysis of Council results by program	12
Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services	
3.1. Rates and charges	14
3.2. Statutory fees and fines	14
3.3. User fees	14
3.4. Funding from other levels of government	15
3.5. Contributions	16
3.6. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	17
3.7. Other income	17
Note 4 The cost of delivering services	17
4.1. Employee costs	17
4.2. Materials and services	18
4.3. Depreciation and amortisation	18
4.4. Bad and doubtful debts	18
4.5. Other expenses	19
Note 5 Our financial position	20
5.1. Financial assets	20
5.2. Non-financial assets	22
5.3. Payables	23
5.4. Provisions	23
5.5. Financing arrangements	25
5.6. Commitments	25
Note 6 Assets we manage	27
6.1. Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	27
6.2. Investment property	34
Note 7 People and relationships	35
7.1. Council and key management remuneration	35
7.2. Related party disclosure	37
Note 8 Managing uncertainties	38
8.1. Contingent assets and liabilities	38
8.2. Change in accounting standards	39
8.3. Financial instruments	40
8.4. Fair value measurement	41
8.5. Events occurring after balance date	42
Note 9 Other matters	43
9.1. Reserves	43
9.2. Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)	45
9.3. Superannuation	45

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

---

### Certification of the Financial Statements

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*, the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*, Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

---

Allan Cochrane CPA  
Principal Accounting Officer

Melbourne  
2 September 2019

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Darebin City Council for the year ended 30 June 2019 and the financial position of the Council as at that date.

As at the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstance which would render any particulars in the financial report to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify the financial statements in their final form.

---

Kim Le Cerf  
Councillor

---

Lina Messina  
Councillor

---

Sue Wilkinson  
Chief Executive Officer

Melbourne  
2 September 2019

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Comprehensive Income Statement**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>Income</b>			
Rates and charges	3.1	130,621	123,315
Statutory fees and fines	3.2	9,515	9,748
User fees	3.3	10,171	11,031
Grants - operating	3.4	16,058	15,946
Grants - capital	3.4	4,521	2,222
Contributions	3.5	8,773	5,990
Net gain (or loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	3.6	2,294	713
Fair value adjustments for investment property	6.2	(30)	(302)
Other income	3.7	4,687	3,893
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>186,610</b>	<b>172,556</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Employee costs	4.1	81,592	80,902
Materials and services	4.2	56,461	50,292
Depreciation and amortisation	4.3	22,359	23,003
Bad and doubtful debts	4.4	2,197	1,563
Other expenses	4.5	4,735	4,927
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>167,344</b>	<b>160,687</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>		<b>19,266</b>	<b>11,869</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>			
<b>Items that will not be classified to surplus or deficit in future periods</b>			
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9.1	(95,779)	149,876
<b>Total comprehensive result</b>		<b>(76,513)</b>	<b>161,745</b>

The above comprehensive income statement should be read with the accompanying notes.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Balance Sheet**  
As at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5 (a)	55,399	43,480
Trade and other receivables	5 (c)	13,820	12,855
Other financial assets	5 (b)	33,701	42,286
Inventories	5 (a)	94	89
Other assets	5 (b)	2,684	3,695
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>105,698</b>	<b>102,405</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Trade and other receivables	5 (c)	3,751	176
Other financial assets	5 (b)	236	236
Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	6	1,372,804	1,458,568
Investment property	6	2,810	2,840
Intangible assets	5 (c)	982	665
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>1,380,583</b>	<b>1,462,485</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,486,281</b>	<b>1,564,890</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	5 (a)	15,505	17,419
Trust funds and deposits	5 (b)	4,571	5,335
Provisions	5	20,294	19,568
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>40,370</b>	<b>42,322</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Provisions	5	1,810	1,954
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>1,810</b>	<b>1,954</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>42,180</b>	<b>44,276</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1,444,101</b>	<b>1,520,614</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Accumulated surplus		551,832	540,836
Reserves	9	892,269	979,778
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>1,444,101</b>	<b>1,520,614</b>

*The above balance sheet should be read with the accompanying notes.*

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Statement of Changes in Equity**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
<b>2019</b>					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,520,614	540,836	961,575	18,203
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		19,266	19,266	0	0
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9 (a)	(95,779)	0	(95,779)	0
Transfers to other reserves	9 (b)	0	(12,960)	0	12,960
Transfers from other reserves	9 (b)	0	4,690	0	(4,690)
<b>Balance at end of financial year</b>		<b>1,444,101</b>	<b>551,832</b>	<b>865,796</b>	<b>26,473</b>

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$'000	Other Reserves \$'000
<b>2018</b>					
Balance at beginning of the financial year		1,358,869	534,108	811,699	13,062
Surplus/(deficit) for the year		11,869	11,869	0	0
Net asset revaluation increment/(decrement)	9 (a)	149,876	0	149,876	0
Transfers to other reserves	9 (b)	0	(9,243)	0	9,243
Transfers from other reserves	9 (b)	0	4,102	0	(4,102)
Balance at end of financial year		1,520,614	540,836	961,575	18,203

*The above statement of changes in equity should be read with the accompanying notes.*

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Statement of Cash Flows**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
	Inflows/ (Outflows)	Inflows/ (Outflows)
Note	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Rates and charges	126,041	122,959
Statutory fees and fines	7,016	7,928
User fees (inclusive of GST)	12,898	13,409
Grants - operating	16,043	16,188
Grants - capital	4,521	2,222
Contributions - monetary	8,365	5,737
Interest received	2,791	2,376
Net trust funds and deposits	(753)	352
Other receipts	2,014	1,586
Net GST refund/(payment)	7,482	7,550
Employee costs	(82,276)	(78,498)
Materials and services (inclusive of GST)	(70,013)	(61,097)
Net FSPL receipt/(payment)	(11)	(51)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) from operating activities</b>	<b>34,118</b>	<b>40,661</b>
	9.2	
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Payments for property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(33,642)	(30,529)
Proceeds from sale of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	2,849	744
Payments for investments	8,585	(14,440)
Repayment of loans and advances	9	9
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(22,199)</b>	<b>(44,216)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	11,919	(3,555)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	43,480	47,035
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	<b>55,399</b>	<b>43,480</b>
	5.1	
Financing arrangements	5.5	
Restrictions on cash assets	5.1	

*The above statement of cash flows should be read with the accompanying notes.*



Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Statement of Capital Works**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>Property</b>			
Land		1,710	0
<b>Total land</b>		<u>1,710</u>	<u>0</u>
Buildings		7,628	6,521
Building improvements		2,734	0
<b>Total buildings</b>		<u>10,362</u>	<u>6,521</u>
<b>Total property</b>		<u>12,072</u>	<u>6,521</u>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>			
Plant, machinery and equipment		2,574	3,408
Fixtures, fittings and furniture		127	138
Computers and telecommunications		718	790
Library books		477	562
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>		<u>3,896</u>	<u>4,898</u>
<b>Infrastructure</b>			
Roads		5,265	6,849
Bridges		2,050	712
Footpath and cycleways		4,915	3,945
Drainage		1,324	1,812
Land improvements		768	4,194
Parks, open space and streetscapes		2,381	3,828
Off street car parks		71	53
<b>Total infrastructure</b>		<u>16,774</u>	<u>21,393</u>
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>		<u>32,742</u>	<u>32,812</u>
<b>Represented by:</b>			
New asset expenditure		6,841	5,764
Asset renewal expenditure		18,395	22,892
Asset expansion expenditure		838	544
Asset upgrade expenditure		6,668	3,612
<b>Total capital works expenditure</b>		<u>32,742</u>	<u>32,812</u>

*The above statement of capital works should be read with the accompanying notes.*

**Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report****Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

---

**OVERVIEW****Introduction**

The Darebin City Council was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on 22 June 1994 and is a body corporate.

Council's main office is located at 274 Gower Street, Preston.

**Statement of compliance**

These financial statements are a general purpose financial report that consists of a Comprehensive Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Capital Works and Notes accompanying these financial statements. The general purpose financial report complies with Australian Accounting Standards, other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, the *Local Government Act 1989*, and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

**Significant accounting policies****(a) Basis of accounting**

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, whereby assets, liabilities, equity, income and expenses are recognised in the reporting period to which they relate, regardless of when cash is received or paid.

Judgements, estimates and assumptions are required to be made about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated judgements are based on professional judgement derived from historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and also in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of Australian Accounting Standards that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the fair value of land, buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of depreciation for buildings, infrastructure, plant and equipment (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4)

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate, comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation, and disclosure has been made of any material changes to comparatives.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 1 Performance against budget**

The budget comparison notes compare Council's financial plan, expressed through its annual budget, with actual performance. The *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* requires explanation of any material variances. Council has adopted a materiality threshold of 10 percent or where further explanation is warranted. Explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality threshold unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

The budget figures detailed below are those adopted by Council on 12 June 2018. The budget was based on assumptions that were relevant at the time of adoption of the Budget. Council sets guidelines and parameters for revenue and expense targets in this budget in order to meet Council's planning and financial performance targets for both the short and long-term. The budget did not reflect any changes to equity resulting from asset revaluations, as their impacts were not considered predictable.

These notes are prepared to meet the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

**1.1 Income and Expenditure**

	Budget 2019 \$'000	Actual 2019 \$'000	Variance 2019 \$'000	Variance 2019 %	Ref
<b>Income</b>					
Rates and charges	132,500	130,621	(1,879)	-1%	
Statutory fees and fines	9,182	9,515	333	4%	
User fees	10,831	10,171	(660)	-6%	
Grants - operating	14,981	16,058	1,077	7%	I1
Grants - capital	2,636	4,521	1,885	72%	I2
Contributions - monetary	5,700	8,365	2,665	47%	I3
Contributions - non-monetary assets	0	408	408	+100%	I4
Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	(412)	2,294	2,706	-657%	I5
Fair value adjustments for investment property	0	(30)	(30)	+100%	I6
Other income	4,794	4,687	(107)	-2%	
<b>Total income</b>	<b>180,212</b>	<b>186,610</b>	<b>6,398</b>	<b>4%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Employee costs	82,287	81,592	695	1%	
Materials and services	54,401	56,461	(2,060)	-4%	E1
Bad and doubtful debts	1,267	2,197	(930)	-73%	E2
Depreciation and amortisation	23,535	22,359	1,176	5%	E3
Other expenses	4,198	4,735	(537)	-13%	E4
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>165,688</b>	<b>167,344</b>	<b>(1,656)</b>	<b>-1%</b>	
<b>Surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<b>14,524</b>	<b>19,266</b>	<b>4,742</b>	<b>33%</b>	

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Note 1 Performance against budget

(i) Explanation of material variations

Var Ref	Item	Explanation
I1	Grants - operating	Operating grants were exceeded due to Family and Children grants (\$0.2 million), receipts from Commonwealth Home Support Program (\$0.3 million), recycling and environmental education funding (\$0.2 million) offset by the timing of receipt of the 1st and 2nd quarter 2017/18 and 2018/19 Victorian Grants Commission funding (\$0.1 million) received in June 2019.
I2	Grants - capital	Capital grants were exceeded due to new funding being received for the Inner City Netball program (\$2.0 million) (due to be received in the previous year), the Rathcrown Road - Tee Street bridge (\$0.6 million), Bill Lawry Oval pavilion (\$0.4 million) and Streets for People (\$0.3 million). Funding for the Beavers Road bridge was not received (\$1.5 million).
I3	Contributions - monetary	Contributions - monetary were exceeded due to the receipt of small-scale technology certificates (STC) for the Solar Saver special charge (\$1.9 million) and the receipt of other contributions for minor works (\$0.4 million).
I4	Contributions - non-monetary assets	Contributions - non-monetary assets were exceeded due to contributed infrastructure assets from development received during the year. Contributed assets are not budgeted for during the year.
I5	Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	Anticipated net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment was not achieved as it was more than offset by higher than anticipated sale proceeds received for the sale of discontinued road in Plenty Road (\$1.6 million) and for fleet items replaced during the year (\$0.5 million).
I6	Fair value adjustments for investment property	Fair value adjustment for investment property was not achieved due to a decrease in the fair value of the Sullivan Reserve stadium land (\$0.1 million). Fair value movements in investment property are not budgeted for during the year.
E1	Materials and services	Materials and services was exceeded due to a higher than anticipated major maintenance expenditure which was originally anticipated as capital works expenditure. This includes purchases or projects not recognised as assets in accordance with Council's asset capitalisation policy thresholds (see Note 6). Projects include, Urban forest strategy (\$0.3 million), Gellibrand Kindergarten refurbishment (\$0.5 million) and IT strategy implementation (\$0.9 million).
E2	Bad and doubtful debts	Bad and doubtful debts was exceeded mainly due to a higher provision for doubtful debts required for traffic fines, animal registrations and miscellaneous local law fines (\$0.9 million).
E3	Depreciation and amortisation	Depreciation and amortisation was not achieved due to the full year impact of last year's road infrastructure revaluation (\$1.0 million) which identified improved condition of road and footpaths within the municipality.
E4	Other expenses	Other expenses was exceeded mainly due to legal fees incurred for development issues and employee relations (\$0.3 million).

Darebin City Council **Notes to the financial report**  
 2018/2019 Financial Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Note 1 Performance against budget

1.2 Capital Works

	Budget 2019 \$'000	Actual 2019 \$'000	Variance 2019 \$'000	Variance 2019 %	Ref
<b>Property</b>					
Land	0	1,710	1,710	+100%	CW1
<b>Total Land</b>	0	1,710	1,710	+100%	
Buildings	14,806	7,628	(7,178)	-48%	CW2
Building improvements	3,955	2,734	(1,221)	-31%	CW3
<b>Total Buildings</b>	18,761	10,362	(8,399)	-45%	
<b>Total Property</b>	18,761	12,072	(6,689)	-36%	
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>					
Plant, machinery and equipment	4,480	2,574	(1,906)	-43%	CW4
Fixtures, fittings and furniture	0	127	127	+100%	CW5
Computers and telecommunications	4,321	718	(3,603)	-83%	CW6
Library books	804	477	(327)	-41%	CW7
<b>Total Plant and Equipment</b>	9,605	3,896	(5,709)	-59%	
<b>Infrastructure</b>					
Roads	6,845	5,265	(1,580)	-23%	CW8
Bridges	4,582	2,050	(2,532)	-55%	CW9
Footpaths and cycleways	4,552	4,915	363	8%	
Drainage	1,968	1,324	(644)	-33%	CW10
Land improvements	1,161	769	(392)	-34%	CW11
Recreational, leisure and community facilities	160	128	(32)	-20%	
Parks, open space and streetscapes	4,569	2,252	(2,317)	-51%	CW12
Off street car parks	0	71	71	+100%	
<b>Total Infrastructure</b>	23,837	16,774	(7,063)	-30%	
<b>Total Capital Works Expenditure</b>	52,203	32,742	(19,461)	-37%	
<b>Represented by:</b>					
New asset expenditure	16,005	6,841	(9,164)	-57%	
Asset renewal expenditure	24,571	18,395	(6,176)	-25%	
Asset expansion expenditure	1,705	838	(867)	-51%	
Asset upgrade expenditure	9,922	6,668	(3,254)	-33%	
<b>Total Capital Works Expenditure</b>	52,203	32,742	(19,461)	-37%	

## Darebin City Council

## Notes to the financial report

2018/2019 Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 1 Performance against budget**

## (i) Explanation of material variations

Var Ref	Item	Explanation
CW1	Land	The budget for land was exceeded due to the purchase of 421 High Street Preston (\$1.7 million).
CW2	Buildings	The budget for buildings was not achieved largely due to delays completing works on the Multisport Stadium (\$4.5 million), planned demolition of 421 High Street (\$0.5 million), Bill Lawry Oval pavilion (\$1.5 million) and GE Robinson Reserve pavilion (\$0.7 million).
CW3	Building improvements	The budget for building improvements was not achieved largely due to delays in environmental sustainable building upgrades at Council facilities (\$0.6 million) and office accommodation works (\$0.2 million).
CW4	Plant, machinery and equipment	The budget for plant, machinery and equipment was not achieved due to delays in the delivery of a number of heavy and light vehicles purchased late in the reporting period (\$1.7 million), chiller/boiler replacement at Preston Civic Centre (\$0.2 million) and a number of purchases not recognised as assets (\$0.4 million) in accordance with Council's policy (see Note 6).
CW5	Fixtures, fittings and furniture	The budget for fixtures, fittings and furniture was exceeded due to a number of purchases included with office accommodation (\$0.1 million).
CW6	Computers and telecommunications	The budget for computers and telecommunications was not achieved due to delays in the implementation of the IT strategy (\$2.6 million), Darebin Library website upgrade (\$0.2 million) and a number of purchases were not recognised as assets (\$0.5 million) in accordance with Council's policy (see Note 6).
CW7	Library books	The budget for Library books was not achieved due to a number of purchases not recognised as assets (\$0.3 million) in accordance with Council's policy (see Note 6).
CW8	Roads	The budget for roads was not achieved due to delays in Edwin Street reconstruction (\$0.2 million) and other road rehabilitation and design works (\$0.7 million).
CW9	Bridges	The budget for bridges was not achieved due to delays in completing the Beavers Road bridge (\$2.3 million).
CW10	Drainage	The budget for drainage was not achieved due to delays in works undertaken at Wilson Boulevard, Jackman Street, Mais Street and St Vigeons Road (\$0.7 million).
CW11	Land improvements	The budget for land improvements was not achieved due to delays in completion of the Edwardes Lake Park athletic track (\$0.3 million).
CW12	Parks, open space and streetscapes	The budget for parks, open space and streetscapes was not achieved largely due to delays completing works including play space upgrades (\$1.1 million), sportsfield lighting (\$0.2 million) and streetscape upgrades (\$0.4 million).

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

---

**Note 2.1 Analysis of Council results by program**

Council delivers its functions and activities through the following programs.

**2.1 (a) City Sustainability & Strategy**

The City Sustainability & Strategy division's role is to plan for the long term future of Darebin and to ensure sustainable social, environmental, economic and community wellbeing benefits for our community. The City Sustainability and Strategy Division includes the following departments: City Development; City Futures; City Safety and Compliance; and Environment and Sustainable Transport. Significant items allocated to the division include; public open space contributions.

**Operations & Capital**

The Operations & Capital division provides the delivery of major operational services and the delivery of capital works. The Operations and Capital division includes the following departments: Assets and Capital Delivery; City Works; and Parks and Open Spaces. Significant items allocated to the division include; contributed assets infrastructure asset depreciation and net gain on sale of assets.

**Community**

The Community division provides high quality community focused programs, service delivery and communication to residents. The Community Division includes the following departments: Aged and Disability; Creative Culture and Events; Equity and Wellbeing; Families, Youth and Children; and Recreation and Libraries.

**Governance & Engagement**

The Governance & Engagement division's role is to act as a business partner by understanding the organisation's needs, risks and limitations and provide timely specialist advice as well as smart, agile customer orientated support. The Governance and Engagement division includes the following departments: Communications and Engagement; Finance; Information Services; People and Development; and Governance and Performance. Significant items allocated to the division include; general rates and charges, interest on rates and investments, Victorian grants commission funding and fair value adjustment for investment property.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 2.1 Analysis of Council results by program**

**2.1 (b) Summary of revenues, expenses, assets and capital expenses by program**

	Income	Expenses	Surplus / (Deficit)	Grants included in income	Total assets
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
<b>2019</b>					
City Sustainability & Strategy	23,776	33,505	(9,729)	1,007	175,231
Operations & Capital	7,077	60,838	(53,761)	4,463	819,042
Community	21,355	48,007	(26,652)	11,030	249,668
Governance & Engagement	134,402	24,994	109,408	4,079	153,240
Non-attributable	0	0	0	0	89,100
	<b>186,610</b>	<b>167,344</b>	<b>19,266</b>	<b>20,579</b>	<b>1,486,281</b>
<b>2018</b>					
City Sustainability & Strategy	18,157	27,620	(9,463)	692	176,660
Operations & Capital	5,155	59,789	(54,634)	2,457	806,395
Community	20,996	48,824	(27,828)	10,941	318,852
Governance & Engagement	128,248	24,454	103,794	4,078	177,217
Non-attributable	0	0	0	0	85,766
	<b>172,556</b>	<b>160,687</b>	<b>11,869</b>	<b>18,168</b>	<b>1,564,890</b>



Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>Note 3 Funding for the delivery of our services</b>		
<b>3.1 Rates and charges</b>		
<p>Council uses Capital Improved Value as the basis of valuation of all properties within the municipal district. Capital Improved Value means the sum which land and all its improvements might be expected to realise at the time of valuation, if offered for sale on any reasonable terms and conditions.</p> <p>The valuation base used to calculate general rates for 2018/19 was \$59,109,797,470 (2017/18: \$46,208,273,361).</p>		
General rates	123,214	118,702
Cultural and recreational properties	44	32
Green waste services	2,526	2,418
Special rates and charges	3,517	337
Supplementary rates and rate adjustments	747	1,321
Interest on rates and charges	573	505
<b>Total rates and charges</b>	<b>130,621</b>	<b>123,315</b>
<p>The date of the latest general revaluation of land for rating purposes within the municipal district was 1 January 2018, and the valuation was first applied in the rating year commencing 1 July 2018.</p> <p>Annual rates and charges are recognised as revenues when Council issues annual rates notices. Supplementary rates are recognised when a valuation and reassessment is completed and a supplementary rates notice issued.</p>		
<b>3.2 Statutory fees and fines</b>		
Animal registration	667	724
Building services	957	979
Environmental health	770	792
Statutory planning	1,928	1,981
Traffic enforcement	3,461	3,307
Infringement court recoveries	1,265	1,337
Other statutory fees and fines	467	628
<b>Total statutory fees and fines</b>	<b>9,515</b>	<b>9,748</b>
<p>Statutory fees and fines (including parking fees and fines) are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received, or when the penalty has been applied, whichever first occurs.</p>		
<b>3.3 User fees</b>		
Aged and health services	1,023	1,044
Arts and culture	1,925	2,027
Family, children and community programs	180	185
Golf course attendance	1,024	941
Leisure centres and recreation	3,544	3,873
Library	197	197
Recycling	15	577
Registrations and other permits	2,167	2,028
Other fees and charges	96	159
<b>Total user fees</b>	<b>10,171</b>	<b>11,031</b>
<p>User fees are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided or the payment is received, whichever first occurs.</p>		

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>3.4 Funding from other levels of government</b>		
Grants were received in respect of the following:		
<b>Summary of grants</b>		
Commonwealth funded grants	11,211	11,675
State funded grants	9,368	6,493
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>20,579</b>	<b>18,168</b>
<b>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</b>		
Diesel fuel rebate scheme	83	88
Centre based care	315	352
General home care	5,927	5,614
Financial assistance grant - general purpose	3,182	3,215
Financial assistance grant - local roads	896	882
<b>Recurrent - State Government / Other</b>		
Centre based care	13	13
Disability resource	176	182
Family support	471	450
General home care	652	883
Health & safety	117	116
Immunisation	132	150
Libraries	971	956
Maternal and child health	1,269	1,218
Metro access	145	139
Playgroup Initiatives	243	237
School crossings	489	474
Youth services	41	43
Other programs	7	6
<b>Total recurrent operating grants</b>	<b>15,129</b>	<b>15,018</b>
<b>Non-recurrent Commonwealth Government</b>		
<b>Non-recurrent - State Government / Other</b>		
Immunisation	0	101
Disability inclusion in sport	72	0
Gender equity early years	73	0
Housing strategy	88	0
Maternal and child health	71	130
Northland urban renewal	0	150
Recycling	138	146
Darebin speak	0	60
Youth services	96	96
Other programs	391	245
<b>Total non-recurrent operating grants</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>928</b>
<b>Total operating grants</b>	<b>16,058</b>	<b>15,946</b>
<b>Capital Grants</b>		
<b>Recurrent - Commonwealth Government</b>		
Roads to recovery	648	1,523
<b>Recurrent State Government / Other</b>		
Minor works	18	18
<b>Total recurrent capital grants</b>	<b>666</b>	<b>1,541</b>

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>3.4 Grants (continued)</b>		
<b><i>Non-recurrent Commonwealth Government</i></b>		
Edwardes Lake Park synthetic surface	160	0
<b><i>Non-recurrent State Government / Other</i></b>		
Bill Lawry Oval pavillion	425	0
Blackspot funding	94	0
BT Connor Reserve lighting	135	0
Mayer Park lighting	135	0
Minor works	25	10
Multi sports stadium	916	0
Bicycle friendly roads	0	100
Pavillion upgrades	0	180
Public convenience works	0	100
Public safety infrastructure	91	0
Rathcown Rd / Tee St bridge	535	0
Inner City Netball Program	1,058	291
Streets for people	281	0
<b>Total non-recurrent capital grants</b>	<b>3,855</b>	<b>681</b>
<b>Total capital grants</b>	<b>4,521</b>	<b>2,222</b>
<b>Total grants</b>	<b>20,579</b>	<b>18,168</b>

**Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner**

Balance at start of year	5,048	4,415
Received during the financial year and remained unspent at balance date	4,106	2,655
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	(3,654)	(2,022)
Balance at end of year	5,500	5,048

Grant income is recognised when Council obtains control of the contribution. This is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) or upon earlier notification that a grant has been secured, and are valued at their fair value at the date of transfer.

**3.5 Contributions**

**(a) Monetary**

Drainage and open space	5,795	5,386
Small-scale technology certificates	1,927	0
Other capital and minor works	643	351
Monetary	8,365	5,737
Non-monetary	408	253
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>8,773</b>	<b>5,990</b>

Contributions of non-monetary assets were received in relation to the following asset classes.

Land	0	36
Land under roads	52	10
Roads	69	12
Drainage	287	195
<b>Total non-monetary contributions</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>253</b>

Monetary and non-monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when Council obtains control over the contributed asset.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>3.6 Net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment</b>		
Proceeds of sale - Right of ways	2,135	590
Proceeds of sale - Other assets	595	793
Write down value of assets disposed	(436)	(670)
Total net gain/(loss) on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	<u>2,294</u>	<u>713</u>

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has irrevocably passed to the buyer.

<b>3.7 Other income</b>		
Interest on investments, loans and advances	1,962	1,853
Property rental and leases	711	454
Workers compensation insurance recovery	340	416
Other recovery of costs	1,674	1,170
<b>Total other income</b>	<u>4,687</u>	<u>3,893</u>

Interest is recognised as it is earned.

Other income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is recognised when Council gains control over the right to receive the income.

**Note 4 The cost of delivering services**

**4.1 (a) Employee costs**

Wages, salaries and related oncosts	65,312	65,873
Casual staff	6,714	6,013
Superannuation	7,837	7,537
Personal gratuity leave	169	118
WorkCover	1,259	1,010
Fringe benefits tax	301	351
<b>Total employee costs</b>	<u>81,592</u>	<u>80,902</u>

**(b) Superannuation**

Council made contributions to the following funds:

**Defined benefit fund**

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	778	919
Employer contributions - other funds	0	0
	<u>778</u>	<u>919</u>

**Accumulation funds**

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	4,612	4,572
Employer contributions - other funds	2,447	2,046
	<u>7,059</u>	<u>6,618</u>

Employer contributions payable at reporting date.	<u>548</u>	<u>514</u>
---	------------	------------

Refer to Note 9.3 for further information relating to Council's superannuation obligations.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>4.2 Materials and services</b>		
Advertising, marketing and promotions	628	668
Apprentices and trainees	415	481
Banking fees and charges	406	400
Consultants	3,177	2,449
Contract payments for goods and services	33,092	27,588
Facility rental and hire	382	368
Fleet parts, consumables and registration	872	817
Fuel and oil	971	939
Insurances and excess	1,544	1,365
License fees	119	114
Materials and consumables	2,292	2,179
Memberships and subscriptions	336	270
Minor equipment purchases	434	495
Office administration	3,660	3,358
Repairs and maintenance	3,547	4,675
Other supplies and services	357	577
Utilities	4,229	3,549
<b>Total materials and services</b>	<b>56,461</b>	<b>50,292</b>
<b>4.3 Depreciation and amortisation</b>		
Property	6,016	5,838
Plant and equipment	4,379	4,654
Infrastructure	11,649	12,044
<b>Total depreciation</b>	<b>22,044</b>	<b>22,536</b>
Intangibles	315	467
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation</b>	<b>22,359</b>	<b>23,003</b>
Refer to Note 5.2 (c) and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and accounting policy.		
<b>4.4 Bad and doubtful debts</b>		
Parking fine debtors	243	192
Parking related debtors - Fines Victoria	1,530	1,202
Other debtors	424	169
<b>Total bad and doubtful debts</b>	<b>2,197</b>	<b>1,563</b>
<b>Movement in Provision for Doubtful Debts</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the year	6,269	5,147
New provisions recognised during the year	2,155	1,668
Amounts already provided for and written off as uncollectible	(276)	(546)
Amounts provided for but recovered during the year	0	0
<b>Balance at end of year</b>	<b>8,148</b>	<b>6,269</b>

Provision for doubtful debt is recognised based on an expected credit loss model. This model considers both historic and forward looking information in determining the level of impairment.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>4.5 Other expenses</b>		
Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements, performance statement and grant acquittals	75	73
Auditors' remuneration - internal audit	32	136
Community grants and other contributions	2,216	1,857
Councillors' emoluments	376	368
Fire services levies	119	111
Lease payments	182	122
Legal expenses	1,264	1,047
Fines Victoria processing costs	166	169
Special rate payments	285	302
Write off of property, infrastructure and plant and equipment	20	742
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>4,735</b>	<b>4,927</b>

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>Note 5 Our financial position</b>		
<b>5.1 Financial assets</b>		
<b>(a) Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
Cash on hand	19	20
Cash at bank	2,028	902
Money market call accounts	34,109	24,919
Term deposits	19,243	17,639
	<u>55,399</u>	<u>43,480</u>
<b>Restrictions</b>		
Council's cash and cash equivalents are subject to external restrictions that limit amounts available for discretionary use. These include:		
- Developer contribution scheme	5,070	5,630
- Drainage development reserve	23	23
- Public resort and recreation reserve	13,526	10,123
- Fire Services Property Levy payable	15	27
- Contractor and security deposits (see Note 5.3 (b))	4,556	5,309
Total restricted funds	<u>23,190</u>	<u>21,112</u>
Total unrestricted cash and cash equivalents	<u>32,209</u>	<u>22,368</u>
<b>Intended allocations</b>		
Although not externally restricted the following amounts have been allocated for specific future purposes by Council:		
- Cash held to fund carried forward capital works	7,631	5,854
- Car park development reserve	227	228
- Unspent conditional grants	5,500	5,048
Total funds subject to intended allocations	<u>13,358</u>	<u>11,130</u>
<b>(b) Other financial assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Term deposits	33,701	42,286
<b>Non-current</b>		
Unlisted shares in corporations at cost	236	236
<b>Total other financial assets</b>	<u>33,937</u>	<u>42,522</u>
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<u>89,336</u>	<u>86,002</u>

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Other financial assets are valued at fair value, being market value, at balance date. Term deposits are measured at amortised cost. Unlisted shares are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable amount. Any unrealised gains and losses on holdings at balance date are recognised as either a revenue or expense.

The shares in unlisted corporations reflect Council's holdings in Maps Group Limited, Regional Kitchen Pty Ltd, and RFK Pty Ltd.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>5.1 Financial assets (continued)</b>		
<b>(c) Trade and other receivables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Rates debtors	8,275	7,144
Special rate assessment	462	1,030
Infringement debtors	8,837	7,100
Less: Provision for doubtful debts - infringements	(7,828)	(6,006)
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Other debtors	2,620	2,176
Less: Provision for doubtful debts - other	(320)	(264)
GST receivable	1,765	1,666
Loans and advances	9	9
Total current trade and other receivables	<u>13,820</u>	<u>12,855</u>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Special rate assessment	3,584	0
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Loans and advances	167	176
Total non-current trade and other receivables	<u>3,751</u>	<u>176</u>
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<u><u>17,571</u></u>	<u><u>13,031</u></u>

Short term receivables are carried at invoice amount. A provision for doubtful debts is recognised when there is objective evidence that an impairment has occurred. Long term receivables are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

**(d) Ageing of receivables**

At balance date other debtors representing financial assets were past due but not impaired. The ageing of the Council's trade and other receivables (excluding statutory receivables) was:

Current (not yet due)	13	142
Past due by up to 30 days	1,400	595
Past due between 31 and 60 days	109	181
Past due between 61 and 90 days	53	495
Past due above 90 days	1,045	763
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<u>2,620</u>	<u>2,176</u>

**(e) Ageing of individually impaired trade and other receivables**

At balance date, other debtors representing financial assets with a nominal value of \$1,045,000 (2018: \$763,000) were impaired. The amount of the provision raised against these debtors was \$320,000 (2018: \$261,000). They individually have been impaired as a result of their doubtful collection. Many of the long outstanding past due amounts have been lodged with Council's debt collectors or are on payment arrangements. The ageing of receivables that have been individually determined as impaired at reporting date was:

Over 3 months	320	261
<b>Total trade and other receivables</b>	<u>320</u>	<u>261</u>



Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000	
<b>5.2 Non-financial assets</b>			
<b>(a) Inventories</b>			
Inventories held for distribution	57	51	
Inventories held for sale	37	38	
<b>Total inventories</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>89</b>	
<p>Inventories held for distribution are measured at cost, adjusted when applicable for any loss of service potential. All other inventories, including land held for sale, are measured at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Where inventories are acquired for no cost or nominal consideration, they are measured at current replacement cost at the date of acquisition.</p>			
<b>(b) Other assets</b>			
Accrued income	584	1,550	
Prepayments	2,100	2,145	
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>3,695</b>	
<b>(c) Intangible assets</b>			
Software and system development costs	855	538	
Water access rights	127	127	
<b>Total Intangible assets</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>665</b>	
	<b>Software</b>	<b>Water rights</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Gross carrying amount</b>			
Balance at 1 July 2018	5,150	127	5,277
Other additions	632	0	632
Balance at 30 June 2019	5,782	127	5,909
<b>Accumulated amortisation and impairment</b>			
Balance at 1 July 2018	(4,612)	0	(4,612)
Amortisation expense	(315)	0	(315)
Balance at 30 June 2019	(4,927)	0	(4,927)
Net book value at 30 June 2018	538	127	665
Net book value at 30 June 2019	855	127	982

Intangible assets with finite lives are amortised as an expense on a systematic basis over the asset's useful life. Amortisation is generally calculated on a straight line basis, at a rate that allocates the asset value, less any estimated residual value over its estimated useful life. Estimates of the remaining useful lives and amortisation method are reviewed at least annually, and adjustments made where appropriate.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>5.3 Payables</b>		
<b>(a) Trade and other payables</b>		
Trade payables	14,158	14,778
Employee costs	1,306	2,577
Unearned revenue	41	64
<b>Total trade and other payables</b>	<b>15,505</b>	<b>17,419</b>
<b>(b) Trust funds and deposits</b>		
Contractor and security deposits	4,359	5,112
Fire Services Property Levy payable	15	26
Retention amounts	197	197
<b>Total trust funds and deposits</b>	<b>4,571</b>	<b>5,335</b>

Amounts received as deposits and retention amounts controlled by Council are recognised as trust funds until they are returned, transferred in accordance with the purpose of the receipt, or forfeited. Trust funds that are forfeited, resulting in Council gaining control of the funds, are to be recognised as revenue at the time of forfeit.

*Purpose and nature of items*

Contractor and security deposits - deposits are taken by Council as a form of surety in a number of circumstances, including in relation to building works, tender deposits, contract deposits, and the use of civic facilities and other Council assets.

Fire Services Property Levy - Council is the collection agent for fire services property levy on behalf of the State Government. Council remits amounts received on a quarterly basis. Amounts disclosed here will be remitted to the State Government in line with that process.

Retention amounts - Council has a contractual right to retain certain amounts until a contractor has met certain requirements or a related warrant or defect period has elapsed. Subject to the satisfactory completion of the contractual obligations, or the elapsing of time, these amounts will be paid to the relevant contractor in line with Council's contractual obligations.

**5.4 Provisions**

	Employee \$'000	Other \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>2019</b>			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	21,477	45	21,522
Additional provisions	7,973	0	7,973
Amounts used	(7,493)	0	(7,493)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	102	0	102
Balance at the end of the financial year	<b>22,059</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>22,104</b>
<b>2018</b>			
Balance at beginning of the financial year	20,347	45	20,392
Additional provisions	7,707	0	7,707
Amounts used	(6,894)	0	(6,894)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	317	0	317
Balance at the end of the financial year	<b>21,477</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>21,522</b>

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>5.4 Provisions (continued)</b>		
<b>(a) Employee provisions</b>		
<b>Current employee provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months</b>		
Annual leave	4,473	4,117
Long service leave	1,718	1,477
Personal gratuity	255	268
Redundancy	0	377
	<u>6,446</u>	<u>6,239</u>
<b>Current employee provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months</b>		
Annual leave	2,547	2,300
Long service leave	9,434	9,098
Personal gratuity	1,822	1,886
Redundancy	0	0
	<u>13,803</u>	<u>13,284</u>
Total current employee provisions	<u>20,249</u>	<u>19,523</u>
<b>Non-current</b>		
Long service leave	1,810	1,954
Total non-current employee provisions	<u>1,810</u>	<u>1,954</u>
Current	20,294	19,568
Non-current	1,810	1,954
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	<u>22,104</u>	<u>21,522</u>
The calculation of employee costs and benefits includes all relevant on-costs and are calculated as follows at reporting date.		
<i>Wages and salaries and annual leave</i>		
Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual leave and accumulated sick leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employee services up to the reporting date, classified as current liabilities and measured at their nominal values.		
Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.		
<i>Long service leave</i>		
Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. LSL is measured at present value. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability. Conditional LSL that has been accrued, where an employee is yet to reach a qualifying term of employment, is disclosed as a non - current liability.		
<i>Personal gratuity leave</i>		
Liabilities for personal gratuity leave expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits in respect of employee services up to the reporting date, classified as current liabilities and measured at their nominal values.		
Liabilities that are not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in the provision for employee benefits as current liabilities, measured at present value of the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.		
The following assumptions were adopted in measuring present values of employee benefits:		
	%	%
Weighted average rates of increase in employee costs	2.9	3.9
Weighted average discount rates	1.1	2.3
Weighted average settlement period	Years	Years
Long Service Leave	3.7	4.0
Annual Leave	2.3	2.2
<b>(b) Other provisions</b>		
Current	<u>45</u>	<u>45</u>

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>5.5 Financing arrangements</b>		
Credit card facility	45	43
Used facilities	21	15
Unused facilities	24	28

The Council had no access to a bank overdraft facility at balance date.

**5.6 Commitments**

The Council has entered into the following commitments. Commitments are not recognised in the Balance Sheet. Commitments are disclosed at their nominal value and presented inclusive of the GST payable.

2019	Not later than 1 year \$'000	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
		year and not later than 2 years \$'000	years and not later than 5 years \$'000		
<b>Operating</b>					
Animal welfare services	411	411	1,645	828	3,295
Information systems & technology	1,627	0	0	0	1,627
Internal Audit	144	140	459	0	743
Collection & processing of recyclable waste (i)	209	0	0	0	209
Cleaning contracts for council buildings	400	0	0	0	400
Golf course management & maintenance	462	0	0	0	462
Insurance	1,566	0	0	0	1,566
Valuations	142	0	0	0	142
Traffic signal maintenance	80	81	80	0	241
Tree management	1,421	0	0	0	1,421
Waste disposal	320	0	0	0	320
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,782</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>2,184</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>10,426</b>
<b>Capital</b>					
Construction works	12,674	0	0	0	12,674
<b>Total</b>	<b>12,674</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12,674</b>
<b>2018</b>					
2018	Not later than 1 year \$'000	Later than 1	Later than 2	Later than 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
		year and not later than 2 years \$'000	years and not later than 5 years \$'000		
<b>Operating</b>					
Animal welfare services	411	411	1,645	1,509	3,976
Information systems & technology	1,420	0	0	0	1,420
Collection & processing of recyclable waste (i)	298	0	0	0	298
Collection & processing of hard waste (i)	617	0	0	0	617
Cleaning contracts for council buildings	239	0	0	0	239
Golf course management & maintenance	501	501	0	0	1,002
Insurance	1,292	0	0	0	1,292
Valuations	78	0	0	0	78
Waste disposal	262	0	0	0	262
Traffic signal maintenance	52	52	198	0	302
Tree management	631	0	0	0	631
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,801</b>	<b>964</b>	<b>1,843</b>	<b>1,509</b>	<b>10,117</b>
<b>Capital</b>					
Construction works	6,604	0	0	0	6,604
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,604</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6,604</b>

Note (i): All or part of these commitments are calculated based on a contracted rate multiplied by estimated level of service consumption.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019 \$'000	2018 \$'000
<b>5.6 Commitments (continued)</b>		
<b>Operating lease commitments</b>		
At the reporting date, the Council had the following obligations under non-cancellable operating leases for the lease of equipment and land and buildings for use within Council's activities (these obligations are not recognised as liabilities):		
Not later than one year	304	236
Later than one year and not later than five years	560	329
Later than 5 years	0	31
	<u>864</u>	<u>596</u>

Lease payments for operating leases are required by the accounting standard to be recognised on a straight line basis, rather than expensed in the years in which they are incurred.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 6 Assets we manage**

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

**Summary of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

	At Fair Value 30 June 2018	Additions	Contributions	Revaluation	Depreciation	Disposal	Write-off	Transfer	At Fair Value 30 June 2019
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Land	736,805	1,710	52	(92,866)	0	0	0	0	645,701
Buildings	208,323	6,413	0	(2,913)	(6,016)	0	(20)	1,878	207,664
Plant and equipment	18,027	3,337	0	0	(4,379)	(436)	0	255	16,804
Infrastructure	488,978	13,937	356	0	(11,649)	0	0	1,930	493,553
Work in progress	6,435	6,784	0	0	0	0	0	(4,137)	9,082
	1,458,568	32,181	408	(95,779)	(22,044)	(436)	(20)	(74)	1,372,804

**Summary of Work in Progress**

	Opening WIP \$'000	Additions \$'000	Transfers \$'000	Write-offs \$'000	Closing WIP \$'000
Buildings	3,241	3,949	(1,878)	0	5,312
Plant and equipment	122	0	(122)	0	0
Infrastructure	3,072	2,835	(2,137)	0	3,770
Total	6,435	6,784	(4,137)	0	9,082

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 6 Assets we manage**

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

**(a) Property**

	Land - specialised	Land - non specialised	Total Land	Buildings - heritage	Buildings - specialised	Buildings - non specialised	Work in progress	Total Buildings	Total Property
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2018	697,161	39,644	<b>736,805</b>	44,315	325,225	11,790	3,241	<b>384,571</b>	<b>1,121,376</b>
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2018	0	0	0	(28,125)	(138,360)	(6,522)	0	<b>(173,007)</b>	<b>(173,007)</b>
	697,161	39,644	<b>736,805</b>	16,190	186,865	5,268	3,241	<b>211,564</b>	<b>948,369</b>
<b>Movements in fair value</b>									
Additions	0	1,710	<b>1,710</b>	1,119	5,294	0	3,949	<b>10,362</b>	<b>12,072</b>
Contributed assets	52	0	<b>52</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>
Revaluation increments/decrements	(88,045)	(4,821)	<b>(92,866)</b>	0	(6,852)	0	0	<b>(6,852)</b>	<b>(99,718)</b>
Fair value of assets disposed	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Write-off	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	(110)	0	0	<b>(110)</b>	<b>(110)</b>
Transfers	0	0	<b>0</b>	132	1,746	0	(1,878)	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	(87,993)	(3,111)	<b>(91,104)</b>	1,251	78	0	2,071	<b>3,400</b>	<b>(87,704)</b>
<b>Movements in accumulated depreciation</b>									
Depreciation and amortisation	0	0	<b>0</b>	(289)	(5,512)	(215)	0	<b>(6,016)</b>	<b>(6,016)</b>
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	89	0	0	<b>89</b>	<b>89</b>
Revaluation increments/decrements	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	3,939	0	0	<b>3,939</b>	<b>3,939</b>
Impairment losses recognised in operating result	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
Transfers	0	0	<b>0</b>	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	0	0	<b>0</b>	(289)	(1,484)	(215)	0	<b>(1,989)</b>	<b>(1,989)</b>
At fair value 30 June 2019	609,168	36,533	<b>645,701</b>	45,566	325,303	11,790	5,312	<b>387,971</b>	<b>1,033,672</b>
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2019	0	0	0	(28,414)	(139,844)	(6,737)	0	<b>(174,995)</b>	<b>(174,995)</b>
	609,168	36,533	<b>645,701</b>	17,152	185,459	5,053	5,312	<b>212,976</b>	<b>858,677</b>

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 6 Assets we manage**

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

**(b) Plant and Equipment**

	Plant machinery and equipment	Computers and telecomms	Fixtures fittings and furniture	Library books	Artwork & historical collections	Other	Work in progress	Total plant and equipment
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2018	16,918	22,013	7,774	9,180	1,819	6,116	122	63,942
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2018	(8,963)	(18,446)	(6,946)	(6,806)	0	(4,632)	0	(45,793)
	7,955	3,567	828	2,374	1,819	1,484	122	18,149
<b>Movements in fair value</b>								
Additions	1,701	523	127	477	42	467	0	3,337
Contributed assets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revaluation increments/decrements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fair value of assets disposed	(1,490)	0	(17)	0	0	0	0	(1,507)
Write-off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	0	45	0	0	0	210	(122)	133
	211	568	110	477	42	677	(122)	1,963
<b>Movements in accumulated depreciation</b>								
Depreciation and amortisation	(2,018)	(1,224)	(147)	(705)	0	(285)	0	(4,379)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	1,054	0	17	0	0	0	0	1,071
	(964)	(1,224)	(130)	(705)	0	(285)	0	(3,307)
At fair value 30 June 2019	17,129	22,581	7,884	9,657	1,861	6,793	0	65,905
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2019	(9,927)	(19,670)	(7,076)	(7,511)	0	(4,917)	0	(49,101)
	7,202	2,911	808	2,146	1,861	1,876	0	16,804



Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 6 Assets we manage**

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

**(c) Infrastructure**

	Roads	Footpaths and cycleways	Bridges	Drainage	Land improvements	Parks, open spaces and streetscapes	Off street car parks	Work in progress	Total Infrastructure
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
At fair value 1 July 2018	302,248	121,965	8,771	185,275	51,741	39,145	8,273	3,072	720,490
Accumulated depreciation at 1 July 2018	(71,740)	(39,275)	(1,195)	(77,720)	(16,062)	(18,086)	(4,362)	0	(228,440)
	230,508	82,690	7,576	107,555	35,679	21,059	3,911	3,072	492,050
<b>Movements in fair value</b>									
Additions	4,634	4,832	1,224	1,237	427	1,513	70	2,835	16,772
Contributed assets	69	0	0	287	0	0	0	0	356
Revaluation increments/decrements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fair value of assets disposed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Write-off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transfers	229	0	672	83	594	344	9	(2,137)	(206)
	4,932	4,832	1,896	1,607	1,021	1,857	79	698	16,921
<b>Movements in accumulated depreciation</b>									
Depreciation and amortisation	(4,177)	(2,031)	(108)	(1,548)	(1,170)	(2,510)	(105)	0	(11,649)
Revaluation increments/decrements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	(4,177)	(2,031)	(108)	(1,548)	(1,170)	(2,510)	(105)	0	(11,649)
At fair value 30 June 2019	307,180	126,797	10,667	186,882	52,762	41,002	8,352	3,770	737,412
Accumulated depreciation at 30 June 2019	(75,917)	(41,306)	(1,303)	(79,268)	(17,232)	(20,596)	(4,467)	0	(240,089)
	231,263	85,491	9,364	107,614	35,530	20,406	3,885	3,770	497,323

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

*Acquisition*

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration at the date of acquisition plus any incidental costs attributable to the acquisition. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

Where assets are constructed by Council, cost includes all materials used in construction, direct labour, borrowing costs incurred during construction, and an appropriate share of directly attributable variable and fixed overheads.

In accordance with Council's policy, the threshold limits have applied when recognising assets within an applicable asset class and unless otherwise stated are consistent with the prior year.

*Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods*

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit \$
Property		
land	-	5,000
land improvements	50 years	5,000
Buildings		
heritage buildings	50 - 80 years	5,000
buildings	50 - 80 years	5,000
building improvements	50 - 80 years	5,000
leasehold improvements	Life of lease	5,000
Plant and Equipment		
vehicles	3 to 10 years	1,000
plant, machinery and parks equipment	5 - 20 years	1,000
fixtures, fittings and furniture	10 years	1,000
computers and telecommunications	3 - 5 years	1,000
library books, tapes, videos and DVDs	3 - 8 years	All
Infrastructure		
road pavements and seals	20 - 30 years	All
road substructure	80 - 120 years	All
road formation and earthworks	-	All
road kerb, channel and minor culverts	40 - 60 years	All
bridges deck	50 - 100 years	All
bridges substructure	50 - 100 years	All
footpaths and cycleways	30 - 50 years	All
drainage including pipes, pits and gross pollutant traps	100 - 120	5,000
recreational, leisure and community facilities	10 - 50 years	5,000
waste management	50 years	5,000
parks, open space and streetscapes	10 - 50 years	5,000
off street car parks	10 - 50 years	5,000
Intangible assets		
software and system development costs	3 - 5 years	1,000

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

*Depreciation and amortisation*

Buildings, land improvements, plant and equipment, infrastructure, and other assets having limited useful lives are systematically depreciated over their useful lives to the Council in a manner which reflects consumption of the service potential embodied in those assets. Estimates of remaining useful lives and residual values are made on a regular basis with major asset classes reassessed annually. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually.

Where assets have separate identifiable components that are subject to regular replacement, these components are assigned distinct useful lives and residual values and a separate depreciation rate is determined for each component.

Road earthworks are not depreciated on the basis that they are assessed as not having a limited useful life.

Straight line depreciation is charged based on the residual useful life as determined each year.

Depreciation periods used are listed below and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

*Repairs and maintenance*

Routine maintenance, repair costs, and minor renewal costs are expensed as incurred. Where the repair relates to the replacement of a component of an asset and the cost exceeds the capitalisation threshold the cost is capitalised and depreciated. The carrying value of the replaced asset is expensed.

*Leasehold improvements*

Leasehold improvements are recognised at cost and are amortised over the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful life of the improvement, whichever is the shorter. At balance date, leasehold improvements are amortised over a 15 year period.

**Valuation of land and buildings**

Valuation of land and buildings were undertaken by a qualified valuer Mr A Lee, AAPI, (Valuer General's contract valuer). The last valuation was undertaken as at 30 June 2019. The valuation of land and buildings is at fair value, being market value based on highest and best use permitted by relevant land planning provisions. Where land use is restricted through existing planning provisions the valuation is reduced to reflect this limitation. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Specialised land is valued at fair value using site values adjusted for englobo (undeveloped and/or unserviced) characteristics, access rights and private interests of other parties and entitlements of infrastructure assets and services. This adjustment is an unobservable input in the valuation. The adjustment has no impact on the comprehensive income statement.

Any significant movements in the unobservable inputs for land and land under roads will have a significant impact on the fair value of these assets.

The date of the current valuation is detailed in the following table. A full revaluation of these assets was conducted in 2018/19.

Details of the Council's land, land improvements and buildings and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2019 are as follows:

<b>Assets measured at fair value</b>	<b>Level 1 \$'000</b>	<b>Level 2 \$'000</b>	<b>Level 3 \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>	<b>Date of Valuation</b>
Land	0	36,533	609,168	<b>645,701</b>	June 2019
Buildings	0	5,053	202,611	<b>207,664</b>	June 2018
	0	41,586	811,779	<b>853,365</b>	

No transfers between levels occurred during the year

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

*Valuations of infrastructure*

Infrastructure includes road surface and substructures, footpaths, kerb and channel, traffic devices parking bays, offstreet car parks, drainage pipes, pits, gross pollutant traps and bridges. The valuations for infrastructure assets were determined by Mr P Wansborough, B Eng (Civil), Co-ordinator Infrastructure Planning. The valuations were performed as at 30 June 2018 on the basis of fair value being the current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation at the date of the valuation.

Road and offstreet car park replacement cost is calculated with reference to a representative range of unit costs received from contractors and other relevant sources. Accumulated depreciation has been assessed with reference to the AUSTRROADS National Pavement Condition Indicators and road condition surveys.

Bridge replacement cost is based on the major components of the structure and sourced from representative bridge construction projects. Accumulated depreciation has been assessed based on knowledge of Council's bridge network and industry standards.

Drainage replacement cost is calculated with reference to a representative range of unit costs received from contractors and other relevant sources. Accumulated depreciation has been assessed based on knowledge of Council's drainage network and industry standards.

Land improvements are valued using the depreciated replacement cost method. This cost represents the replacement cost of the building/component after applying depreciation rates on a useful life basis. Replacement costs relate to costs to produce the property to an "as new" standard. Economic obsolescence has also been factored into the depreciated replacement cost calculation.

Land improvements includes playing surfaces, retarding basins and other land improvements. The valuations for land improvements were determined by Mr D Archer, AAPI, the City Valuer. The valuations were performed as at 30 June 2018 on the basis of fair value being the current replacement cost less accumulated depreciation at the date of the valuation.

The next scheduled full revaluation for this purpose will be conducted in 2020/21.

There were no changes in valuation techniques throughout the period 30 June 2019.

For all assets measured at fair value, the current use is considered the highest and best use.

Details of the Council's infrastructure and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 30 June 2019 are as follows:

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

<b>Assets measured at fair value</b>	<b>Level 1 \$'000</b>	<b>Level 2 \$'000</b>	<b>Level 3 \$'000</b>	<b>Total \$'000</b>	<b>Date of Valuation</b>
Roads	0	0	231,263	<b>231,263</b>	June 2018
Footpaths & cycleways	0	0	85,491	<b>85,491</b>	June 2018
Bridges	0	0	9,364	<b>9,364</b>	June 2018
Drainage	0	0	107,614	<b>107,614</b>	June 2018
Land improvements	0	0	35,530	<b>35,530</b>	June 2018
Parks, open spaces and streetscapes	0	0	20,406	<b>20,406</b>	June 2018
Offstreet carparks	0	0	3,885	<b>3,885</b>	June 2018
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>493,554</u>	<b><u>493,554</u></b>	

No transfers between levels occurred during the year.

**Description of significant unobservable inputs into level 3 valuations**

**Specialised land and land under roads**

Specialised land and land under roads is valued using a market based direct comparison technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the extent and impact of restriction of use and the market cost of land per square metre. The extent and impact of restrictions on use varies and results in a reduction to surrounding land values between 10% and 90%. The market value of land varies significantly depending on the location of the land and the current market conditions. Currently land values range between \$20 and \$3,218 per square metre.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**6.1 Property, infrastructure, plant and equipment**

**Specialised buildings**

Specialised buildings are valued using a depreciated replacement cost technique. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of buildings. Current replacement costs is calculated on a square metre basis and ranges from \$500 to \$8,775 per square metre. The remaining useful lives of buildings are determined on the basis of the current condition of buildings and vary from 50 years to 100 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of buildings are sensitive to changes in expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of buildings.

**Infrastructure assets**

Infrastructure assets are valued based on the depreciated replacement cost. Significant unobservable inputs include the current replacement cost and remaining useful lives of infrastructure. The remaining useful lives of infrastructure assets are determined on the basis of the current condition of the asset and vary from 30 years to 120 years. Replacement cost is sensitive to changes in market conditions, with any increase or decrease in cost flowing through to the valuation. Useful lives of infrastructure are sensitive to changes in use, expectations or requirements that could either shorten or extend the useful lives of infrastructure assets. Current replacement cost for infrastructure is calculated as follows;

Roads and offstreet car parks range between \$28 to \$418 per square metre.

Shared paths and cycleways range between \$48 to \$417 per square metre.

Drainage assets range between \$92 to \$1,785 per unit.

Bridge assets range vary depending on construction type.

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Reconciliation of specialised land</b>		
Land under roads	1,126	1,074
Community facilities	60,540	69,540
Council administration & depots	24,992	28,598
Offstreet carparks	12,703	14,497
Parks and reserves	509,807	583,452
<b>Total specialised land</b>	<b>609,168</b>	<b>697,161</b>

**6.2 Investment property**

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at beginning of financial year	2,840	3,142
Fair value adjustments	(30)	(302)
Balance at end of financial year	<b>2,810</b>	<b>2,840</b>

Investment property is held to generate long-term rental yields. Investment property is measured initially at cost, including transaction costs. Costs incurred subsequent to initial acquisition are capitalised when it is probable that future economic benefit in excess of the originally assessed performance of the asset will flow to the Council. Subsequent to initial recognition at cost, investment property is carried at fair value, determined annually by independent valuers. Changes to fair value are recorded in the comprehensive income statement in the period that they arise. Rental income from the leasing of investment properties is recognised in the comprehensive income statement on a straight line basis over the lease term.

**Valuation of investment property**

The valuation of investment property has been determined by Mr A Lee, AAPI, (Valuer General's contract valuer), who has recent experience in the location and category of the property being valued. The valuation is at fair value, based on the current market value for the property.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 7 People and relationships**  
**7.1 Council and key management remuneration**

**(a) Related Parties**

Council is the parent entity.

**(b) Key Management Personnel**

Details of persons holding the position of Councillor or other members of key management personnel at any time during the year are:

**Councillors**

Stephanie Amir (1/7/2018 - Current)  
Tim Laurence (1/7/2018 - Current)  
Lina Messina (1/7/2018 - Current)  
Susanne Newton (1/7/2018 - Current)  
Julie Williams (1/7/2018 - Current)

Gaetano Greco (1/7/2018 - Current)  
Kim Le Cerf (1/7/2018 - Current)  
Trent McCarthy (1/7/2018 - Current)  
Susan Rennie (Mayor 27/11/2018 - Current)

**Chief Executive Officer**

Sue Wilkinson (1/7/2018 - Current)

**Other Key Management Personnel**

**GM Operations & Capital**

Vito Albicini (1/7/2018 - 28/6/2019)

**GM City Sustainability & Strategy**

Rachael Ollivier (1/7/2018 - Current)

**GM Governance & Engagement**

Ingrid Bishop (1/7/2018 - Current)

**GM Community**

Cathy Henderson (1/7/2018 - Current)

	2019	2018
	Number	Number
<b>Total Number of Councillors</b>	<b>9</b>	9
<b>Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel</b>	<b>5</b>	11
<b>Total Key Management Personnel</b>	<b>14</b>	20

**(c) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel**

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term benefits	1,664	1,663
Post employment benefits	129	123
Long-term benefits	42	206
Termination benefits	0	301
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,835</b>	2,293

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

7.1 Council and key management remuneration

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from Council and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2019 Number	2018 Number
\$30,000 - \$39,999	7	8
\$60,000 - \$69,999	1	0
\$70,000 - \$79,999	1	4
\$80,000 - \$89,999	0	1
\$100,000 - \$109,999	0	1
\$150,000 - \$159,999	0	1
\$190,000 - \$199,999	0	1
\$220,000 - \$229,999	1	0
\$240,000 - \$249,999	1	0
\$260,000 - \$269,999	0	1
\$270,000 - \$279,999	1	0
\$290,000 - \$299,999	1	1
\$310,000 - \$319,999	0	2
\$350,000 - \$359,999	1	0
	<u>14</u>	<u>20</u>

(d) Senior Officers Remuneration

A Senior Officer is an officer of Council, other than key management personnel, who:

- a) has management responsibilities and reports directly to the Chief Executive; or
- b) whose total annual remuneration exceeds \$148,000.

The number of Senior Officers are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2019 Number	2018 Number
< \$148,000	1	1
\$149,000 - \$149,999	1	1
\$150,000 - \$159,999	3	4
\$160,000 - \$169,999	4	2
\$170,000 - \$179,999	6	2
\$180,000 - \$189,999	3	3
\$190,000 - \$199,999	2	1
\$210,000 - \$219,999	1	2
\$220,000 - \$229,999	1	0
\$230,000 - \$239,999	1	1
\$240,000 - \$249,999	0	1
\$260,000 - 269,999	0	1
\$290,000 - \$299,999	0	1
	<u>23</u>	<u>20</u>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Total remuneration for the year for Senior Officers included above amounted to:	<u><b>4,008</b></u>	<u><b>3,805</b></u>

**7.2 Related party disclosure**

**(a) Transactions with related parties**

During the period Council had no reportable transactions with related parties.

**(b) Outstanding balances with related parties**

There are no balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties.

**(c) Loans to/from related parties**

Council does not make loans to or receive loans from related parties. No guarantees have been provided.

**(d) Commitments to/from related parties**

Council has no outstanding commitments to/from other related parties.



Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 8 Managing uncertainties**  
**8.1 Contingent assets and liabilities**

Contingent assets and contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet, but are disclosed by way of a note and, if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable respectively.

**(a) Contingent assets**

**Operating lease receivables**

Council has entered into commercial property leases on its investment property, consisting of surplus freehold buildings. These properties held under operating leases have remaining non-cancellable lease terms of between 1 and 75 years. All leases include a CPI based revision of the rental charge annually.

Future minimum rentals receivable under non-cancellable operating leases at the end of the year are as follows :

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
Not later than one year	210	205
Later than one year and not later than five years	359	493
Later than 5 years	741	770
	<u>1,310</u>	<u>1,468</u>

**(b) Contingent liabilities**

**Superannuation**

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme, matters relating to this potential obligation are outlined below. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists.

**Future superannuation contributions**

In addition to the disclosed contributions, Council has paid unfunded liability payments to Vision Super totalling \$73,000 during the year 2018/19 year (2017/18 \$0). There were no contributions outstanding and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2019. The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2020 are \$883,000.

**Former landfill sites**

Council has responsibility for a number of facilities contained on former landfill sites. Council may have to carry out site rehabilitation works in the future. At balance date, Council is unable to accurately assess the financial implications of such works.

**Legal matters**

The Council is presently involved in several confidential legal matters, which are being conducted through Council's solicitors. As these matters are yet to be finalised, and the financial outcomes are unable to be reliably estimated, no allowance for these contingencies has been made in the financial report.

**Building cladding**

Council has a number of building which may require rectification works as a result of flammable building cladding. Council is currently working with the Victorian Building Authority and Cladding Safety Victoria on monitoring and potential remediation of non-compliant cladding.

**8.2 Change in accounting standards**

The following new Australian Accounting Standards have been issued that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2019 reporting period. Council has assessed these pending standards and has identified the following potential impacts will flow from the application of these standards in future reporting periods.

*Revenue from contracts with customers (AASB 15) (applies 2019/20 for LG sector)*

The standard shifts the focus from the transaction-level to a contract-based approach. Recognition is determined based on what the customer expects to be entitled to (rights and obligations), while measurement encompasses estimation by the entity of the amount expected to be entitled for performing under the contract. The full impact of this standard is not known however it is most likely to impact where contracts extend over time, where there are rights and obligations that may vary the timing or amount of the consideration, or where there are multiple performance elements. This has the potential to impact on the recognition of certain grant income. Based on initial assessment, the change in accounting treatment will not have a material impact on Council's year end result.

*Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Deferral of AASB 15 for Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 2016-7) (applies 2019/20)*

This Standard defers the mandatory effective date of AASB 15 for not-for-profit entities from 1 January 2018 to 1 January 2019.

*Leases (AASB 16) (applies 2019/20)*

The classification of leases as either finance leases or operating leases is eliminated for lessees. Leases will be recognised in the Balance Sheet by capitalising the present value of the minimum lease payments and showing a 'right-of-use' asset, while future lease payments will be recognised as a financial liability. The nature of the expense recognised in the profit or loss will change. Rather than being shown as rent, or as leasing costs, it will be recognised as depreciation on the 'right-of-use' asset, and an interest charge on the lease liability. The interest charge will be calculated using the effective interest method, which will result in a gradual reduction of interest expense over the lease term.

Council has elected to adopt the modified retrospective approach to the transition to the new lease standard. This will mean that only existing operating leases for non low value assets, with remaining terms greater than 12 months, will be recognised on transition (1 July 2019). Based on our current lease commitments and an assumption of a continuation of the current leasing arrangements Council expects that the transition to the new standard will see the initial recognition of \$292,000 in lease related assets and an equivalent liability

*Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) (applies 2019/20)*

This standard replaces AASB 1004 Contributions and establishes revenue recognition principles for transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than fair value to enable to not-for-profit entity to further its objectives. Based on initial assessment, the change in accounting treatment will not have a material impact on Council's year end result.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**8.3 Financial instruments**

**(a) Objectives and policies**

The Council's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank borrowings. Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument is disclosed in the notes of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by the Council. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to Council and appropriate procedures, controls and risk minimisation.

**(b) Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. The Council's exposures to market risk are primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

**Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk refers to the risk that the value of a financial instrument or cash flows associated with the instrument will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. Our interest rate liability risk arises primarily from long term loans and borrowings at fixed rates which exposes us to fair value interest rate risk. Council does not hold any interest bearing financial instruments that are measured at fair value, and therefore has no exposure to fair value interest rate risk. Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that the future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Council has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rate.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the Local Government Act 1989. We manage interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product,
- monitoring of return on investment,
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in the Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing interest rate risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

Interest rate movements have not been sufficiently significant during the year to have an impact on the Council's year end result.

**(c) Credit risk**

Credit risk is the risk that a contracting entity will not complete its obligations under a financial instrument and cause us to make a financial loss. We have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in our balance sheet. To help manage this risk:

- Council has a policy for establishing credit limits for the entities it deals with;
- Council may require collateral where appropriate; and
- Council only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in our investment policy.

Receivables consist of a large number of customers, spread across the ratepayer, business and government sectors. Credit risk associated with the Council's financial assets is minimal because the main debtor is secured by a charge over the rateable property.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

Council may also be subject to credit risk for transactions which are not included in the balance sheet, such as when we provide a guarantee for another party. Details of our contingent liabilities are disclosed in Note 8.1.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date to recognised financial assets is the carrying amount, net of any provisions for impairment of those assets, as disclosed in the balance sheet and notes to the financial statements. Council does not hold any collateral against these financial assets.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

Notes to the financial report  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**8.3 Financial instruments (continued)**

**(d) Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of our operational liquidity requirements or we will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required, we will be forced to sell a financial asset at below value or may be unable to settle or recover a financial asset.

To help reduce these risks Council:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- have readily accessible standby facilities and other funding arrangements in place;
- have a liquidity portfolio structure that requires surplus funds to be invested within various bands of liquid
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis; and
- set limits on borrowings relating to the percentage of loans to rate revenue and percentage of loan principal repayments to rate revenue.

The Council's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed in the face of the balance sheet and the amounts related to financial guarantees disclosed in Note 8.1, and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in Council's exposure, or its objectives, policies and processes for managing liquidity risk or the methods used to measure this risk from the previous reporting period.

With the exception of borrowings, all financial liabilities are expected to be settled within normal terms of trade.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

**(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis**

Taking into account past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, the Council believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months (Base rates are sourced from Reserve Bank of Australia):

- A parallel shift of +0.5% and -0.5% in market interest rates (AUD) from year-end rates of 2.32%.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of Council's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of Council's operations.

**8.4 Fair value measurement**

Fair value hierarchy

Council's financial assets and liabilities are not valued in accordance with the fair value hierarchy, Council's financial assets and liabilities are measured at amortised cost.

The capital works reserve fund was established with effect from 19 March 2018 by Council resolution for the purpose of financing future capital works projects. Funding is derived from identified capital works project savings. Council may expend funds from the reserve for the purposes of major capital works.

AASB 13 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value under AASB 13 is an exit price regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the financial statements are categorised within a fair value hierarchy, described as follows, based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole:

Level 1 — Quoted (unadjusted) market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities

Level 2 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is directly or indirectly observable; and

Level 3 — Valuation techniques for which the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement is unobservable.

For the purpose of fair value disclosures, Council has determined classes of assets and liabilities on the basis of the nature, characteristics and risks of the asset or liability and the level of the fair value hierarchy as explained above.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

---

In addition, Council determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the end of each reporting period.

**8.4 Fair value measurement***Revaluation*

Subsequent to the initial recognition of assets, non-current physical assets, other than plant and equipment, are measured at their fair value, being the price that would be received to sell an asset (or paid to transfer a liability) in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. At balance date, the Council reviewed the carrying value of the individual classes of assets measured at fair value to ensure that each asset materially approximated its fair value. Where the carrying value materially differed from the fair value at balance date, the class of asset was revalued.

AASB 13 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. Fair value under AASB 13 is an exit price regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique.

Fair value valuations are determined in accordance with a valuation hierarchy. Changes to the valuation hierarchy will only occur if an external change in the restrictions or limitations of use of an asset result in changes to the permissible or practical highest and best use of the asset. In addition, Council undertakes a formal revaluation of land, buildings, and infrastructure assets on a regular basis ranging from 2 to 3 years. The valuation is performed either by experienced council officers or independent experts.

Where the assets are revalued, the revaluation increments are credited directly to the asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that an increment reverses a prior year decrement for that class of asset that had been recognised as an expense in which case the increment is recognised as revenue up to the amount of the expense. Revaluation decrements are recognised as an expense except where prior increments are included in the asset revaluation reserve for that class of asset in which case the decrement is taken to the reserve to the extent of the remaining increments. Within the same class of assets, revaluation increments and decrements within the year are

*Impairment of assets*

At each reporting date, the Council reviews the carrying value of its assets to determine whether there is any indication that these assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, is compared to the assets carrying value. Any excess of the assets carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the comprehensive income statement, unless the asset is carried at the revalued amount in which case, the impairment loss is recognised directly against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that same class of asset.

**8.5 Events occurring after balance date**

No matters have occurred after balance date that require disclosure in the financial report.

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Note 9 Other matters

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Increment (decrement) on revaluation \$'000	Share of increment (decrement) on revaluation by an associate \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
<b>9.1 Reserves</b>				
<b>(a) Asset revaluation 2019</b>				
<b>Property</b>				
Land	612,078	(92,866)	0	519,212
Buildings	95,483	(2,913)	0	92,570
	<u>707,561</u>	<u>(95,779)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>611,782</u>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>				
Other	6,143	0	0	6,143
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Roads	168,881	0	0	168,881
Drainage	72,614	0	0	72,614
Bridges	6,376	0	0	6,376
	<u>247,871</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>247,871</u>
<b>Total asset revaluation reserves</b>	<b>961,575</b>	<b>(95,779)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>865,796</b>
<b>2018</b>				
<b>Property</b>				
Land	564,634	47,444	0	612,078
Buildings	76,369	19,114	0	95,483
	<u>641,003</u>	<u>66,558</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>707,561</u>
<b>Plant and equipment</b>				
Other	6,143	0	0	6,143
<b>Infrastructure</b>				
Roads	94,360	74,521	0	168,881
Drainage	66,756	5,858	0	72,614
Bridges	3,437	2,939	0	6,376
	<u>164,553</u>	<u>83,318</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>247,871</u>
<b>Total asset revaluation reserves</b>	<b>811,699</b>	<b>149,876</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>961,575</b>

The asset revaluation reserve is used to record the increased (net) value of Council's assets over time.

	Balance at beginning of reporting period \$'000	Transfer from accumulated surplus \$'000	Transfer to accumulated surplus \$'000	Balance at end of reporting period \$'000
<b>(b) Other reserves 2019</b>				
Car park development	228	0	0	228
Capital works	1,775	0	0	1,775
Developer contribution scheme	5,631	0	561	5,070
Drainage development	23	0	0	23
Information technology	0	1,422	0	1,422
Plant replacement	424	2,065	1,736	753
Public open space and recreation	10,122	5,796	2,393	13,525
Unspent grants & contributions	0	3,677	0	3,677
<b>Total other reserves</b>	<b>18,203</b>	<b>12,960</b>	<b>4,690</b>	<b>26,473</b>

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Note 9.1 Reserves (continued)

**2018**

Car park development	228	0	0	228
Capital works	0	1,775	0	1,775
Developer contribution scheme	6,104	0	473	5,631
Drainage development	23	0	0	23
Plant replacement	0	2,082	1,658	424
Public open space and recreation	6,707	5,386	1,971	10,122
<b>Total other reserves</b>	<b>13,062</b>	<b>9,243</b>	<b>4,102</b>	<b>18,203</b>

**Nature and purpose of reserves**

**Statutory and discretionary reserves:**

**Car park development**

The car park development reserve is used to provide funding for future development and ongoing maintenance of car parks within the municipality. Funding is derived from unspent contributions from commercial developers for cash in lieu of constructed car parks. This funding is initially recognised in the comprehensive income statement and then transferred to the reserve from accumulated surplus to facilitate separate tracking of the total funds received but not yet spent.

**Capital works**

The capital works reserve fund was established with effect from 19 March 2018 by Council resolution for the purpose of financing future capital works projects. Funding is derived from identified capital works project savings. Council may expend funds from the reserve for the purposes of major capital works.

**Developer contribution scheme**

The developer contribution reserve is used to provide for the future funding of Council's asset base. These assets include community facilities, parkland, and the drainage and road networks. Funding is provided by way of a developer's contribution, whereby the developer funds only the renewal of assets from that location. This funding is initially recognised in the comprehensive income statement and then transferred to the reserve from accumulated surplus to facilitate separate tracking of the total funds received but not yet spent.

**Drainage development**

The drainage development reserve is used to provide partial funding for the replacement of Council's drainage network. Funding is provided from developer contributions for drainage which is initially recognised in the comprehensive income statement and then transferred to the reserve from accumulated surplus to facilitate separate tracking of the total funds received but not yet spent.

**IT technology reserve**

The Information Technology reserve fund was established by Council resolution for the purpose of financing Council's IT strategy over the coming years. Funding is derived from identified IT related capital works project savings. Council may expend funds from the reserve for the purposes of information technology development and implementation projects.

**Plant replacement**

The plant replacement reserve was established to ensure adequate funds are available to purchase plant at the optimum replacement point. Transfers to and from the reserve are based upon plant depreciation or replacement charges less the net plant purchases as per the approved plant replacement program.

**Public open space and recreation**

The public open space and recreation reserve is used to provide funding for future purchases and improvements of open space. Funding is provided from developers' contributions for open space which is initially recognised in the comprehensive income statement and then transferred to the reserve from accumulated surplus to facilitate separate tracking of the total funds received but not yet spent.



Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 9.1 Reserves (continued)**

**Unspent Grant and contributions funding**

The grant and contributions funding reserve is used to fund future grant funded projects. Grant funding is received in advance from both Federal and State Government authorities to fund projects. Revenue from grants and contribution is initially recognised in the comprehensive income statement and then transferred to the reserve from accumulated surplus to facilitate the tracking of the total funds received but not yet spent.

	2019	2018
	\$'000	\$'000
<b>9.2 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus</b>		
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<b>19,266</b>	11,869
Depreciation and amortisation	<b>22,359</b>	23,003
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant and equipment	<b>(2,294)</b>	(713)
Bad and doubtful debts	<b>2,197</b>	1,563
Fair value adjustments for investment property	<b>30</b>	302
Contributions - non-monetary assets	<b>(408)</b>	(253)
Write-off of property, plant and equipment	<b>20</b>	742
	<b>21,904</b>	24,644
Change in operating assets and liabilities		
Decrease (increase) in trade and other receivables	<b>(6,286)</b>	(1,227)
Decrease (increase) in inventories	<b>(5)</b>	(22)
Decrease (increase) in accrued income	<b>389</b>	375
Decrease (increase) in prepayments	<b>45</b>	114
Increase (decrease) in trade and other payables	<b>(1,024)</b>	3,426
Increase (decrease) in trust funds and deposits	<b>(753)</b>	352
Increase (decrease) in provisions	<b>582</b>	1,130
	<b>(7,052)</b>	4,148
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<b>34,118</b>	40,661

**9.3 Superannuation**

Council makes the majority of its employer superannuation contributions in respect of its employees to the Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (the Fund). This Fund has two categories of membership, accumulation and defined benefit, each of which is funded differently. Obligations for contributions to the Fund are recognised as an expense in the Comprehensive Income Statement when they are made or due.

**Accumulation**

The Fund's accumulation categories, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receive both employer and employee contributions on a progressive basis. Employer contributions are normally based on a fixed percentage of employee earnings (for the year ended 30 June 2019, this was 9.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee legislation).

**Defined Benefit**

Council does not use defined benefit accounting for its defined benefit obligations under the Fund's Defined Benefit category. This is because the Fund's Defined Benefit category is a pooled multi-employer sponsored plan.

There is no proportional split of the defined benefit liabilities, assets or costs between the participating employers as the defined benefit obligation is a floating obligation between the participating employers and the only time that the aggregate obligation is allocated to specific employers is when a call is made. As a result, the level of participation of Council in the Fund cannot be measured as a percentage compared with other participating employers. Therefore, the Fund Actuary is unable to allocate benefit liabilities, assets and costs between employers for the purposes of AASB 119.

**9.3 Superannuation (continued)****Funding arrangements**

Council makes employer contributions to the defined benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund's Actuary.

As at 30 June 2018, an interim actuarial investigation was held as the Fund provides lifetime pensions in the Defined Benefit category. The vested benefit index (VBI) of the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer was 106.0%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBIs were:

Net investment returns 6.5% pa

Salary information 3.5% pa

Price inflation (CPI) 2.0% pa

Vision Super has advised that the VBI for the LASF Defined Benefit sub-plan is 107.1% as at 30 June 2019.

The VBI is to be used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2018 interim actuarial investigation determined the Defined Benefit category was in a satisfactory financial position and that no change was necessary to the Defined Benefit category's funding arrangements from prior years.

**Employer contributions****Regular contributions**

On the basis of the results of the 2018 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, Council makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2019, this rate was 9.5% of members' salaries (9.5% in 2017/2018). This rate will increase in line with any increase to the contribution rate.

In addition, Council reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

**Funding calls**

If the defined benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at actuarial investigation or the defined benefit category's VBI is below its shortfall limit at any time other than the date of the actuarial investigation, the defined benefit category has a shortfall for the purposes of SPS 160 and the Fund is required to put a plan in place so that the shortfall is fully funded within three years of the shortfall occurring. The Fund monitors its VBI on a quarterly basis and the Fund has set its shortfall limit at 97%.

In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including Council) are required to make an employer contribution to cover the shortfall. Using the agreed methodology, the shortfall amount is apportioned between the participating employers based on the pre-1 July 1993 and post-30 June 1993 service liabilities of the Fund's Defined Benefit category, together with the employer's payroll at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated.

Due to the nature of the contractual obligations between the participating employers and the Fund, and that the Fund includes lifetime pensioners and their reversionary beneficiaries, it is unlikely that the Fund will be wound

If there is a surplus in the Fund, the surplus cannot be returned to the participating employers.

In the event that a participating employer is wound up, the defined benefit obligations of that employer will be transferred to that employer's successor.

**The 2018 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts**

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2018 and a full actuarial investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2017.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the Defined Benefit category of which Council is a contributing employer:

	2018	2017
	\$m	\$m
• A VBI surplus	\$131.9	\$69.8
• A total service liability surplus	\$218.3	\$193.5
• A discounted accrued benefits surplus	\$249.1	\$228.8

Darebin City Council  
2018/2019 Financial Report

**Notes to the financial report**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

---

The VBI surplus means that the market value of the fund's assets supporting the defined benefit obligations exceed the vested benefits that the defined benefit members would have been entitled to if they had all exited on 30 June 2018.

# Darebin City Council Performance Statement

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019



Darebin City Council  
**Sustainable Capacity Indicators**  
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

## Results

Indicator/measure		2016	2017	2018	2019	Material Variations
<b>Population</b>						
C1	Expenses per head of municipal population [Total expenses / Municipal population]	\$930	\$967	\$1,013	\$1,035	No material variation from the previous year
C2	Infrastructure per head of municipal population [Value of infrastructure / Municipal population]	\$4,032	\$3,934	\$4,552	\$4,499	No material variation from the previous year
C3	Population density per length of road [Municipal population / Kilometres of local roads]	296	305	311	318	No material variation from the previous year
<b>Own-source revenue</b>						
C4	Own-source revenue per head of municipal population [Own-source revenue / Municipal population]	\$922	\$940	\$936	\$973	No material variation from the previous year
<b>Recurrent grants</b>						
C5	Recurrent grants per head of municipal population [Recurrent grants / Municipal population]	\$94	\$117	\$104	\$98	No material variation from the previous year
C6	Relative socio-economic disadvantage [Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage by decile]	5.0	5.0	7.0	7.0	The Commonwealth Government calculates an index of relative socio-economic disadvantage which outlines an overall measure of disadvantage across the municipality. Darebin has risen in the relative ranking indicating a general improvement in economic conditions between 2011-2016.

## Definitions

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than —

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"infrastructure" means non-current property, plant and equipment excluding land

"local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the Road Management Act 2004

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"relative socio-economic disadvantage", in relation to a municipality, means the relative socio-economic disadvantage, expressed as a decile for the relevant financial year, of the area in which the municipality is located according to the Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (Catalogue

"SEIFA" means the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas published from time to time by the Australian Bureau of Statistics on its Internet website

Darebin City Council  
**Service Performance Indicators**  
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Service/indicator/measure		Results				Material Variations
		2016	2017	2018	2019	
<b>Aquatic Facilities Utilisation</b>						
AF6	Utilisation of aquatic facilities [Number of visits to aquatic facilities / Municipal population]	5.6	5.4	5.3	5.3	Currently two leisure centres operate within the City of Darebin; Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre (NARC) which is managed externally by YMCA Victoria, and Reservoir Leisure Centre (RLC) which is managed in-house.
<b>Animal Management Health &amp; safety</b>						
AM4	Animal management prosecutions [Number of successful animal management prosecutions]	3	8	3	2	Increased public education with a particular focus on early morning and late evening park patrols has increased compliance. This has resulted in fewer offences being committed and therefore fewer matters proceeding to court.
<b>Food Safety</b>						
FS4	Critical and major non-compliance notifications [Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about a food premises followed up / Number of critical non-compliance notifications and major non-compliance notifications about food premises] x100	100.0%	92.1%	100.0%	100.0%	Council achieved a 100% result again in 2018-19, thereby demonstrating Council's commitment to addressing high-risk, non-compliant premises.
<b>Governance Satisfaction</b>						
G5	Satisfaction with council decisions [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed in making decisions in the interest of the community]	66.9	65.0	66.7	70.8	
<b>Home and Community Care Participation</b>						
HC6	Participation in HACC service [Number of CALD people who receive a HACC service / Municipal target population for HACC services] x100	19.6%	N/A	N/A	N/A	Reporting on HACC ceased on 1 July 2016 due to the introduction of the Commonwealth Government's NDIS and CHSP programs
HC7	Participation in HACC service by CALD people [Number of CALD people who receive a HACC service / Municipal target population in relation to CALD people for HACC services] x100	18.5%	N/A	N/A	N/A	Reporting on HACC ceased on 1 July 2016 due to the introduction of the Commonwealth Government's NDIS and CHSP programs

Darebin City Council  
**Service Performance Indicators**  
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

		Results				
Service/indicator/measure		2016	2017	2018	2019	Material Variations
<b>Libraries Participation</b>						
LB4	Active library members [Number of active library members / Municipal population] x100	16.0%	15.0%	14.7%	15.6%	Increased promotion of the collection, the purchase of new higher performing digital collections, and increased investment in existing digital collections has seen an increase in active library members at a time of local population growth.
<b>Maternal &amp; Child Health Participation</b>						
MC4	Participation in the MCH service [Number of children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of children enrolled in the MCH service] x100	N/A	78.5%	81.4%	80.0%	The Maternal and Child Health service has practices in place to ensure all families are contacted and reminded to attend the Key Age and Stage visit. A recent data cleansing exercise may have contributed to the marginally lower percentage.
MC5	Participation in the MCH service by Aboriginal children [Number of Aboriginal children who attend the MCH service at least once (in the year) / Number of Aboriginal children enrolled in the MCH service]x100	N/A	91.5%	90.9%	90.8%	All Aboriginal families are provided with a service that is flexible and culturally safe with the aim of supporting families to access and remain engaged with the Maternal and Child Health Service.
<b>Roads Satisfaction</b>						
R5	Satisfaction with sealed local roads [Community satisfaction rating out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads]	70.8	70.4	69.9	71.5	
<b>Statutory Planning Decision making</b>						
SP4	Council planning decisions upheld at VCAT [Number of VCAT decisions that did not set aside council's decision in relation to a planning application /Number of VCAT decisions in relation to planning applications] x100	60.3%	41.3%	46.1%	44.9%	

Darebin City Council  
**Service Performance Indicators**  
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Service/indicator/measure		Results				Material Variations
		2016	2017	2018	2019	
<b>Waste Collection</b>						
<b>Waste diversion</b>						
WC5	Kerbside collection waste diverted from landfill [Weight of recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins / Weight of garbage, recyclables and green organics collected from kerbside bins] x100	47.4%	48.0%	49.1%	46.4%	The period of disruption in the contracted recycling service resulted in 1,014 tonnes of recyclable material going to landfill, which has resulted in a decrease in diversion. Without this disruption, diversion would have slightly increased to 50%.

**Definitions**

- "Aboriginal child" means a child who is an Aboriginal person
- "Aboriginal person" has the same meaning as in the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- "active library member" means a member of a library who has borrowed a book from the library
- "annual report" means an annual report prepared by a council under sections 131, 132 and 133 of the Act
- "CALD" means culturally and linguistically diverse and refers to persons born outside Australia in a country whose national language is not English
- "class 1 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 1 food premises under section 19C of that Act
- "class 2 food premises" means food premises, within the meaning of the *Food Act 1984*, that have been declared as class 2 food premises under section 19C of that Act
- "Community Care Common Standards" means the Community Care Common Standards for the delivery of HACC services, published from time to time by the Commonwealth
- "critical non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that poses an immediate serious threat to public health
- "food premises" has the same meaning as in the *Food Act 1984*
- "local road" means a sealed or unsealed road for which the council is the responsible road authority under the *Road Management Act 2004*
- "major non-compliance outcome notification" means a notification received by a council under section 19N(3) or (4) of the *Food Act 1984*, or advice given to council by an authorized officer under that Act, of a deficiency that does not pose an immediate serious threat to public health but may do so if no remedial action is taken
- "MCH" means the Maternal and Child Health Service provided by a council to support the health and development of children within the municipality from birth until school age
- "population" means the resident population estimated by council
- "target population" has the same meaning as in the Agreement entered into for the purposes of the Home and Community Care Act 1985 of the Commonwealth
- "WorkSafe reportable aquatic facility safety incident" means an incident relating to a council aquatic facility that is required to be notified to the Victorian WorkCover Authority under Part 5 of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004*.



Darebin City Council  
**Financial Performance Indicators**  
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Dimension/indicator/measure	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2020	2021	2022		
<b>Efficiency</b>										
<b>Revenue level</b>										
E1	Average residential rate per residential property assessment [Residential rate revenue / Number of residential property assessments]	\$1,448	\$1,487	\$1,519	\$1,553	\$1,570	\$1,577	\$1,584	\$1,591	No material variation from the previous year
<b>Expenditure level</b>										
E2	Expenses per property assessment [Total expenses / Number of property assessments]	\$2,087	\$2,175	\$2,290	\$2,344	\$2,420	\$2,387	\$2,407	\$2,469	Total expenditure increased by \$6.7 million from previous year.
<b>Workforce turnover</b>										
E3	Resignations and terminations compared to average staff [Number of permanent staff resignations and terminations / Average number of permanent staff for the financial year] x100	5.0%	9.6%	12.0%	14.2%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	9.3%	Terminations and resignation impacted by ongoing organisational reviews during 2018/19.
<b>Working capital</b>										
L1	Current assets compared to current liabilities [Current assets / Current liabilities] x100	226.8%	259.6%	242.0%	261.8%	188.6%	131.3%	62.4%	(7.6%)	Current liabilities impacted by holding less trade payables and deposits than previous year. Current assets impacted by increased cash and cash equivalents arising mainly from delays in completing the planned capital works program and receipt of 50% of the 2019/20 Victorian Grants Commission funding. Future years are impacted by the planned capital expenditure for the Multi-sport Stadium, Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, and Reservoir Leisure Centre.
<b>Unrestricted cash</b>										
L2	Unrestricted cash compared to current liabilities [Unrestricted cash / Current liabilities] x100	91.5%	116.8%	127.0%	130.7%	68.2%	16.4%	(30.2%)	(97.9%)	Delays in completing the planned capital works program and receipt of the 2019/20 Victorian Grants Commission funding has impacted unrestricted cash balances. Future years are impacted by the planned capital expenditure for the Multi-sport Stadium, Northcote Aquatic and Recreation Centre, and Reservoir Leisure Centre.

Darebin City Council  
**Financial Performance Indicators**  
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Dimension/indicator/measure	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2020	2021	2022		
<b>Obligations</b>										
<b>Asset renewal</b>										
O1	Asset renewal compared to depreciation [Asset renewal expenses / Asset depreciation] x100	66.1%	79.0%	101.6%	83.4%	112.1%	113.3%	139.4%	147.8%	The previous year renewal expenditure was impacted by the resurfacing of the Darebin International Sports Centre synthetic surfaces.
<b>Loans &amp; borrowings</b>										
O2	Loans and borrowings compared to rates [(Interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue) x100]	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	No material variation from the previous year
O3	Loans and borrowings repayments compared to rates [(Interest and principal repayments on interest bearing loans and borrowings / Rate revenue) x100]	0.16%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	No material variation from the previous year
<b>Indebtedness</b>										
O4	Non-current liabilities compared to own source revenue [Non-current liabilities / Own source revenue] x100	1.2%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	No material variation from the previous year
<b>Operating Position</b>										
<b>Adjusted underlying result</b>										
OP 1	Adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit) [Adjusted underlying surplus (deficit)/ Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	8.0%	8.6%	6.2%	7.9%	2.8%	2.9%	3.2%	1.8%	Adjusted underlying surplus has increased by \$3.8 million from previous year.

Darebin City Council  
**Financial Performance Indicators**  
 For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

Dimension/indicator/measure	Results				Forecasts				Material Variations	
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2019	2020	2021	2022		
<b>Stability</b>										
<b>Rates concentration</b>										
S1	Rates compared to adjusted underlying revenue [Rate revenue / Adjusted underlying revenue] x100	73.9%	72.3%	71.5%	69.6%	74.4%	76.4%	76.6%	76.7%	No material variation from the previous year
<b>Rates effort</b>										
S2	Rates compared to property values [Rate revenue / Capital improved value of rateable properties in the municipality ] x100	0.25%	0.26%	0.26%	0.21%	0.24%	0.24%	0.25%	0.26%	No material variation from the previous year

**Definitions**

"adjusted underlying revenue" means total income other than—

- (a) non-recurrent grants used to fund capital expenditure; and
- (b) non-monetary asset contributions; and
- (c) contributions to fund capital expenditure from sources other than those referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b)

"adjusted underlying surplus (or deficit)" means adjusted underlying revenue less total expenditure

"asset renewal expenditure" means expenditure on an existing asset or on replacing an existing asset that returns the service capability of the asset to its original capability

"current assets" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"current liabilities" has the same meaning as in the AAS

"non-current assets" means all assets other than current assets

"non-current liabilities" means all liabilities other than current liabilities

"non-recurrent grant" means a grant obtained on the condition that it be expended in a specified manner and is not expected to be received again during the period covered by a council's Strategic Resource Plan

"own-source revenue" means adjusted underlying revenue other than revenue that is not under the control of council (including government grants)

"population" means the resident population estimated by council

"rate revenue" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges

"recurrent grant" means a grant other than a non-recurrent grant

"residential rates" means revenue from general rates, municipal charges, service rates and service charges levied on residential properties

"restricted cash" means cash and cash equivalents, within the meaning of the AAS, that are not available for use other than for a purpose for which it is restricted, and includes cash to be used to fund capital works expenditure from the previous financial year

"unrestricted cash" means all cash and cash equivalents other than restricted cash.

## Darebin City Council

**Other Information**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**Note 1 Basis of Preparation**

Council is required to prepare and include a performance statement within its annual report. The performance statement includes the results of the prescribed sustainable capacity, service performance and financial performance indicators and measures together with a description of the municipal district and an explanation of material variations in the results. This statement has been prepared to meet the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 and Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

Where applicable the results in the performance statement have been prepared on accounting bases consistent with those reported in the Financial Statements. The other results are based on information drawn from council information systems or from third parties (e.g. Australian Bureau of Statistics).

The performance statement presents the actual results for the current year and for the prescribed financial performance indicators and measures, the results forecast by the council's strategic resource plan. The Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 requires explanation of any material variations in the results contained in the performance statement. Council has adopted materiality thresholds relevant to each indicator and measure and explanations have not been provided for variations below the materiality thresholds unless the variance is considered to be material because of its nature.

Darebin City Council  
**Certification of performance statement**  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

In my opinion, the accompanying performance statement has been prepared in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

---

Allan Cochrane CPA

Melbourne  
2 September 2019

In our opinion, the accompanying performance statement of the Darebin City Council for the year ended 30 June 2019 presents fairly the results of council's performance in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989 and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014*.

The performance statement contains the relevant performance indicators, measures and results in relation to service performance, financial performance and sustainable capacity.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the performance statement to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the council and by the *Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014* to certify this performance statement in its final form.

---

Kim Le Cerf  
Councillor

---

Lina Messina  
Councillor

---

Sue Wilkinson  
Chief Executive Officer

Melbourne  
2 September 2019

**8.11 2019 MAV STATE COUNCIL MEETING MOTION (OCTOBER)****Author:** Coordinator Governance, Council Business & Civic Services**Reviewed By:** Acting General Manager Governance and Engagement

---

**PURPOSE**

This report seeks Council's approval to submit a proposed motion on Climate Emergency to the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council meeting on 18 October 2019. The Motion is proposed by Councillor McCarthy.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Through the MAV State Council meeting, Council has an opportunity to advocate for issues and promote initiatives that impact on the livelihood and wellbeing of the Darebin community.

Following a call for motions, one Councillor has identified a motion calling for action on Climate Emergency for consideration at this meeting that aligns with the priority areas identified in Council's strategies and in the 2017–21 Council Plan.

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That Council:**

- (1) Submit the motion attached at **Appendix A** to the October 2019 Municipal Association of Victoria State Council meeting.
- 

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

The MAV is a key peak body organisation for Local Government. The MAV holds two State Council Meetings annually, in May and October. Council has the opportunity to put forward motions for the 18 October State Council Meeting.

On 9 August 2019, the CEO of the MAV wrote to Councils in relation to the submission of Motions by Councils;

*MAV is committed to ensuring it is able to implement actions that support the key priorities of the sector that are of state-wide significance. As decisions of State Council constitute policy directions of the MAV and remain active until the issue is resolved, motions should relate to either new, or variations to, existing policy directions, including those identified in the Strategic Plan.*

*The MAV Strategic Plan 2019-21, adopted at the May 2019 State Council Meeting, identifies nine MAV Member Priorities:*

- *Financial sustainability*
  - *Waste & resource recovery*
  - *Government relations*
  - *Transport & infrastructure*
-

- *Societal & social policy changes*
- *Planning & building*
- *Business & digital transformation*
- *Climate impacts & emergency management*
- *Population change*

*The MAV Rules require that motions be of state-wide significance to local government. Motions that are not of state-wide significance will be considered by the CEO and, subsequently, the MAV Board which will determine whether the motion is submitted to State Council for consideration. The Board will determine whether motions received after the due date but prior to the circulation of Business Papers, 'late motions', be circulated.*

*At the May 2019 State Council meeting there was unanimous support for a Rules change to minimise the number of repetitive motions that are included in State Council Business Papers. The motion suggest that this may be achieved by limiting the number of times identical or substantially similar motions may be considered by State Council. This proposed Rule change will be incorporated into the upcoming MAV Rules Review.*

*Motions should be submitted online using the [State Council Motion Submission Form](#). The form is in a 'survey' format and requires councils to identify whether the motion is supported by a council resolution and whether the subject matter of the motion*

- *Has state-wide significance to the sector*
- *Relates to one of the sector's priority issues in the draft Strategic Plan*
- *Is identical or substantially similar to a motion submitted to State Council in May 2019, October 2018 or May 2018.*

*Under the Rules all motions are due to be submitted by no later than midnight on **20 September 2019**. Early motions, received by midnight on **9 September**, will be distributed to MAV representatives on **13 September** (i.e. five weeks before State Council).*

*The business papers for State Council will be emailed to MAV Representatives on **Friday 4 October 2019**.*

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### Consultation

The attached motion (Appendix B) was drafted by Council and the Manager Climate Emergency and Sustainable Transport.

### Communications

N/A

## ANALYSIS

### Alignment to Council Plan / Council policy

Goal 1 - A sustainable city

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

Motions may address environmental sustainability considerations, depending on which motions are put forward by Council.

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

Motions may address equity, inclusion and wellbeing considerations, depending on which motions are put forward by Council.

### **Cultural Considerations**

Motions may address cultural considerations, depending on which motions are put forward by Council.

### **Economic Development Considerations**

Motions may address economic development considerations, depending on which motions are put forward by Council.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Motions may address financial sustainability considerations, depending on which motions are put forward by Council.

### **Legal and Risk Implications**

Nil

## **DISCUSSION**

Council submitted nine motions to the 17 May 2019 State Council Meeting and eight of these motions were either passed at the meeting, or incorporated in part into other motions that were passed. A summary of the resolutions from the 17 May 2019 meeting that relate to motions submitted by Council is included at **Appendix A**. The motion submitted by Council that was not passed at the meeting related to creating a less car dependent society and improving cycling infrastructure.

In previous years, Darebin has contributed a significant number of motions for consideration at both the MAV and ALGA forums. In considering whether to submit motions in October, it is important to consider the effectiveness of this approach and likely impact.

In addition, it is critical that the wording of any motions put forward (if any) is very carefully considered. At the recent ALGA conference, one Darebin motion was extensively debated, but ultimately defeated, largely because the language in the motion was negatively interpreted by councils who face very different challenges to an inner metropolitan city.

Submitting motions to the MAV State Council meetings enables Council to broaden its advocacy reach on key issues and platforms. The motion in **Appendix B** aims to further Council's goal in being a leader in creating a sustainable city through local innovation projects that address climate change.

The process for the submission of a motion to the MAV State Council involves the completion of a templated form that requires the submitting Council to provide the rationale for their proposed motion. The following rationale will be included in the submission.



*Given that climate impacts are already causing serious loss of life and destroying vital ecosystems, and that global average temperature, atmospheric greenhouse gases, and ocean acidity are already at dangerous levels, action at the State level to support local government in its climate emergency response is needed.*

*Only the state (and federal governments) can support the scale and speed of action that is required to transform legislation, markets and economies sit with these levels of governments.*

*Energy is an essential service, and integral to creating wellbeing and positive health outcomes for people and communities. The poor energy performance of homes mean that many are now living in homes that are damp, too cold in winter and too hot in summer. Living in these homes, dealing with high electricity bills, and going without the energy, can lead to financial stress, poor health and make it harder to work, to get an education or to be a part of the community.*

*People on low incomes and/or who rent, have little choice or control over the efficiency performance of their home and major energy-using fixed appliances. They face even greater risk of high energy bills or living without the energy they need. Improving the energy performance standard of our homes is an opportunity to benefit people and the community through:*

- *Lower energy bills – improvements in energy efficiency building requirements could reduce average energy costs by up to \$900 per household annually, according to a recent study by the Australian Built Environment Council (ASBEC) and Climateworks Australia;*
- *Improved health and well-being – reduce social isolation, illness, stress and mortality rates, resulting in economic and social benefits including lower spending on health care and services. Respected medical journal The Lancet reported that each year more than 6% of deaths in Australia are due to the effects of cold living environments while a further 1% are heat related.*
- *Reduced emissions – actions to reduce emissions from the building sector could deliver 28 per cent of Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target, reducing the economic environmental and health risks of climate change people face.*

## **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Option 1**

Council resolves to submit the proposed motion in **Appendix B** to the 18 October 2019 MAV State Council meeting.

### **Option 2**

Council resolves to amend the proposed motion in **Appendix B** to the 18 October 2019 MAV State Council meeting.

### **Option 3**

Council resolves not to submit a motion to the MAV State Council meeting.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Details

The MAV requires that motions be submitted on an approved template.

### Communication

Outcomes from MAV State Council meeting will be communicated to Councillors once they have been published.

### Timeline

- The motion must be submitted to the MAV by 20 September 2019.
- Meeting held on 18 October 2019

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Plan 2017- 2021
- Climate Emergency Plan – August 2017

### Attachments

- State Council Resolutions 17 May 2019 Extract (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)
- MAV State Council Meeting Motion (**Appendix B**) [↓](#)

## DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.



**MAV STATE COUNCIL MEETING  
RESOLUTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP  
Friday 17 May 2019**

---

### **Recycling and Waste Management**

#### **Resolution:**

That the MAV advocates to the Victorian and federal governments to provide leadership and investment for the waste and resource recovery system by:

- Committing to each of the actions in the MAV's 'Rescue Our Recycling' action plan
- Initiating whole-of-government commitments to work towards a circular economy in partnership with all stakeholders
- Investing accumulated and future Sustainability Fund monies into our resource recovery system, including by urgently providing greater funding for sorting and processing infrastructure, community education and market development
- Providing financial assistance to those councils affected by the recent SKM facility closures (if SKM does not provide compensation)
- Implementing a Victorian Container Deposit Scheme in consultation with local government and industry
- Developing contingencies to address potential environmental, economic, and reputational harm which may result from disruptions to recycling services
- Providing financial assistance to councils and the MAV to develop and deliver local government-led solutions including collaborative procurement, community education and improvements to council-owned waste infrastructure

---

### **Affordable Housing**

#### **Motion:**

That the MAV:

1. Advocates to the State and Federal Government to provide significant, consistent and ongoing funding for social and affordable housing, which includes targeted support to address the needs of older women at risk of homelessness as well as other at risk groups such as young people
2. Advocates to the State Government to provide significant, consistent and ongoing funding for homelessness services and access points, to include assertive outreach and brokerage for safe emergency accommodation.
3. Calls on the State Government to provide additional stimulus funding to registered housing services to work in partnership with Councils to support vulnerable residents.
4. Calls on the State Government to reassess their tax relief policy to ensure that incentives are benefiting those with greatest need.

---

### **Tree Protection**

#### **Resolution:**

That the MAV advocate to the Victorian Government that appropriate penalties apply to discourage the removal of trees protected by local laws or planning schemes.



**MAV STATE COUNCIL MEETING  
RESOLUTIONS FROM MEMBERSHIP  
Friday 17 May 2019**

---

### **Rate Capping**

#### **Resolution:**

That the MAV advocates to the State Government on behalf of all Councils that:

- Consideration is given to sector-wide issues that are impacting the costs of all Councils, such as recycling, when the annual rate cap is being set rather than just setting the rate cap at CPI; and
- The funding provided to Councils to deliver services or undertake functions on behalf of the State Government is increased in line with real cost to Council of those services or functions.

---

### **Aged Care Services**

#### **Resolution:**

That the MAV:

1. Coordinates a campaign and advocates to maintain block funding for the delivery of the Commonwealth Home Support Program beyond June 2020,
2. Advocates for the Victorian State Government to grant an exemption to local government providing home care services from the National Competition Policy.

---

### **Nursing and Medication Management Subsidy for Home Care Packages**

#### **Resolution:**

That the MAV calls on the Federal Government to introduce two new Home Care subsidies to medication management, and nursing services. This will allow Home Care Packages recipients to receive these two crucial services and maintain care in the community.

---

### **Compulsory Inclusionary Zoning in Planning Schemes for Public, Social and Affordable Housing**

#### **Resolution:**

That the MAV:

1. Advocate for a coordinated, national response to housing issues, incorporating all levels of government.
2. Advocate for mandatory controls in planning schemes, in the form of inclusionary zoning, to require affordable housing contributions as part of private development.
3. The MAV seeks State Government funding for a housing officer to support councils to implement State Government housing policy.

---

### **Awareness Campaign**

#### **Resolution:**

That the MAV develops and implements a strategic communications campaign to raise the level of awareness and understanding of the work Councils do in regional and metropolitan Victoria and rebuilds the trust in local government as an institution.

**APPENDIX A**  
**October 2019 MAV State Council Meeting Motion**

**1. Motion: Climate Emergency**

That the MAV call on the Victorian Government to:

- Declare a Climate Emergency
- Establish a \$1 billion dollar fund for councils to build the resilience of climate change vulnerable communities.
- Commit to providing maximum protection for all people, economies, species, ecosystems, and civilisations, and to fully restoring a safe climate
- Mobilise the required resources and take effective action at the necessary scale and speed across Australia,
- Transform the economy to zero emissions and make a fair contribution to drawing down the excess carbon dioxide in the air,
- Encourage all other governments around the world to take these same actions.
- Amend the Planning and Environment Act to take into account climate risk as a factor in planning schemes and planning decisions;
- Introduce mandatory disclosure of energy performance for all buildings at sale or lease;
- Mandate minimum energy efficiency performance standards for rental properties;
- Provide incentives for low-income home owners to upgrade their homes;
- Introduce obligations on energy companies to achieve annual energy efficiency reductions.
- Introduce minimum energy performance standards to at least a 7-star NATHERS equivalent and the introduction of an energy usage budget (whole-of-building) for new builds and major renovations of homes
- Increase the resources that the Victorian Building Authority has to address non-compliance; and
- Provide additional funding to ensure all new social housing complies with minimum energy performance standards and that the energy efficiency existing social housing is improved.

**8.12 SIX-MONTH PROGRESS REPORT FOR COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEES****Author:** Performance Reporting and Support Officer**Reviewed By:** Acting General Manager Governance and Engagement

---

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides a six-month progress update for Community Advisory Committees for the period 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019.

The attached reports provide the following information for each Community Advisory Committee:

- Committee summary
- Progress of key issues and challenges
- Progress of activities and outcomes
- Future plans

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That Council:**

- (1) Notes the six-month progress update from the Community Advisory Committees for the period 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019, attached in **Appendix A** to this report.
- 

**BACKGROUND / KEY INFORMATION**

At the Council meeting of 3 December 2018, Councillors were appointed to 18 Community Advisory Committees. This report provides a six-month progress update on Committee activities from 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019.

Community Advisory Committees typically comprise one or more Councillors, Council officers and a number of community representatives. The community representatives may be local residents or stakeholders appointed in their own right, or representatives of service authorities, support agencies or community organisations.

This is the six month progress update for the following Committees:

- Active and Healthy Ageing Community Board
  - Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee
  - Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee
  - Darebin Arts Ambassadors
  - Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee
  - Darebin Community Awards Advisory Committee
  - Darebin Disability Advisory Committee
  - Darebin Domestic Animal Management Reference Group
-

- Darebin Education Committee
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group
- Darebin Interfaith Council
- Darebin Lifelong Learning Strategy Reference Group
- Darebin Nature Trust
- Darebin Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee
- Darebin Women's Advisory Committee
- Edwardes Lake Park Reference Group
- Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
- Northland Urban Renewal Precinct Steering Committee

### **Previous Council Resolution**

At its meeting held on 20 October 2014, Council resolved:

*'(4) That officers report on all Committees to Council every six months'*

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **Consultation**

Each report was compiled by the relevant responsible officer, Manager and General Manager, with input from other officers where relevant.

### **Communications**

Nil

## **ANALYSIS**

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

Goal 6 - A well governed Council

### **Environmental Sustainability Considerations**

Over the course of their discussion and deliberation, every Committee considers environmental implications as part of its recommendations. Committees with specific environmental terms of reference include the Darebin Environmental Reference Group, Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee and the Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee.

### **Climate Emergency**

Nil

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

Community Advisory Committees are one of a number of community engagement tools that ensure our community's voice, in all its diversity, is reflected in Council's services, programs and activities. They can be a model for citizen engagement and participation, advancing Council's commitment toward access, equity and inclusion for our community.

As part of the development of the Darebin Community Engagement Strategy, Council is reviewing all Community Advisory Committees and Reference Groups with the purpose of retaining, renewing and reinventing mechanisms for ongoing meaningful engagement of the diverse communities in Darebin. This review may recommend changes to the number, purpose, governance arrangements and composition of some or all of Council's Community Advisory Committees.

A consultant has been appointed to conduct independent consultation to be completed early September.

## **Cultural Considerations**

Beyond the committees that focus on cultural matters, this report has no cultural implications.

## **Economic Development Considerations**

Beyond the committees that support economic development, policies, strategies and actions, this report has no economic development implications.

## **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no specific financial implications from this report. All activities and actions are conducted within approved budgets.

## **Legal and Risk Implications**

There are no legal and risk implications associated with this report.

## **DISCUSSION**

The attached reports provide the following information for each Community Advisory Committee:

- Committee summary
- Progress of key issues and challenges
- Progress of activities and outcomes
- Future plans

Every committee has its own particular outcomes and challenges, which are outlined in the individual reports. Some committees are proposing an extension for the appointments of their current members to allow for consideration of the outcomes from the upcoming Community Advisory Committee review or to allow for a review of the committee terms of reference.

## **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

Details are in the individual reports attached.



## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

### Details

The next progress update for Community Advisory Committees will cover the period 1 June 2019 to 30 November 2019.

### Communication

Nil

### Timeline

The next six-month progress update for Community Advisory Committees will occur in February 2020.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Council Minutes – 24 October 2014
- Community Advisory Committee Terms of Reference

### Attachments

- Council Meeting 2 September 2019 - Six month Progress Reports for Community Advisory Committees (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)

## DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Section 80C of the *Local Government Act 1989* requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect 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.



---

**1. ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING ADVISORY BOARD****AUTHOR: Coordinator, Community Participation and Development****REVIEWED BY: General Manager Community****COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board (AHAAB) represents the interests of older adults in Darebin. The role of the committee is to inform and assist Council in understanding how issues, policies and drivers can impact on the health and wellbeing of older residents ageing in Darebin. The committee has a role in monitoring and reporting on the Darebin Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011–21.

**Committee Members:**

- 13 community representatives
- 4 Darebin City Council Officers

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr Susan Rennie
- Cr Gaetano Greco
- Cr Susanne Newtown

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Working with officers to assist in preparation for Council submission to the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
- The Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board have been kept involved in the Age Friendly Darebin Review through a briefing of the draft report and its recommendations with opportunity for questions and clarification.
- The final report and its recommendations will remain an area of interest to AHAAB.

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Production of an annual workplan identifying joint priorities for Council and the Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board as aligned with the Terms of Reference.
  - AHAAB briefing and input sought on the Age Friendly Darebin Review activities.
  - AHAAB workshop and input sought for Council submission into the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.
  - Community workshop in partnership with Council on the Ageing designed to raise awareness and build community capacity regarding understanding of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety with involvement of AHAAB members.
-

---

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Aged care reform and directions
- Darebin Electronic Gaming Machine Policy and its relevance to older people
- Housing

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Active and Healthy Ageing Advisory Board Terms of Reference
- Active and Healthy Ageing Strategy 2011–21



---

**1. CLIMATE EMERGENCY DAREBIN ADVISORY COMMITTEE****AUTHOR:** Climate Emergency Darebin Executive Officer**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

Climate Emergency Darebin is an Advisory Committee of Darebin Council. It supersedes an interim Committee, under the former name of Darebin Energy Foundation Interim Advisory Board. The purpose of Climate Emergency Darebin (CED) is to help the Council to implement the Darebin Climate Emergency Plan, and tap into community expertise to help contribute to the achievement of the overarching goals of the Climate Emergency Plan.

**Committee Members**

- 2 Councillors, plus 1 non-voting Councillor
- 6 community members
- The Council CEO (ex officio)

**Councillor Representative:**

- Cr Kim Le Cerf (Chair)
- Cr Trent McCarthy
- Cr Susan Rennie (non-voting)

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Key strategic priorities and work areas of CED
- As a new advisory committee, there was work to establish how to effectively collaborate, engage and provide input into Darebin Council climate emergency work.
- How CED can support council advocacy
- Many climate emergency activities were new in this period – so were in an establishment or innovation phase

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- The CED Advisory Committee met five times between 1 December 2018 and 31 May 2019
  - There have been regular meetings of Working Groups to scope out projects
  - CED members attended community events, e.g. kite festival, to talk about climate emergency with our community
  - Provided input into Council's waste review and Climate Emergency communications research workshops
  - Initial recommendation provided on CED governance for another year
  - Development of program of project proposals to contribute to 2019-2020 budget development
-

- 
- Implementation of the following projects was delivered by council officers:
    - Solar garden feasibility study
    - Micro-grid feasibility study (in partnership with Village Power)
    - Community mobilisation and engagement, including engagement events and development of ambassadors program
    - Advocacy to engage other Councils to adopt a climate emergency resolution
    - Engaging other Councils on the climate emergency response and the development of a resource for other Councils to follow climate emergency approach
    - Webinar linkup of Australian climate emergency councils
    - International link up of climate emergency councils
    - Resource for other councils on effective climate emergency response
    - Film about Darebin's climate emergency response
    - Community climate emergency dinner and resources
    - Attending community events, e.g. kite festival, to talk about climate emergency with our community

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Completion of all projects for 2018-2019 financial year
- Continued investigation into long-term governance structure of CED
- Ongoing advice and input on Darebin Council's climate emergency response

#### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Climate Emergency Darebin Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
  - Darebin Climate Emergency Plan
  - Climate Emergency Darebin Strategic Plan
-



---

**1. DAREBIN ABORIGINAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE****AUTHOR: Aboriginal Contact Officer****REVIEWED BY: General Manager Community****COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee (DAAC) is to provide Council with advice, direction and strategic opportunity and representation on behalf of the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and organisations. DAAC also provides strategic input into Council's projects, initiatives and oversees delivery of the Council Plan Goal 5.3 through the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy.

**Committee Members:**

- 3 Darebin Councillors
- 6 Aboriginal community members

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Mayor Cr Susan Rennie (Chairperson)
- Cr Susanne Newton
- Cr Gaetano Greco

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

The Committee met for scheduled meetings on 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2018 and 7<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, with additional exceptional meetings held to progress planning of the Inclusive event in consultation with Committee members.

Key issues for this period:

- Provision of ongoing advice supporting the implementation of the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy
  - Aboriginal Treaty and Constitutional reform. Regular updates and discussion with DAAC around what Treaty may mean for Council and the Darebin Aboriginal community.
  - Updating the Darebin Statement of Commitment
  - Advising on Traditional Owner Woi-wurrung names for Council rooms and development of Aboriginal protocols
  - Rewording Acknowledgment To Country in Woi-wurrung language
  - Providing feedback into the ICAN Mural development
-

---

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- The Council Statement of Commitment was endorsed by Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung, DAAC and Council in May 2019.
- The committee contributed to discussions on Aboriginal Treaty and Constitutional reform with support for local community conversations held at Watsonia Library and Preston Library in partnership with Darebin Council, Banyule Council, Reconciliation Victoria and 3KND.
- Provided advice and input into program design of the Inclusive Event including participation on selection panel for Event Producer and establishment of Inclusive Event Working group established with representation.
- Representation of DACC members on the Welcoming Cities Reference Group
- The Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan was endorsed by DAAC in March 2019
- Provision of advice on Room Renaming and organisational Cultural Protocols.
- Representation of DACC members on the Darebin Community Awards judging panel.

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Training in Woi-wurrung language names for Council rooms and Acknowledgement to Country for all DAAC members.
- Ongoing development of the Inclusive event scheduled for September 2019
- Continued input of committee members into Welcoming Cities reference group and Darebin Community Awards selection committee.
- Continue to monitor and guide the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy 2017-27 and the Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2017-21

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
  - Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2017-21
  - Darebin Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy 2017-21
  - Council's Aboriginal Statement of Commitment 2019
-



---

**1. DAREBIN ARTS AMBASSADORS ADVISORY COMMITTEE****AUTHOR: Manager Creative Culture and Events****REVIEWED BY: General Manager Community****COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

In 2013 Council endorsed the establishment of the Darebin Arts Ambassadors Reference Group to advise Council on any matters relating to the arts in Darebin.

In relation to Darebin's arts and creative culture, Council has a primary responsibility for understanding and articulating the community's values and desired future for providing opportunities for cultural learning, arts participation and creative expression. Council also plays a significant role striking a balance between contributing to and supporting an evolving and dynamic creative sector as well as effectively addressing local needs through creative initiatives and programs.

**Committee Members**

The group comprises of a total of 17 members. The following categories apply.

- Five resident participants inclusive of gender, CALD and age balance. Selection is based on demonstrated knowledge and experience in the arts and creative sector; understanding and interest in local government; and a commitment to advancing Darebin as a thriving creative centre.
- Five Creative Sector professionals working predominately in the arts and creative industries within Darebin.
- Up to five Council Staff; Manager Creative Culture, Coordinator Arts Precincts, Coordinator Art and Collections, Coordinator Festivals and Events
- Two Councillors; Chair and Deputy Chair.

**Councillor Representative:**

- Cr. Newton
- Cr. Lawrence

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

Matters considered at the 19 February meeting included:

- Festivals in Darebin consultation
  - Arts Strategy Review included Think Tank in November 2018, notes have been compiled based on all input across 2018.
  - Progress report on the Venues Review and associated Council resolution on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018 concerning the transition of the Darebin Arts Centre and Northcote Town Hall into dedicated art centres and creative hubs.
-



- 
- Call and Response Public Artwork located in High Street, Westgarth is being assessed in terms of environmental impact and to the flora and fauna. The assessment was initiated following a public petition tabled at Council in 2018.
  - Progress update on a proposed Creative Strategy to be planned as part of the Reservoir Elevated Rail project which is underway.
  - May meeting cancelled due to lack of quorum.

#### **Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Arts Ambassador engagement and participation in various Council produced arts events, performances, festivals and exhibitions.
- Future of Festivals proposed new model was given in principle support at Council Meeting in October 2018 and a community engagement process was undertaken in early 2019. Consultation Plan rolled out 28 February – 30 June 2019.
- Informing the development of the renewed public art policy which was adopted by Council in March 2019.
- Informing the development of the Northland Urban Renewal Creative Strategy.
- Darebin Arts Centre renovations complete – Open Day convened 5 May

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Ongoing engagement and participation in local arts events, performances, festivals and exhibitions.
- Art Strategy updated with renewed priorities
- Ongoing advocacy in alignment with the Arts Strategy and Creative Industries and Cultural Infrastructure Framework 2018.
- Ongoing advice on the Future of Festivals Framework.
- Ongoing advice on the transition plan to reinvigorate Darebin's Arts Precincts, namely Darebin Arts Centre, Northcote Town Hall Arts Centre and Bundoora Homestead Arts Centre.
- Future networking with the Bundoora Homestead Board of Management and more broadly with the sector and Councillors.
- Refresh of the membership of the Darebin Arts Ambassadors in 2019.

#### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Darebin Arts Ambassador Terms of Reference (2016)

---



---

**1. DAREBIN BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE****AUTHOR: Coordinator Transport Strategy****REVIEWED BY: General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy****COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

To provide strategic advice to Council on cycling issues affecting the community, and inform Council decision making in relation to policy, program, and service delivery.

**Committee Members:**

- 9 general community members, including one local police officer and a representative of the Darebin Bicycle User Group. (note that two members have resigned this year).
- Two councillors (one is proxy)
- While not members, two council officers typically attend to support this committee (Sustainable Transport Officer; Coordinator Transport Strategy)

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr. Steph Amir
- Cr Susanne Newton (Proxy)

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

The Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee held meetings in April and June 2019.

The key issues and challenges discussed in these meetings were:

- Interaction of parking and bike facilities, and need to engage the community about this more
- The need for open space near where people live
- That Council is delivering a long list of good bike projects, and could promote this better
- Northern Pipe Trail northern section input to issues and options
- Tyler Street contraflow route evaluation
- Desire to have input into plans and information on new projects so can provide feedback
- Value of having bike riders sharing experiences together and with Council

---

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

Members provided feedback and suggestions on a range of council work and projects relating to the following:

- Infrastructure projects across the municipality:
  - Northern Pipe Trail Masterplan
  - Streets for People (Bicycle Friendly Roads)
  - Darebin Creek way finding
  - Bundoora Park shared path
  - Merri Creek/Capital City Trail wayfinding
  - Bike Parking review
  
- Behaviour Change programs:
  - Octopus schools (Safe Walking to School)
  - Ride2Work Day
  - Bike Skills Workshops – small group programs for adults and school children, as well as one-on-one training.
  - Darebin Loves Bikes
  - Community Kite Festival (DBAC volunteers attended to help out)
  
- Strategies and Council consultations:
  - Annual Budget
  - Grants Review
  - Draft Parking Strategy consultation
  - Draft Open Space Strategy consultation

**FUTURE PLANS**

A review of Community Advisory Committees will be undertaken in 2019 as part of the review and development of Council's Community Engagement Strategy. It is proposed that the appointment terms of the current members be extended to December 2019, to allow for consideration of the recommendations arising from the review.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Bicycle Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
-



---

**1. COMMUNITY AWARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE****AUTHOR: Manager Creative Culture and Events****REVIEWED BY: General Manager Community****COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

In August 2017 as part of a Council resolution it was agreed that it was time to refresh and renew the current 26 January Awards and in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders to introduce new categories within the Awards that recognise and celebrate the achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live, work, study or volunteer in Darebin.

The Darebin Community Awards recognise the achievement of our community members who have made an outstanding contribution to the Darebin community, and the Awards serve to recognise our citizens. There are now five award categories.

Over seventy nominations were received over the five categories.

**Committee Members**

Membership of Darebin Community Awards Committee is made up of:

- Councillor representative(s) Mayor to chair the Committee
- Two members of the Darebin Aboriginal Advisory Committee
- A Representative of the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council
- Four Community Representatives
- One Council officer, and others as required
- Apart from Councillor(s) and officers, the committee's membership should not exceed twelve.
- The Committee will seek to build and reflect diversity within membership and be inclusive in practice.

**Councillor Representative:**

- Cr Susan Rennie

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

Two new categories for 2019 have been introduced that will ensure all residents are reflected and represented in the Darebin Community Awards, there are now seven categories in the Darebin Community Awards:

---

- 
- As the previous known Sustainability Awards, are now discontinued (previously completed in the Environment and Sustainable Transport Team) it was a natural transition that the Darebin Community Awards would introduce another category in this field.

(As there would be no other mechanism to honour work in the sustainability field that is currently being completed. The inclusion and benefits of introducing an environmental category in the Darebin Community awards program, demonstrates that environmental sustainability is important to council and still allows us to recognise good work and achievements in a sustainably place, it also ensures that the statue is elevated and including other mainstream awards)

The new award is to be called **Sustainability Award** and could be awarded to an individual, educational group or community group - new category

- We also are also including a category for the long term work and achievement award over a lifetime and dedication that recognise contributions over the whole of a career, rather than or in addition to a single contribution. The award to be called **Lifetime Achievement Award**, and would be awarded to an individual - new category

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Council staff will coordinate the presentation and planning of the awards in conjunction with the Committee for 2019.
- Darebin Community Awards presentation evening for recipients of the Darebin Community Awards will be at an event held on Friday 23 of August, 2019.
- Introduction of two new categories in the awards for 2019 that is representative of sustainability practices "Sustainability Award " and recognising contributions over the whole of a career, **Lifetime Achievement Award**, and would be awarded to an individual.
- 1 May 2019 Darebin Community Award nominations are opened and advertised.

#### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Community Awards Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
-



---

**1. DAREBIN DISABILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE****AUTHOR: Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion****REVIEWED BY: General Manager Community****COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

2019 will mark the 25th anniversary of the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee (DDAC). The Committee provides advice to Council on issues relating to access and inclusion for people with disabilities and carers living, working, studying or visiting Darebin.

The purpose of DDAC is to promote and advocate for, improved access and equity within Council and the wider community, irrespective of age, type of disability, gender, culture or linguistic background.

The Committee also monitors the implementation of Council's Access and Inclusion Plan.

**Committee Members**

- 5 x community members
- 3 x carers
- 2 x service providers (Melbourne Polytech and Encompass House)

**Councillor Representative:**

- Cr. Julie Williams and Cr. Susanne Newton

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- DDAC have raised the issue of parking for committee members attending the meeting (held 11am – 1pm on a Monday). The Access and Inclusion Team are trailing a process of reserving parking spaces for committee members on meeting days.
- Darebin City Council is currently undertaking a review of Council community advisory structures (Council Plan 2017–21: Goal 5.2). Recruitment to the committee will not be undertaken until the review is complete.

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Reviewed the Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
  - Reviewed meetings and actions from 2018 and planned priorities for 2019
  - Provided advice regarding the Development of the new Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan
  - Provided feedback on the Draft Parking Strategy
  - Informed the focus of the International Day People with Disability and Human Rights Day event
-

- 
- Provided feedback regarding the Committee for Melbourne “Street Ability” project to make Preston Central Autism friendly
  - Reviewed plans and designs and provided access advice to the Level Crossing Removal Authority
  - Received an update from the Brotherhood of St Laurence, Local Area Coordinator, and discussed issues with the NDIS
  - Provided feedback and advice regarding the Darebin Disability Heritage Project idea
  - Ongoing discussions and advocacy in relation to accessible housing
  - Provided guidance regarding the Access and Inclusion team community engagement plan

### **FUTURE PLANS**

Priority topics for 2019:

- Affordable housing
- Accessible housing
- Level crossing removal
- Access to premises standards
- Emergency egress
- Intellectual disability
- Employment
- Mental health
- Redevelopment of the Darebin Access and Inclusion Plan

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee Terms of Reference
-



---

**1. DAREBIN DOMESTIC ANIMAL MANAGEMENT REFERENCE GROUP**

**AUTHOR:** Manager City Safety and Compliance

**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Domestic Animal Management Reference Group (DDAMRG) was formed approximately five years ago to provide advice on issues relating to the reduction of euthanasia of dogs and cats. The Group is focussed on ensuring that Council achieves the target of 50% euthanasia rate for cats and 10% euthanasia rate for dogs.

**Committee Members:**

There are currently 10 members of the committee, 3 community representatives and representatives from the following organisations:

- City of Darebin
- Maneki Neko Cat Rescue
- Getting 2 Zero
- Forever Friends Animal Rescue
- RSPCA

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr Julie Williams
- Cr. Kim Le Cerf

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

Advising on:

- Developing proactive measures to best manage the domestic animal population
  - Developing low cost desexing programs similar to neighbouring Councils targeting hot spot locations and socially disadvantaged community members
  - Developing secondary desexing program in conjunction with the RSPCA and local vets
  - How best to return lost pets to owners prior to entering the Shelter
  - Ongoing focus on responsible pet ownership
  - Identifying best practise for the management of neonatal kittens
  - Identifying improvements in statistical reporting
  - Ongoing discussion and consultation on a proposed Cat curfew
  - Increasing ownership, registration and identification of pets
  - Changes to the Domestic Animal Regulations 2018 increasing controls on Pet Shops and Foster Care networks
-



---

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Advice was provided on options to increase pet registrations.
- The committee's major focus continues to be on cat management and strategies to reduce the overpopulation. The major issue of cats relates to unowned or partially owned cats which are not de-sexed.
- Exploration of reasons for euthanasia and whether euthanasia can be further reduced without compromising animal welfare or biodiversity. Options and discussions covered:
  - How RSPCA euthanasia and FIV policies are applied and basis of assessments by vets.
  - Increase participation of Rescue Groups and Foster Care networks working with the RSPCA
  - Changes to neonatal kitten process that diverts healthy kittens to specialist care needed for very young kittens
  - Suggestion to explore trap, neuter and return pilot program run by the Australian research council.
- Updates and guidance was provided on a number of the key actions in the Domestic Animal Management Plan.
- Feedback was provided by the Committee on improvements to the current statistical reporting
- Advice was provided on draft animal management information booklet and brochures.

**FUTURE PLANS**

Providing advice in relation to:

- Promotion and education of responsible pet ownership with a particular emphasis on cat ownership
- Promotion of animal adoption and fostering initiatives
- Building relationships with Department of Health and Human Services targeting residents to participate in desexing events
- Mandatory desexing of cats
- Dangerous dog and restricted breed draft policy/procedures
- Cat curfew/consultation
- Mobile desexing and Epping Animal Welfare Facility desexing events for 2019
- Alternative events to replace the Pet Expo
- Implementation of changes to Domestic Animal Regulations 2018

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Domestic Animal Management Terms of Reference
  - Domestic Animal Management Plan 2017-2021
-



---

**1. DAREBIN EDUCATION COMMITTEE****AUTHOR: Community Renewal Officer****REVIEWED BY: General Manager Community****COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Education Committee is an Advisory Committee to Council. The main purpose is to oversee and advise on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the 2014 Darebin Education Inquiry, with the overarching aim of promoting quality and equitable education for all children, with a focus on children and schools where there is significant educational disadvantage.

**Committee Members:**

- Department of Education and Training (DET) – 3 representatives
- Darebin Schools – 15 representatives
- Inner Local Learning and Education Network (INLLEN) – 1 representative
- Darebin City Council – 4 representatives

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Councillor Susan Rennie – Mayor
- Councillor Lina Messina

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

The committee met in March and May 2019. Key issues for this period included:

- Ongoing integration of wellbeing practice and development of resiliency in students as part of teaching and whole-of-school approach.
  - Promoting teaching and learning of Darebin Aboriginal history and culture with a focus on primary schools.
  - Primary to secondary transition, a key challenge across Darebin schools especially for students who experience educational disadvantage and their families.
  - Strengthening relationships and communication between diverse areas and programs of Council as they impact on schools, including advocating for an equity lens in Council wide support for schools.
-

---

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Two productive meetings with discussion and action on key matters of concern to schools and Council including:
  - Two of Darebin's newest schools, including one that supports young people with complex social experiences.
  - Professional development by Koorie Education Support Officers regarding culturally safe teaching.
  - Feedback about the Draft Parking Strategy
  - Professional development with Traditional Owner elder in four Darebin schools.
  - Promoting solidarity with Muslim students after Christchurch violence.
- Completion by four schools of the whole-of-school, trauma-informed Berry Street Education Model and commencement of three new schools in the model, including two public and one Catholic school.
- Preparation of the second Darebin Schools' Yarning Conference. Voice.Treaty.Truth.
- A successful primary to secondary school forum '*Transition – Preparing for Secondary School – A journey together*'.

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Strengthening work experience opportunities for Year 10 students across Darebin Council, in particular students who experience educational disadvantage.
- Promote learnings of evaluation of Berry Street Education Model by University of Melbourne across schools and education partners.
- Deliver second Darebin Schools' Yarning Conference for year 5 students and follow-up actions by schools from student ideas for showing respect to Aboriginal history and culture.
- Continue to strengthen support for children's learning and well-being in middle years in particular as part of transition primary to secondary school experience.
- Promotion of local resources and opportunities to schools which address important social, cultural and environmental priorities within the City of Darebin, including the Islamic Museum of Australia., and Darebin Spiritual Healing Trail.
- Continue to strengthen relationships between schools and diverse parts of Council, including through the Darebin Education Committee and review of *Essentials for Darebin Schools – A quick guide to Darebin Council*.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Education Committee Terms of Reference.
-



---

**1. DAREBIN ENVIRONMENTAL REFERENCE GROUP****AUTHOR: Environmental Education and Promotions Officer****REVIEWED BY: General Manager, City Sustainability and Strategy****COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG) is:

- To facilitate community action and to assist in strengthening links and partnerships between the Darebin community and Council's contribution to environmental sustainability.
- To provide an avenue of community consultation regarding policy, strategies and matters pertaining to environmental sustainability in Darebin and to operate as a "sounding board" for key strategies and policies.
- Provide community feedback and assistance to Council regarding local environmental issues.
- To contribute to the content of environmental forums and events.

**Committee Members:**

Usually the group includes 12 community members, but currently includes 11.

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Councillors Trent McCarthy and Lina Messina

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

The biggest challenge is redefining the ongoing purpose/niche of the group in relation to the other environmentally focused groups Council now has (for example, Climate Emergency Darebin, Darebin Nature Trust, as well as the Darebin Bicycle Users Group).

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

The committee provided feedback on a range of issues including:

- Climate emergency communications and engagement research – an introduction to key research findings and outcomes
  - Streets for People – an introduction to this project about transforming our local street network into more people friendly spaces
  - Waste strategy review
  - Climate emergency community leader's dinner and what's next for climate emergency mobilisation
-

---

### **FUTURE PLANS**

A review of Community Advisory Committees is currently being undertaken. The current members and terms of reference have been extended for one year to December 2019, to allow for consideration of the recommendations arising from the review.

Also the number of meetings planned for 2019 is four to better align with needs.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Environmental Reference Group Terms of Reference.



---

**1. DAREBIN INTERFAITH COUNCIL****AUTHOR:** Interfaith Officer**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager Community**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Interfaith Council (DIFC) seeks to promote activities that foster social cohesion through interfaith dialogue and collaboration relevant to faith communities within the municipality of Darebin.

During the period from December 2018 to May 2019, DIFC met on:

- Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February
- The meeting scheduled for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May was postponed.

**Committee Members:**

The DIFC Committee is made up of 12 representatives from various local faith organisations who represent the religious diversity of Darebin.

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr. Gaetano Greco (Chair)
- Cr. Lina Messina (Proxy)

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Over this period, DIFC were involved in the promotion of interfaith events encouraging dialogue and understanding in response to threats to social cohesion arising from violent extremism, including attacks on mosques in Christchurch and churches in Sri Lanka.

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- World Interfaith Harmony Week "Peace Poles" event (7 February) conducted with discussion on the theme: "What does interfaith harmony mean to me?" with guests from the Whittlesea Interfaith Council.
  - DIFC participated in and contributed to planning for Ramadan, Iftar, Eid El Fitr activities.
  - Two DIFC delegates participated in the Climate Emergency Ambassadors program.
  - The Committee continued to provide strategic advice and discussion of current and emerging community issues/trends impacting locally.
-

---

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Support for forthcoming Refugee Week (16-22 June) activities.
- Participation the NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Ceremony (8 July).
- Annual Interfaith Tour of iconic places of worship within Darebin planned for August or September.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Interfaith Council Terms of Reference (Obj. Ref: A4818219)



---

**1. DAREBIN LIFELONG LEARNING STRATEGY REFERENCE GROUP**

**AUTHOR:** Senior Coordinator Darebin Libraries

**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager Community

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

Darebin Lifelong Learning Strategy Reference Group was established in June 2017 to provide advice, feedback, support and guidance to Council on the development of the Darebin Lifelong Learning Strategy.

**Committee Members:**

- 15 community members
- 2 Darebin City Council Officers for support

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr. Steph Amir
- Cr. Julie Williams

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- The Reference Group did not meet during this period.

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- A future meeting is planned to consider the draft Lifelong Learning Strategy

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Discussions with relevant Council Officers to identify and agree a way forward.
- Reference Group meeting to discuss Council's proposed approach.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Lifelong Learning Strategy Reference Group Terms of Reference
-





---

**1. DAREBIN NATURE TRUST****AUTHOR:** Planning Landscape Architect**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Darebin Nature Trust was established by Council as an innovative initiative to see a group of Darebin community members, who are experts in the field of environmental preservation, conservation and management, advise Council on biodiversity enhancements and open space management.

**Committee Members:**

Council resolved on 12 June 2018 the appointment of the Interim committee members for an initial period of 12 months and this committee was effectively extended in November 2018 for 12 months. Priorities of the interim committee include to provide input to the updated Open Space Strategy and determine the most effective long-term Trust model (including resourcing, targets, representation and membership terms).

**Committee Members:**

- 9 x Community Members / Specialists in Biodiversity, Conservation, Ecology

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr. Trent McCarthy (Chairperson, Rucker Ward)
- Cr. Amir (Cazaly Ward)
- Cr. Newton (Latrobe Ward)

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- The committee have reviewed various options for possible long term governance models and has formed a high level view. The next step is that officers will draft a report to council and confirm feedback from DNT members before finalising a report to Council in late 2019.
  - This review of governance has taken longer than expected and research undertaken as part of economics planning for the Open Space Strategy found that these funds cannot be used by a Trust in the manner outlined in the current committee's Terms of Reference (and initial Expression of Interest).
  - The open space strategy was in development when DNT was established, which meant that advice on biodiversity needed to be considered at stage in strategy development when aspects like format were already established. Ideally DNT feedback would have been incorporated at an earlier stage.
-

---

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Monthly meetings to provide information from experts and about current council operations to support the committee to provide advice on long term governance and on how council might strengthen biodiversity in its strategic framework as well as its operations and projects. Topics have included:
  - Dr Brian Coffey (on governance proposal) in May,
  - Jennifer Louie (draft Ruthven master plan) in June and
  - David Smith (Tree management operations)
  - Luke Sandham (bushland operations) in July.
  - SGS consultants (Open Space Strategy – planning role and function)
- Committee members reviewed and provided feedback on and advice about *Breathing Space: The Darebin Open Space Strategy* at several stages during its development to strengthen strategic focus on biodiversity and related open space management.
- Advice was provided as part of development of the budget and a submission developed by community members for FY19/20. Council decided to fund this in part including a new Biodiversity Officer position and a pilot project for biodiversity enhancements.
- The committee have reviewed various options for possible long term governance models and has formed a high level view. DNT community members have suggested changes to the Terms of Reference on this and other matters. The next step is that officers will draft a report to council and confirm feedback from DNT members before finalising a report to Council in late 2019.

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Continue to provide advice to Council to improve the provision and protection of open spaces and enhance local biodiversity including seeking feedback on:
  - Budget development for future years
  - Open space and park master planning – biodiversity outcomes and priorities
  - Parks management – options for improving biodiversity through management
  - Priorities for enhancing biodiversity – where is it most important for council to focus its effort?
  - Prioritise for community programs – what, where, who is it most important to focus
  - Other strategies and operations as needed
- Long term governance and terms of reference –confirm feedback ahead of council decision Terms of Reference

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Terms of Reference
  - Council Meeting Minutes – 12 June 2018
  - Special Council Meeting Minutes – 3 December 2018
-



---

**1. SEXUALITY, SEX AND GENDER DIVERSITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**AUTHOR:** Diversity Policy Officer

**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager Community

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

This Committee provides Council with expert advice on the needs, issues and aspirations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, gender diverse, and intersex (LGBTI) people and communities (and their families) connected to the City of Darebin.

**Committee Members:**

- Ten community members
- Max. two representatives from LGBTIQ organisations connected to Darebin

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr. Newton (Chair) and Cr. Amir (Proxy)

**PROGRESS REPORT**

**Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Contribution to planning of Council's involvement at Midsumma Festival 2019 with a focus on Carnival and Pride March and International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) 2019.
- Early consideration of the impacts of Council decisions on LGBTIQ people & communities through Equity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Planning & Audit Tool (EIWPAT) was presented to SSGDAC members, who acknowledged its potential for and recommended consistent and strengthened uptake across Council to ensure LGBTIQ-inclusivity.

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- Support to, and participation in, Council's involvement at Midsumma Festival 2019 with a focus on Carnival and Pride March as opportunities for visibility and community engagement.
  - Acknowledgement and thanks for members finishing their terms, in recognition of their time, expertise and commitment.
  - Support to, and participation in, Council's recognition of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) 2019.
-

- 
- Strategic discussion, advice and input into new Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Action work plan and key actions for 19/20.
  - Strategic advice and discussion of current and emerging community issues/trends impacting locally, including:
    - Homelessness risk (particularly among young people) and housing affordability / social housing
    - Safety in the public realm
    - Health & wellbeing – especially mental health
    - Accessible, safe and inclusive bathroom/restroom facilities (notably for trans and gender diverse people)
    - Supporting refugees & asylum seekers who are LGBTIQ
    - Employment of TGD people
  - Participation of 2 SSGDAC delegates to Climate Emergency Ambassadors program

#### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Support to implementation of Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity work plan and key actions for 2019/20.
- Continued monitoring, advice and drive for action on current and emerging trends.
- Provision of strategic advice on best ways to engage meaningfully with LGBTIQ+ residents and organisations in Darebin.

#### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Sexuality, Sex and Gender Diversity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
-



---

**1. DAREBIN WOMEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE****AUTHOR:** Acting Preventing Violence Against Women Officer**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager Community**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

Darebin Women's Advisory Committee (DWAC) was initially established in 2009 as a conduit between women in Darebin and Council. Its purpose has evolved to:

- Advise Council on issues and barriers to equality affecting women in Darebin, notably by providing a gender lens on issues, policies, services or programs.
- Promote and advocate for gender equity and women's full and equal participation.
- Promote and advocate for the elimination of violence against women.

**Committee Members:**

- 12 community members
- Two Darebin City Council Officers for executive support

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr. Lina Messina
- Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor)

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

The committee met once in February 2019. Key issues for this period include:

- Immediate findings of the Gender Equality Map were discussed (prior to XYX Lab analysis of the data). The Committee previously supported the implementation of the Map, which aims to gather stories and experiences of gender equality or inequality across the municipality
- Common themes around women's perceptions of safety and experiences of harassment in the public realm was highlighted by the Gender Equality Map.

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- During this period six committee members resigned and an expression of interest process for recruitment of the new committee was completed. Four existing committee members will be continuing their term; eight new members were appointed to the committee.
  - Darebin's celebration of International Women's Day was attended by committee members and promoted amongst their networks.
-

- 
- Committee members discussed the opportunity for Council's to implement learnings from the Gender Equality Map. Possible actions arising from the findings were grouped into three themes: a project, safety upgrade and advocacy.

### **FUTURE PLANS**

- Induction of the new committee members.
- Focus on three key themes: Women in business / economic development, Women in sport, Women in Creative Culture
- Assist Council in implementing data / findings from the Gender Equality Map project.
- Assist Council to undertake gendered community safety audits with relevant public realm and community safety initiatives.

### **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin Women's Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.
-



---

**1. EDWARDES LAKE PARK REFERENCE GROUP****AUTHOR:** Coordinator City Design**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager City Sustainability & Strategy**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Committee is to serve as a reference group for the development of a master plan for Edwardes Lake Park.

**Committee Members**

- Five local residents
- Three representative from local Community Organisations
- Three Council officers (Manager Parks and Vegetation, Coordinator City Design and Urban Designer/Project Manager).

**Councillor Representative:**

- Cr. Gaetano Greco
- Cr. Tim Laurence
- Cr. Susanne Newton

**PROGRESS REPORT****Key Issues and Challenges for 1 June 2018 to 30 November 2018**

- No meetings of the reference group were held during this period.

**Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 June 2018 to 30 November 2018**

- No meetings of the reference group were held during this period.
  - The master plan development was substantially done during 2016–17, with significant input and advice from the reference group. Since then, the key concepts developed have not changed.
  - During 2017–18, further geotechnical investigations were completed to understand risks rising from the Site's history as a former tip. Feasibility work to better understand what upgrades are required for the Athletics Track.
  - During 2017–18 some 'easy wins' arising from the earlier work that the reference group informed have been delivered in Edwardes Lake Park, including replacement of old park furniture and installation of the compacting solar bins to manage the litter issues at the park.
-

---

**FUTURE PLANS**

- Draft master plan to be reviewed in line with 12-month water quality monitoring evaluation report.
- The next meeting of the group will be held when the master plan draft is complete.
- The reference group will be asked to review and input into the draft Edwardes Lake Park Master Plan ahead of release for wider community comment in 2019.
- Feedback will be sought on how to best engage the community in regard to the draft Edwardes Lake Park.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Edwardes Lake Park Reference Group Terms of Reference.






---

**1. MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**AUTHOR:** Manager, City Works (Municipal Emergency Resource Officer)

**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager, Operations & Capital (Municipal Emergency Manager)

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

This Committee is formed pursuant to Section 21(3) and (4) of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*:

*(3) A municipal council must appoint a municipal emergency planning committee constituted by persons appointed by the municipal council being members and employees of the municipal council, response and recovery agencies and local community groups involved in emergency management issues.*

*(4) The function of a municipal emergency planning committee is to prepare a municipal emergency management plan for consideration by the municipal council.*

**Committee Members:**

- Mayor (Chairperson)
- Municipal Emergency Manager (MEM)
- Municipal Emergency Resource Officer (MERO)
- Deputy Municipal Emergency Resource Officer (D/MERO) x 2
- Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM)
- Deputy Municipal Recovery Manager (D/MRM)
- Municipal Community Safety Manager (MCSM)
- Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO)
- Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC)
- MEMPC Executive Officer (PA to Director Operations & Capital)
- Emergency Management Planning Officer (Shared roll with MCC & DCC)

**Agency Representation:**

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • Vic Police                              | • CentreLink/Medicare           |
| • SES Victoria                            | • VicRoads                      |
| • Ambulance Victoria                      | • Salvation Army                |
| • Metropolitan Fire Brigade               | • VicRoads                      |
| • Department of Health and Human Services | • Victorian Council of Churches |
| • Red Cross                               | • DIVRS                         |
| • Darebin Community Health                | • BOC                           |

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Cr Susan Rennie (Mayor)
-

---

## PROGRESS REPORT

### Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019

- Reviewing and updating sections of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The MEMP was reviewed by representatives from the SES, Police, MFB and the Department of Health and Human Services, and corrections incorporated.
- Identify any emergency management issues that had arisen.
- Debriefed on any incidents that occurred since the last meeting.
- Reviewing and rewriting a number of sub-plans including:
  - Pandemic Influenza
  - Extreme Heat
  - Fire Management
  - Relief and Recovery
  - Hostile Act
  - Thornbury and Northcote Local Flood Guide
  - Flood and Storm

### Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019

- Co-ordination and attendance across Darebin in the relief and recovery of a number of house fires (non-major emergencies)
  - Emergency Management Planning Officer (shared resource for Moreland and Darebin Council's) provided a gap analysis of sub-plans to MEMPC and has facilitated the review/development of these and facilitated working groups of the MEMPC
  - Developed and undertook Exercise Zeus (Flood and Storm desktop exercise) with MEMPC on 17 December 2018
  - Developed Draft Pandemic Sub-plan
  - The Relief and Recovery Working Group met a number of times and finalised the non-major emergency protocol & working on the major emergency protocol
  - 
  - Undertook Emergency Management Training for Managers (12 December 2018).
  - Emergency Management – staff recruitment held on 22 February 2019- approx. 30 new staff recruited and begun training
  - Meeting held on 25 February 2019 with CFA to undertake the VFRR-B review
  - Coordination of local recovery for the incident at Bundoora with members of MEMPC and other local stakeholders.
  - Debrief meeting held regarding Bundoora Incident with internal staff – 8 March 2019
  - Emergency Management staff recruitment drop in sessions – held in March 2019
  - Developed and undertook a Relief & Recovery Desktop exercise utilising the new protocol with the MEMPC – 12 April 2019
-

---

## **FUTURE PLANS**

- Maintain the MEMP to ensure currency.
- Continue ongoing meetings with all emergency authorities and agencies.
- Update CERA as required in preparation for next audit – to revote on risk assessment hazards by MEMPC as required.
- Update of the Municipal Fire Management Plan to ensure it is current for next audit.
- Review of the Municipal Emergency Recovery Plan is in progress.
- Update the Technical Resources Sub Plan
- Finalise the new :
  - Relief sub-plan
  - Extreme heat sub-plan
  - Pandemic sub-pan

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- MEMPC - Terms of Reference
- EMMV (Emergency Management Manual Victoria)
- *Emergency Management Act* 3 December 2013



---

**1. NORTHLAND URBAN RENEWAL PRECINCT STEERING COMMITTEE**

**AUTHOR:** Senior Strategic Planner (NURP Project Manager)

**REVIEWED BY:** General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy

**COMMITTEE SUMMARY:**

The Northland Urban Renewal Precinct (NURP) Steering Committee works collectively to provide a clear direction for delivery of the precinct's ongoing work program. The Committee has a five-point priority focus as follows:

1. Advocacy and Promotion;
2. Sound Design Concept Foundation;
3. Working in Partnerships;
4. Engagement; and
5. New Delivery Models (Fostering Innovation).

**Committee Members:**

The Committee comprises of 19 members as follows:

- Darebin Mayor as Committee Chair
- 3 x Darebin ward Councillors
- 2 x Banyule ward Councillors
- 2 x Council Directors/General Managers (one from each Council)
- 2 x Institutional representative (La Trobe University and Northern College of Arts and Technology)
- 2 x Community representatives (one from Darebin and one from Banyule)
- 2 x Representatives with specialist development industry experience
- 1 x Community Infrastructure (Health sector)
- 1 x Victorian Planning Authority
- 1 x Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning
- 1 x Department Health and Human Services (Housing)
- 1 x Project Manager (PM)

**Councillor Representatives:**

- Mayor/Cr. Susan Rennie
  - Cr. Amir
  - Cr. Messina
  - Cr. Williams
-

---

## **PROGRESS REPORT**

### **Key Issues and Challenges for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- The project has been in a research and community consultation period during this time.
- The Steering Committee has not met in the period 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019.
- There has been staff change in this time and the project manager who provides secretariat support for this group has changed.

### **Key Activities / Outcomes for 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019**

- A new NURP Project Manager has been appointed, commencing in April, and a review of supporting strategies and studies has been undertaken.
- The Steering Committee has not met in the period 1 December 2018 to 31 May 2019.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

- A date has not been set for the next Steering Committee meeting. The next meeting is expected to occur in the second half of 2019 and is expected to cover:
  - Findings from community engagement so far
  - Technical and project research update
  - Next steps

## **RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Updated Terms of Reference (June 2016)
-

**9. CONSIDERATION OF RESPONSES TO PETITIONS, NOTICES OF MOTION AND GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION****10.1 DONATH RESERVE OVAL 1 PLAYING SURFACE****Councillor:** Tim LAURENCE**NoM No.:** 434

---

Take notice that at the Council Meeting to be held on 2 September 2019, it is my intention to move:

*That officers prepare a report for our next full council meeting regarding the urgent need to upgrade Donath Oval no 1 playing surface with an upgrade to the top soil that has become degraded due to high rain events and use and that officers also supply in that report a budget estimate to provide an adequate compliant spoon drain and painted black fence around the playing field.*

**Notice Received:** 20 August 2019**Notice Given to Councillors** 26 August 2019**Date of Meeting:** 2 September 2019**Attachments**

Nil

**11. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES**

Nil



## 12. RECORDS OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

### 12.1 ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS HELD

---

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in section 3 of the *Local Government Act 1989* to include Advisory Committees of Council if at least one Councillor is present or, a planned or scheduled meeting attended by at least half of the Councillors and one Council Officer that considers matters intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision.

Written records of Assemblies of Councillors must be kept and include the names of all Councillors and members of Council staff attending, the matters considered, any conflict of interest disclosures made by a Councillor attending, and whether a Councillor who has disclosed a conflict of interest leaves the assembly.

Pursuant to section 80A (2) of the Act, these records must be, as soon as practicable, reported at an ordinary meeting of the Council and incorporated in the minutes of that meeting.

An Assembly of Councillors record was kept for:

- Darebin Nature Trust, Meeting #07 – 21 May 2019
- Darebin Nature Trust, Meeting #08 – 25 June 2019
- Darebin Nature Trust, Meeting #09 – 23 July 2019
- Darebin Sex, Sexuality and Gender Diverse Advisory Committee – 30 July 2019
- Darebin Disability Advisory Committee – 5 August 2019
- Darebin Community Awards Advisory Committee – 7 August 2019
- Arts Ambassadors Committee Meeting – 13 August 2019
- Darebin Nature Trust, Meeting #10 – 20 August 2019
- Councillor Briefing Session – 26 August 2019

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** the record of the Assembly of Councillors held on 21 May, 25 June, 23 & 30 July and 5, 7, 13 & 20 & 26 August 2019 and attached as **Appendix A** to this report, be noted and incorporated in the minutes of this meeting.

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

Nil

### Attachments

- Assembly of Councillors - 2 September 2019 (**Appendix A**) [↓](#)



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Nature Trust Meeting #07
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 21 May 2019
	<b>Location:</b>	Function Room, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Trent McCarthy, Cr. Susanne Newton
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sally Moxham, Rachel Ollivier, Libby Phillips, Helen Day, Richard Stal
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Other:</b>	Representatives of Darebin Nature Trust: Matthew Rose, Neal Masters, Ray Radford, David Taylor, Nadine Richings, Megan Ivey-Law Dr Brian Coffey (Guest)
		Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor) Cr. Steph Amir

The Assembly commenced at 6:30 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Governance Structures suitable to take bequests presented by Dr. Brian Coffey	None

## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
2	Strategy & Governance Sub-group progress report including proposal for revised Terms of Reference	None
3	Council Budget Update: Ratification of sub-group submission to proposed annual budget for FY19/20. Potential Park Upgrade projects for DNT input	None
4	Open Space Strategy and Open Space Contributions Framework (Levy) Update	None
5	Forward Agenda Planning	None
6	Other business	None

The Assembly concluded at 8:45pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Libby Phillips
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Planning Landscape Architect

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Governance, Council Business and civic Services Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Nature Trust Meeting #08
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 25 June 2019
	<b>Location:</b>	Function Room, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Trent McCarthy
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sally Moxham, Rachel Ollivier, Phil Tulk, Libby Phillips
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Other:</b>	Representatives of Darebin Nature Trust: Neal Masters, Ray Radford, David Taylor, Chris Williams, Geoff Westcott, Representatives of Ruthven CRG: David Sealey, Serena O'Meley, Brett Middleton
		Cr. Susanne Newton, Cr. Steph Amir, Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor), Matthew Rose, Nadine Richings, Heloise Gibbs, Megan Ivey-Law,

The Assembly commenced at 6:30 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	The Case for an Integrated Landscape Strategic (Emergency) Plan	None
2	Ruthven draft master plan discussion	None
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key Topics Business Case proposal including report to address ToR requirement re governance; response &amp; follow-up to Statement of Concern; planning of other presentations from community reps.; follow-up of Ruthven Primary School site; progress with DNT presentation to staff; progress with conference (Nadine); December planning day actions.</li> <li>• Guest suggestions (tentative Luke Sandham, Bushland Coordinator)</li> </ul>	None

## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
4	Progress Update: including ToR; Statement of Concern from community reps.; DNT Conference/networking event (promotions & events); Gardens for Wildlife; and other items	
5	Forward Agenda Planning	
6	Open Space Strategy Update	
7	Council Budget Update	

The Assembly concluded at 8:45pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Libby Phillips
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Planning Landscape Architect

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Governance, Council Business and civic Services Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Nature Trust Meeting #09
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 23 July 2019
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chambers, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Susanne Newton, Cr. Steph Amir
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sally Moxham, Rachel Ollivier, Libby Phillips, Luke Sandham
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Other:</b>	Representatives of Darebin Nature Trust: Matthew Rose, Neal Masters, Ray Radford, David Taylor, Nadine Richings, Megan Ivey-Law, Heloise Gibbs.
		Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor), Cr. Trent McCarthy, DNT Rep - Chris Williams

The Assembly commenced at 6:30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Presentation on Council Bushland Management, operations and projects and opportunities for DNT to provide advice and recommendations.	None

## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
2	Darebin Nature Trust sub-group update related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff training &amp; presentation by DNT community reps.</li> <li>• Proposed conference of conservation &amp; environment groups</li> <li>• Business Case proposal</li> <li>• G4W proposal</li> <li>• Progressing December planning day key items</li> </ul>	
3	Planning for Ruthven Primary school draft master plan and Darebin Nature Trust feedback	None
4	Items arising from last meeting including officer response to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Terms of Reference previously circulated</li> <li>• Case for an Integrated Strategic Landscape Plan</li> <li>• - Statement of concern</li> </ul>	None
5	Open Space Strategy Update	None
6	Darebin Biodiversity Grants announcements	None
7	Other business	None

The Assembly concluded at 8:45pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Libby Phillips
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Planning Landscape Architect

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Governance, Council Business and civic Services Team within 3 working days for inclusion the agenda of the next Council meeting and in the register available for public inspection.



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Sex, Sexuality and Gender Diverse Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 30 July 2019
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chambers, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Steph Amir; Cr. Susanne Newton.
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Amelia Basset, Mandy Bathgate
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Other:</b>	Members of Darebin Sex, Sexuality and Gender Diverse Advisory Committee

The Assembly commenced at 6.15pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Review of Council's Community Engagement Framework	No disclosures were made.
2	Review of Council's LGBTIQ Writing Guide	No disclosures were made.
3	Planning for gender-inclusive toilets in community spaces	No disclosures were made.

The Assembly concluded at 8.15pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Officer Name: Amelia Basset
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Officer Title: Human Rights Officer



Assembly of Councillors – Darebin Disability Advisory Committee 5 August 2019



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Disability Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Monday 5 August 2019
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Julie Williams, Cr. Susanne Newton
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Shadi Hanna, Katherine Kiley, Zoe Howard, Ania Sieracka, Jade Myconos, Allan Middlemast
	<b>Other:</b>	Darebin Disability Advisory Committee members – community representatives
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Community representatives, service providers

The Assembly commenced at 11.00am

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Present and apologies	No disclosures were made.
2	Matters arising from previous minutes / drop off zone items	No disclosures were made.
3	Round table check in	No disclosures were made.
4	Accessible Parking Bays in Darebin	No disclosures were made.
5	International Day of People with Disability	No disclosures were made.
6	Economic Participation Role focus	No disclosures were made. 12:08pm Cr Julie Williams entered the meeting
7	Darebin Disability Access and Inclusion Plan	No disclosures were made.
8	General Business	No disclosures were made.
9	Meeting feedback	No disclosures were made.

Assembly of Councillors – Darebin Disability Advisory Committee 5 August 2019

The Assembly concluded at 12:40pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Katherine Kiley
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Senior Team Leader Access and Inclusion Team



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Community Awards Advisory Committee
	<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 7 August 2018
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chambers, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Chair, Mayor Susan Rennie
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Bronwyn Ryan-Mercer & Sam Green
	<b>Other:</b>	Community Representatives: Alan Brown, Carol Harrison, Marie Sloan, George Jiang, DECC Members Andrew Kalon and Mojgan Tosif
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Zeynab Farah community member

The Assembly commenced at 6.00pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Darebin Community Awards Selection of 2019 winners	No disclosures were made
MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
2	2019 Award Event Discussion	No disclosures were made

The Assembly concluded at 10.00pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Bronwyn Ryan-Mercer
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	



## ARTS AMBASSADORS COMMITTEE MEETING

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Arts Ambassadors Committee Meeting
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 13 August 2019
	<b>Time:</b>	6.00pm – 8.05pm
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chambers
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Susanne Newton
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Vicky Guglielmo, Alexandra Stewart, Kirsty Baird, Jodee Mundy, Steve Harris
	<b>Other:</b>	Representatives: Christopher Bell, Hannes Berger, Margaret Anne Learmonth, Simon Clarke
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		April Brenner, Mark Tregonning, Lisa Horler

The Assembly commenced at 6.00pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	- Arts Strategy Review	
MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
2	- Future of Festivals Update - LXRP (Level Crossing Railway Project)	- Approval of the new Festival Model. - Concerns of lack of Art contribution at Reservoir Station

The Assembly concluded at 8.05pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Alexandra Stewart
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Arts Administrator & Engagement Officer



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Darebin Nature Trust Meeting #10
	<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 20 August 2019
	<b>Location:</b>	Function Room, Darebin Civic Centre
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. Susanne Newton, Cr. Susanne Newton, Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor)
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	Sally Moxham, Rachel Ollivier, Sunny Haynes, Marc Chung, Jules Thomson-Martin, Libby Phillips
	<b>Other:</b>	Representatives of Darebin Nature Trust: Matthew Rose, Neal Masters, Ray Radford, David Taylor, Nadine Richings, Megan Ivey-Law, Heloise Gibbs
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>		Cr. Steph Amir, DNT Reps: Chris Williams, Geoffrey Westcott

The Assembly commenced at 6:30pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Presentation on Mayer Park draft master plan and opportunities for DNT to provide advice and recommendations presented by Marc Chung	None
2	Open Space Strategy update and discussion of DNT community representative's submission to the final draft	None

## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS – PUBLIC RECORD (CONT)

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
3	Darebin Nature Trust sub-group update related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff training &amp; presentation by DNT community reps (proposal)</li> <li>• Conference of conservation &amp; environment groups (proposal)</li> <li>• Business Case (proposal)</li> <li>• G4W (proposal)</li> <li>• Progressing December planning day key items</li> <li>• other items from subgroup meeting 13/8/19</li> </ul>	None
3	Planning for Ruthven Primary school draft master plan and Darebin Nature Trust feedback	None
4	Officer response to the case for an Integrated Strategic Landscape Plan	None
5	Forward Agenda Planning	None
6	Other business	None

The Assembly concluded at 8:59pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Libby Phillips
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Planning Landscape Architect



## ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS PUBLIC RECORD

<b>ASSEMBLY DETAILS:</b>	<b>Title:</b>	Council Briefing
	<b>Date:</b>	Monday 26 August 2019
	<b>Location:</b>	Council Chamber
<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>Councillors:</b>	Cr. S. Rennie (Mayor), Cr. S. Newton (Deputy Mayor), Cr. S. Amir, Cr. T. McCarthy ( Arrived 5.47 pm ), Cr. J. Williams, Cr. T. Laurence, Cr. G. Greco, Cr. K. Le Cerf
	<b>Council Staff:</b>	S. Wilkinson, Steven Sagona, Sam Hewett, Vicky Guglielmo, Luke Sandham, R. Ollivier, Cecile Tache, Jess Fraser, Felicity Leahy, Andrew George, Danielle Cutler, Josie McCartney
	<b>Other:</b>	
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	<b>Absent:</b>	Cr. L. Messina

The Assembly commenced at 5.33 pm

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
1	Integrated Weed Management Strategy	No disclosures were made
2	Draft Equity, Inclusion and Human Rights Framework	No disclosures were made
3	Intercultural Centre Feasibility Study Update	No disclosures were made
4	3KND Relocation Update	No disclosures were made
5	Victorian Electoral Commission Representation Review – Preliminary Report	No disclosures were made
6	Golf in Darebin	No disclosures were made
7	Recycling Update	No disclosures were made
8	Outcome of Mediation relating to Adverse Possession Applications of land at rear of 31 and 39 May Street, Preston (For Information )	No disclosures were made

Assembly of Councillors

2 September 2019

MATTERS CONSIDERED		DISCLOSURES AND COMMENTS
9	Northern Pipe Trial – Improvements Plan Update (For Information)	No disclosures were made
10	General Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- OHS Matter</li> <li>- September 2 Ordinary Council Meeting Update</li> <li>- Open Space Strategy</li> <li>- Notice of Motions</li> </ul>	The Chief Executive Officer disclosed a direct conflict of interest in Notice of Motion 435 CEO Remuneration and Performance Criteria

The Assembly concluded at 9:25 pm

<b>RECORD COMPLETED BY:</b>	<b>Officer Name:</b>	Steven Sagona
	<b>Officer Title:</b>	Acting GM Governance and Engagement

This form is to be completed by the nominated Council Officer and returned to the Council Business Unit within 3 working days for inclusion in a register available for public inspection.



### 13. REPORTS BY MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** Council note the Reports by Mayor and Councillors.

**14. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL**

The Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to section 77(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), has designated the following items to be confidential:

**14.1 NOTICE OF MOTION 435 – CR TIM LAURENC****CEO Remuneration and Performance Criteria**

This item is designated confidential because it concerns personnel matters pursuant to Section 89(2) (a) and (d) of the Act.

**CLOSE OF MEETING**

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

**That** in accordance with section 89(2) (a) and (d) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council resolves to close the meeting to members of the public to consider the items designated confidential by the Chief Executive Officer.

**RE-OPENING OF MEETING**

<b>Recommendation</b>
-----------------------

That the meeting be re-opened to the members of the public.


**15. CLOSE OF MEETING**

**CITY OF  
DAREBIN**

274 Gower Street, Preston  
PO Box 91, Preston, Vic 3072  
**T** 8470 8888 **F** 8470 8877  
**E** mailbox@darebin.vic.gov.au  
darebin.vic.gov.au

 **National Relay Service**  
relayservice.gov.au

If you are deaf, or have  
a hearing or speech  
impairment, contact  
us through the  
National Relay Service.

 **Speak your language**  
T 8470 8470

العربية	Italiano	Soomalii
繁體中文	Македонски	Español
Ελληνικά	नेपाली	اردو
हिंदी	ਪੰਜਾਬੀ	Tiếng Việt