

MINUTES

Meeting of Council

Held at the
Civic Centre
511 Burwood Highway
Wantirna South
On
Monday 18 December 2023

The Agenda for the Meeting of Council, Monday 18 December 2023, forms part of these Minutes and is attached in full at the end of the Minutes.

These Minutes are considered draft until adopted and confirmed at the next Meeting of Council.



The meeting commenced at 5:05pm.

PRESENT:

<i>Cr J Dwight (Mayor)</i>	<i>Chandler Ward</i>
<i>Cr Y Allred (Via Zoom)</i>	<i>Baird Ward</i>
<i>Cr M Timmers-Leitch</i>	<i>Collier Ward</i>
<i>Cr S Grasso (Via Zoom)</i>	<i>Dinsdale Ward</i>
<i>Cr M Baker</i>	<i>Dobson Ward</i>
<i>Cr S Laukens</i>	<i>Friberg Ward</i>
<i>Cr L Cooper</i>	<i>Scott Ward</i>
<i>Cr D Pearce (arrived at 5:08pm)</i>	<i>Taylor Ward</i>
<i>Cr N Seymour (Via Zoom)</i>	<i>Tirhatuan Ward</i>

<i>Mr B Dobson</i>	<i>Chief Executive Officer</i>
<i>Mr G Curcio</i>	<i>Director - Customer and Performance</i>
<i>Mr G Thorne</i>	<i>Director – Infrastructure</i>
<i>Mr M Kelleher</i>	<i>Director - City Livability</i>
<i>Ms J Chalkley</i>	<i>Director – Connected Communities</i>
<i>Ms N Lorkin</i>	<i>Chief Financial Officer</i>
<i>Mr J Rashed</i>	<i>Acting Chief People Officer</i>
<i>Mr A Dowling</i>	<i>Manager, Governance and Risk</i>

THE MEETING OPENED WITH A STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND OUR STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

“Knox City Council acknowledges we are on the traditional land of the Wurundjeri and Bunurong people and pay our respects to elders both past and present.”

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1 Apologies and Requests for Leave of Absence

Nil.

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Councillor Pearce foreshadowed an indirect conflict of interest for Notice of Motion 141 - Knox Opportunity Shop on the grounds that his wife is the Treasurer of Knox Infolink, which is a beneficiary of the Knox Opportunity Shop.

The Chief Executive Officer Bruce Dobson foreshadowed that the Chief Financial Officer, Navec Lorkin, holds a general conflict of interest for Item 8.2 - Proposed Sale of Council Owned land - 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna and will leave the Chamber when discussion for this item commences, noting that the executive responsibility for this matter was transferred to the Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher.

The Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Dobson, declared a material conflict of interest for Item 13.3 - CEO Performance Review as it relates to a review of his own performance in his position and he will leave the Chamber when that item commences.

3 Confirmation of Minutes

The Chairperson, Councillor Jude Dwight invited Councillors to raise any opposition to the Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Monday 27 November 2023. There being none, the Chairperson declared the Minutes be confirmed.

4 Presentations, Petitions and Memorials

Councillor Laukens paid tribute to Stephen Hough, a former volunteer of Knox Athletics Centre and Knox Little Athletics Club, who recently passed away from cancer.

Councillor Laukens noted the following points regarding Stephen Hough:

- His passing will touch members of the Knox Little Athletics Club and the Little Athletics community where he made a significant contribution as a volunteer.
- He played a major role at Knox Little Athletics Club for 20 years, undertaking roles such as Committee Member, Competition Director, official, referee, timing systems expert and Coach.
- He supported athletes and families in both an athletics capacity and personal capacity.
- He supported Little Athletics Victoria at both regional and state level and also served with Athletics Victoria as a Committee member and official for many years.
- He earned the respect and admiration of all he met for his determination to contribute to the common good.

- He was awarded Life Membership of the Knox Little Athletics Centre in 2016 and received a Little Athletics Victoria Distinguished Service Award in 2023.
- His dedication to community sport also saw him awarded a Life Membership to the Ferntree Gully Football Club, with his contribution continuing until just a few months ago.
- He set an amazing example for those who knew him.
- Thoughts and prayers are extended to his family and friends.

Councillor Cooper paid tribute to former Council Crossing Supervisor Robyn Hunter who recently passed away, noting:

- Robyn joined Council's School Crossing Team in 2015 and was responsible for the busy school crossing outside Holy Trinity Primary School in Riddell Road, Wantirna South. She very quickly developed a wonderful relationship with students, staff and parents alike and knew each student's name within the first week.
- It quickly became apparent that Robyn was a fantastic communicator, so much so that she started to train our new crossing supervisors at her Crossing. Her ability to pass on safety techniques in a kind, thoughtful but no nonsense way, was second to none.
- Sadly, Robyn was 61 years old and had only recently become unwell and she was taken from us far too soon.
- Our Crossing Team Leader Chris has spoken with her husband John and has passed on our deepest sympathies. I also want to pass on our condolences to Robyn's husband John, her family and loved ones.
- Robyn's passing is a very sad loss to Council's School Crossing Team and the school community she supported each and every day. Robyn was a terrific ambassador for Knox Council and she will be very sorely missed.

5 Reports by Councillors

5.1.1 Councillor Timmers-Leitch

Councillor Timmers-Leitch reported attending the following meetings:

- Regency Park Primary School Working Bee
- Launch of new courts at Wantirna Tennis Club
- Presented the Collier Award at the following schools: Knox School, Wantirna College, Templeton Primary School, Wantirna Primary School, Regency Park Primary School and St Luke's Primary School
- Knox Community Gardens Site Visit
- Greater South East Melbourne End of Year Function
- Knox Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Orana Neighbourhood House Christmas Party
- Official Opening of the Knox Regional Netball Centre Redevelopment
- Your Library End of Year Celebration
- Knox Youth Advisory Committee Meeting
- SKLPS Diwali Celebration at the Hungarian Community Centre

Councillor Timmers-Leitch also:

- Attended the Official Opening of the new courts at the Wantirna Tennis Club and was pleased to participate in the opening, with the classic clay surface forming part of a \$1.7 million project funded by Council. It is the most important piece of infrastructure at the Club in the last couple of decades, supporting the high participation rate of juniors at the Club which is the highest in the municipality.
- Enjoyed attending the Knox School, Wantirna College, Templeton Primary School, Wantirna Primary School, Regency Park Primary School and St Luke's Primary School to present the Collier Award to community-minded students.

5.1.2 Councillor Baker

Councillor Baker reported attending the following meetings:

- Knox Active Ageing Advisory Committee Meeting
- Budget/Annual Plan Workshop Strategy Day
- Official Opening of the Knox Regional Netball Centre Redevelopment
- Ferntree Gully Village Traders Meeting
- Presentation of Dobson Awards to students at St Joseph's College, Ferntree Gully, Eastern Ranges School, St John the Baptist Primary School and Ferntree Gully North Primary School.

Councillor Baker also:

- Presented Dobson awards to students at St Joseph’s College, Eastern Ranges School, St John the Baptist Primary School and Ferntree Gully North Primary School, with Upper Ferntree Gully Primary School and Lysterfield Primary School on the list of attendances this week.
- Attended the official opening of the Knox Regional Netball Centre Redevelopment after the completion of works. Was reported on the day that a recent weekend competition was played inside due to the deluge of rain over the weekend.

5.1.3 Councillor Pearce

- Attended the Eastern Districts Polish Association Annual Christmas Lunch and the Rowville Men’s Shed Christmas Lunch.
- Attended the opening of Courts 7 to 9 at the Eildon Park Tennis Facility which look great.
- Presented the Taylor Award at Heany Park Primary School.

5.1.4 Councillor Laukens

Councillor Laukens reported attending the following meetings:

- ARAC Meeting
- Budget/Annual Pal Workshop- Strategy Day
- Knox BMX Club – Thunderdome Event
- Wicki Angel Memorial Soccer Match at the Knox Italian Community Club
- Rowville Riders Christmas Party
- Knox United Soccer Club Event
- Knox Community Gardens Site Visit – Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- Survey Interview- Local Government Inspectorate regarding Councillor Conduct Framework
- Knox Community Safety, Health and Wellbeing Advisory Committee Meeting
- Meeting regarding Mountain Gate Traders Association Revitalisation
- Knox Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Orana Neighbourhood House Christmas Celebration
- Eildon Park Tennis Club – Official Renovation and Reopening of Courts 7 to 9
- Your Library End of Year Celebration
- Knox Arts and Culture Committee Meeting
- Eastern Transport Coalition Meeting
- Meeting with the editor of the ‘Ferntree Gully News’ publication

Councillor Laukens also:

- Expressed thanks to community groups, residents, volunteers, Council staff and local businesses for their work and wished them all a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

- Encouraged people to stay up to date with local news via emergency apps and Council's website over the coming weeks.

5.1.5 Councillor Grasso

- Received enquiries from residents regarding parking accessibility, inter-library loan services and the future status of Council land.
- Attended the opening of the new cricket nets at Guy Turner Reserve with Jackson Taylor MP and members of the Bayswater Cricket Club. Noted that Council contributed \$214,400 to the upgrade in partnership with the State Government's \$100,000 contribution, which will service the boys, girls, men's and women's teams at the inclusive Club.
- Attended the Plan for Victoria Roundtable discussion with outer-suburban Councils which included a speech from the Minister for Planning and Suburbs Sonya Kilkenny MP regarding a vision for Victoria. Noted that there will be further stages to this discussion where Knox will continue to provide input.
- Attended the Knox Carols by Candlelight which included a performance by the Royal Australian Navy Band and Knox Factor Grand Final of which she was a Judge. Thanked the Knox Arts and Events team for organising this event.
- Wished the Knox Community a happy festive season.

5.1.6 Councillor Seymour

- Noted there are community members waiting for updates on the Stud Park Playground. The construction team are doing everything possible to finalise this project before Christmas, with some minor tweaks to occur after fences and equipment are installed.
- Noted there are delays to the wetlands project being finalised at Stamford Park, with an expected projected completion date of March 2024. Believes that the Homestead should be opening soon.
- Noted there will be a Cinema Under the Stars event at Caribbean Gardens in the coming weeks.
- Reported hearing local discussions about cost of living concerns, with seemingly disproportionately high rental increases putting pressure on residents. Noted that whilst Christmas is a time of joy for many, it can also be a time of hardship for others.
- Emphasised the importance of being kind and looking out for each other during the Christmas and New Year period.

5.1.7 Councillor Allred

Councillor Allred reported attending the following meetings:

- Online Briefing on the development of a new plan for Victoria
- Knox Youth Advisory Committee Meeting

Councillor Allred also:

- Thanked various volunteer groups and not for profit organisations for inviting her to Annual General meetings, Christmas and end of year events.
- Noted residents have raised concerns about: parking in the Bayswater Business Precinct; footpath maintenance renewal concerns particularly in the Ferntree Gully area; and waste issues on private land where residents and landowners seek Council service support – all issues have been escalated to Council staff and some reported concerns have been addressed and remedied.
- Thanked Council staff for their work and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

5.1.8 Councillor Dwight

Councillor Dwight reported attending the following meetings:

- Ministerial Roundtable Event and Online Briefing on the development of a new plan for Victoria
- Budget and Annual Plan Workshop Strategy Day
- Local Democracy Presentation at The Basin Primary School
- MAV Mayoral Welcome and Induction
- Knox Audit and Risk Committee Meeting
- Eastern Regional Group of Councils Meeting and End of Year Event
- Knox Carols by Candlelight
- Mayoral Monthly Interview on Radio Eastern 98.1FM
- Knox Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting
- Official Opening of Knox Regional Netball Centre Redevelopment
- Ferntree Gully Tennis Club Christmas Party
- Christmas Break-up Community Meal at the Orchard Church of Christ in Boronia
- Knox Community Gardens Site Visit

Councillor Dwight also:

- Noted her appreciation in being invited to Christmas functions, community meal events and end of year events by community groups.

- Expressed pride in the Knox Arts and Events team who held a memorable Knox Carols by Candlelight event despite wet conditions during the day, and noted the work of the photographer who did a great job in capturing the feel of the event.
- Attended the Plan for Victoria Roundtable discussion which gave the opportunity to provide a compelling long term vision for development in Victoria, noting that local government has a critical role in planning implementation system effectiveness as content experts and local place custodians.
- Noted the State Government will be consulting with local government and the community regarding development issues in the new year.
- Was appointed Chair of the Eastern Region Group of Councils and outlined she will be working closely with other Mayors and Deputy Mayors in Victoria to discuss issues affecting long-term liveability in the region and encouraged Councillors to pass on any concerns or feedback to be raised.

6 Planning Matters

6.1 Report of Planning Applications Decided Under Delegation 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023

SUMMARY: Manager, City Planning & Building, Paul Dickie

Details of planning applications considered under delegation are referred for information. It is recommended that the items be noted.

RECOMMENDATION

That the planning applications decided under delegation reports (between 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023) be noted.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That the planning applications decided under delegation reports (between 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023) be noted.

CARRIED

6.2 Adoption of the Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS)

SUMMARY: Coordinator City Strategy and Planning, Nasrin Dehghani

The Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS) provides strategic direction for selected precincts within Knox that are of environmental, recreational, agricultural, rural living and landscape significance to the community. It provides a vision for each precinct, a series of themed objectives and strategies and specific actions to achieve the objectives.

The draft GARS was informed by various technical reports, officer analysis, stakeholder input and two phases of community consultation. The second phase of consultation in late 2021 sought the views of the community and key stakeholders on draft GARS. This consultation phase received an extensive level of engagement and captured comments/submissions from a total of 273 participants.

Overall, the consultation feedback indicated support from the Knox community in terms of the strategy's direction and priorities. Some of the key issues raised during the consultation related to:

- Protecting the GARS precincts and the Urban Growth Boundary
- Concerns about potential sale and development of the Salvation Army site in The Basin
- Potential expansion of the Hanson Quarry in Lysterfield
- Heritage Protection and management
- Green wedge landowners in Lysterfield requesting Council support for rezoning and residential development
- Open space matters outside GARS precincts
- Ongoing open space maintenance and enforcement
- Implementation of the strategy.

Subsequently, the draft GARS has been modified in response to the feedback, where appropriate, and is recommended for adoption by Council. The changes made are minor in nature and seek to further clarify and refine the recommendations to better guide implementation. The broad intent and direction of GARS is recommended to remain as drafted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the final proposed GARS, as updated to reflect the consultation feedback, as provided in Attachment 1.
2. Notes the findings of public and stakeholder consultation on the draft GARS as provided in the Written Submission Analysis Table (Attachment 2) and Community Engagement Report (Attachment 3).
3. Adopts the GARS Implementation Plan as provided in Attachment 4.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Pearce

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

That Council:

Adopts the final proposed GARS, as updated to reflect the consultation feedback, as provided in Attachment 1, subject to the following changes:

- a) Deletes the last two sentences of the second paragraph on page 74 of the GARS (page 94 of Council Meeting Agenda), which reads *"In case of future rezoning following the life of the quarries, urban development outside the UGB will not be supported. A GWZ2 zone may be appropriate, in line with the existing residential pockets within this rural buffer, subject to detailed investigation."*;
- b) Deletes Action 2b.13 (Page 74 of GARS, page 94 of the Council Meeting Agenda) which reads *"Investigate general alignment with the Green Wedge Zone 2, in case of future rezoning of the northern part of the precinct, to provide a low intensity buffer to the national parks."*;
- c) Deletes the last sentence of the narrative (Page 75 of the GARS and page 95 of Council Meeting Agenda) *"The precinct is not within walking catchment of public transport, which is another reason why urban development should not be supported."*;
- d) Removes the black dashed line on Map 12 (Page 77 of the GARS and page 96 of Council Meeting Agenda) which indicates the area for investigation as Green Wedge 2 Zone; and
- e) Relabels Area 4 on Map 10 (Page 70 of the GARS and page 90 of Council Meeting Agenda) to show the current Planning Overlay DDO3.

2. Notes the findings of public and stakeholder consultation on the draft GARS as provided in the Written Submission Analysis Table (Attachment 2) and Community Engagement Report (Attachment 3).

3. Adopts the GARS Implementation Plan as provided in Attachment 4, subject to changes to reflect the amendments detailed in Resolution 1 above.

LOST

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Pearce

That further consideration of the Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS) be deferred to a future Council Meeting.

LOST

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Laukens

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council:

- 1. Adopts the final proposed GARS, as updated to reflect the consultation feedback, as provided in Attachment 1.**
- 2. Notes the findings of public and stakeholder consultation on the draft GARS as provided in the Written Submission Analysis Table (Attachment 2) and Community Engagement Report (Attachment 3).**
- 3. Adopts the GARS Implementation Plan as provided in Attachment 4.**

CARRIED

7 Public Question Time

Following the completion of business relating to Item 6, Planning Matters, the business before the Council Meeting was deferred to consider questions submitted by the public.

Question Time commenced at 6:25pm.

Councillor Laukens left the meeting at 6:26pm during Public Question Time.

Councillor Laukens returned to the meeting at 6:27pm during Public Question Time

Councillor Timmers-Leitch left the meeting at 6:30pm during Public Question Time.

Councillor Timmers-Leitch returned to the meeting at 6:33pm during Public Question Time.

The following questions were raised with Council:

7.1.1 Question One – Robert Francis

Do any of our Councillors have views on the vacant land close to Wellington Village Shopping Centre being preserved for potential future use as residential housing?

If so, do they consider that the Urban Growth Boundary located on the boundary between the vacant land and the current residential area affords sufficient protection against development on the vacant land?

This issue is relevant to Council Meeting Agenda Item 6.2 of the 18/12/2023 meeting. Refer to a letter I emailed to Councillor Pearce and copied to all Councillors on 15th December 2023.

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- Council has considered the Green Areas and Rural Strategy and has resolved to adopt this strategy.
- The land at 1140 Wellington Road, Rowville the subject to the question, to the south of Wellington Road is currently zoned Special Use Zone 3 for the purpose of Earth and Energy Resources Industry, known as the Hanson Quarry.
- The Knox Housing Strategy and the current planning policy framework within the Knox Planning Scheme do not currently designate this site for future residential development purposes. The site is not within any of the future investigation areas as part of the current Planning Policy Framework for future residential development.
- With regard to the question about the Urban Growth Boundary (the UGB), the site sits outside the UGB, which results in constraints to any form urban scale development.
- Any proposal to introduce more intense residential development will require the State Government to change the Urban Growth Boundary or a planning scheme amendment – both processes for areas outside a UGB require ratification by the Victorian Parliament.

- The appropriate point at which to consider the potential for residential development on the land, which is outside the UGB and is a long-term prospect considering the ongoing operation of the quarry, is when Council reviews its Housing Strategy, which it plans to commence in 2024. As part of that process, it may be prudent for Hanson to put forward a clear position and supporting information for Council to consider that would demonstrate the merits of such an approach.
- In terms of what has been proposed, the GARS highlighted that the most appropriate zone for this area is Green Wedge 2 Zone (GWZ2), but that is also subject to further investigation, noting the current zoning and use of the site. As it is subject to investigation, the GARS provides for some latitude for an alternate outcome in the future.
- The GWZ2 would generally allow for 4 hectare lot subdivisions which enable rural lifestyle living while preserving the environmental values and landscape character of the area. If the GARS vision were realised, together with other existing Green Wedge 2 Zone lots in the vicinity, located along the south of Wellington Road, this area could function as a low intensity rural buffer providing the necessary transition to the Lysterfield and Churchill National Parks. A more appropriate time for Hanson to put forward their concerns would be next year when the Housing Strategy comes online
- As a further note, the Design and Development Overlay 3 (DDO3) is currently applied to parts of the subject land, which is supported to be retained as part of GARS. The DDO does not affect the underlying zoning of the land or the fact that the site is outside the UGB. The DDO3 does not create additional development potential for the site but rather seeks to provide an urban/rural transition and minimise site coverage and maximise impervious surface cover to protect environmental values and minimise the visual dominance of development.
- This should clarify how the site interacts with Council's Green Areas and Rural Strategy.

7.1.2 Question Two - Darren Wallace

Does Council support the naming of the development of 1201 -1211 High Street Road, Wantirna South as "Waverley One" and does it have any jurisdiction over such obvious attempts to mislead potential buyers that they are considering purchasing in a nearby municipality, rather than the people's Paradise of Knox?

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- Council does not have any jurisdiction as to the name that has been selected for the development for marketing purposes. The land remains as being within Wantirna South.
- If anyone holds concerns about the marketing of the development, this is best directed to Consumer Affairs Victoria.
- Having approved the Development Plan for this site, Council's attention and energy will be directed to the planning permit process and achieving the best outcomes for the future development, rather than its name.

Councillor Timmers-Leitch explained that Mr Wallace raised an excellent point and asked if Council could write a letter to Consumer Affairs regarding the naming.

The Chief Executive Officer, Bruce Dobson, suggested that whilst Council doesn't have a formal position on this matter, we could raise this community concern with Consumer Affairs, noting that resources would be required to undertake this work.

7.1.3 Question Three - Giselle Esparon

How do I go about reducing the hours of operation of the Rock Crusher of the Hanson and Boral Quarry, that go from 6am to 10pm Mondays to Saturdays in a Residential area and sometimes starting up at 5:30am under emergency maintenance?

The Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher responded:

- As the submitter will be aware from responses to previous letters from the submitter regarding this topic (dated 31 March 2021, 27 September 2022 and 6 February 2023), the hours of operation for the crusher plant is regulated by the relevant Work Authority for each quarry. The Work Authority is issued by the State Government pursuant to the Mineral Resources (Sustainable Development) Act. The Work Authorities cover most aspects of each quarries operation including noise, dust, blasting, rehabilitation, and of course operating hours. Earth Resources Regulation (ERR) in the State Government, is responsible for the administration and enforcement of Work Authorities.
- Given that ERR is the responsible entity for the hours of operation of the rock crushing plant – it is again recommended that the submitter contact ERR and/or their State Government representative to advocate for the change sought.

Councillor Pearce asked whether the Quarry is not in a residential-zoned area of land.

The Director City Liveability Matt Kelleher confirmed that the Quarry is not in a residential-zoned area of land.

Question Time Concluded at 6:39pm.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

That Council adjourn the Meeting for 10 Minutes.

CARRIED

The Meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm and resumed at 6:50pm with all Councillors present.

8 Officer Reports

8.1 Draft Waste Resource Strategy

SUMMARY: Program Lead Waste Strategy and Landfills – Marissa France

A draft 'Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023-2030' has been prepared to guide actions on waste management, minimisation and resource recovery across Knox. It describes a future vision for waste and resource management in Knox and incorporates the goals, targets and direction for waste from state and national legislation and policy.

After being endorsed by Council for community consultation, a period of consultation will occur, and feedback incorporated where appropriate, into a final draft to be endorsed by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Endorse the draft 'Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023 – 2030' as set out in Attachment 1 for the purpose of community consultation.
2. Note the draft 'Our waste and Resource Strategy- Implementation plan' as set out in Attachment 2 for the purpose of community consultation. for the purpose of community consultation
3. Note following the completion of the community consultation a final version of the 'Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023 – 2030' will be presented to Council for adoption.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Pearce

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council:

1. **Endorse the draft 'Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023 – 2030' as set out in Attachment 1 for the purpose of community consultation.**
2. **Note the draft 'Our waste and Resource Strategy- Implementation plan' as set out in Attachment 2 for the purpose of community consultation. for the purpose of community consultation.**
3. **Receive a report at the February 2024 Council meeting (or at a later date in consultation with the Mayor) on the implications of changing the collection frequency of the waste bins.**
4. **Note following the completion of the community consultation and following the presentation of the report on the implications of the frequency change a final version of the 'Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023 – 2030' will be presented to Council for adoption.**

CARRIED

A Division was called by Councillor Cooper

For the motion: Councillor Allred, Councillor Baker, Councillor Cooper, Councillor Pearce and Councillor Seymour

Against the motion: Councillor Dwight, Councillor Grasso, Councillor Laukens and Councillor Timmers-Leitch

Abstention: Nil

CARRIED 5:4

8.2 Proposed Sale of Council Owned Land - 566R Boronia Rd Wantirna

Pursuant to Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 and Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council, Chief Financial Officer, Navec Lorkin holds a general conflict of interest for Item 8.2 - Proposed Sale of Council Owned land - 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna, noting that executive responsibility for this matter was transferred to the Director City Liveability, Matt Kelleher.

Navec Lorkin left the meeting prior to the discussion and vote on Item 8.2.

SUMMARY: Coordinator Property Management, Paige Kennett

The Council owned property of reserves 3, 4 and 5 on Plan of Subdivision 095895, which forms part of the land in certificate of title volume 09121 folio 341 – known as 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna - is on the long-term financial plan for disposal in the 2023-2024 financial year.

Following officer assessment against the disposal principles, the site has been confirmed as surplus. This report highlights the findings of officers in relation to this parcel for consideration by Council and recommends the commencement of community consultation in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* to divest the land.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note an initial assessment indicates that 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna, identified as reserves 3, 4 and 5 on Plan of Subdivision 095895, forming part of the land in certificate of title volume 09121 folio 341 is not required to be retained and consequently resolve:
 - a. To commence the statutory process, as required under Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, to advise of Council's intent to sell the subject land through a public process, for no less than market value (plus GST) as determined by an independent valuer;
 - b. Pursuant to Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, to give public notice of the proposed sale of the subject land on the Council internet site;
 - c. Undertake Community Consultation in accordance with Section 114 (2)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020.
2. Note a further report will be presented to a Council meeting to enable consideration of any submissions and the final determination of the matter.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

SECONDED: Councillor Grasso

That Council:

- 1. Note an initial assessment indicates that 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna, identified as reserves 3, 4 and 5 on Plan of Subdivision 095895, forming part of the land in certificate of title volume 09121 folio 341 is not required to be retained and consequently resolve:**
 - a. To commence the statutory process, as required under Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, to advise of Council's intent to sell the subject land through a public process, for no less than market value (plus GST) as determined by an independent valuer;**
 - b. Pursuant to Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, to give public notice of the proposed sale of the subject land on the Council internet site;**
 - c. Undertake Community Consultation in accordance with Section 114 (2)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020.**
- 2. Note a further report will be presented to a Council meeting to enable consideration of any submissions and the final determination of the matter.**

CARRIED

Navec Lorkin, Chief Financial Officer, returned to the meeting following the vote on Item 8.2.

8.3 Award of Contract 3179 - Knox Park Athletics Track Redevelopment

SUMMARY: Project Manager Sportfield's and Reserves, James Backhouse
Contract 3179 is for the renewal of the synthetic surface, the natural turf infield and lighting at the Knox Park Athletics Track.

In recent years, the Leisure and Parks teams have identified Knox Park Athletics as the highest priority venue for renewal in 2022/23 in the 1008 and 4000 Capital Programs. The track is the home venue for the Knox Little Athletics, Knox Senior Athletics, and Triathlon Club which have raised concerns in the past in relation to the suitability of the playing surface

Renewal activities on the turf infield will include installing a new irrigation system including a pump and tank, restoring the field levels, and planting warm season grass (Santa Ana Couch). Renewal activities on the running track will include the removal of the existing synthetic surface, the removal of the existing outer track edge, removing the existing concrete spoon drain, removing the old lighting and the old chain-mesh fence, and replacing them with new.

The benefits of the proposed works include an evenly contoured and improved natural turf infield with irrigation, and consistent grass coverage, providing improved facilities that will foster participation growth and further skill development. Once complete, the new facility will also achieve a Class 2 World Athletics Certification.

A public tender process was originally undertaken by Council in December 2022. The two responses received were well over the allocated budget and could not be evaluated. A redesigned public tender for the project, with a reduced scope aligned with the allocated budget, was subsequently released on 14 October 2023, in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and the approved Procurement Plan. Two (2) submissions were received during this second tender and assessed in line with Council's Procurement Policy with a preferred candidate identified in Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd. An alternative option for delivery of the works, offering increased value and improved compliance outcomes, was provided by the preferred candidate and assessed to offer the best value to Council and the community.

The overall cost of the contract is \$4,779,460.46 (incl. GST) or \$4,344,964.05 (ex GST). Which aligns with Council's allocated budget for the project.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Accepts the tender submitted by Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd (Alternate Bid) for the lump sum price of \$4,344,964.04 ex GST (\$4,779,460.46 inc. GST) for Contract 3179 – Knox Park Athletics Track Redevelopment.
2. Allocates a contingency for this project as set out in Confidential Attachment 1, and authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or such person the Chief Executive Officer selects) to expend this contingency at their discretion; and
3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or such other person as the Chief Executive officer selects) to negotiate and execute a contract with Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Laukens

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council:

- 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd (Alternate Bid) for the lump sum price of \$4,344,964.04 ex GST (\$4,779,460.46 inc. GST) for Contract 3179 – Knox Park Athletics Track Redevelopment.**
- 2. Allocates a contingency for this project as set out in Confidential Attachment 1, and authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or such person the Chief Executive Officer selects) to expend this contingency at their discretion; and**
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or such other person as the Chief Executive officer selects) to negotiate and execute a contract with Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd.**

CARRIED

8.4 2023-24 Minor Grants and Individual Excellence Grants Programs Report - December 2023

SUMMARY: Community Partnerships Officer, Jade Mainwaring
Personal Assistant to Mayor and Councillors, Eleonore Smith

This report summarises the grant applications recommended for approval in December for the 2023-24 Minor Grants Program. All applications have been assessed against the criteria set out in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

Applications under the Minor Grants Procedure are limited to a maximum of \$3,000.00 within the current financial year.

This report also summarises the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in the 2022-23 financial year, and the first quarter of the 2023-24 financial year. Under the Excellence Grants for Individuals Policy, applicants who are selected to represent either Victoria or Australia in a competitive endeavour or an elite performance may receive a funding assistance of \$150 for events within Victoria, \$250 for interstate events and \$400 for international events.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve six applications for a total of \$12,335.50 as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Knox Ramblers Walking Group	New uniforms for the Group	\$1,295.50	\$1,295.50
Wantirna South Football Club Inc.	Replacement of table covers	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
The Salvation Army	The Pantry	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Recare	New stove	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Orana Neighbourhood House Inc.	Connecting and bridging the digital divide	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Life Activities Club Knox Inc.	Cleaning of chairs and garden maintenance	\$2,040.00	\$1,040.00
Total		\$13,335.50	\$12,335.50

2. Defer one application requesting a total of \$3,000.00, as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested
Ferntree Gully Eagles Football Netball Club	Canteen upgrade	\$3,000.00
Total		\$3,000.00

3. Refuse one application requesting a total of \$3,000.00 as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
----------------	---------------	------------------	--------------------------

Mr Perfect Inc.	Mr Perfect Inc. BBQ	\$3,000.00	This project is considered ineligible under clause 6.14 of the Minor Grant Procedure. The applicant has not satisfactorily demonstrated a benefit to Knox residents.
Total		\$3,000.00	

4. Note that should the recommended grants be approved by Council, the remaining Minor Grants Program budget for 2023-24 will be \$55,705.12 before GST adjustments.
5. Note that one previous application, deferred at the November 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council for The Basin Cricket Club has been withdrawn by the applicant.
6. Note the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in the 2022-23 financial year as set out in Attachment 2 with a total value of \$9,300.
7. Note the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in Quarter 1 of the 2023-24 financial year as set out in Attachment 3, with a total value of \$3,850.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Baker

SECONDED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

That Council:

1. **Approve six applications for a total of \$12,335.50 as detailed below:**

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Knox Ramblers Walking Group	New uniforms for the Group	\$1,295.50	\$1,295.50
Wantirna South Football Club Inc.	Replacement of table covers	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
The Salvation Army	The Pantry	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Recare	New stove	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Orana Neighbourhood House Inc.	Connecting and bridging the digital divide	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Life Activities Club Knox Inc.	Cleaning of chairs and garden maintenance	\$2,040.00	\$1,040.00
Total		\$13,335.50	\$12,335.50

2. **Defer one application requesting a total of \$3,000.00, as detailed below:**

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested
Ferntree Gully Eagles Football Netball Club	Canteen upgrade	\$3,000.00

Total	\$3,000.00
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3. Refuse one application requesting a total of \$3,000.00 as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
Mr Perfect Inc.	Mr Perfect Inc. BBQ	\$3,000.00	This project is considered ineligible under clause 6.14 of the Minor Grant Procedure. The applicant has not satisfactorily demonstrated a benefit to Knox residents.
Total		\$3,000.00	

4. Note that should the recommended grants be approved by Council, the remaining Minor Grants Program budget for 2023-24 will be \$55,705.12 before GST adjustments.
5. Note that one previous application, deferred at the November 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council for The Basin Cricket Club has been withdrawn by the applicant.
6. Note the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in the 2022-23 financial year as set out in Attachment 2 with a total value of \$9,300.
7. Note the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in Quarter 1 of the 2023-24 financial year as set out in Attachment 3, with a total value of \$3,850.

CARRIED

8.5 Recruitment/Annual Report Youth Advisory Committee

SUMMARY: Team Leader Youth Participation and Counselling, Katie Scott
 The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is an advisory committee to Council with the purpose of providing an opportunity for young people to have a voice and to assist Council with its community engagement processes.

This report presents recommendations for the appointment of 15 new members to the Youth Advisory Committee for 2024, as well as providing an overview of the YAC achievements for 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Appoint the following 15 applicants to the Youth Advisory Committee 2024, and return of ten current members as presented in Confidential Attachment 1:

Name	Category
1	12-17 years
2	18-25 years
3	Community Rep

2. Approve a temporary variation to the Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference relating to membership categories – allowing additional members in the 12-17 years range to join the Committee for 2024.
3. Note the achievements of the Youth Advisory Committee 2023.
4. Thank the outgoing members of the Youth Advisory Committee for their valuable contributions.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Allred

SECONDED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

That Council:

1. Appoint the following 15 applicants to the Youth Advisory Committee 2024, and return of ten current members as presented in Confidential Attachment 1:

Name	Category
1. Gabi Bartolone	12-17 years
2. Jade Faichney	12-17 years
3. Rebekah Howarth	12-17 years
4. Reyhaan Kakkar	12-17 years
5. Maya Lawrence	12-17 years
6. Danu Liyanage	12-17 years
7. Jahnvi Maithil	12-17 years

8. Aimen Mohiddin	12-17 years
9. Matthew Payne	12-17 years
10. Milly Saffron	12-17 years
11. Meher Sidhu	12-17 years
12. Jason (Chenjje) Yang	12-17 years
13. Ami Aggarwal	18-25 years
14. Jesse Elderhorst	18-25 years
15. Madison Reardon	Community Rep

- 2. Approve a temporary variation to the Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference relating to membership categories – allowing additional members in the 12-17 years range to join the Committee for 2024.**
- 3. Note the achievements of the Youth Advisory Committee 2023.**
- 4. Thank the outgoing members of the Youth Advisory Committee for their valuable contributions.**

CARRIED

Councillor Laukens left the meeting at 7:33pm before the vote on item 8.5

Councillor Laukens returned to the meeting at 7:35pm before the vote on item 8.5

8.6 Proposed Sublease of Knox Library, Bayswater Library and Rowville Library

SUMMARY: Property Officer, Emma Hayton

This report recommends the signing of sublease agreements between Council and Your Library Ltd for the premises at Westfield Knox (Knox Library), Mountain High Shopping Centre (Bayswater Library) and Stud Park Shopping Centre (Rowville Library).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Enter into sublease agreements with Your Library Ltd for three premises at:
 - a. Knox Library, Shop MM301, Westfield Knox, 425 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South;
 - b. Bayswater Library, Tenancy 26, Mountain High Shopping Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater; and
 - c. Rowville Library, Stud Park Shopping Centre, Stud Road, Rowville.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Bayswater Library for a maximum term of 2 years.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Knox Library for a maximum of 20 years.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Rowville Library for a maximum term of 40 years.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Laukens

SECONDED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

That Council:

1. Enter into sublease agreements with Your Library Ltd for three premises at:
 - a. Knox Library, Shop MM301, Westfield Knox, 425 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South;
 - b. Bayswater Library, Tenancy 26, Mountain High Shopping Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater; and
 - c. Rowville Library, Stud Park Shopping Centre, Stud Road, Rowville.
2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Bayswater Library for a maximum term of 2 years.
3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Knox Library for a maximum of 20 years.
4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Rowville Library for a maximum term of 40 years.

CARRIED

8.7 Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP) Annual Report

SUMMARY: Manager City Futures, Shiranthi Widan

At its meeting on 19 December 2022, Council considered and endorsed the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy prepared on behalf of Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges councils, to guide the longer-term development of the Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP). As part of the 2022 reporting, Council was advised of the implementation actions arising from the Strategy, with officer advice to continue the partnership with Maroondah and Yarra Ranges with a focus on developing a spatial plan for the precinct (Priority Action 10 of the Transformation Strategy).

In adopting the Transformation Strategy, Council also resolved for a report to be presented on the progress of its implementation within 12 months of the strategy's adoption, which is provided by this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the progress on the implementation of the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy as outlined in the Officers' report.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Grasso

SECONDED: Councillor Allred

That Council note the progress on the implementation of the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy as outlined in the Officers' report.

CARRIED

8.8 Knox Food Relief Taskforce - First Year Outcomes Update

SUMMARY: Social Policy and Projects Officer, Camille Bowles and
Coordinator Community Partnerships, Kylie Wilmot

This report provides an update on the outcomes from the first year of the Knox Food Relief Taskforce. The Taskforce was established following an Emergency Relief Audit undertaken in June 2022, which identified the demand for food relief in Knox was continuing to grow following the COVID-19 Pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the achievements of the Knox Food Relief Taskforce in its first year of operation as set out in the Officers' report.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council note the achievements of the Knox Food Relief Taskforce in its first year of operation as set out in the Officers' report.

CARRIED

8.9 Your Library Annual Report 2022-2023

SUMMARY: Interim Manager Community Wellbeing, John Devereaux

Libraries are more than just books; they contribute to community and provide a place for social connection and cohesion.

Your Library, formerly Eastern Regional Library Corporation, provides valuable services to a wide range of Knox community members, at all ages and stages of their life. From storytime for babies and their caregivers, to homework clubs for teenagers, job search services for adults and delivery services to older residents in aged care.

Your Library delivers library services to the Knox community on the Council's behalf. This report presents the Your Library (Eastern Regional Libraries) Annual Report 2022-2023, which includes the Year in Review, Corporate Matters, and the Financial Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the key statistics and highlights of the services delivered to the Knox community by Your Library during 2022-2023 (refer to Attachment 1).

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Laukens

SECONDED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

That Council note the key statistics and highlights of the services delivered to the Knox community by Your Library during 2022-2023 (refer to Attachment 1).

CARRIED

9 Supplementary Items

Nil.

10 Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion 140 – 10 Tamara Street, Wantirna South

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Seymour

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

I hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting on 18 December 2023:

That Council, following the sale and settlement of the property at 10 Tamara Street, Wantirna South in accordance with the Council decision at its meeting on 27 November 2023 (Item 8.4, Proposal to Sell Three Council Facilities - 73-75 Eildon Parade Rowville; 10 Tamara Street, Wantirna South; 4 Coorie Avenue, Bayswater):

- 1. Receive a report within one month after settlement (or such later time as agreed with the Mayor) regarding the outcome of the sale process; and**
- 2. Consider the ongoing need for confidentiality of the information contained in Confidential Attachment 2, to the Officer report to the 27 November 2023 meeting.**

CARRIED

A Division was called by Councillor Pearce

For the motion: Councillor Allred, Councillor Baker, Councillor Cooper, Councillor Dwight, Councillor Grasso, Councillor Laukens, Councillor Pearce, Councillor Seymour and Councillor Timmers-Leitch

Against the motion: Nil

Abstention: Nil

CARRIED 9:0

Notice of Motion 141 – Knox Opportunity Shop

Pursuant to Section 130 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) and Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council, Councillor Pearce declared an indirect conflict of interest in this item Notice of Motion 141 -Knox Opportunity Shop on the grounds that a direct beneficiary of the Knox Opportunity Shop is Knox Infolink, to whom his wife is the Treasurer. Therefore, Councillor Pearce holds an indirect conflict of interest in relation to this item based on a personal relationship he holds.

Councillor Pearce left the meeting at 8:40pm before the discussion and vote on Notice of Motion 141.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Grasso

SECONDED: Councillor Cooper

I hereby give notice that it is my intention to move the following motion at the Council Meeting on 18 December 2023:

That Council resolve to receive a report to a Council meeting in February 2024 (or such later meeting as agreed with the Mayor) outlining Council's options and any other information considered relevant to a Council determination regarding a request from Knox Opportunity Shop (Bayswater) that Council pay their waste management charges, including arrears, in the current financial year, 2023-24.

CARRIED

Councillor Pearce returned to the meeting at 9:07pm following the vote on Notice of Motion 141 - Knox Opportunity Shop.

Councillor Timmers-Leitch left the meeting at 9:17pm following the vote on Notice of Motion 141 - Knox Opportunity Shop.

11 Urgent Business

Nil.

12 Questions Without Notice

Nil.

13 Confidential Items

PROCEDURAL MOTION

CLOSURE OF MEETING

MOVED: Councillor Cooper

SECONDED: Councillor Baker

That Council resolve to close the meeting to the public in accordance with Section 66(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 2020 to consider:

13.1 Audit and Risk Committee

as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to personal information and details of a prospective committee member which would be unreasonable to disclose publicly before they are appointed.

13.2 Advanced Waste Project Update

as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to:

- Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; and -
- Private commercial information that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage by revealing financial information that is not available to its competitors.

13.3 CEO Performance Review

as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to personal information, which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about the affected person and or their personal affairs. Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2020 regarding Confidential Information applies to a person who is, or has been, a Councillor, a member of a delegated committee or a member of Council staff.

CARRIED

Councillor Timmers-Leitch returned to the Chamber at 9:09 pm following the vote on Item 13 – Confidential Items.

THE MEETING WAS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC AT 9:09pm

13.1 Audit and Risk Committee

SUMMARY: Andrew Dowling, Manager Governance and Risk
The Knox City Council Audit and Risk Committee Charter provides that its membership shall comprise of three independent members and two Councillors.

Mr Geoff Harry's term as an independent member on the Audit and Risk Committee concludes in December 2023. This report recommends that Mr Harry be reappointed as an independent member of the Audit and Risk Committee for a further three-year term.

RESOLUTION

MOVED: Councillor Timmers-Leitch

SECONDED: Councillor Laukens

That Council resolve:

1. To re-appoint Mr Geoff Harry as an independent member of the Knox Audit and Risk Committee for a second three-year term, from December 2023 to December 2026.
2. Pursuant to Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2020, to authorise the confidential information in the report to be publicly available for the limited purpose of communicating the effect of this Resolution to the extent necessary to give effect to it.
3. To include the Report Summary and these resolutions in the public Minutes of the Council meeting.

CARRIED

MEETING CLOSED AT 9:20pm

Minutes of Meeting confirmed at the
Meeting of Council
held on Monday, 29 January 2024

.....
Chairperson

The Agenda for this meeting is attached in full at the end of the Minutes.

AGENDA



Meeting of Council

To be held at the

Civic Centre

511 Burwood Highway

Wantirna South

On

Monday 18 December 2023 at 5:00 PM

This meeting will be conducted as a hybrid meeting

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Bruce Dobson
Chief Executive Officer

1 Apologies and Requests for Leave of Absence

2 Declarations of Conflict of Interest

3 Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of Council held on Monday 27 November 2023

4 Presentations, Petitions and Memorials

5 Reports by Councillors

6 Planning Matters

6.1 Report of Planning Applications Decided Under Delegation 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023

SUMMARY: Manager, City Planning & Building, Paul Dickie

Details of planning applications considered under delegation are referred for information. It is recommended that the items be noted.

RECOMMENDATION

That the planning applications decided under delegation reports (between 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023) be noted.

1. REPORT

Details of planning applications decided under delegation from 1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023 are attached. The applications are summarised as follows:

Application Type	No.
Building & Works: Residential	1
Other	4
Subdivision	2
Units	14
Tree Removal / Pruning	7
Single Dwelling	1
Child Care Centre	2
Change of Use	2
TOTAL	33

2. CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information from the Local Government Act 2020.

Report Prepared By: Manager, City Planning & Building, Paul Dickie

Report Authorised By: Director, City Liveability, Matt Kelleher

Attachments

Nil

Knox City Council

Report of Planning Applications Decided Under Delegation

1 November 2023 to 30 November 2023

Ward	No/ Type	Address	Description	Decision
Baird	2023/6258	59 Barry Street BAYSWATER VIC 3153	The construction of a building and associated works	1/11/2023 Approved
Baird	2023/6415	1/49 Corporate Boulevard BAYSWATER VIC 3153	Use of the land as a Container Deposit Scheme Centre, construct and display signage and a reduction in the car parking requirements	2/11/2023 Approved
Baird	2023/6226	1/19 Cypress Avenue BORONIA VIC 3155	The construction of four (4) double storey dwellings	20/11/2023 Approved
Baird	2022/6399	8 Loretto Avenue FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	Construction of two (2) double storey dwellings on the land	15/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Baird	2023/6108	22-24 Brunsdon Street BAYSWATER VIC 3153	The extension of a warehouse and associated reduction in car parking	24/11/2023 Approved
Baird	2023/6286	20 Stradbroke Road BORONIA VIC 3155	Development of the land for one (1) double storey dwelling to the rear of the existing dwelling	24/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Chandler	2023/6298	22 Baldwin Avenue BORONIA VIC 3155	Removal of T2 Ulmus parvifolia (Chinese elm), T9 & T15 Yucca elephantipes (Spineless Yucca) and T20 & T21 Callistemon salignus (Willow Bottlebrush) to facilitate demolition of a single dwelling	14/11/2023 Approved
Chandler	2022/6274	324 Dorset Road BORONIA VIC 3155	Use and development of the land for a Child Care Centre, with associated signage, tree removal and access to Transport 2 Zone	28/11/2023 Notice of Decision

Ward	No/ Type	Address	Description	Decision
Chandler	2023/6454	5 Enderby Court BORONIA VIC 3155	Removal of one (1) Pittosporum eugeniodes 'Variegatum', one (1) Photinia robusta and one (1) Phoenix canariensis	21/11/2023 Approved
Chandler	2023/6478	41 Hilda Avenue BORONIA VIC 3155	Removal of one (1) Eucalyptus cephalocarpa (Silver Stringybark)	28/11/2023 Approved
Collier	2023/6444	220 Burwood Highway WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152	Building and works (extension to existing school building)	14/11/2023 Approved
Collier	2023/6172	4 Nizam Court WANTIRNA VIC 3152	Development of the land for 11 dwellings, 11 lot subdivision and vegetation removal	28/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Dinsdale	2023/6337	11 Waranga Road BAYSWATER VIC 3153	Development of the land for two (2) single storey dwellings	28/11/2023 Approved
Dinsdale	2022/6563	6 Highmoor Avenue BAYSWATER VIC 3153	Use and development of land as a childcare centre, lopping of vegetation, partial demolition and construction of buildings and works in a heritage overlay	20/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Dinsdale	2023/6114	48 Scoresby Road BAYSWATER VIC 3153	The construction of two (2) double storey dwellings and one (1) single storey dwelling and alteration of access to a road in a Transport 2 Zone	28/11/2023 Approved
Dinsdale	2022/6661	3 Myrtle Street BAYSWATER VIC 3153	Construction of eight (8) triple storey dwellings	24/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Dinsdale	2023/6315	9 Allenby Avenue WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152	Development of the land for two (2) double storey dwellings	30/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Dinsdale	2023/6333	50 Orange Grove BAYSWATER VIC 3153	Construction of a double storey dwelling to the rear of the existing dwelling and two lot subdivision	24/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Dinsdale	2022/6684	16 Church Street BAYSWATER VIC 3153	Construction of seven (7) triple storey and one (1) double storey dwellings on a lot	30/11/2023 Notice of Decision

Ward	No/ Type	Address	Description	Decision
Dobson	2023/9092	19 Mount View Road UPPER FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	Removal of one (1) Angophora costata (Smooth Barked Apple)	2/11/2023 Approved
Dobson	2023/6441	2 Aringa Court FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	Pruning of one (1) Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweetgum) and the removal of three (3) Pyrus calleryana (Callery Pear)	15/11/2023 Approved
Dobson	2023/6375	2 Salina Rise FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	Construction of a single storey dwelling on the land	17/11/2023 Approved
Dobson	2023/6460	37 Margot Street FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	Removal of one (1) dead Eucalyptus obliqua (Retrospective)	16/11/2023 Approved
Dobson	2023/9093	24 The Glen FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	Buildings and Works (construction of deck)	20/11/2023 Approved
Friberg	2023/6470	2 Kirby Court FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	Three lot subdivision (approved development site)	10/11/2023 Approved
Friberg	2023/6221	57 Conn Street FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	The construction of three (3) double storey dwellings and one (1) single storey dwelling and subdivision of the land into four (4) lots	16/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Friberg	2023/6254	58 Greenaway Drive FERNTREE GULLY VIC 3156	Development of a double storey dwelling to the rear of the existing dwelling	17/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Scott	2023/6134	6 White Road WANTIRNA SOUTH VIC 3152	The construction of five (5) triple storey dwellings	14/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Tirhatuan	2022/6536	6 Linnel Court ROWVILLE VIC 3178	Construction of two (2) double storey dwellings on the land	2/11/2023 Notice of Decision
Tirhatuan	2023/6389	54 Henderson Road ROWVILLE VIC 3178	Use of the land as a Container Deposit Scheme Centre	2/11/2023 Approved
Tirhatuan	2023/6421	9 Gynea Avenue ROWVILLE VIC 3178	Removal of nine (9) Eucalyptus cephalocarpa (T3, T4, T5, T11, T12, T13, T15, T17 & T18)	2/11/2023 Approved

Ward	No/ Type	Address	Description	Decision
Tirhatuan	2023/9095	87A & 87B Sheppard Drive SCORESBY VIC 3179	Two Lot subdivision (approved unit development)	17/11/2023 Approved
Tirhatuan	2023/9096	16 Janine Street SCORESBY VIC 3179	Buildings and Works (Internal refurbishment works and an addition of window to an existing office building exterior facade)	29/11/2023 Approved

6.2 Adoption of the Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS)

SUMMARY: Coordinator City Strategy and Planning, Nasrin Dehghani

The Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS) provides strategic direction for selected precincts within Knox that are of environmental, recreational, agricultural, rural living and landscape significance to the community. It provides a vision for each precinct, a series of themed objectives and strategies and specific actions to achieve the objectives.

The draft GARS was informed by various technical reports, officer analysis, stakeholder input and two phases of community consultation. The second phase of consultation in late 2021 sought the views of the community and key stakeholders on draft GARS. This consultation phase received an extensive level of engagement and captured comments/submissions from a total of 273 participants.

Overall, the consultation feedback indicated support from the Knox community in terms of the strategy's direction and priorities. Some of the key issues raised during the consultation related to:

- Protecting the GARS precincts and the Urban Growth Boundary
- Concerns about potential sale and development of the Salvation Army site in The Basin
- Potential expansion of the Hanson Quarry in Lysterfield
- Heritage Protection and management
- Green wedge landowners in Lysterfield requesting Council support for rezoning and residential development
- Open space matters outside GARS precincts
- Ongoing open space maintenance and enforcement
- Implementation of the strategy.

Subsequently, the draft GARS has been modified in response to the feedback, where appropriate, and is recommended for adoption by Council. The changes made are minor in nature and seek to further clarify and refine the recommendations to better guide implementation. The broad intent and direction of GARS is recommended to remain as drafted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Adopts the final proposed GARS, as updated to reflect the consultation feedback, as provided in Attachment 1.
2. Notes the findings of public and stakeholder consultation on the draft GARS as provided in the Written Submission Analysis Table (Attachment 2) and Community Engagement Report (Attachment 3).
3. Adopts the GARS Implementation Plan as provided in Attachment 4.

1. INTRODUCTION

The GARS project represents a strategic land use planning review of selected precincts within the Knox municipality that are of high environmental, recreational, agricultural, rural residential and landscape value to the Knox community. The study area includes the following precincts which are indicated on Figure 1:

- Precinct 1: The Basin Rural Landscape Precinct
- Precinct 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills
- Precinct 2b: Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds
- Precinct 3: Dandenong Creek Valley Precinct
- Precinct 3a: Tirhatuan Wetlands
- Precinct 4: Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds.

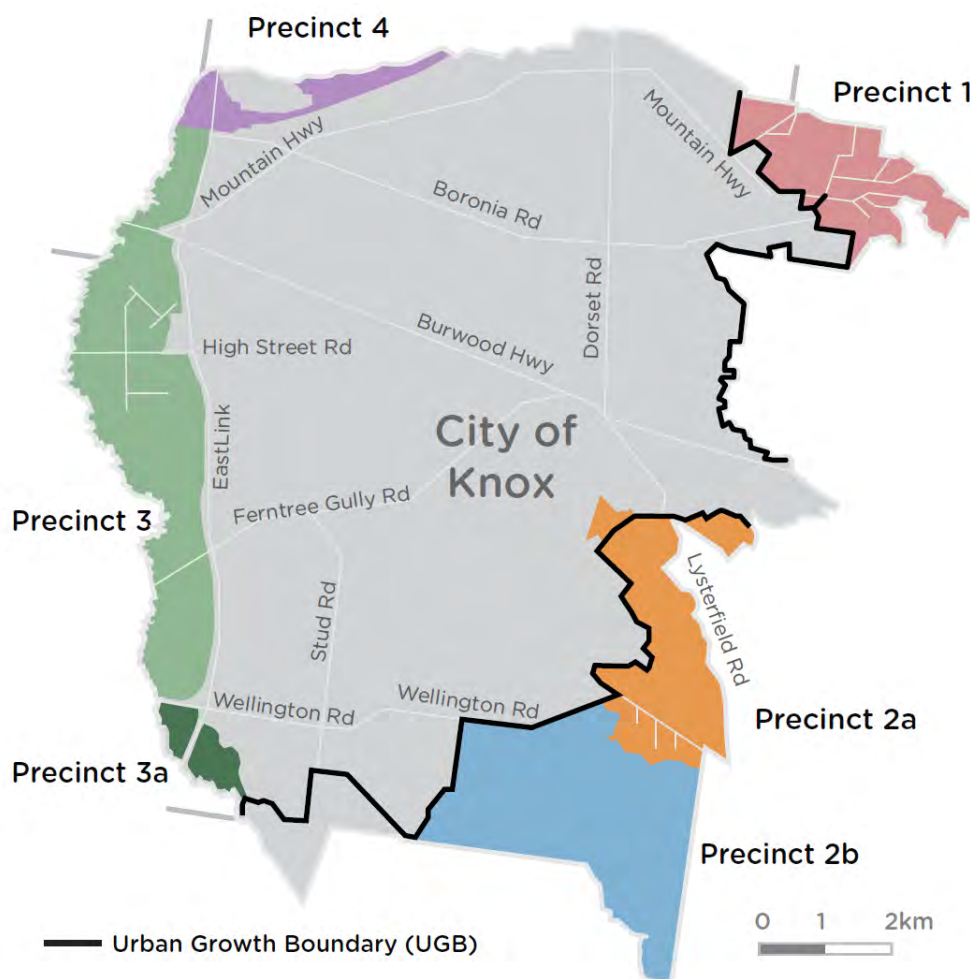


Figure 1 – GARS Precincts

**Note: Two Rowville Golf Courses to the south excluded from scope of GARS.*

The precincts contain areas of public and private land that are used for a variety of rural living, agriculture, recreation, resources or environmental conservation purposes, within the Chandler, Dobson, Taylor, Tirhatuan, Scott, Collier and Dinsdale Wards. The project is supported and prompted by the Knox Planning Scheme which requires further investigation of Knox Green Wedge land (land outside the Urban Growth Boundary) and the Dandenong Creek Valley Parklands. The need for this strategy is also driven by the Victorian Government and its

Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) which requires councils to provide local strategic direction for areas of Green Wedge land within their municipality.

Early stages of this project involved the engagement of consultants to prepare technical reports to assess environmental, agricultural, landscape, heritage and economic aspects of the study area. Key recommendations from these technical reports were then analysed by officers and combined into an Issues and Opportunities Analysis report which underwent public consultation in 2020 (Phase 1 consultation). This consultation informed the preparation of draft GARS which was endorsed by Council on 5 October 2021.

Subsequently, community consultation (Phase 2 consultation) was undertaken in November-December 2021. Work continued in 2022 to review the extensive feedback received and to incorporate the findings into the strategy. However, the project was placed on hold from mid-2022 to progress other priority projects within resourcing capacity.

2. DISCUSSION

The consultation presented the key proposed Strategies and Actions and provided an opportunity for the community to provide feedback. The feedback received during the consultation has been analysed and where required, the final GARS has been updated to reflect the feedback.

An overview of the key issues raised during the consultation is provided below. Attachment 2 provides a summary of all written submissions received, the officer response to each submission and any changes made to the final GARS as a result. Attachment 3 provides the findings from the other community engagement activities including the community pop up sessions, intercept surveys and online surveys completed.

2.1. Key issues raised during consultation

Protecting the GARS precincts and the Urban Growth Boundary

Protecting these precincts from development encroachment was a key priority for the local residents and broader Knox community. This included preserving the ecological values and enhancements to flora and wildlife with substantial feedback focusing on native vegetation, biodiversity and waterways. Maintaining the Urban Growth Boundary in the GARS precincts was a highly supported element of the strategy aiming to prevent urban development.

Some participants, however, expressed a lack of trust in Council's ability to implement these objectives and limit development in green and rural areas even with the appropriate measures in place. Some comments raised concerns that an application refused by Council may be overridden by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) or that the State Government may approve development regardless of Council's position.

In this regard, while it is recognised that the State Government or VCAT have powers to revoke or override Council's decision(s) or position, it is expected that they would give regard to planning policy and controls in place. The adoption of GARS would provide an additional layer of evidence base and policy support to guide the future of these precincts as it better clarifies the various attributes including significant landscapes and environmental features. Some of the Actions in the strategy will be implemented through a Planning Scheme amendment, which if approved, will give more statutory weight to the recommendations.

Some participants also sought clarification on what is meant by the language used in the strategy to protect the precincts from “intense development” and whether this represents a compromise position by Council to allow some level of development (this was a particular concern in Precinct 1). In this regard, the phrase “intense development” has been used to describe urban development as opposed to what can or may legally occur in Green Wedge and rural areas under the current zoning regime and planning scheme requirements. The strategy cannot be expected to prevent “any development”, considering that certain use and development can legally occur in Green Wedge areas. The strategy advocates for compatible uses while preventing the introduction of intense urban type zones or development (similar to what occurs inside the Urban Growth Boundary). Slight language adjustments have been made in the GARS to better clarify this intent.

The Salvation Army site in The Basin

A commonly raised concern relates to the potential sale and redevelopment of the land parcels to the north of The Basin-Olinda Road roundabout, known as the Salvation Army farm. The subject land is located at 1267 Mountain Highway, Boronia and 11 and 49 Basin-Olinda Road, The Basin and falls within GARS Precinct 1. The level of concern received during the GARS consultation was due to an Expression of Interest (EoI) ad for the land being placed in newspapers regarding this site during the consultation period for the draft GARS.

The subject site is located outside the Urban Growth Boundary and is part of Green Wedge land where there are restrictions in place with regard to development and subdivision. The Knox Planning Scheme currently includes a number of provisions that seek to protect the environmental and landscape values of this site. The GARS provides additional information and proposes to strengthen these protections as detailed in Actions across the document.

Should the owners or future purchasers seek to bring this area into the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) or change the zoning to increase the subdivision potential beyond what is currently permissible, this would not only require a full planning scheme amendment process, but also majority support of both houses of the Victorian Parliament to change the UGB. As of the date of drafting this report, Council has not received any rezoning or development proposals for this site.

Some of the submissions also express disappointment that they were not able to receive information from officers at the consultation sessions for GARS about the development proposal by the Salvation Army and the intent behind the EoI. In this respect, it is noted that Council had no involvement in the EoI process, neither was consulted by the Salvation Army and had not received any applications or proposals to develop or rezone this site. Property owners have a right to list their properties for sale at any time and Council is not involved in that process.

The key relevant matter is that existing Council policy and planning controls do not allow this site to be developed/subdivided for urban scale residential development, and the GARS seeks to maintain and strengthen this position. This message was communicated during the consultation.

Some submissions also raised concerns about the potential development of a Country Fire Authority (CFA) fire station on the Salvation Army site. In this respect, Council has not received any permit applications for a CFA facility on this site. However, it is noted that the State Government has significant powers in relation to the development of emergency services facilities in Victoria and these developments may be approved by the Minister for Planning without a need for a planning permit from local councils. Community members were advised during the consultation

that any questions regarding locations being considered for future stations may be forwarded to the CFA.

Lysterfield Quarries

Another matter that received a large number of comments was the potential expansion of the Hanson quarry in Lysterfield (GARS Precinct 2b) and the impact on nearby residential areas and the vegetation and wildlife in Churchill National Park.

The concerns relate to a Work Authority application (at the time of consultation) by Hanson to the Victorian Government proposing a quarry expansion. It should be noted that Work Authority process was unsuccessful and therefore Council has not received a planning permit application from Hanson. Decision making in relation to work authorities for quarries sits with the State Government. The planning framework provides a number of exemptions from Council planning permit processes (including vegetation removal) to enable the carrying out of extractive industry in accordance with an approved work plan and work authority granted by the State Government.

In this regard, the GARS recognises and maps significant vegetation and habitat in proximity to the quarries and includes a range of strategies and Actions which aim to protect and enhance vegetation and habitat outside the extent of extraction. It also provides guidance to make sure future rehabilitation following the cessation of quarry operations deliver benefits to the community and the environment.

Heritage Protection and Management

Another issue raised related to heritage matters, with some comments/nominations about heritage values of specific sites.

It is noted that the preparation of GARS has not included a full heritage assessment of or within the study area. The GARS is informed by the Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage (Context, 2017) which broadly reviewed the study area and provides recommendations for sites worthy of further investigation. It does not represent a full heritage assessment or citation. The GARS includes an action (Action 13) recommending that a heritage study be undertaken for the entire municipality, noting Council's current heritage study is dated 1993. Applying heritage protection would involve detailed heritage assessment, a planning scheme amendment and extensive consultation processes.

Further clarification has been added to the final GARS to prevent confusion regarding the recommendations for further heritage investigation. Where heritage information was included in the submissions (mostly related to trees in The Basin and the Healesville Freeway reservation), this information has been recorded to be considered as part of any future heritage study.

Green wedge landowners in Lysterfield requesting Council support for rezoning and residential development

Eight landowners in Lysterfield made submissions which objected to the GARS recommendations for Precinct 2a, pertaining to the area to the north of Wellington Road and south of the Lysterfield ridgeline (area shown as 'Subject Area' on Figure 2). This included one submission representing seven landowners, plus an individual submission.

These submissions generally requested Council to support future rezoning of properties in the Subject Area to allow for rural residential subdivision/development, and objected to the sections of GARS that may prevent this.

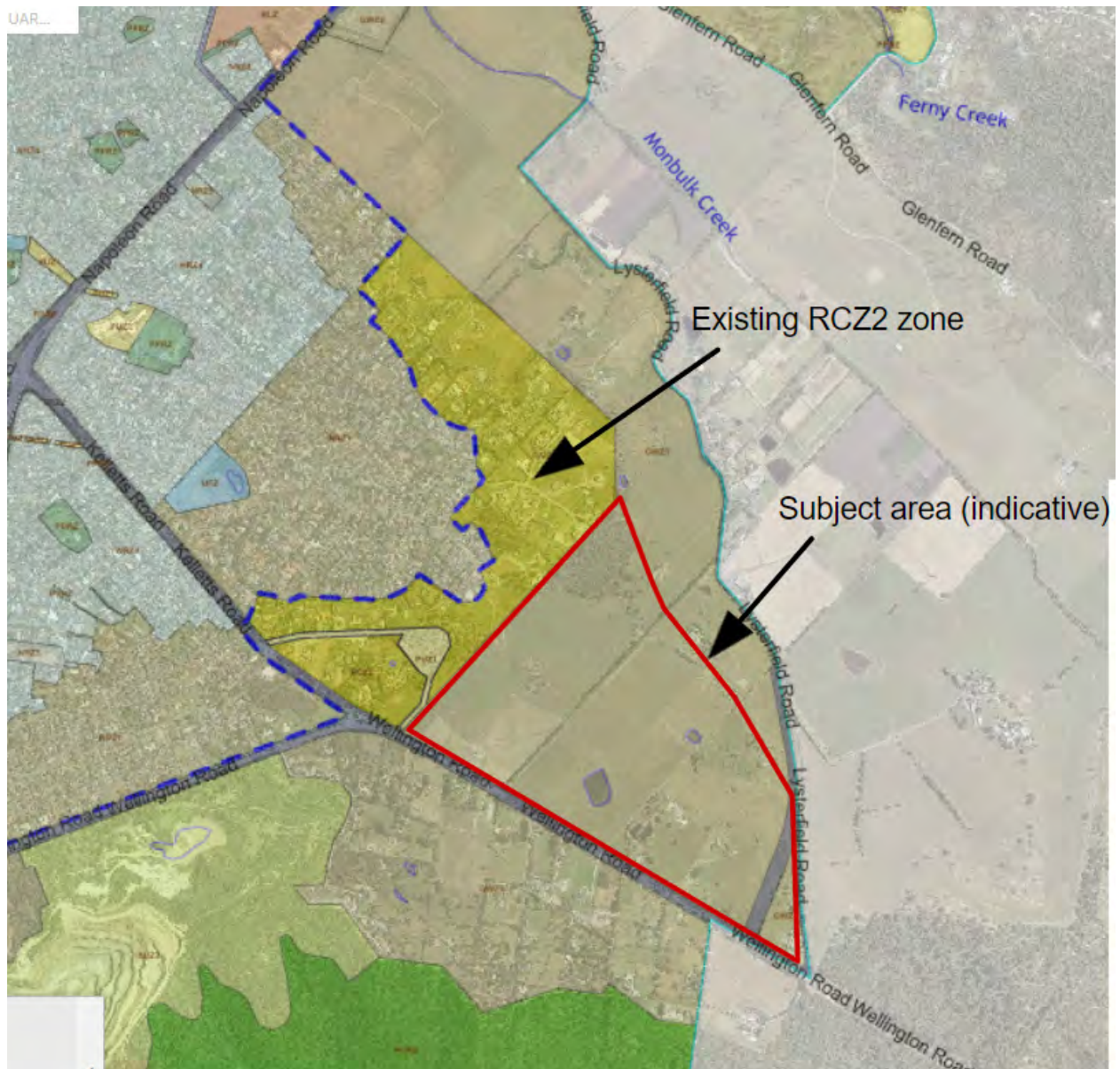


Figure 2 – Subject Area of submissions requesting rezoning

The subject area is currently zoned Green Wedge – Schedule 1 (GWZ1) where a minimum subdivision area of 20 hectares applies, and is affected by the Significant Landscape Overlay – Schedule 1. The GARS proposes to maintain the zoning regime and includes additional direction on landscape, character and key views to protect.

The submissions advise of the landowners’ intentions to rezone this area to a zone similar to the Rural Conservation Zone – Schedule 2 (RCZ2) and request to allow for a range of 1,350m²/2,000m² to 4,000m² lot subdivisions. It is noted that the RCZ2 currently requires a minimum 5,000m² subdivision size. The submissions consider this area as an appropriate extension to the RCZ2 zoned land in the Carrington Park residential estate to the west.

The submissions object to the GARS recommendations in terms of landscape values and open valley character on the southern side of the ridgeline and the proposed protection of views from Wellington Road. They suggest applying an 8-10m buffer to the ridgeline and opening the rest of the area to the south to subdivision.

The submissions argue that the current size of blocks in the subject area only gives rise to agistment of farmland where the return is insufficient to pay the costs of land maintenance and Council rates and that this leads to poor maintenance.

In this respect, the submitters' proposal to rezone the area is considered inconsistent with the current Green Wedge objectives and the overarching State Government policy, provisions and legislation to consolidate residential growth inside the Urban Growth Boundary, toward locations close to public transport and services. The introduction of RCZ2 to the west of this area facilitates a transition between the Neighbourhood Residential Zones inside the Urban Growth Boundary in Lysterfield and the Green Wedge land outside. To expand the RCZ2 further into the green wedge is not justified by any planning investigation and the technical reports that informed GARS do not recommend this area for rezoning or land use intensification. In addition, the Knox Housing Strategy 2015 does not identify a need for more properties of the RCZ2 size range or expansion of residential land in this location. The officer analysis and technical work on GARS does not suggest there is adequate justification for Council to contemplate rezoning to RCZ2 in this area.

If the landowners seek to pursue rezoning as a proponent-led amendment, it should be noted that, under Part 3AA of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, any amendment that introduces additional subdivision potential outside the Urban Growth Boundary, in addition to the normal amendment process and approval by the Minister for Planning, will require ratification by both Houses of the Victorian Parliament, as mentioned earlier.

Regarding the issue of financial viability and maintenance costs raised in the submission, the possibility of offering rate exemptions/reductions to GWZ1 lots in Precinct 2a to assist landowners with maintaining their properties has been considered however, such measures are not recommended considering:

- The properties are charged at residential rates and not higher commercial rates; and
- There are not sufficient grounds to justify these properties being treated differently, considering GARS is not proposing to change the zoning or remove any existing development potential.

Open space outside GARS precincts

The consultation attracted some feedback regarding parks and open space areas outside the GARS precincts, with some comments suggesting that the GARS includes these parks and provides an open space hierarchy for Knox.

In this respect, it is noted that the GARS has a specific scope to provide planning direction for the identified precincts. A review of all open space areas in Knox and providing a hierarchy is the role of an Open Space Strategy/Plan.

The Knox Open Space Plan 2012-2022 provides a strategic framework for areas of open space across Knox. It operates alongside Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan which defines

Council open space asset and service management performance. It is noted that the Knox Open Space Plan is due for a review and that process has commenced.

Ongoing maintenance and management of green areas

Some participants noted specific issues about open space maintenance, and weed, waste or pest management. While some of this feedback, where relevant, has been addressed in GARS, it is noted that GARS is not the right level of policy to address specific concerns as its focus is on longer term land use planning matters.

Council has ongoing operation, education and enforcement processes and programs in place and where relevant, customer requests have been forwarded to the relevant departments for action. It is also noted that some of the significant open space areas in GARS are owned/managed by Parks Victoria and the relevant actions included in GARS are of an advocacy nature.

Implementation of the strategy

Some of the feedback received related to the strategy implementation and enquired how Council can ensure the strategy will be realised.

A large number of actions included in GARS are related to the planning framework. These Actions will involve further planning investigations or planning scheme amendments to incorporate relevant recommendations of the strategy into the Knox Planning Scheme.

The strategy also includes actions outside the planning realm. Some of these will require delivery by other departments within Council or cross-departmental collaborations. Examples include actions related to transport, open space, waterways or biodiversity enhancements.

It is also noted that some of the actions across the document are of an advocacy nature and will inform Council's position in relation to projects or reforms initiated by the State Government or neighbouring councils. Examples include improvements to Lysterfield Park (managed by Parks Victoria) or proposed new shared paths along arterial roads (Department of Transport and Planning).

Additionally, some actions may be longer term considering Council's work program and budget/resource availability. While budget constraints are acknowledged and may require prioritising of key actions in the short term, having a complete list of actions prepared for the study area means that Council is in a better position to progress actions in the event available resources or external opportunities for grants or partnerships arise.

Part 7 of the strategy has been updated to clarify this matter. An Implementation Plan has also been prepared to better clarify how the Actions will be delivered over time (Attachment 4).

2.2. Changes made to GARS following consultation

It is recommended that consequential changes are made to GARS before adoption by Council. Below is an outline of key changes made:

- The heritage related Actions across the GARS have been updated to clarify that the information provided does not represent a heritage assessment and is intended to inform a future municipality wide heritage study if one is undertaken.

- Additional heritage suggestions received during the consultation (trees in The Basin and the Healesville Freeway reservation) have been added to the report to be considered as part of future heritage assessments.
- Changes have been made to reflect the status of the State Government projects, including Dorset Road extension and Wellington Road upgrades which have been placed on hold by the Federal Government.
- Updates made to reflect recently adopted policies and strategies at state, regional and Council levels
- Minor changes made to the discussions or actions wording in response to the consultation feedback, details of which are provided in Attachment 2.
- Updates to reflect recent changes to Planning Scheme clauses and terms.

The updated GARS is provided in Attachment 1 and is recommended for adoption.

3. CONSULTATION

Consultation of the draft GARS was carried out between 8 November to 23 December 2021 and sought feedback through the following methods:

- Community pop-ups (4 sessions)
- Community intercept surveys
- Knox Have Your Say webpage
- Direct mail out to property owners/occupiers within the study area with fact sheets tailored to each precinct
- Ads in three local community papers
- Notifications to community/interest groups
- Notifications to neighbouring councils and relevant state government agencies
- An online information session with FAQ proceedings circulated
- Promotion on Knox media and social media platforms
- Corflute signs installed in various locations across the GARS precincts.

The consultation captured comments/submissions from a total of 273 participants including:

- 174 completed online surveys
- 79 comments made at the community pop-ups and intercept surveys
- 22 written submissions via email/letter
- 25 participants at the online information session.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has been considered in the context of climate change and its relevance to the Knox Climate Response Plan 2021 – 2031. Implementation of the recommendation will:

- positively impact upon Council's exposure to climate risks by protecting vegetation, waterways and minimising the heat island effect; and
- create opportunities for Council and the community to adapt to climate change by protecting floodplains and buffers to bushfire prone areas.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

The strategy as a whole seeks to improve environmental and landscape qualities within the study area, and will contribute positively towards the protection of the environment and significant landscapes.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The preparation of GARS has been completed within the existing City Futures operational budget and staff resources.

The adoption of GARS in itself does not impose any costs to Council. However, it is noted that no budget is currently allocated for GARS implementation. Some of the GARS actions will be delivered through Council's ongoing operation and advocacy; some represent already funded projects/programs; and some will require individual project scoping and new business case proposals to be assessed and considered for future budget processes. The Implementation Plan provided in Attachment 4 provides more detail in this respect.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The preparation of the strategy has been informed by two phases of extensive community engagement which successfully facilitated public participation in policy development. Many recommendations from the strategy would rely on continuous community participation, including landowners, community groups and nearby residents, to achieve the desired outcomes. Attachments 2 and 3 provide further detail.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Natural Environment & Sustainability

Strategy 3.1 - Preserve our biodiversity and waterways, and enhance our urban landscape.

Strategy 3.2 - Prepare for, mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Connection, Resilience & Wellbeing

Strategy 4.1 - Support our community to improve their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.

Strategy 4.3 - Honour and integrate First Nations Culture into Actions and environments.

Civic Engagement & Integrity

Strategy 5.3 - Ensure our processes are transparent and decisions are accountable.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information from the Local Government Act 2020.

Report Prepared By: Coordinator City Strategy and Planning, Nasrin Dehghani
Report Authorised By: Director, City Liveability, Matt Kelleher

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Final Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS) for Adoption (November 2023) [6.2.1 - 123 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Written Submissions Analysis Table GARS [6.2.2 - 15 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Final GARS Community Engagement Report (September 2023) [6.2.3 - 62 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - GARS Implementation Plan [6.2.4 - 6 pages]

KNOX

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Knox City Council

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

A plan for Knox Green Wedge land and Green Corridors

November 2023



Document Register					
Rev.	Purpose	Prepared By	Reviewed By	Date of Issue	Changes
1	Initial draft	ND	Project Working Group	05/05/2020	NA
2	Draft for EMT	ND	MC & AP	20/05/2020	Internal comments incorporated
3	Draft for Councillors Issues Briefing	ND	EMT	01/06/2021	Minor edits
4	Draft for public consultation	ND	Endorsed by Council on 25/10/2021 for public consultation	04/10/2021	Changes to reflect Councillor feedback, minor edits
5	Final draft	ND	EMT, Councillors Issues Briefing	23/11/2023	Changes to reflect public and stakeholder consultation

Acknowledgement of the Traditional Custodians

Knox City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people and Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation as Traditional Custodians of the land in Knox.

Contributors

This document has been written by officers of the Knox City Council and is informed by a number of background technical reports. Knox City Council acknowledges the contribution of the following consultants to the background reports:

Hansen Partnership, Urban Enterprise, Context, RMCG, Ecology and Infrastructure International (EII), Urban Ecology in Action and EcoAerial.

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Executive Summary

The Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS) has been prepared by Knox City Council (KCC). It provides a strategic planning framework for precincts along the municipal boundaries that contain some of the most important bushland, green wedge, open space and rural landscapes in Knox. The strategy guides the future of the precincts by identifying their key values and providing direction on how to protect these values. It also aims to proactively attend to the existing and emerging challenges while realising future potential.

The strategy identifies significant ecological values in the Study Area due to the existing waterways – the Dandenong Creek and its tributaries – and significant areas of native vegetation. The GARS precincts are home to a variety of wildlife species including endangered ones. Some of the open space and rural areas, even those with dispersed or no vegetation, provide essential buffers, movement opportunities and stepping stones that facilitate wildlife connectivity. Vast floodplains in the creek valleys complement these ecological systems while playing a key role in stormwater management and the prevention of flooding downstream in the urban area.

The strategy also details the Study Area's social contributions, including its important role in providing parkland, leisure and nature-based recreation opportunities for the Knox community as well as the broader regional catchment. In the coming years as the urban settlement densifies to cater for a growing population, enhancements to the open space areas and improved access to these opportunities will be essential, to ensure the health and wellbeing needs of the community are met.

The Study Area includes some of the most significant scenic landscapes in Knox, featuring rolling hills, open pastoral valleys and long range views to the Dandenong foothills. These landscapes define the edges of the urban boundary and are highly valued by the community as unique places providing a sense of belonging and attachment.

The challenges of climate change further highlight the important role of these precincts. Considering more extreme weather events are predicted, the strategy places its key focus on protecting the floodplains, avoiding development intensification in bushfire prone areas, and maintaining vegetation cover to prevent the urban heat island effect. In addition, the strategy puts forward ideas for sustainable approaches to design, infrastructure and economic practices, and supports carbon capture and renewable energy production in identified areas.

Protecting identified environmental and social values from incremental changes will be a key challenge in the coming years. The underlying land use and economy will play a critical role in protecting these values. The Study Area provides for a range of rural living,

agriculture, food production and rural industries in proximity to the urban area. The strategy seeks to promote a healthy and thriving rural economy that supports land use and activities that complement and sustain the environmental and social values, and enhance these values where possible. Once implemented, the strategy will provide KCC with a tool that can assist in influencing future outcomes, in particular at planning decision making.

Considering their diverse characteristics, a vision is provided for each precinct. The vision is supported by objectives and strategies under three themes: Ecology, Landscape & Heritage and Land Use & Access. The theme-based objectives are as follows:

Ecology:

- To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity
- To protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover
- To improve waterway health and flood management

Landscape & Heritage:

- To protect and enhance local character and landscape values
- To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage

Land Use & Access

- To recognise and protect the values of Knox Green Wedges
- To ensure land uses are located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area
- To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users

The above objectives are supported by a set of strategies that are then translated into more detailed and measurable actions. Some of the actions apply to the entire Study Area, while the others are precinct-based. Selected key actions of the strategy relate to:

- Protecting the Urban Growth Boundary in the Study Area
- Prioritising vegetation and habitat protection and enhancing wildlife corridors
- Better defining and protecting the landscape qualities and local character
- Undertaking further heritage investigation
- Protecting capable agricultural land from inappropriate development and use
- Enhancing shared path connectivity
- Improving community access to recreational opportunities
- Identifying opportunities for tourism, open space, leisure and community uses
- Protecting floodplains and bushfire prone areas from intense development
- Updates to the Knox Planning Scheme to reflect this strategy.

The strategy is accompanied by an Implementation Plan.



INTRODUCTION

The Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy (the Strategy) provides objectives and strategic directions for precincts in Knox that are of high environmental and landscape significance. The Study Area contains areas on the edge of Metropolitan Melbourne as well as significant corridors of open space and rural land that accommodate significant conservation, resources, open space, recreation and other public functions.

As a land use planning strategy, a key purpose of this document is to inform the planning framework, including the Knox Planning Scheme (the Scheme), and guide future decision making. In addition, the project provides non-statutory recommendations in the fields of environmental management, parks and recreation, utility services, land management and community partnerships, where appropriate.

Study Area

The Study Area, as indicated in **Figure 1**, has been divided into the following precincts based on location, landscape characteristics and existing planning controls:

- Precinct 1:** The Basin Rural Landscape
- Precinct 2a:** Lysterfield Valley and Hills
- Precinct 2b:** Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds
- Precinct 3:** Dandenong Creek Valley
- Precinct 3a:** Tirhatuan Wetlands
- Precinct 4:** Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds

Outside the Study Area (see discussion in the following section):

- * Rowville Lakes Golf Course (Tirhatuan Golf Course)
- † Waverley Golf Course

The Study Area comprises land outside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in The Basin to the north east of the municipality, and in Lysterfield to the south east, which provide a transition between suburban areas in Knox and the Dandenong Foothills to the east. The Study Area also includes rural, parkland and conservation land in the Dandenong Creek Valley to the west of Knox, as well as the area reserved for the proposed Healesville Freeway extension to the north-west of the municipality.

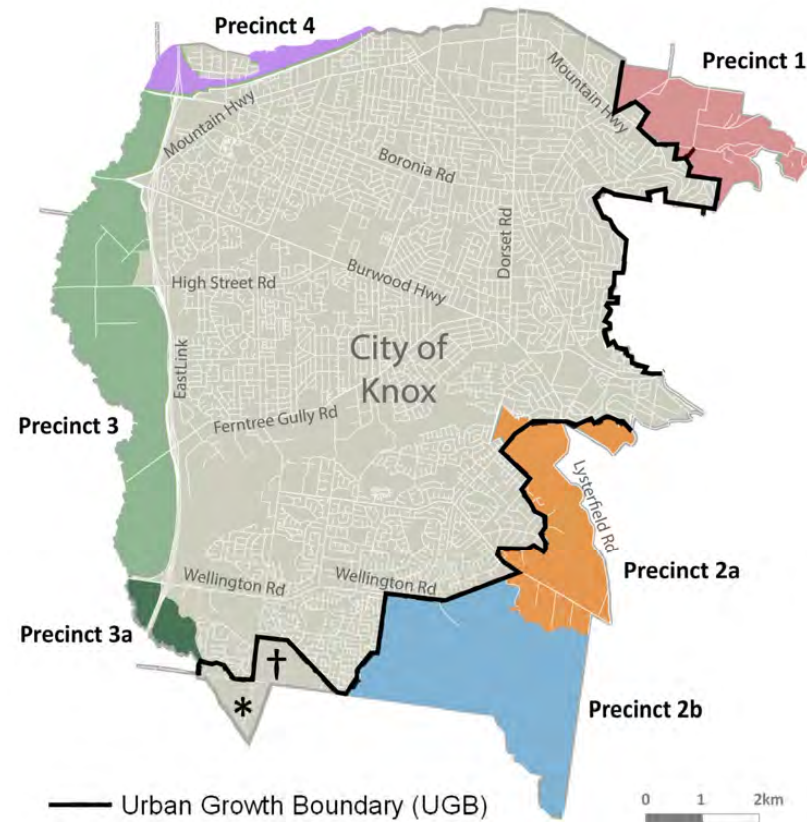


Figure 1 - Study Area



Precinct 1: The Basin Rural Landscape

Precinct 1 - The Basin Rural Landscape is 383ha in size and is located in the north-eastern corner of the Knox municipality. The precinct abuts the Dandenong Ranges National Park (DRNP) and Doongalla State Forest and contains significant native vegetation. It also includes sections of the Dandenong Creek and Dobsons Creek.

The precinct is characterised by large allotment sizes and provides attractive rural amenity, including idyllic views of Mount Corhanwarrabul. The floodplains of Dobsons Creek provide for agricultural activities while the eastern part of the precinct rises up to the Sassafras Forest, and contains privately owned rural residential properties scattered amongst native vegetation. A number of mixed grazing properties including sheep, goats, alpacas and horse agistment are present, ranging from semi-commercial in scale to hobby farming. The precinct also includes public parklands and popular access routes to the DRNP which provides significant recreational opportunities for the local and broader community.

Precinct 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills

The Lysterfield Valley and Hills Precinct (Precinct 2a) is almost 500ha in area and provides an important rural green wedge between the suburban areas of Rowville and the Ferntree Gully-Belgrave ridge of the Dandenongs. Located around the Monbulk Creek Valley, the precinct is characterised by a noticeable land use transition from suburb to pastoral and agricultural open landscapes. The primary land uses within this precinct are agricultural, with grazing currently dominating, along with hobby farming, horse agistment and larger lifestyle residential allotments. A number of horticultural businesses are present along Lysterfield Road, including production of Brussel sprouts and nursery plants.

Excellent views across the landscape are available from Glenfern Road and Lysterfield Road highlighting the visual transition between the metropolitan fringes and the forested slopes of the Dandenong Ranges.

Precinct 2b: Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds

The Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds Precinct (Precinct 2b) is approximately 877ha in area. Predominant features of Precinct 2b are the Boral and Hanson Quarries, the ridge top and slopes of the Lysterfield Hills and Lysterfield Park, with the backdrop of Churchill National Park to the south.

The precinct contains parts of Lysterfield Park including sloped areas of forest and woodland which are of environmental significance and are used by the community for a variety of recreational activities include walking, cycling, picnic, horse riding, mountain biking and orienteering.

[Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy](#)

The two quarries contain reserves of hard rock comprising granodiorite and hornfels which are extracted and processed on site. Quarrying activity comprises extracting rock and transporting it to an onsite crushing plant, then stockpiling the processed stone for sale. The quarry supplies markets in the surrounding southern and eastern suburbs and the CBD with high quality construction materials for use in the concrete and road construction industries.

Precinct 3: The Dandenong Creek Valley

The Dandenong Creek Valley is the largest precinct (975ha) and incorporates the land corridor between EastLink and the Dandenong Creek extending 10km along the Creek. This area accommodates large tracts of cleared farmland, semi-rural land, bushland, parklands and developed sporting facilities. It also includes large private properties designated for future public acquisition. Dandenong Creek runs along the Precinct's western boundary, which also serves as the boundary between Knox and the neighbouring municipalities of Whitehorse and Monash.

There is a high level of public land ownership in this precinct, with Parks Victoria and Melbourne Water responsible for a relatively large amount of this precinct due to its proximity to Dandenong Creek. Almost two-thirds of the Dandenong Creek Valley comprises waterways, public open space including sports fields, walking and cycling trails and water treatment facilities.

Precinct 3a: Tirhatuan Wetlands

This area consists of two large allotments south of Wellington Road generally between the Dandenong Creek and Corhanwarrabul Creek. The area accommodates the Tirhatuan wetlands that provide a key stormwater retention and treatment function while accommodating significant vegetation, habitat and wildlife linkages. These allotments are designated as Public Use Zone (PUZ1) in the Knox Planning Scheme and are managed by Melbourne Water.

No changes are expected to the use and function of this area over the life of this Strategy, with key priority being stormwater management and environmental protection. Considering the public zoning and ownership in this area, this area is not threatened by change and this Strategy has not included it in the detailed analysis provided for Precinct 3. However, the overarching objectives and strategies, in particular those pertaining to ecological and landscape values of the Dandenong Creek corridor in Precinct 3 are extendable to this area.



Precinct 4: Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds

The Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds (Precinct 4) is the smallest of the GARS precincts at 127.5ha. Originally reserved for the 'Healesville Freeway' in 1969, the reservation east of EastLink has been retained for possible future road construction. Much of the Healesville Freeway Reservation has been cleared and is used for a number of purposes including horse agistment, livestock properties, sports fields, nurseries and community gardens. The area is highly urbanised, surrounded by residential development and industrial estates.

The precinct adjoins the south side of Dandenong Creek and KCC's boundary with the City of Maroondah. Land is low lying and prone to flood.

Due to the different nature of planning process, these sites have been excluded from the GARS Study Area.

Out of scope: Waverley and Rowville Lakes Golf Courses

The two golf courses (indicted on Figure 1) are located at the southernmost area of Knox, outside the Urban Growth Boundary, and form part of Knox Green Wedge land. However, they are not included in the Study Area for the purpose of this Strategy. This exclusion is due to the fact that the future direction for these sites is different from Council's vision for other areas of Green Wedge land in Knox.

Waverley Golf Club (and adjoining sites on Stud Road) are identified as a strategic investigation site by the Knox Housing Strategy 2015 (KHS). The KHS provides support for future rezoning of this site, subject to a successful application to the State Government to review the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). Subject to the UGB being reviewed in favour of the site, residential development at a range of densities is considered suitable by KHS. The KHS provides high level strategic direction for future housing types, location of higher densities, access, interfaces and environmental issues, to be addressed through future planning process for the site.

Rowville Lakes Golf Course (Tirhatuan Golf Course) is located to the west of Stud Road. There are no existing plans to change the use of this site.

In case of future investigations into the use or development of the golf course sites, the planning process will be guided by the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) which may require a change to the UGB and compliance with Ministerial Direction No. 21 – Golf Course Redevelopment and the Planning Guidelines for Golf Course Redevelopment (2020). These guidelines include a decision- making framework that would be used to assess proposals for the future redevelopment of surplus golf course land.



Methodology

To ensure the strategic directions are informed by adequate analysis and consultation, the preparation of this Strategy has been undertaken in five stages.

Stage1: Setting the Current Scene

The first stage of the project included gathering data about the Study Area through research and consultation. This stage also included a preliminary analysis of the information to develop a comprehensive understanding of the existing conditions in each precinct. As part of this stage, the existing geospatial datasets were sourced and thematic analytical maps were prepared, overlaying multiple layers of data to enable more detailed analysis.

This stage also represented a gap analysis of the existing information, which identified the key areas where additional technical consultant work was required. The outcomes of this stage are summarised in the **GARS Setting the Scene Report**.

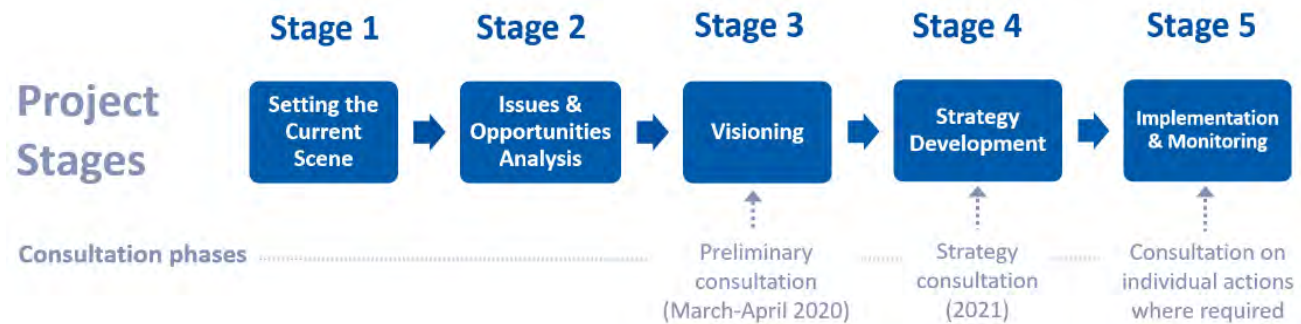
Stage 2: Issues and Opportunities Analysis

The second stage included the following tasks to undertake a detailed analysis of the issues and opportunities for the Study Area.

- i. Review of the information collated and procured in Stage 1. This included the extraction of relevant recommendations from the following consultant reports that were specifically procured for this projects:

- *Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report (Ecology and Infrastructure International (EII); Urban Ecology in Action; EcoAerial, 2017). This study also provided the GIS database for Knox Wildlife Atlas*
- *Landscape Values and Character Assessment (Hansen Partnership, 2019)*
- *Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage (Context, 2017)*
- *Assessment of Agricultural Potential of Rural Land in Knox (RMCG, 2016)*
- *GARS Economic Study (Urban Enterprise, 2019)*
- ii. Internal analysis and targeted consultation with internal and external stakeholders
- iii. Consideration of best practice and relevant studies from other Councils, in particular from adjoining councils
- iv. Strategic assessment of competing issues and opportunities for precincts or specific places. For example, the assessment of economic potential vs. environmental values vs. landscape sensitivities
- v. Organising and mapping the issues and opportunities under three emerging themes: Ecology; Landscape & Heritage; and Land Use & Access
- vi. Evaluating the recommendations in terms of reasonableness and practicality
- vii. Preliminary consideration of the recommendations in light of current provisions of the Scheme and translating the recommendations into planning language where necessary.

The above analysis along with the draft recommendations from Stage 2 are summarised in the **GARS Issues and Opportunities Report**.





Stage 3: Visioning

Stage 3 included the development of a draft vision for each precinct taking into consideration the following matters:

- State-wide vision for the Study Area including guidance from *Plan Melbourne 2017-2050*, the Planning Policy Framework and the strategic directions from the Scheme
- Council vision including the Community and Council Plan, the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) in the Scheme and other KCC policy and position
- Community vision – Community vision was captured through public engagement.

Preliminary Consultation (2020)

In March and April 2020, stakeholder and community consultation was undertaken to seek feedback on the draft issues and opportunities identified. As part of this consultation, comments were also invited on a draft vision for each of the precincts. The consultation results have been used to develop this Strategy, including the objectives, strategies and actions identified.

The consultation received a considerable level of interest and participation. The engagement webpage was visited 16,146 times and a total of 188 online surveys were completed during the consultation period. Amongst the GARS precincts, Precinct 1 received the highest level of engagement, followed by Precinct 3.

Full consultation results are provided in the **GARS Community Consultation Report: Visioning Consultation**.

Stage 4: Strategy Development

Following public consultation, a draft Strategy was prepared which provides strategic directions for the Study Area. The preparation of the draft strategy has included the following steps in response to the community feedback received:

- Refining the vision for each precinct
- Review of issues and opportunities
- Developing objectives and strategies under each theme
- Providing detailed recommendations in the form of actions for “all precincts” and “precinct-specific” actions
- Preparing an Implementation Plan.

Final Consultation and Adoption

The draft Strategy was endorsed by Knox Council in October 2021 for the purpose of public consultation. Public consultation was carried out in November–December 2021. After the consideration of the feedback received, the Strategy was presented to Knox Council for final adoption.

Stage 5: Implementation and Monitoring

The Strategy is accompanied by an Implementation Plan which lists the actions to deliver the Strategy, categorised by priority levels, noting the leading/partnering departments within KCC. The delivery of some actions will be dependent on future budget availability.

A key implementation measure of the Strategy will be a Planning Scheme amendment. Other implementation measures include planning investigations, capital works projects, partnerships, technical studies or ongoing education/advocacy.



PART A: SETTING THE SCENE



1. Strategic Context

1.1. State Planning Context

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050

Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 (Plan Melbourne) is the Victorian government’s overarching plan that sets high level directions for land use planning in metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Plan Melbourne defines an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) for Melbourne and defines the outside area as Green Wedges. The plan encourages urban consolidation within the UGB and seeks to protect Green Wedges and peri-urban areas from inappropriate development.

Some of the key directions of Plan Melbourne for the Study Area relate to:

- Supporting the productive use of land and resources in Melbourne’s non-urban areas
- Planning for Melbourne’s Green Wedges
- Making Melbourne cooler and greener by strengthening the integrated metropolitan open space network
- Protecting and restoring natural habitats
- Creating a network of green spaces that support biodiversity conservation and opportunities to connect with nature
- Protecting and enhancing the health of urban waterways.

Plan Melbourne also sets the strategic basis for the application of a range of Planning Scheme controls including zones and overlays to limit urban growth and development.

Resilient Melbourne (2016)

Resilient Melbourne was published by the City of Melbourne in May 2016 as a joint project of 32 metropolitan Melbourne councils, Melbourne’s academic, business and community sectors, and the Victorian Government. It represents the first resilience strategy for Greater Melbourne to face the challenges associated with the trends of urbanisation, globalisation and climate change. The plan considers how to respond to both chronic stresses - including sea level rise, increasing pressures on healthcare services, unemployment, and deeper social inequality - and acute shocks – such as heatwaves, bushfires, floods, pandemics, and extremist acts, including cyber-crime.

Resilient Melbourne identifies four long-term (30 years or more) objectives and an action framework under four action areas of Adapt, Survive, Thrive and Embed.

Resilient Melbourne provides direction for this Strategy as the Study Area contains some of the City’s most significant areas in terms of biodiversity, tree canopy, water systems, parkland and recreation. These areas are key to the resilience of Knox and the broader region.

Living Melbourne: Our Metropolitan Urban Forest (2019)

A flagship action from Resilient Melbourne was the preparation of a metropolitan urban forest strategy. This Strategy developed the evidence base and actions required to connect, extend and enhance urban greening across the metropolitan area. Living Melbourne was endorsed by 41 organisations representing Victorian government, water authorities, statutory agencies and industry bodies and local government,

KCC was one of the local government partners involved as part of the Eastern region which also included the municipalities of Manningham, Maroondah, Monash, Whitehorse and Yarra Ranges. The document sets targets for tree canopy and shrub cover in the Eastern region as follows.

Table 1 - Living Melbourne targets for the Eastern Region

Existing 2015	Total% tree canopy	25
	Total% tree canopy & shrubs	44
Target 2030	Total% tree canopy	27
	Total% tree canopy & shrubs	49
Target 2040	Total% tree canopy	29
	Total% tree canopy & shrubs	50
Target 2050	Total% tree canopy	30
	Total% tree canopy & shrubs	50

Living Melbourne also provides strategies to achieve the targets and provides guidance for councils to develop monitoring programs and local tree canopy targets. The Living Melbourne actions and targets need to be translated at the municipality level into relevant and measurable actions for Knox and the Study Area.



Cooling and Greening Melbourne

This ongoing project as part of Plan Melbourne implementation provides for:

- protecting existing green spaces
- creating new opportunities for urban greening
- improving water sensitive urban design
- greening buildings, for example, roofs, facades and walls
- increasing permeable surfaces.

One of the initiatives has been the Cooling and Greening Melbourne map which covers the city's metropolitan areas and brings together 3 datasets captured in 2014 and 2018 including vegetation cover, urban heat, and the heat vulnerability index.

Protecting Victoria's Environment – Biodiversity 2037 (2017)

Prepared by DTP in 2017, this document is Victoria's plan to stop the decline of native plants and animals and improve the natural environment. Coupled with reviews of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (FFG Act) and native vegetation clearing regulations, the Plan seeks to ensure that Victoria has an effective approach to protecting and managing biodiversity. It sets high level directions for community engagement, planning (in particular for protections in reserves) funding and delivery of biodiversity related projects.

Integrated Water Management Framework (2017)

Representing another key recommendation of Resilient Melbourne, an Integrated Water Management (IWM) Framework was prepared in September 2017. The document sets out the management framework to deliver a safe and secure water supply, efficient stormwater management, healthy and valued urban landscapes and reflecting community values in place-based planning. It sets out a governance framework of IWM forums at state and regional levels and IWM Working Groups to deliver place-based IWM Plans.

Other Water-Related Plans and Programs

There are a number of other Melbourne Water plans and programs that guide KCC's management of the waterways and stormwater operations:

- Water for Victoria

- Melbourne Water's Urban Cooling Program
- Healthy Waterways Strategy – Melbourne Water
- Water for a future thriving Melbourne.

Linking People and Spaces: A Strategy for Melbourne's Open Space Network (Parks Victoria, 2002)

This document is a regional level strategy for Melbourne's open space network and specifies actions for parks, trails and waterways. The document is out of date and Parks Victoria has been working on the preparation of an updated strategy, which is also an action item from Plan Melbourne.

Movement and Place in Victoria

The Movement and Place framework is a Victorian State Government's transport framework which seeks to balance the needs of both transport users and place users and design a mix of transport modes that are appropriate to how the road and places are used by communities, whether they are pedestrians, drivers or cyclists.

Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28

The Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-28 is prepared by Transport for Victoria and seeks to increase the number, frequency and diversity of Victorians cycling for transport. Its goals are to invest in a safer, lower-stress, better-connected network and make cycling a more inclusive experience.

Principal Bicycle Network (PBN)

The PBN is designed by VicRoads and is a network of proposed and existing bicycle routes that provide access to major destinations. The main purpose of the PBN is to guide State Government investment in bicycle infrastructure and facilities. In addition to the PBN, a network of Bicycle Priority Routes (BPR) has also been identified which represents those routes of a higher priority.

The PBN routes (existing and proposed) have been considered as part of the access and movement analysis for the Study Area.



Strategic Cycling Corridors (SCC) Network

The SCC network supports the needs of commuter trips (to work or education) and other important trips, such as to stations, shops or schools. The SCC network links up important destinations, including along EastLink and east-west linkages within the Dandenong Creek Valley. The SCCs are intended to prioritise the provision of separated cycling paths rather than shared user paths where possible.

Parts of the Dandenong Creek Trail, Eastlink Trail and east-west linkages through the Dandenong Creek Valley (Precinct 3) are classified as primary and main routes by the SCC.

Agriculture Victoria Strategy

In May 2017, Agriculture Victoria released its ten-year Agriculture Victoria Strategy. This is a reform framework articulating Agriculture Victoria's priorities to enhance Victorian agriculture's global competitiveness, innovation and resilience. The document focuses on large-scale agriculture and more intense agricultural activity. While it has limited direct action affecting the Study Area, it sets general guidance on preserving existing agriculture land and production activities.

Extractive Resources in Victoria: Demand and Supply Study 2015-2050

In 2016, the then Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR) released the "Extractive Resources in Victoria: Demand and Supply Study 2015-2050". The Study identified 15 Local Government Areas that are critical for supplying extractive resources for Victoria's future construction needs. Knox was rated as the 4th most critical resource location in Victoria. This was mostly due to the two hard rock quarries in Lysterfield and Rowville – which are significant suppliers to the Melbourne construction industry and are well located for supplying the Melbourne region.

1.2. Regional Planning Context

Draft Land Use Framework Plan: Eastern Metro Region

Work is underway by DTP on the preparation of regional Land Use Framework Plans (LUFs) to implement *Plan Melbourne* desired outcomes at a regional scale. The LUFs are intended to inform the Regional and Local Planning Policy, and to identify a series of actions which can be delivered through new partnerships, including:

- Long-term strategies (30 years) around population growth, jobs, housing, infrastructure, major transport improvements, open space and urban forests.
- Short-term actions (5 years) for State and local government to implement the LUF's priorities and achieve the outcomes of Plan Melbourne.

Melbourne East Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016

Key messages from the Melbourne East Sport and Recreation Strategy 2016 are:

- There are high participation rates in primary sports across the region, including basketball, netball, football, cricket and soccer.
- There is current demand for more indoor courts for basketball and netball, and an immediate need for a gymnastics facility.
- There is an immediate need for additional hockey pitches in the region.
- Formalised sports such as tennis, basketball, soccer, netball, football and cricket are prominent and are the highest structured participation sports in the region.

Living Links

Living Links is an urban nature project to create a web of green spaces across Melbourne's south-east. By linking up the many parks, reserves and other natural places, it aims to make the area a world-class urban ecosystem, improving habitat for wildlife and making it easier for people to connect with nature as part of their daily lives.

The initiative represents a partnership between the local governments in the south-east region, Melbourne Water, Parks Victoria, South East Water, Conservation Volunteers Australia and Bushwalking Victoria.

Figure 2 indicates the 17 inter-connecting corridors that have been identified through the Living Links master-planning process as offering particularly important opportunities for new or improved links across the region. In Knox, The Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek, Corhanwarrabul Creek/Monbulk Creek corridors are identified as Living Links. **Figure 3** indicates individual projects in Knox.



Figure 2 - Living Links Corridors

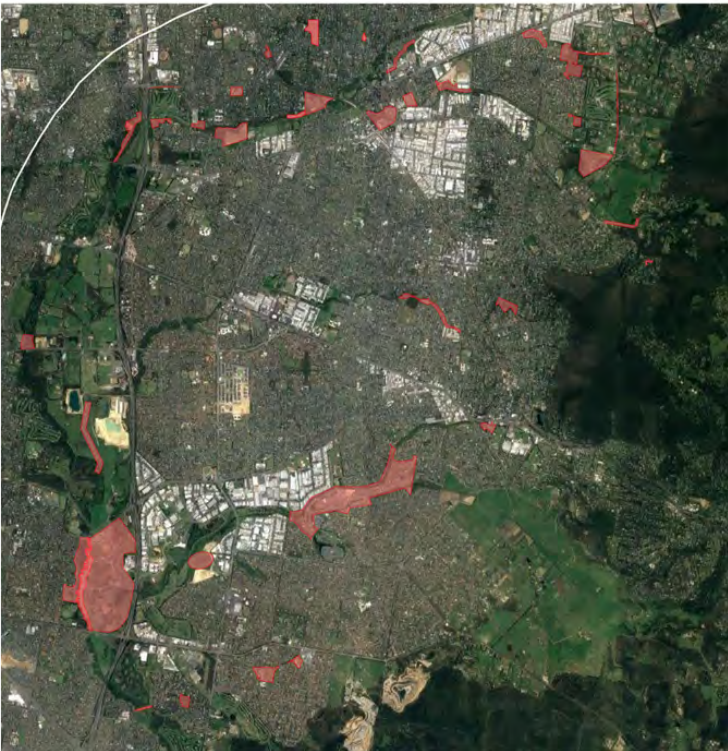


Figure 3 - Living Links Projects in Knox (completed or underway)

Enhancing Our Dandenong Creek

In 2013 Melbourne Water and EPA designed a program to protect public health and improve storm water quality impacting Dandenong Creek between Bayswater and Endeavour Hills. A Natural Amenity Working Group was established in 2014 to represent a range of local community views. We worked together to identify priority projects to revitalise our creek. As a result, a five-year program was developed that seeks to:



- construct new habitats for threatened fish species
- increase the natural amenity and signage of the creek
- focus on pollution prevention and detection
- manage uncontrolled sewage spills for customers.

Dandenong Valley Parklands Future Direction Plan (2006)

The plan covers areas within the Cities of Knox, Monash and Whitehorse and provides strategic management directions, and identifies management zones and key actions to guide decision making about current and future uses. The document states that the time horizon of the plan is 10-15 years, which means the plan is due for a review.

Eastern Regional Trail Strategy (2018)

The document sets out actions for the below four trails that affect Precinct 3 (Dandenong Creek Valley):

- Dandenong Creek Trail
- Ferny Creek Trail
- Blind Creek Trail.

Dandenong Integrated Water Management Forum: Draft Strategic Directions Statement (2018)

The Forum was convened in December 2017 with subsequent Forums meeting throughout 2018 to discuss and prioritise integrated water planning and management in the catchments flowing into Port Phillip Bay from Port Melbourne to Point Nepean. City of Knox was a member of this forum and features as a collaborative partner in a number of initiatives in this paper.

Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park Management Plan (Amended 2020)

In 2020 Parks Victoria updated the Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park Management Plan in consultation with the community. This document details planned upgrades and management measures and is accompanied by an updated management zones map.

Eastern Region Pest Animal Strategy 2020-2030

KCC has endorsed a Regional Pest Animal Strategy which has been prepared in collaboration with several neighbouring councils in the eastern region as well as Parks Victoria, VicRoads and Melbourne Water. This document supports the management of invasive species and protection of native wildlife in the Study Area.

1.3. Local Planning Context

Knox Council Plan 2021-25

The following table outlines how the Strategy aligns with the Knox Council Plan 2021-25 (CCP).

Element	Relevance to GARS
<p>Our 10-year Community Vision: Knox: where we connect with our people and our environment, ensuring they are safe, supported and have every opportunity to thrive.</p>	<p>The Strategy aligns with the vision in terms of supporting a rich natural environment, picturesque landscape and public open spaces.</p>
<p>Natural Environment & Sustainability Strategy 3.1 - Preserve our biodiversity and waterways, and enhance our urban landscape. Strategy 3.2 - Prepare for, mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.</p>	<p>The Strategy prioritises vegetation cover, creek systems, and biodiversity corridors. The precincts each play a key part in maintaining rural buffers between urban areas and bushland and protecting floodplains from development which are key measures to maintain community resilience in extreme weather events.</p>
<p>Connection, Resilience & Wellbeing Strategy 4.1 - Support our community to improve their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing. Strategy 4.3 - Honour and integrate First Nations Culture into actions and environments.</p>	<p>The Study Area includes some of Knox' key recreational walking and cycling trails. The Study Area contains some of the key areas of parkland, conservation reserves and sporting facilities in Knox.</p>



<p>Civic Engagement & Integrity Strategy 5.3 - Ensure our processes are transparent and decisions are accountable.</p>	<p>The Strategy provides strategic direction and evidence base to better inform future decision making. The preparation of the Strategy has been informed by two phases of public engagement.</p>
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Knox Reconciliation Action Plan 2023 - 2025

The Reconciliation Action Plan (2023 to 2025) was developed in conversation with a working group of Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong Elders and our local First Nations communities. The plan outlines six key areas to focus future efforts and collaboration over 2 years:

- recognition and respect
- cultural heritage
- health and wellbeing
- civic participation
- employment and economic development
- voice and governance.

A key implication for this Strategy is the recognition of Aboriginal cultural heritage, in particular considering the key areas of bushland and waterways within the study area.

Knox Climate Response Plan

KCC has developed a Climate Response Plan (CRP) which recognises that we are in a state of serious climate and environment change, and acknowledges the seriousness, urgency and significance of this matter. The CRP seeks to consider climate change and biodiversity protection as key environmental factors in assessment of Council policies, projects and actions.

Knox WSUD and Stormwater Management Strategy (2010)

The Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) and Stormwater Management Strategy aims to protect and improve the health of Knox’s streams and creeks while ensuring that flooding impacts are minimised. It identifies the high value catchments in Knox which include Dobsons Creek (GARS Precinct 1), Blind Creek, Ferny Creek and Monbulk Creek (GARS Precinct 2a). For each catchment, it includes strategies and actions to improve catchment health, with a focus on WSUD. Some of the actions include disconnection of directly

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connected impervious surfaces, construction of WSUD systems, and appropriate monitoring and management of the Directly Connected Impervious (DCI) areas.

Knox City Council and Melbourne Water Flood Modelling Project (underway)

KCC and Melbourne Water are currently undertaking flood modelling with the intention of preparing updated flood maps taking into consideration most recent climate scenarios. Once completed, the modelling is likely to lead to a Planning Scheme amendment to ensure areas affected by significant flooding are accurately identified and protected. While the maps are not yet finalised, this Strategy recognises any implications from this project in the future.

Knox Integrated Transport Plan 2015-2025

Prepared in February 2015, this plan sets objectives and strategies, and provides detailed and costed action and initiatives for all modes of transport. Covers all modes of transport. Actions are prioritised: high priority (1-2 yrs), medium priority (3-5 yrs) and low priority (beyond 5 yrs).

The plan includes a public transport vision map, however, this is superseded by a more recent position paper endorsed by Council (refer to the next item below).

The plan does not provide a proposed cycling or pedestrian network, however, it includes action items to review the Knox Pedestrian Plan (which was reviewed in 2017) and the Knox Bicycle Plan (currently under review).

Knox Transport Advocacy

KCC has long advocated for Federal and State Government funding for various major public transport projects. Relevant initiatives that are on Council’s current advocacy list are:

- A heavy rail line along Wellington Road connecting to Rowville, or as an interim solution, a trackless rapid tram
- A new light rail route along Burwood Highway connecting to Upper Ferntree Gully, or extension of Route 75 as an interim measure.
- Dorset Road Extension – preliminary planning work undertaken by Major Road Projects Victoria in 2021-22, however, currently on hold and removed from the State Government budget.



Knox Bicycle Plan Review (2008)

The plan details individual projects which include new on-road and off-road bicycle facilities, upgrades, end of trip facilities and initiatives to improve safety and community awareness. It also incorporates a costed action plan and provides detailed precinct-scale mapping of existing and proposed facilities. The plan is due for a review.

Draft Knox Cycling Action Plan (underway)

Council is developing a new Knox Cycling Action Plan to support the growing use of the cycling network and give direction on how the cycling network should evolve and expand over years to come.

The action plan deals with more than 100km of shared paths that are used by cyclists, pedestrians and people with mobility impairment. There are also a number of cycling lanes along the road network to connect with the shared paths, railway stations, schools and shopping centres.

Knox Principal Pedestrian Network (2017)

This plan provides an in-depth analysis of pedestrian connectivity and accessibility in Knox and provides a Principal Pedestrian Network (PPN) plan with detailed implementation actions. There are PPN actions within all GARS precincts including new shared paths, footpaths, and intersection improvements. These actions have been considered in the actions for each precinct.

Knox Open Space Plan 2012-2022

Building upon the 2004-14 Open Space Plan, this plan provides a strategic framework for areas of open space across Knox. These strategic directions encompass themes of sustainability, community involvement, greater community use of open space and linkages between open space areas. It operates alongside Council's Open Space Asset Management Plan which defines Council open space asset and service management performance.

The Knox Open Space Plan is due for a review.

Knox Leisure Plan 2014-2019

This plan encourages greater use and connectivity of urban and natural environments to cater for leisure needs. Action 16 of the Implementation Plan provides guidance for GARS Precinct 2b: *"Investigate opportunities for the provision of additional sports reserves, with a particular focus on opportunities in Rowville."*

Knox Arts and Cultural Plan 2012-22

The Knox Arts and Cultural Plan sets a vision and a framework for the provision and direction of Council-supported arts initiatives across the City, ranging from improving the City's dedicated art facilities and events, to working with and supporting third party providers.

The only art facility covered in this document which falls within the GARS Study Area is The Basin Theatre in Precinct 1, which is owned and operated by The Basin Theatre Company.

Gardens for Wildlife Program

The Gardens for Wildlife (G4W) program is a partnership between Knox City Council, Knox Environment Society (KES) and the Knox community. The program encourages Knox residents and businesses to create an area in their garden to support local wildlife. This can be done by providing habitat planted with locally indigenous, Australian native or suitable introduced species. The program is free to join and provides residents with access to specialist advisors who do site visits and provide advice to the participants.

Several properties within the Study Area currently participate in this program. These properties have been considered in the GARS biodiversity assessment for their contribution to wildlife habitat and movement.

Gardens for Harvest Program

A partnership between KCC and the Shire of Yarra Ranges, the Gardens for Harvest program aims to help build skills and knowledge in residents to grow and maintain a veggie garden. The Knox Gardens for Harvest program provides residents with information guides, workshops on various gardening topics and access to Gardens for Harvest competitions and special offers. A very small number of properties in the Study Area are currently participating in this program, which is not unexpected, as the program is more relevant to the urban setting rather than larger rural landholdings.



2. Knox Planning Scheme

This section reviews existing strategic directions in the Knox Planning Scheme (the Scheme). Whilst there are a variety of clauses and provisions of the Scheme that have some level of application within the Study Area, this section only focuses on those provisions that have specific relevance or significant implications.

The Planning Policy Framework (PPF) is currently under review for translation into a new structure, being led by DTP. The analysis of the existing policy is based on the current local content in the Scheme, on the assumption that the translation will be policy neutral. However, the recommendations in this Strategy take into account the new PPF structure and format.

2.1. Planning Policy Framework (State)

The State Planning Policies are applied statewide and provide high level direction for land use and development. The key clauses of the PPF that provide direction for the Study Area are outlined below.

Clause 11 settlement sets the basis for the Urban Growth Boundary to limit urban sprawl and direct growth into existing settlement. This clause the values of green wedge and rural land including environment and landscape values, biodiversity, and native vegetation, waterways and wetlands.

Clause 13 environmental risks and amenity aims to minimise the impacts of natural hazards including bushfire and flood and to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This policy emphasises the flood storage function of floodplains and waterways and seeks to prevent intensifying the impact of flooding through inappropriately located use and development.

Clause 14 natural resource management aims to protect agricultural land and water, earth and energy resources.

Clause 15 built environment and heritage guides the protection of rural character, heritage values and community health and wellbeing.

Clause 17 economic development encourages tourism to maximise the economic, social and cultural benefits of developing the state as a competitive domestic and international tourist destination.

Clause 18 transport seeks to ensure an integrated and sustainable transport system that provides equitable access to social and economic opportunities and contributes to environmental sustainability.

Clause 19 infrastructure sets the basis for the provision of adequate open space. It provides for long term planning protection to meet demand for future open space along the Dandenong Valley parklands.

2.2. Local Planning Policy Framework

There are multiple clauses within the Municipal Strategic Statement of the Scheme which provide strategic direction for the Study Area. A full analysis of these clauses is included in the Setting the Scene report.

Within the foothills policy area and the Dandenong Creek Valley, the Strategic Framework Plan requires the protection of major environmental and landscape features. However, the Scheme also recognises gaps and recommends to complete an assessment of and provide strategic directions for all rural and green wedge land that consider its aesthetic, biodiversity, landscape, amenity, cultural and agricultural values.

The Dandenong Creek Valley is identified as a significant landscape (Sub-clause 21.03-5), however, limited strategic direction is currently provided. The Scheme requires further investigation to strategically plan for this corridor to consolidate and improve the recreational activities and landscape and to address interface issues between parkland and urban development. It also recommends to review planning strategies and zoning in the area surrounding the Dandenong Valley Parklands to ensure consistency with objectives for development of the park.

Precincts 1, 2a and 2b are within the Dandenong Foothills Local Area (Sub-clause 21.10.1) where the Scheme aims at protecting and enhancing the landscape significance of the Dandenong Foothills. Uninterrupted view lines of the Foothills from within the municipality and around metropolitan Melbourne are maintained by ensuring retention of canopy trees and buildings and that works are sensitively designed and sited to sit below the dominant tree canopy height.

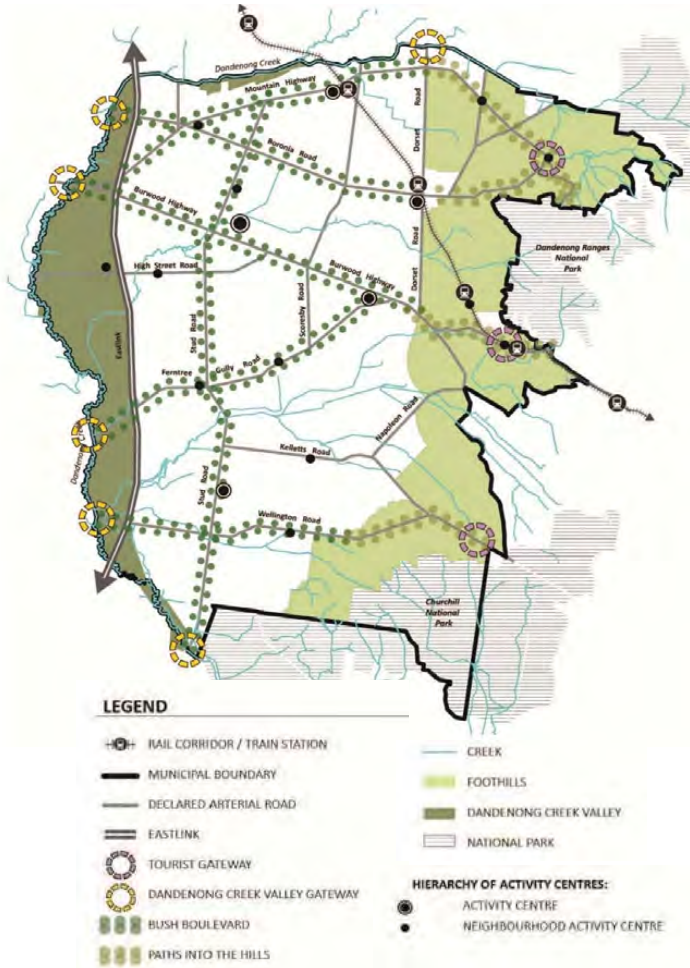


Figure 4 - Knox Planning Scheme Built Environment and Heritage Map (Clause 21.05 as at October 2023)

The following objectives are sought within the Foothills policy area:

- To maintain and improve the continuous closed tree canopy of the Foothills.
- To maintain the low density residential character of the Foothills by ensuring that existing subdivision patterns and lot sizes are retained.
- To protect and enhance the aesthetic, environmental and metropolitan landscape significance of the Dandenong Foothills.
- To protect the rural environments of The Basin and the Lysterfield Valley and Lysterfield Hills.
- To require new buildings, works and landscaping in The Basin and the Lysterfield Valley and Lysterfield Hills to protect the physical and visual amenity of the open pastoral setting.

The Scheme also requires further strategic work to undertake an assessment of agricultural land in rural and green wedge areas to better understand their productivity (including potential food production) and economy.

Clause 21.05 Built Environment and Heritage also provides guidance for the Study Area. **'Gateways'** are landscape-dominant entry points into the City that intersect with the natural significant landscapes of the Dandenong Foothills, the Lysterfield Valley and the Dandenong Creek Valley. **'Bush Boulevards'** are arterial roads with wide reservations that are planted with informal avenues of native trees. As **'Bush Boulevards'** extend eastwards into the Foothills they become **'Paths into the Hills'** that have roadside verges containing significant understorey and canopy vegetation. Buildings along these roads generally contribute to this character with setbacks from the street and canopy tree planting. These attractive road corridors link the suburbs of Knox to the landscape character of the Dandenong Foothills.

2.3. Planning Scheme Controls

A thorough analysis of existing zones and overlays that apply within the Study Area has been undertaken which is included in the background "Setting the Scene" report. Another relevant set of controls are the Green Wedge Core Planning Provisions (Clause 51.02) which guide land use permissibility in Precincts 1, 2a and 2b.

The above analysis has informed recommendations in this Strategy including those under the Theme Land Use and Connectivity to ensure appropriate planning controls are applied.



3. Key Drivers

3.1. Direction for Green Wedge Land

Knox is located on the eastern edge of Melbourne’s Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and covers rural areas that are adjacent to the urban boundary. The non-urban areas outside the UGB are called Green Wedges, providing a transitional buffer between the metropolitan urban area and the surrounding peri-urban areas. The identification of protection of key values in these areas has been a key priority for this Strategy

Green Wedges were first set aside in the 1970s to conserve rural activities and significant natural features and resources between the growth areas of metropolitan Melbourne as they spread out along major road and rail links. Since 2002, Green Wedges have been defined under the Planning and Environment Act 1987. New planning zones and stronger regulations were also introduced at this time to better control the subdivision and use of Green Wedge land. There are 12 designated Green Wedges situated within the 17 metropolitan-fringe local government areas (Figure 5). Municipalities with significant proportions of both urban and green wedge land have also formed a group known as the Interface Councils to represent their shared interests and challenges.

Knox contains parts of two broader Green Wedge systems. Areas of land in The Basin are located within the ‘Yarra, Yarra Ranges and Dandenong Ranges Green Wedge’, while areas in Lysterfield and Rowville fall within the ‘Southern Ranges Green Wedge’.

Three of the GARS precincts are defined as Green Wedge land (Figure 6). The Knox Green Wedge areas are located on the edge of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and serve as places of transition between the urban area and the significant landscapes of the Dandenong Ranges and Lysterfield Park.

Protection of Green Wedges from inappropriate development has long been a key priority from a state and local policy perspective. A key factor that has contributed to the protection of Green Wedges is the requirement for ratification by Parliament for any amendment to a metropolitan fringe planning scheme that has been approved by the Minister that amends the UGB or facilitates the land to be subdivided into more lots or into smaller lots than allowed for in the planning scheme.

There is a requirement for Green Wedge Management Plans (GWMPs) to be prepared by councils to provide a future vision and strategic directions for each Green Wedge area. To assist with this, DTP has prepared guidelines that set the role and purpose of GWMPs and outline the information that are to be covered.

With respect to Green Wedge areas that run across multiple municipalities, the expectation has been that joint GWMPs through collaboration between councils. However, this expectation has not been realised as most Councils have prepared GWMPs to the extents of their municipality.

The two Green Wedges that affect Knox are largely located within Yarra Ranges Council and the City of Casey. These councils have previously prepared individual GWMPs for parts of Green Wedge areas within their boundaries.



Figure 5 - Melbourne Green Wedges and KCC Boundary

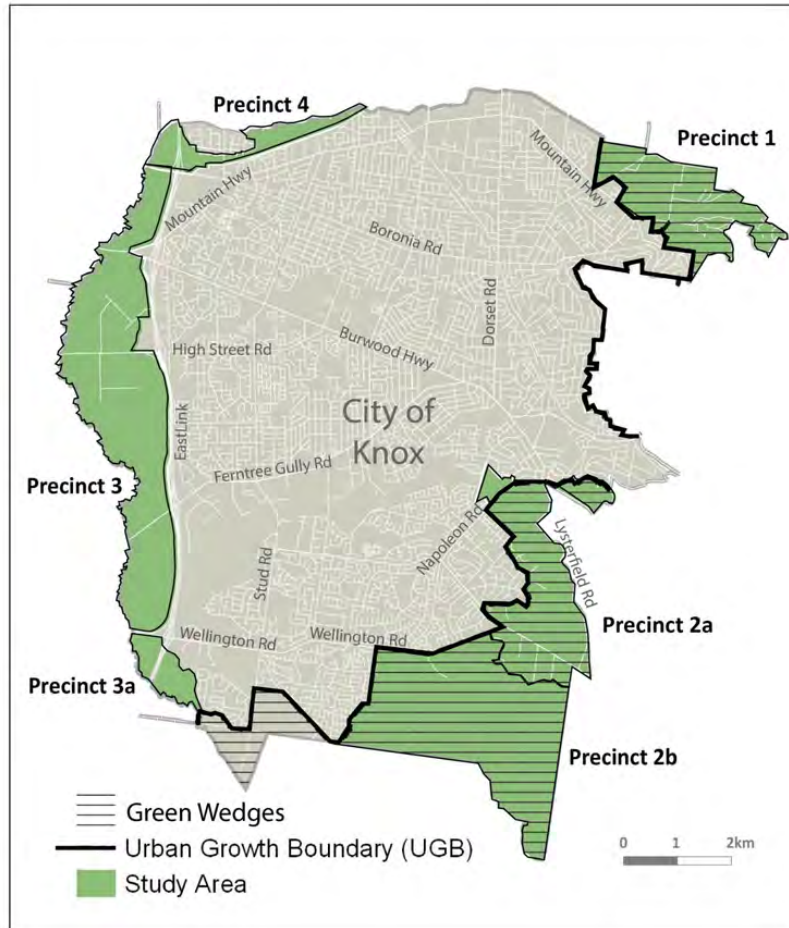


Figure 6 – The UGB and Green Wedge areas in the Study Area

Knox Green Wedge land is not of a size that warrants a separate GWMP. However, there is a current gap in policy vision and place-based direction for some of these areas. To

address this issue, this Strategy includes parts of the Knox Green Wedge land where a lack of strategic direction exists. The inclusion of these precincts along with other rural and open space corridors provides an opportunity for integrated planning and broader consistency, which is particularly beneficial to open space and wildlife connectivity across Knox.

Instead of having separate GWMPs, KCC’s direction for these areas (as set out in this Strategy) aligns with broader Green Wedge planning by Yarra Ranges Council and City of Casey. This Strategy has confirmed and formalized KCC’s position and will provide direction on the best approach to ensure adequate controls and management practices are in place for these areas in the absence of a stand-alone GWMP.

It is also noted that the State Government is currently reviewing their policy and Victorian Planning Provisions applicable to Green Wedges, including the draft changes released for consultation in late 2020. This Strategy takes into consideration the proposed changes and seeks to avoid inconsistency or conflict.

3.2. Climate Change

In the coming years as Knox faces the challenges of climate change, the Study Area, due to its unique physical, environmental and land use characteristics, will play a key role in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Study Area contains some of the richest wildlife habitats in Knox, which are highly sensitive to change. The Study Area provides unique opportunities to protect and enhance the environmental conditions to ensure a variety of wildlife species can continue to inhabit the area or use it to move around.

On the other hand, the Study Area provides significant vegetation and green surface cover in close proximity to built up areas. During extended periods of hot and dry weather, this green cover can play a key role in moderating the temperatures, mitigating the urban heat island effect and providing health and wellbeing benefits for the community. The Study Area also offers great opportunities for additional tree planting which can assist with KCC’s vision to provide carbon offsets.

Rural areas in proximity to bushland are also at a growing risk of bushfire due to climate change. Inappropriate development or use intensification in these areas should be avoided to prevent increases to bushfire risk or vegetation loss to enable bushfire management.

More extreme flooding events are also expected which pose severe risks to the community, infrastructure assets and wildlife habitat. The Study Area contains some of the



key waterways in Knox, including the Dandenong Creek and its tributaries, and accommodates large areas of floodplains which play a key role in flood storage and retention to prevent flooding in the wider catchments. The protection of these floodplains from development and landform change will be necessary to reduce the risk of flooding in the urban area and to protect the health of the waterway ecosystems.

Retaining viable agricultural land and production close to the urban area is another priority in a changing climate. Farming practices (such as those that lead to beneficial increase of carbon reserves in the soil) will also need to evolve and regulatory processes must keep pace with new technologies and climate change responses.

KCC has recently adopted a Climate Response Plan (CRP) which delivers a pathway to an emissions neutral KCC by 2030 and sets interim targets. It demonstrates how Knox will adapt and improve its resilience to the climate hazards that impact the city now and in future climate scenarios. The CRP outlines the social, environmental and economic benefits expected from implementing the Plan in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and details Council’s governance, powers, and the partners who need to be engaged in order to accelerate the delivery of Knox’s mitigation targets and resilience goals.

This Strategy aligns with and supports the CRP direction by protecting ecological values, prioritising community health and wellbeing and dealing with land use challenges such as bushfire, flood and agricultural land management.

3.3. Biodiversity and Wildlife Connectivity

Preventing loss of biodiversity and extinction of species was a key priority for the community in all five precinct as raised during the preliminary public consultation for this Strategy. The Study Area plays a critically important role in both the conservation and movement of wildlife within Knox and the broader area. Native vegetation or areas with indigenous tree cover occupy less than five percent of the Knox municipality and the Study Area contains a significantly large proportion of Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs), including those listed as endangered, compared to the remainder of Knox (Figure 6). Each precinct provides different values and functions from each other and each is valuable in its own right.

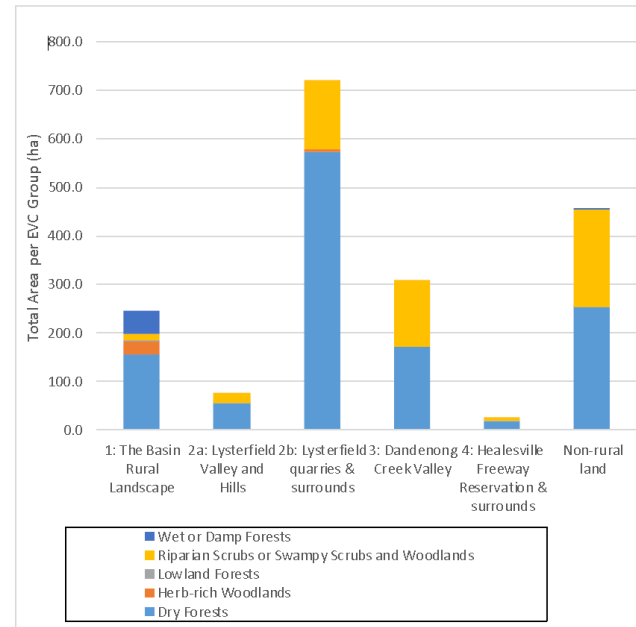


Figure 7 - Extent of EVC Group in GARS precincts compared to the remainder of Knox.

The *Sites of Biological Significance in Knox – 2nd Edition* (Lorimer, 2009) is a key study that currently guides the protection of Knox’ biodiversity values and holds significant weight in planning decision making. This study is a reference document in the Knox Planning Scheme and serves as the background document behind the Environment Significance Overlays (ESOs) applied. The document contains detailed information about each identified site and provides site-specific biological information such as wildlife records, habitat requirements and movement patterns. Detailed analysis of Site of Biological significance in the Study Area is provided in the GARS Setting the Scene Report.

While the above document provides comprehensive biodiversity information, a need was identified to explore wildlife movement and connectivity further, at scales broader than individual sites. This is particularly important in the Study Area as it includes waterway



corridors and linear open spaces that provide significant wildlife linkages at the municipal and regional scale.

To investigate this matter, a technical study was procured in 2017 titled the *Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report* (Ecology and Infrastructure International et al.). The report was adopted by Council in February 2018. A key component of the study was the collation and incorporation of previous wildlife records including observation data and evidence. Complementing the report is a “Knox Wildlife Atlas” which provides a comprehensive snapshot of wildlife occurrence within the municipality.

This report maps important areas for conservation and movement of wildlife with particular regard to ten focal species in Knox, being the Australian Reed-warbler, White-throated Treecreeper, Eastern Yellow Robin, Superb Fairy-wren, Black Wallaby, Sugar Glider, Short-beaked Echidna, Blue-tongue Lizard, Eastern Snake-necked Turtle and Southern Bullfrog.

This is done through applying a number of buffers around different landscape elements, based on the needs of the focal species. The key buffers applied are as follows:

- 180m buffers around treed Ecological Vegetation Classes (EVCs) - in line with the distance that Sugar Gliders and Eastern Yellow Robins have been recorded travelling outside bushland
- 300m buffers around EVCs represent distances travelled by Black Wallabies and Blue-tongued Lizards
- Farm dams are buffered by 375m as a study of Eastern Long-necked Turtles found that 95% of all records were within this distance from the nearest dam
- As per State Government guidelines, watercourses are buffered by 200m to support Growling Grass Frogs
- Melbourne Water recommended buffers including the 1% AEP (1:100yr ARI) flood level, and the Core Riparian Zones which provide a minimum buffer width of water courses depending on stream order, ranging from 50 m along the Dandenong Creek to a minimum of 20m for smaller creeks.

By overlaying the various buffers, the report identifies the location and extent of areas that are likely to be critical for the conservation of wildlife. The report then provides recommendations for each of these areas.

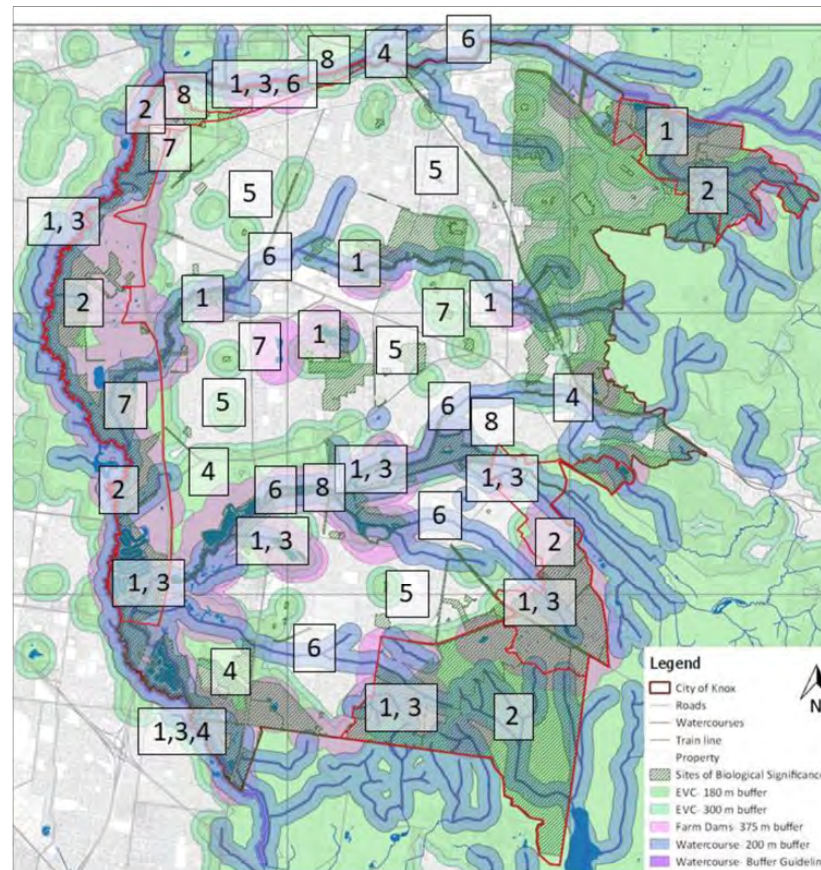


Figure 8 - Important areas for protecting habitat quality and wildlife movement within Knox. The darker shaded areas indicate a larger number of overlapping values, and hence greater importance for wildlife conservation. The GARS precincts are outlined in red. For interpretation of numbered labels refer to Table 2.



Table 2 - Reference details for Figure 8

Type	Important ecological value for wildlife conservation and connectivity
1	Locations with multiple overlapping ecological values, where remnant vegetation, riparian areas and farm dams or other waterbodies exist in close proximity to each other.
2	Large consolidated areas of greenspace with ecological values that are largely restricted to the GARS precincts.
3	High density of farm dams, offering opportunity for wetland species (turtles, frogs) to move in search of food, nesting sites or mates. Higher density of farm dams support larger populations, with more individuals and greater genetic diversity and therefore a higher likelihood of surviving future challenges.
4	Areas with very high ecological values for wildlife connectivity outside of Rural Land Precinct zones provide important connections between large areas of remnant vegetation (e.g. National Parks).
5	Developed areas with small, isolated locations with one or two high ecological values for wildlife.
6	Areas within high ecological value buffer zones where development has already occurred but still offer important opportunities for wildlife connectivity and conservation (e.g. along Blind Creek and Corhanwarrabul Creek, and Dandenong Creek between Precincts 1 and 4).
7	New developments in areas containing or adjacent to features of ecological value (e.g. golf courses, hobby farms, horse agistment) provide a critical opportunity to retain and enhance ecological values in the area while also meeting the needs for an increasing human population.
8	Construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges) in locations that are currently held as reserves has the potential to significantly decrease connectivity and habitat values for wildlife in those locations, through both the loss of existing habitat, and the replacement of corridors with barriers.

As seen from **Figure 8**, the GARS precincts contain important areas with multiple overlaying layers of value and therefore, play an important role in wildlife connectivity. This Strategy refers to the relevant and applicable recommendations from this report to provide strategic directions for each precinct.

3.4. Landscape and Character

The Study Area contains some of the most significant landscapes in Knox that are highly valued by the community. The Basin and the Lysterfield Valley straddle the urban/rural interface with a strong rural and natural character set in the attractive backdrop of mountain forests in the Dandenong Ranges and Lysterfield Park. The Dandenong Creek Valley Parklands is a regionally significant open space corridor with strong natural, rural and agricultural landscape elements. The Study Area presents scenic landscapes with open long range views that provide a sense of place for residents and visitors.

Like any other landscape, the Study Area is at the risk of change. Urban encroachment, new buildings, higher impact uses and associated vegetation removal all can potentially and incrementally change these landscapes.

A series of protections are currently in place by the Knox Planning Scheme for parts of the Study Area. The planning policy framework includes strategic guidance for protecting views to the foothills and the protection of significant landscapes. This policy vision has been translated into Significant Landscape Overlays (SLOs) that cover large areas in Precincts 1, 2a and 2b and include Key landscape character objectives and control tree removal and seek to ensure built form responds to the surrounding landscape.

While the SLOs have played a key role in protecting these areas from inappropriate development and change, they have a very broad scale approach to landscape (mostly to protect views to the Dandenong Foothills) and lack local-level direction to clarify the various landscape elements that need protection or enhancement. It is considered that a more place based approach to landscape and character is required in the Study Area, to inform future assessment of proposals.

Another key issue is that limited landscape direction is available for the Dandenong Creek Valley. This corridor is identified by the planning framework as a significant landscape, however, its qualities are not detailed; no strategic direction is provided; and no landscape overlays are in place in this corridor. The Planning Scheme prescribes that further strategic work be undertaken to establish the landscape characteristics of the Dandenong Creek Valley Parklands, and to address interface issues between parkland and urban development.

To fill the above information gap, the *GARS Landscape Values and Character Assessment* (Hansen Partnership, 2019) has been prepared. This study provides a character assessment for each precinct to understand the prominent landscape elements and ingredients within each precinct, as a basis for comparative analysis of their importance in their contribution to the overall 'sense of place' found within the settings. This work also includes a view-



shed and visual sensitivity analysis. Based on this analysis, the study identifies various landscape values within each precinct and makes recommendations on how to protect, manage and monitor each set of values. These findings have been incorporated into the recommendations of this Strategy.

3.5. History and Heritage

It is difficult to tell the complete story of the Study Area from a historical perspective, as there is a clear knowledge gap about Aboriginal history at the local level. The *City of Knox Heritage Study 1993*, which is the key heritage inventory for Knox, narrates the local history from the time of European settlement and includes little information about the land's Aboriginal history. The majority of reference to Aboriginal presence in the area in this document relates to encounters as seen from the viewpoint of settlers.

This Strategy has mapped the Aboriginal sites and areas of cultural heritage sensitivity in the Study Area. Detailed information has been sourced from Aboriginal Victoria (AV) which is the key state government agency responsible for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage data and management. However it should be noted, while Knox officers have access to AV information to assist with policy and decision making, Council is not allowed to publish all Aboriginal heritage information publicly due to the sensitive nature of the data. Hence the Aboriginal heritage data and mapping provided in this strategy are limited to those publicly available. However, the land use recommendations in this strategy have taken into consideration additional layers of Aboriginal heritage information to what is shown on the maps.

Regarding non-Aboriginal heritage, it has been important for this strategy to develop a preliminary understanding of places of heritage significance within the Study Area, and make recommendations on future actions. This has included a review of the heritage places included in the *City of Knox Heritage Study 1993*, some of which are currently protected by the Heritage Overlay. This exercise, however, does not represent a fresh heritage assessment of these places, but rather provides recommendations on which places are worthy of further assessment, as part of a future municipality-wide heritage study. This component of the Strategy has been informed by the report titled *Preliminary Heritage review: Knox Rural Heritage* (Context, 2017).

3.6. Agriculture

The Study Area contains the majority of agricultural land in Knox. Cattle grazing and horse agistment are the predominant agricultural use in Knox with small scale horticulture and

hobby farming occurring in parts of the Study Area. One of the objectives of this strategy has been to develop a better understanding of the existing land capacity for agriculture and future potential.

Being an interface council, KCC faces constant pressure from property holders on the edge of the urban boundary to rezone large agricultural lots to facilitate subdivision into smaller rural lifestyle properties. On many occasions, these proponents argue that the land has limited agricultural value due to soil types, slope or other issues.

Therefore, one of the aspects of this Strategy has been to develop evidence base regarding the quality and vitality of agricultural land in Knox. This component of the Strategy has been informed by two technical reports.

The *Assessment of Agricultural Potential of Rural Land in Knox* (RMCG, 2016) provides an assessment of whether rural land in Knox is capable of supporting agriculture, what agricultural production it is suitable for, and whether there are any relevant externalities, which may exclude agriculture. The study has included the following assessments informed by desktop analysis, spatial analysis and site validation:

1. Agricultural capability assessment takes into account the physical nature of the land, such as soil type, climatic condition and topography to determine the capability of the land to support sustainable soil-based agriculture.
2. Agricultural suitability assessment considers the economic, social and/or policy factors such as the economics of production, distance from markets and the strategic or policy context that may impact the production opportunity for specific agricultural commodities.
3. Externalities assessment included any remaining factors that were not eliminated through either the capability or suitability assessment, such as land use conflict and landscape value.

The study provides an analysis of each precinct's potential for different types of agriculture, agri-tourism, and related activities and presents future directions for parcels of land within each precinct. Overall, the study concludes that there is limited opportunity for commercial-scale agriculture in the Study Area, however, it highlights that the Study Area will continue to provide for perennial horticulture, livestock grazing and hobby farming. The study also makes recommendations to promote agri-tourism and recreational uses that support agriculture and complement the environmental and landscape values of land.



It is also important to analyse Agriculture from a strategic point of view within the broader economic mix, as detailed in the *GARS Economic Study* (Urban Enterprise, 2019). This analysis is outlined in the next section.

3.7. Rural Economy

A strong and sustainable rural economy can support the long term vitality of Green Wedge and rural areas and enable landowners to protect and enhance the various environmental and social values of this land.

One of the priorities for this Strategy has been to establish a better understanding of the current economic activities and in the Study Area, and to identify future opportunities and needs. The economic recommendations in this Strategy are informed by the *GARS Economic Study* (Urban Enterprise, 2019). This study provides the following assessment:

- Regional catchment analysis and proximity to transport and tourist routes
- Population and demographic profile
- Industry profile including employment and output
- Visitor profile including visitor type, purpose and origin
- Economic role of each precinct including existing businesses and property ownership
- Potential for economic, tourism and recreation uses including case studies
- Assessment of Planning Scheme controls in terms of the potential uses
- Evaluation of other constraints
- Recommendations to facilitate the identified potential.

3.8. Health and Recreation

Significant areas of parkland with active recreation opportunities are present in the Study Area, as well areas of native bushland that are highly popular amongst the local community and visitors for passive recreation and connecting with nature.

The Dandenong Creek Valley (Precinct 3) is an integrated open space corridor connecting a network of parklands and sport/recreation facilities that serve a large population catchment. Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park (Precincts 2a & 2b) are other parks of regional significance that provide excellent opportunities for bushwalking, mountain biking and general recreation.

Trails and tracks in the Study Area are highly used facilities that provide recreational and wellbeing benefits to a diverse range of users. Local parks and bushland such as Wicks

Reserve and Bateman Street bushland provide excellent opportunities for passive recreation and connecting with nature in proximity to residential areas.

As the Knox population grows and urban densification occurs, it is important to protect the existing recreational values, upgrade the existing facilities and seek opportunities for new areas of open space to meet the needs of the community. As part of this Strategy, the Study Area has been investigated for these opportunities. In addition, opportunities have been explored, in consultation with the community, to maximise community access to the existing recreational opportunities.

3.9. Rural Living

The Study Area contains residential properties in high amenity rural and pastoral settings. Many of the rural properties in the Study Area enable residents to mix residential use with agriculture, agri-business and horse agistment activities. The rural residents in Knox have long been key contributors to the City's environmental conservation by taking care of the remnant vegetation and existing habitat opportunities on their properties.

To maintain the quality of rural living, it is important to draw a clear picture of the existing land use and the issues faced, in consultation with the local community. The identification of risks, including bushfire and flooding risks, and preventing conflicting uses that adversely affect local character and amenity, have been important drivers for this Strategy. The suitability of the existing infrastructure, including access and connectivity, has also been assessed to ensure they meet the needs of the local communities.

Another key task has been the evaluation of existing planning controls, including zoning and subdivision sizes, to ensure they consider observed and emerging issues, enable economic potential, and support land use sustainability in the long term.



PART B - STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



4. Objectives and Strategies for All Precincts

The GARS precincts each have a range of highly important values that need to be protected and enhanced. However, considering their location, they are likely to continue to experience pressure for urban development and interface tension between urban and rural land.

This Strategy aims to balance these competing priorities by providing a series of theme-based **Objectives** that provide the overarching goals and priorities for the Study Area. The Objectives articulate what the document aims to achieve by means of a particular set of strategies and actions.

Each Objective is supported by a suit of **Strategies** which further clarify the method or processes used to achieve the Objective, such as how Council will assess and guide proposals within the Study Area.

Considering the various characteristics and opportunities, a specific **Vision** has been developed for each precinct. The precinct-based vision sets a desired future state for each precinct and has been informed by background research, policy alignment and stakeholder and community consultation. The visioning consultation involved the local community and businesses, state government agencies, utility and service providers, environmental groups, local advisory groups and property owners and occupiers.

The vision for each precinct is better clarified through the recommendations for each precinct and is translated into specific **Actions**. Actions are more tangible or measurable tasks that can be allocated, placed within a timeframe, and may even need specific funds allocated. The Actions have been linked back to Objectives to ensure strategic alignment and consistency in direction.

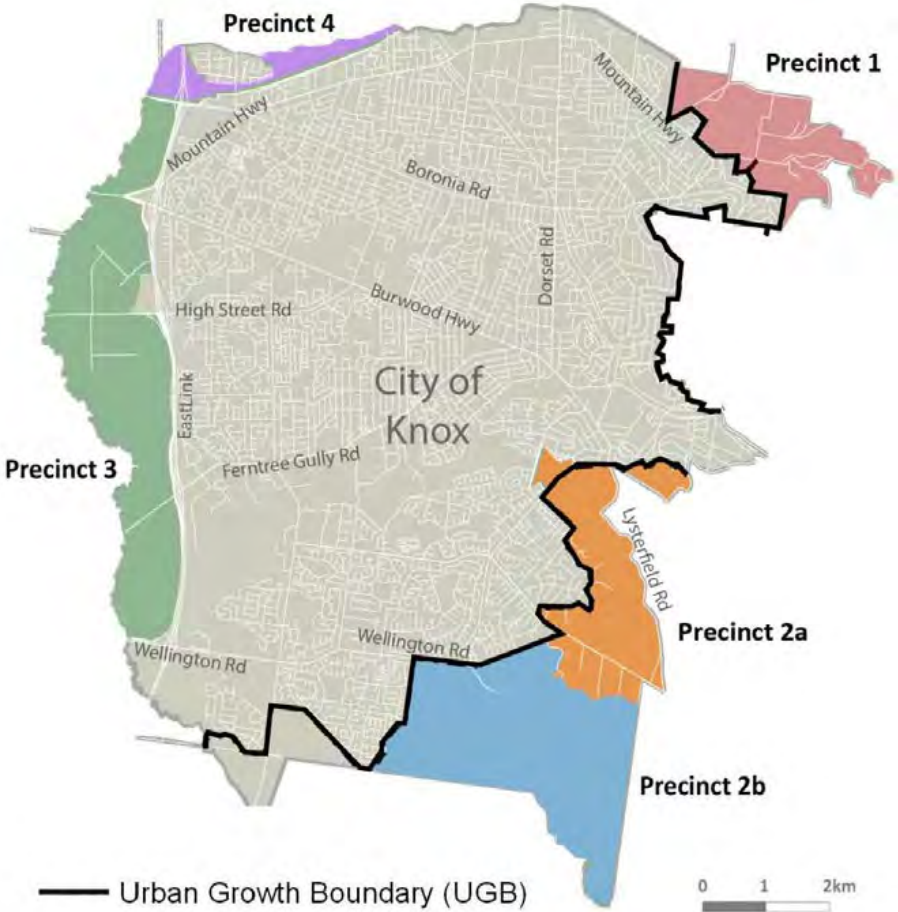
The Objectives and Strategies are the same for all precincts, while the individual Actions are divided into precinct-based Actions and Actions that apply to the entire Study Area.

Draft Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS) Summary

Theme	Ecology			Landscape & Character		Land Use & Access		
Objective	To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity	To protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover	To improve waterway health and flood management	To protect and enhance local character and landscape values	To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage	To recognise & protect the values of Knox Green Wedges	To ensure land uses are located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area	To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve existing wildlife habitat and biodiversity values. • Improve wildlife connectivity and ecological corridors. • Increase community awareness and engagement in ecological improvements • Facilitate improved weed and pest management practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and enhance vegetation and tree canopy cover. • Monitor changes to tree canopy, vegetation and surface cover. • Recognise the role of trees and vegetation cover in moderating the temperature and reducing the urban heat island effect. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve existing wildlife habitat and biodiversity values. • Protect floodplains from development and change. • Enhance water quality and the ecological health of the waterways. • Identify flood prone areas and improve stormwater management. • Encourage WSUD systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and protect local character within the Study Area • Define and protect landscape values including vistas and long range views. • Ensure land uses do not adversely affect the local character. • Ensure built form considers and responds to the local character and landscape values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, celebrate and promote the heritage values and history, including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage. • Promote greater community knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage. • Protect places of heritage significance from inappropriate development and use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide strategic direction for Green Wedges and interface areas in the Knox Planning Scheme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure new uses do not adversely impact on existing ecological and landscape values or existing settlements. • Protect agricultural land from inappropriate development and use. • Promote and support the ongoing viability of agricultural practices. • Strengthen and promote the recreational, cultural, sporting and tourism role. • Protect the amenity and character of existing residential areas. • Manage risks including those associated with bushfire, pollution and contamination. • Facilitate better land management practices. • Support and facilitate public art in appropriate locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular connectivity and access. • Advocate for improved public transport connectivity. • Enhance movement safety for all users. • Reduce traffic conflict between various modes.



5. Recommendations for All Precincts





Theme 1: Ecology

Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity

The Study Area plays a key biodiversity role in Knox as it contains some of the most significant areas of native bushland and waterways. Considering their location, ecological qualities, current land use and lot configuration, each of the GARS precincts present unique opportunities for future enhancements including habitat restoration and improvements to wildlife connectivity. Such opportunities may not exist to the same extent in some other areas of biodiversity value in Knox, including those within the urban area which are more likely to be impacted by urban land use nearby. There is therefore a strong case for prioritisation of ecological preservation and enhancements in the Study Area.

Building upon the evidence base set in the *Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report* (Ecology and Infrastructure International et al., 2017), this Strategy aims at better incorporating wildlife connectivity into the planning framework. The following recommendations from the above report are considered to be related to the planning framework and can be investigated further for the Study Area:

- Mandating an ecologically sensitive development approach in high ecological buffer zones
- Strengthening mechanisms for native vegetation protection
- Developing planning mechanisms to protect riparian buffer zones, particularly along Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek, Corhanwarrabul Creek and their tributaries, to:
 - Prohibit further development within the Melbourne Water Core Riparian Zones and adjacent vegetation buffers;
 - Minimise any additional development in the remaining areas of the 200m buffer zone identified by the Growling Grass Frog Sub-Regional strategy; and
 - Mandate Water Sensitive Urban Design interventions within the 200m buffer zone to disconnect stormwater drains from natural waterways and help reinstate more natural water cycles.
- Reducing the barrier effect at the specific sites identified to increase connectivity for all fauna species.

This Strategy confirms the important role of the Planning Scheme, including the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO). While the majority of habitat areas in the Study Area are covered by this overlay, the Strategy seeks to strengthen the implementation of the existing requirements. Revegetation and habitat improvements are also encouraged,

in appropriate locations where they do not cause an increase to bushfire risk to the existing settlements.

Pest and weed management was another issue that was highlighted during the consultation for this Strategy. KCC has been a partner to the development of a Regional Pest Animal Strategy. There are also opportunities to support improved maintenance practices including on private land.

The local community will continue to play a key role in habitat protection and enhancement. Friends/community groups in Knox provide a valuable source of local knowledge and stewardship and have contributed to a variety of habitat enhancement projects in Knox over the past years.

Council should continue to support community efforts by providing resources, funding and links to state and regional programs. The Knox Gardens for Wildlife program is one example of a biodiversity initiative that has been well received by the residents, including rural residential properties in the Study Area. This program provides an opportunity to link people to nature and involve the community in broader actions around ecological enhancement.

It is also noted, while this Strategy provides recommendations within the boundaries of the Study Area, wildlife connectivity requires broader consideration to ensure connectivity continues outside the Study Area.

Objective:

To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.

Strategies:

- Conserve existing wildlife habitat and biodiversity values.
- Improve wildlife connectivity and ecological corridors.
- Increase community awareness and engagement in ecological improvements.
- Facilitate improved weed and pest management practices.

Action 1. Investigate options to incorporate relevant recommendations from the Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report (Ecology and Infrastructure International et al., 2017) into the Knox Planning Scheme, including the following recommendations:

- a) Ensuring the connectivity elements and important habitats are considered in the review of planning applications and strategic planning decisions.
- b) Applying appropriate buffers along the waterways including the Dandenong Creek, Dobsons Creek, Monbulk Creek and Blind Creek to the extent of the Study Area.
- c) Mandating an ecologically sensitive development approach to new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges) within high ecological value buffer zones.
- d) Encourage habitat restoration and revegetation within 300m buffer zones to existing areas of native vegetation, in areas that do not increase bushfire risk to existing settlements.

The above action might entail new policy or overlay provisions and making the Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report a reference document in the Scheme, subject to further planning investigation.

Action 2. Investigate the need for further guidelines to facilitate Ecologically Sensitive Design for new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges).

Action 3. Advocate for wildlife linkages to continue outside the Study Area, in accordance with the recommendations of the Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report (Ecology and Infrastructure International et al., 2017).

Action 4. Continue collaboration with other councils and the state government regarding pest management and pollution control.

Action 5. Continue to support and grow community partnerships and initiatives including the Gardens for Wildlife program.

Vegetation Canopy Cover

The Study Area contains significant vegetation and makes a key contribution to the overall tree canopy cover in Knox. These areas play a key role in preventing the urban heat island effect and controlling the temperature in the nearby suburbs.

Tree canopy loss is an issue faced across Metropolitan Melbourne including in Knox. Data published by DTP (2019) suggests that tree cover has fallen in Knox from 19.1% in 2014 to 18.0% in 2018, a loss of 120 hectares. The largest loss has occurred on residential properties but public infrastructure, such as streets also saw a loss.

The Study Area presents unique opportunities to maintain and increase the canopy cover. Parts of the Study Area are outside the Urban Growth Boundary where development is limited and protections are currently in place from intense development and tree removal. In addition, considerable land in the Study Area is publicly owned or zoned for conservation or public recreation purposes, where tree protection or planting is easier to enforce.

Due to existing planning controls, the majority of the Study Area is not at the risk of large scale clearing, however, faces the threat of incremental loss of canopy and green ground cover. This relates to a variety of reasons such as gradual increases to building site coverage, the natural death of trees over time or poor maintenance. There are also challenges faced due to bushfire management requirements considering Knox sits at the edge of the urban area where settlement meets the bush.

Knox does not currently have strategic guidance or targets for maintaining or increasing its total tree canopy cover. It is also noted that the cooling effect of trees is not currently reflected in the existing policy and planning controls. The Scheme currently values trees for three main reasons:

- Biodiversity values - native habitat trees (implemented through ESOs)
- Amenity and exotic values (through VPOs)
- Landscape values (through SLOs)

As discussed earlier, *Living Melbourne* provides high level guidance and direction for monitoring the tree canopy. It guides councils to develop monitoring programs and local tree canopy targets. These actions need to be translated at the municipality scale to be able to provide locally relevant and measurable targets for Knox.

Another known issue is that mapping anomalies exist in the Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO). This matter is currently under review. An investigation of the VPO in the Study Area has found locations where the overlay map does not correspond with the correct location of trees on the ground. These errors have been identified on the precinct maps.

Objective:

To protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover.

**Strategies:**

- Protect and enhance vegetation and tree canopy cover.
- Monitor changes to tree canopy, vegetation and surface cover.
- Recognise the role of trees and vegetation cover in moderating the temperature and reducing the urban heat island effect.

Action 6. Undertake a tree canopy mapping and monitoring project for Knox to:

- a) Map the existing tree canopy and vegetation cover broken down by height and surface cover types.
- b) Investigate setting of measurable tree canopy cover targets including sub-targets for public land (parks, streets) and private property.
- c) Define actions to achieve the canopy targets.
- d) Establish a program for regular monitoring of vegetation cover and control progress against the established targets.
- e) Facilitate enforcement in cases of unlawful tree removal.

Action 7. Undertake a review of the Vegetation Protection Overlays (VPOs) to correct the existing anomalies and identify opportunities for additional trees to be protected by the overlay.

Waterways and Flood Management

The health of waterways in the Study Area, including the Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek, Monbulk Creek and Dobsons Creek needs to be prioritised over the coming years. This is to ensure healthy waterway ecosystems, appropriate flood management and habitat conservation.

Waterway management requires collaboration with neighbouring councils, landowners, community groups and Victorian government agencies including Melbourne Water and DTP. Collaborative projects such as *Living Links* and *Enhancing our Dandenong Creek* are good examples of multi-agency partnerships that offer particularly important opportunities for new or improved waterway health across the region.

Some of the creeks in the Study Area run within privately owned land which creates additional challenges. The protection of these waterways through appropriate planning controls and supporting the landowners to manage the waterways and their buffers will be critical in the coming years.

The protection of floodplains in the Study Area is another priority to prevent flooding in the urban area, maintain the natural flow of water, reduce pressure on the waterways and prevent habitat loss. The floodplains are constantly under pressure from development and land use that changes topography and reduces surface perviousness. Such changes would adversely affect the Study Area's role in the natural flow, storage and retention of water in particular during stormwater events.

This Strategy has identified that some of the floodplains within the Study Area are not currently covered by adequate planning controls. The key overlay in the Scheme that protect floodplains of the natural waterways is the LSIO. Another flood-related overlay is the SBO which controls development within areas that are subject to the 1% AEP (1:100yr ARI) flood and ensures adequate siting of buildings and design standards within these areas. The Knox SBO has not been updated since 1999 and only covers the Melbourne Water drainage network area.

KCC and Melbourne Water have been working to prepare updated flood models taking into account up to date data and projected future scenarios associated with climate change. Once completed, the new flood map could be incorporated in the Planning Scheme, to be able to guide future land use and development. The draft flood model suggests areas of land within the Study Area will be affected by the new flood map, where protection or management will be critical.

Catchment management will also be important to maintain and enhance water quality. KCC's *Water Sensitive Urban Design and Stormwater Management Strategy 2010* has identified some of the waterways in the Study Area as "high value" and has led to actions and investments to improve catchment hydrology. In this respect, KCC has Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives including disconnecting impervious areas from the creeks, providing stormwater tanks to residents and the construction of WSUD infrastructure.

In the Study Area, gradual increases to impervious surfaces such as by larger buildings or uses that require large areas of car parking (such as places of worship) have the potential to adversely impact catchment hydrology. It is important to consider the previous investments in water quality and ensure future development and infrastructure construction practices do not compromise these values.

Objective:

To improve waterway health and flood management.

Strategies:

- Protect floodplains from development and changes to topography.
- Enhance water quality and the ecological health of the waterways.
- Identify flood prone areas and improve stormwater management practices.
- Encourage an ecologically-sensitive and water-sensitive approach to development and infrastructure.

Action 8. Following the completion of the flood mapping project by KCC and Melbourne Water (MW), undertake a Planning Scheme amendment to update overlays to areas affected by the 1% AEP (1:100yr ARI) flood level, including:

- a) Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO) to areas affected by flooding from natural waterways.
- b) Special Building Overlay (SBO) to areas affected by flooding from the drainage network (SBO1 for MW network and SBO2 for KCC network).

Action 9. Provide greater guidance in the Planning Scheme to limit the extent of impervious surface including guidance for car parking areas in the Study Area.

Action 10. Continue to collaborate with stakeholders on regional and multi-agency initiatives that improve the waterways and catchments, including the Living Links and the Enhancing our Dandenong Creek projects.



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Landscape and Character

It is noted that currently there is limited statewide guidance on how best to define and protect rural and Green Wedge landscape values. In recent years, DTP has been workshopping ideas with councils to develop a planning framework for the assessment and recognition of Green Wedge landscapes. However, this work to date has not resulted in any recommendations that could assist with landscape assessment for the Study Area.

To fill the current gaps, the *GARS Landscape and Character Study* (Hansen Partnership, 2019) was prepared as part of this Strategy which identifies the key character elements and landscape values of each precinct. Based on these elements, the study recommends the following levels of ‘significance’ to be assigned to each precinct based on a comparative analysis of their contribution to the overall ‘sense of place’ found within the settings.

Precinct	Prominent Landscape Character Elements	Landscape Significance
Precinct 1: The Basin Rural Landscape	1. Dobsons and Dandenong Creek Flood Plain 2. Basin Township Entry & Boulevard 3. Western Isolated Hilltops 4. Dandenong Ranges Foothills & Gullies	Municipal
Precinct 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills	1. Lysterfield Foothills Open Ridgeline 2. Wellington Road Flood Plain & Flats 3. Eastern Slopes to the Monbulk Creek Valley 4. Monbulk Creek Floodplain	Metropolitan
Precinct 2b: Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds	1. Rising Wellington Road Ridgelines 2. Lysterfield Park Bushland Silhouette 3. Extractive Industries & Works 4. Open Grassland	Metropolitan
Precinct 3: Dandenong Creek Valley Precinct	1. Dandenong Valley Park & Wetlands 2. Dandenong Creek Riparian Corridor 3. East-West Aligned Road Corridors 4. High Voltage Power Line Infrastructure	Regional
Precinct 4: Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds	1. Wantirna Road Cutting 2. Bateman Street Bushland 3. Dandenong Creek Floodplain 4. Dandenong Creek Riparian Corridor 5. EastLink Corridor	Local

The landscape character analysis describes the major form, features and attributes of each precinct including topographical features, landscape settings and physical elements of significance. The study then performs a visual analysis featuring viewshed and visual sensitivity analysis to determine level of visibility from key vantage points. The study concludes with detailed recommendations on valuable landscape elements in each precinct and how to protect and manage them. These recommendations have been incorporated in the precinct-based recommendation within this Strategy.

It is recommended that this study informs the Planning Scheme to ensure the identified values are considered when reviewing proposals. Currently, parts of the Study Area including Precincts 1, 2a and 2b are covered by the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO) which sets controls applicable to vegetation, earthworks, building bulk, character and other scenic qualities. The Knox Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) Clause 21.10 Local Areas also recognises these precincts as significant landscape and provides high level strategic direction to protect their values. There are opportunities to build upon these existing provisions and provide more site-specific guidance for the key character elements identified.

In addition, while Precinct 3 has been identified as being a regionally significant landscape, limited landscape direction is currently provided in the Scheme, and no SLOs apply in this precinct. It would be important that the identified values for this precinct are incorporated into the Scheme.

Objective:

To protect and enhance local character and landscape values.

Strategies:

- Identify and protect local character within the Study Area
- Define and protect landscape values including vistas and long range views.
- Ensure land use and built form do not adversely affect the local character.
- Ensure built form considers and responds to the local character and landscape values.

Action 11. Undertake a review of the existing Planning Scheme provisions to recognise the character and protect landscape values in the Study Area, in line with the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Heritage

This Strategy recommends a full review of heritage values in Knox, including both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage.

It is considered that there is a role for KCC to establish the Aboriginal history of Knox at a local level and incorporate it into its historical narrative and educational initiatives.

Non-Aboriginal heritage values of the Study Area are currently informed by the municipal-wide Heritage Study which was prepared in 1993. No comprehensive review of Knox cultural heritage has been undertaken since. A number of heritage sites within the Study Area are part of large scale landscape and environmental systems that need to be assessed in their broader heritage context and thematic history. Examples are the Dandenong Ranges and Lysterfield Park which form part of larger heritage areas.

To assist with such review, this Strategy includes a preliminary examination of places of heritage significance within the Study Area, and make recommendations on the way forward. This has included a review of the 27 heritage places included in the *City of Knox Heritage Study 1993*. Some of these places are currently protected by the Heritage Overlay while some others do not have statutory protections in place. This has been informed by the report titled *Preliminary Heritage review: Knox Rural Heritage* (Context, 2017) which, through a combination of site inspections and desktop research, provides the following information:

- Confirmation of whether the heritage places still exist;
- Photographic evidence of the places;
- Map of the places (analogue mapping) or provide an indication of the locality;
- Preliminary assessment of the existing conditions of each place; and
- Recommendations including whether further heritage investigation of the place is required.

Where sites have been able to be accessed and found, the majority of recommendations are to retain existing Heritage and other Overlays. Where sites were not found or insufficient information has been available, a recommendation for further investigation has been made. Many of the sites without current statutory protection are recommended for assessment. It should be noted that this preliminary review does not represent a fresh heritage assessment of the places.

Objective

To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage.

Strategies:

- Identify, celebrate and promote the heritage values and history, including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage.
- Promote greater community knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal cultural heritage.
- Protect places of heritage significance from inappropriate development and use.

Action 12. Undertake a comprehensive review of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage across the Knox municipality, taking into consideration the specific recommendations in this report and the *Preliminary Heritage review: Knox Rural Heritage* (Context, 2017).



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Green Wedge Interface

This Strategy has reiterated the importance of the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) in protecting Precincts 1, 2a and 2b from inappropriate development. The UGB has proven to be a strong and effective planning tool to maintain the integrity of Knox Green Wedge land in these areas, despite ongoing pressure for subdivision and rezoning outside the UGB.

Another key finding is, while Knox is an interface council, a simple transitional buffer solution to the urban/rural interface is not practical. Instead, a place-based approach to the protection of values, including environmental, landscape and rural economic values, is recommended. In other words, simply because an area is close to the UGB does not mean it is appropriate for smaller lot sizes or urban scale development.

This is because some of Knox' most sensitive landscapes and biodiversity hotspots are located in proximity to the UGB. Some of these landscapes present scenic views that uniquely define the gateways not only to Knox, but also to Metropolitan Melbourne. For example, this Strategy has identified highly valuable landscapes in The Basin or environmental buffers in Lysterfield and Rowville, which are highly sensitive to change and should be protected from inappropriate development and change.

This matter is also seen in light of recent discussions by DTP regarding potential location of uses such as places of worship and schools adjacent to the UGB. This Strategy strongly opposes such idea and confirms that proximity to the UGB is not an appropriate locational criterion for such uses.

Assessing proposals in the interface areas needs to take into account their impacts on a case by case basis. This includes the visual impact - in particular for those uses that present highly dominant built form – the environmental impact, the extent of impervious surface required for car parking, and the traffic impact on the locality. The cumulative impact of multiple buildings within a limited interface area should also be considered as it could be to the detriment of local character, landscape and environmental values.

On many occasions, these uses are more appropriate within the urban area in close proximity to residential settlement and transport services. In the Green Wedges, proposals of these types should be considered on a case by case basis, taking into consideration the site context and values to protect.

The Green Wedge policy direction in the Scheme is currently limited to State and Regional policy. Providing local strategic direction for Green Wedge land is required to ensure the identified values as part of this Strategy are recognised and protected.

Objective:

Recognise and protect the values of Knox Green Wedges.

Strategy:

- Provide strategic direction for Green Wedges and interface areas in the Knox Planning Scheme.
- Provide a place-based approach to Green Wedge interface.

Action 13. Avoid any changes to the Urban Growth Boundary in Precincts 1, 2a and 2b.

Action 14. Investigate Planning Scheme options to provide local strategic direction for Knox Green Wedge land in line with the recommendations of this Strategy for Precincts 1, 2a and 2b.

Action 15. Clarify, through strategic directions in the Planning Scheme, that a transitional buffer approach to the Green Wedge interface is not intended, and that a place-based, value-based approach to assessment is required.

Land Use and Economy

This Strategy has identified agricultural land that is worthy of protection including in the Dandenong Valley, Lysterfield Valley and Dobsons Valley (The Basin). While precinct-based recommendations are provided later in this Strategy to protect these areas, it is noted that the Scheme currently does not provide local policy direction for agriculture in Knox. It would be important that policy direction is also provided to support long term protection of agricultural land and production in Knox.

The Study Area offers considerable open space, recreation, tourism, sport, art and culture land use opportunities. It also contains extractive industries that are likely to continue operation for a couple of decades. Detailed direction and actions to support these land uses is provided in the precinct-based recommendations section.



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Summary of Economic, Tourism, Community and Recreation Potential

	Precinct 1 The Basin Rural Landscape	Precinct 2A Lysterfield Valley and Hills	Precinct 2B Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds	Precinct 3 Dandenong Creek Valley	Precinct 4 Healesville Freeway Reservation & Surrounds
Suitability for agriculture intensification	Medium	Medium	Low	High	Low
Suitability for agri- tourism	High	Medium	Low	High	Low
Suitability for standalone tourism uses	High	Low	Low	High	Low
Suitability for community / social enterprise	High	Low	Low	High	Medium
Accessible to population catchments	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High
Accessible by public transport	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium
Accessible by bike/hiking/walking	Low	Low	Medium	High	High
Suitability for Active Recreation	Medium	Low	High	High	High
Suitability for other intensive industry	Low	Low	High	Medium	Low
Suitability for Passive Recreation	Low	Low	High	High	Medium
Ranking	19	13	18	28	18

Objective:

To ensure land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area.

Strategies:

- Ensure new uses do not adversely impact on existing ecological and landscape values or existing settlements.
- Protect agricultural land from inappropriate development and use.
- Promote and support the ongoing viability of agricultural practices.
- Strengthen and promote the recreational, cultural, sporting and tourism role.
- Protect the amenity and character of existing residential areas.
- Manage risks including those associated with bushfire, pollution and contamination.
- Facilitate better land management practices.

Action 16. Investigate Planning Scheme options to provide strategic direction for agriculture and agricultural land in Knox.

Action 17. Investigate initiatives and incentives, such as rate exemptions, to help protect agricultural production and improve land management practices.

Action 18. Investigate the potential for Carbon Farming and climate friendly agricultural practices including regenerative agriculture.

Public Art

The Study Area provides great opportunities for new public art to be incorporated into the landscape. In particular, some of the precincts are located at gateways to Knox where a high level of visitation where highly visibility exists and public art can create unique places and contribute to a sense of belonging and pride.

The Study Area has been assessed to identify locations that provide opportunities for public art. This assessment takes into consideration matters such as visitation rate, visibility, land ownership, gateways to Knox, community interest, green space, parks, trails, waterways potential for place making, storytelling and accessibility.



The above assessment has identified potential locations for public art in The Basin Triangle, Dorset Road extension/Napoleon Road intersection, Burwood Highway/EastLink and High Street Road. These locations have been indicated on the land use maps.

Strategy:

- Support and facilitate public art in appropriate locations.

Action 19. Support the provision of public art in the Study Area including at the locations identified, subject to detailed assessment.

Access and Connectivity

The Study Area contains some of the highly used trails in Knox and provides linkages to fantastic bushwalking and cycling opportunities. There are opportunities across the GARS precincts to enhance walking and cycling connectivity with additional shared paths and improvements to existing facilities.

Some of the local roads including in The Basin and Lysterfield provide key access routes to recreational destinations in national parks, however, do not provide cycle lanes or shared paths. Traffic conflict between various modes, including vehicles, walkers, cyclists and horse riders, was raised as a key issue on these roads during the public consultation.

The Study Area has limited public transport coverage and is partially served by bus services. This is a greater issue in the Dandenong Creek Valley where future residential area is planned as part of Boral Quarry redevelopment.

The below Access and Connectivity strategies are further clarified through actions identified in the precinct-based recommendations.

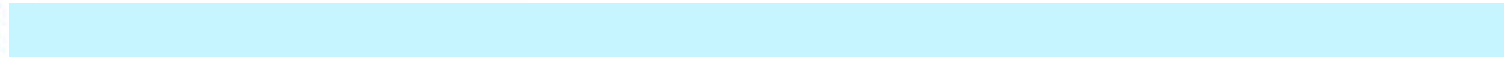
Objective:

To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users.

Strategies:

- Enhance pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular connectivity and access.
- Advocate for improved public transport connectivity.
- Enhance movement safety.
- Reduce traffic conflict between various users.

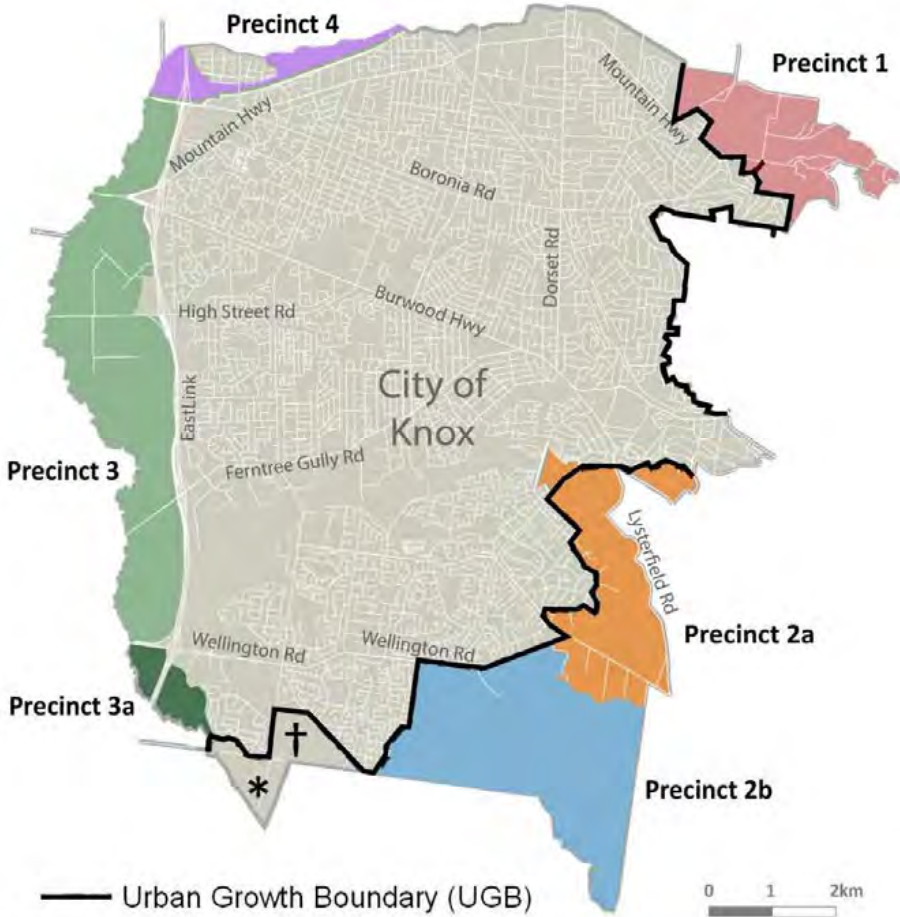
Action 20. Advocate for the construction of proposed shared paths and cycle lanes identified in this strategy.



6. Precinct-based Recommendations



Precinct 1:
The Basin Rural Landscape





Vision for Precinct 1

The Vision for Precinct 1 reflects feedback received during public consultation involving the stakeholders and the community. Key themes from the public consultation are summarised below:

- **Prioritising environmental conservation**
There was overwhelming support for the focus in this precinct to be on ecological protection. It was suggested that this focus be strengthened to prevent a clash of priorities and ensure environmental values are not compromised by land uses such as agriculture or tourism.
- **Protecting from development**
The feedback demonstrated significant concerns about the possibility of future development or change and suggested that the vision emphasises the protection of floodplains in The Basin to manage stormwater and support the waterways.
- **Concerns about tourism/economic opportunities**
Concerns were raised about potential tourism and business activities due to the number of visitors to the area and its impact on the environmental qualities and local traffic.
- **Protecting the distinct natural and rural character**
Protecting the current natural landscape and the green/rural character within the backdrop of the Dandenong Ranges was considered very important.
- **Ecological enhancement**
There were suggestions for targeting “enhancement” in addition to “protection” of ecological values.
- **Bushfire risk**
Concerns were raised that revegetation in wrong areas might increase bushfire risk.

Vision for Precinct 1:

The Basin Rural Landscape Precinct will be protected as an ecologically significant area with a distinct natural and rural landscape character, providing a scenic gateway to the Dandenong Ranges. The conservation and enhancement of the precinct’s biodiversity, waterways and landscape values will be prioritised, while supporting compatible land use such as sustainable agriculture, rural living, recreation and community uses that complement and enhance these values.

Theme 1: Ecology

Biodiversity and Wildlife Connectivity

Almost two-thirds of Precinct 1 supports native vegetation, and most of the precinct has been classified as Sites of Biological Significance for Knox, based primarily on the occurrence of native vegetation.

Being surrounded on the southern, eastern and north-eastern boundaries by the DRNP, the precinct provides an important consolidated ecological link between Doongalla Forest and Upper Ferntree Gully. The precinct plays a key role in wildlife habitat and movement as it contains large extents of native vegetation and a high density of watercourses. Maintaining the continuous cover of vegetation in this precinct will be essential to support the long-term viability of wildlife, larger populations and greater opportunities for movement and dispersal in multiple directions.

The precinct also contains Wicks/Wicks East Reserves (managed by KCC) and Liverpool Road Retarding Basin (managed by Melbourne Water) which are public reserves of high biodiversity value while assisting with stormwater management for the broader catchment.

A large extent of the vegetation and sensitive habitat in the precinct are located within private properties which will play a key role in the coming years to protect biodiversity and wildlife movement. The eastern part of the precinct, which consists of lots in the Rural Conservation Zone, is predominantly used for residential purposes. This area accommodates a dense and continuous cover of vegetation which connect with Doongalla Forest/DRNP and is at risk of incremental vegetation loss due to land use conflict and fire management requirements.

The larger properties in the central part of in Precinct 1 also provide important linkages, stepping stones and floodplain habitat. The Salvation Army land in The Basin offers complementary and additional resources to wildlife and its buffer role is recognised in protecting the adjacent Rural Conservation Zone, as well as providing opportunities for connectivity to the Liverpool Rd Retarding Basin. The Dobsons Creek traverses this property and provides a densely vegetated ecological corridor.

Whilst the majority of waterways in Knox are protected by public zoning (incl. PCRZ), there are sections of the Dandenong Creek and the Dobsons Creek within Precinct 1 that are within private land and are not protected by public zoning. However, the entire precinct is covered by the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO1 and 2) which provides good protections for vegetation and habitat. The ESO generally requires planning permits for

building, subdivision, carrying out of works and the removal of vegetation. Exemptions are provided for vegetation removal that are necessary for emergency works and management of land including fire management, weed control, infrastructure or resources where other permits exists.

The conflict between tree protection and fire management was an important concern raised by the community during the project consultation. There was a strong message that preserving the natural environment needs to take precedence in this precinct, and new development that requires tree removal to address bushfire risk should be prevented.

The majority of vegetation cover in Precinct 1 is located on private property used for residential purposes. Many of these areas are affected by the bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) that seeks to ensure human safety in proximity to bushland. While significant vegetation clearing has not occurred since the implementation of ESOs and SLOs, incremental loss of vegetation has been observed. This is sometimes caused by increasing building and outbuilding footprints on rural lots where additional defensible space or fuel reduction is required around new or added structures.

Objective:

To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.

- Action 1.1.** Review the planning framework to
- ensure the protection of native vegetation and habitat is prioritised in Precinct 1
 - recognise the role of Dandenong and Dobsons Creeks in wildlife connectivity
 - ensure bushfire risk and management in BMO affected areas is considered from early stages of any development proposal, such as pre-application stage, and proposals that require vegetation removal to comply with the bushfire requirements are not supported.
- Action 1.2.** Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at the following sites in accordance with the recommendations in Appendix 1:
- Dandenong Creek - Liverpool Road (ID: 1)
 - Dandenong Creek – Dobson Lane (ID: 2)
- Action 1.3.** Investigate mechanisms to support private landowners to improve maintenance and weed control including of Sugarloaf Hill.

Waterways and Flood Management

Precinct 1 is within the Upper Dandenong Creek catchment and contains a section of Dandenong Creek and also Dobsons Creek which is a tributary to Dandenong Creek.

The Dobsons Creek catchment has been identified as the highest value waterway in Knox by KCC's *Water Sensitive Urban Design and Stormwater Management Strategy 2010*. KCC has undertaken Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) initiatives in this catchment to improve catchment hydrology. This has included disconnecting impervious areas from the creek to improve its ecological health, providing stormwater tanks to residents and the construction of Wicks Reserve (Ferdinand Von Mueller) Raingarden. KCC has also constructed swales in Basin-Olinda Road and a roadside retention facility along Sheffield Road. The WSUD project locations are indicated on Map 1.

Situated along the creek path is also the Liverpool Road Retarding Basin which was developed by Melbourne Water (MW) to provide for the storage of stormwater to prevent flooding downstream.

Apart from the smaller rural lots north of Doongalla Road, the vast majority of lots in Precinct 1 are not connected to piped drainage. This is in line with KCC's strategy to disconnect properties from the drainage network and promote a water sensitive approach to drainage within this precinct.

Incremental increases to impervious surfaces (e.g. house extensions, outbuildings, paved outdoor areas) places additional pressure on the drainage systems in this high value catchment. There are opportunities to build upon the previous investments in improving water quality within the Dobsons Creek catchment and ensure future development and infrastructure construction practices protect these values.

The precinct also plays a key role in flood retention and management as it contains floodplains of the Dobsons and Dandenong Creeks. Protecting these floodplains from development and topographic change will be important to prevent flooding downstream and maintain the health of the waterways. The current flood map adopted in the Knox Planning Scheme is outdated and does not accurately map the flood prone areas in Precinct 1. For instance, the Dobson Creek floodplain has no flood overlays. An updated flood map is currently being prepared which is recommended for incorporation into the Scheme.

Objective:

To improve waterway health and flood management.

- Action 1.4.** The planning framework to acknowledge that Precinct 1 is in the high value catchment of the Dobsons Creek.
- Action 1.5.** Investigate options to incorporate WSUD measures as part of new development in the Dobsons Creek catchment.
- Action 1.6.** Support a WSUD approach to public works and infrastructure including the construction or upgrade of roads within this precinct.
- Action 1.7.** Ensure the Dobsons/Dandenong Creek floodplain is protected from development and level change.

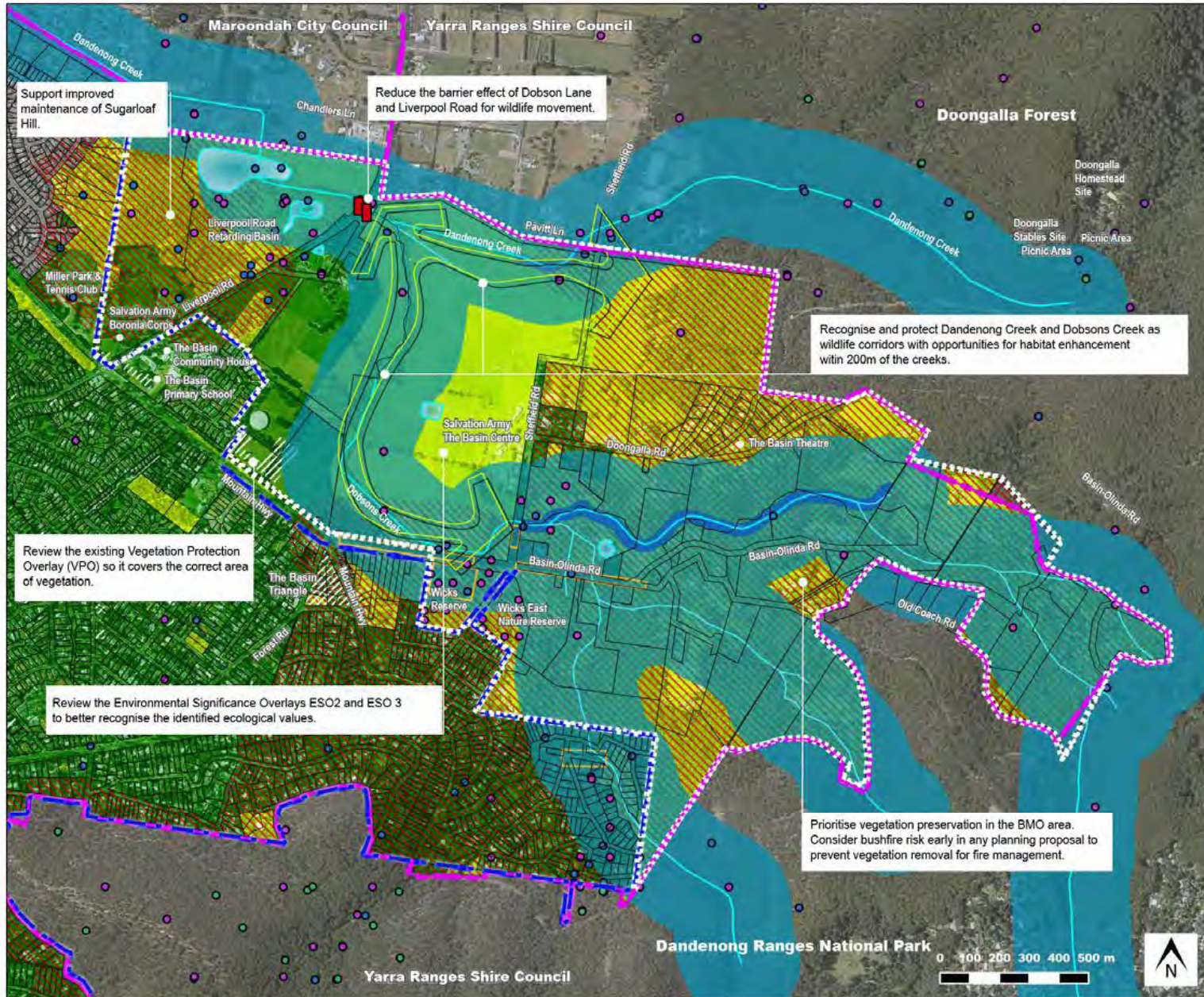


Map 1

Precinct 1- The Basin Rural Landscape

Theme: Ecology

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)



Legend

Knox Wildlife Atlas (1995-2017)

- Wildlife Records - Multiple Sources
- Wildlife Records - Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
- Knox Focal Species 2017
- Barriers to Wildlife Movement

Knox Planning Scheme

- Environmental Significance Overlay 2 (ESO2)
- Environmental Significance Overlay 3 (ESO3)
- Floodway Overlay (FO)
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO)
- Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)
- Urban Floodway Zone

Other

- Precinct Boundary
- Creeks and Lakes
- WSUD - Project Area
- Knox City Boundaries
- Urban Growth Boundary

Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Landscape and Character

The GARS *Landscape and Character Study* (Hansen Partnership, 2019) has identified the Basin Rural Landscape precinct as a highly valued and diverse landscape. The Dobsons and Dandenong Creek Floodplain has significant character value within this precinct, is highly visible from public vantage points and is recommended for protection. The union between the heavily vegetated ridges, gullies and open uninterrupted flood plains are the important landscape for The Basin. The study identifies the following character areas (as shown on the map) and details key landscape values for each area:

Character Area	Description	Approach	Key Landscape Values
1	The Basin’s Dobsons and Dandenong Creek Floodplain	Protection	Rural integrity and open character; short and long open views from roads; low-lying valley conditions
2	The Basin Township and Entry	Management	Corridor views; roadside vegetation
3	The Western Isolated Hilltops	Monitoring	Vegetation; views to hilltops
4	The Dandenong Foothills and Gullies	Management	Natural landscape condition

Currently, the majority of Precinct 1 is covered by the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO4) which sets controls applicable to vegetation, earthworks, building bulk, character and other scenic qualities. Clause 21.10 of the Scheme also recognises the whole precinct as a significant landscape and provides high level strategic direction to protect its values. There are opportunities to build upon these existing provisions and provide more site-specific guidance for the key character areas identified.

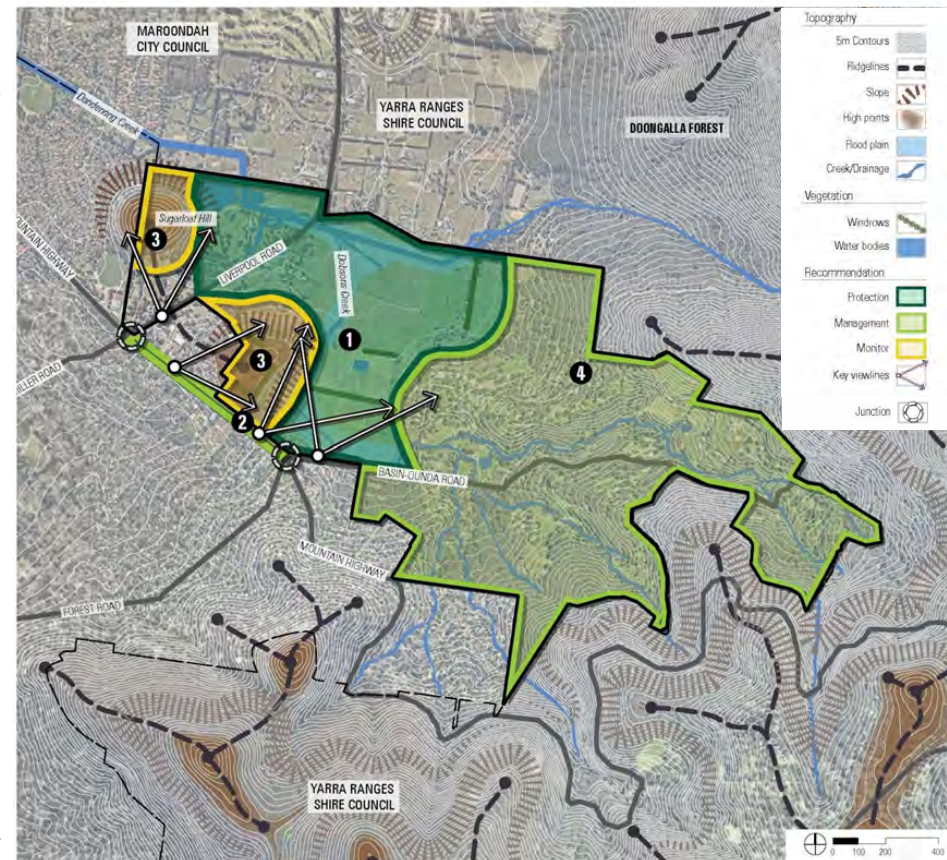
Objective:

To protect and enhance local character and landscape values.

Action 1.9. Undertake a review of the existing Planning Scheme provisions to better recognise and protect landscape values, in line with the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.

Action 1.10. Discourage fragmentation of land within the Dobsons Creek floodplain character area.

Action 1.11. Investigate opportunities for weed management and removal of shrub, to open up foothill views, particularly those on public owned land.



Map 2 – Precinct 1 Landscape Assessment (Source: Hansen Partnership)



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Heritage

Precinct 1 contains significant areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity associated with the Dandenong and Dobsons creeks and the Dandenong foothills. The precinct also includes an area of artefact scatter.

The precinct contains three non-Aboriginal heritage places that are protected through the Heritage Overlay (HO), and seven places that are included in the City of Knox Heritage Study 1993 but are not protected through the Scheme.

The *Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage* (Context, 2017) reviews the existing heritage places within the precinct (HO items and non-HO items listed in Knox Heritage Study 1993) and provides recommendations for each place.

Objective:

To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage.

Action 1.12. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 1.13. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the *Knox Rural Heritage Report* (Context, 2017), as summarised below.

Place Name and Description	Recommendations
HO places	
HO5 Wicks Reserve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of historic and social/recreational significance. • Well documented and part of the area ESO, SLO and HO – no further research / assessment required. • Retain Environment, Heritage and Significant Landscape Overlays.
HO54 One Oak Tree (Basin Olinda Road, The Basin)*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intact and in good condition • Of historic and aesthetic significance • No further consideration required • Retain Heritage Overlay

HO8 Chandler Oak Tree, Sheffield Road, The Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of historic and aesthetic significance due to age and size. • Well documented and no further consideration required. • Retain Heritage Overlay.
Non-HO places	
Western face of the Dandenongs The whole of the western and part of the north-western slopes of the main Dandenong Range stretching from Montrose to the southern boundary of the Ferntree Gully National Park	Undertake an Integrated Aboriginal, Natural and cultural heritage assessment to explore these different aspects of significance in a holistic manner.
Dandenong Ranges The whole of the Dandenong Ranges form a backdrop to Knox but are predominantly in Yarra Ranges	Undertake an integrated Aboriginal, Natural and cultural heritage assessment would be appropriate for the Dandenong Ranges. This would involve an initial assessment at the state level (for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register) which would involve other municipalities. There may also be a case for the identified heritage values to be nominated for inclusion in national level listing.
Salvation Army site 1 Liverpool Road, The Basin	While there are no known archaeological reviews of the site, given that it contains 2 watercourses (Dobsons and Dandenong Creeks), it is identified as an area of cultural sensitivity. Recommended for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment. Potential Aboriginal, historic, aesthetic and social values.
Clevedon Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of historic significance as a site only. • Difficult to put forward as a HO without further investigation into the garden. • ‘Tentative list’ – although it’s possibly too far removed from its historic origins (not a priority). • Recommended for further investigation. Potential historic aesthetic and social values.



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Glen Elbourne Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worth following up, either on an 'open day' or with the owner. • Note the large wholesale nursery next door and other properties going up the Dobson Creek valley to Olinda plus Old Coach Road – worth considering as part of a larger historic landscape unit. • Worthy of further research and consideration. • Recommended for heritage assessment. Potential historic aesthetic and social values.
Old Coach Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of historic significance. • Recommended for heritage assessment. Potential historic and aesthetic values.
Mountain Highway The Basin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further investigation is required to confirm the nature of the structure. • Recommended for heritage assessment. Potential historic aesthetic and social values.

* During public consultation on this strategy a resident submission was received that advised of the existence of a time capsule from 1967, a small inscribed cairn on land donated by the Salvation Army opposite the Progress Hall with a tree planted atop as a living memento and provided a quote by Edna Chandler in relation to this event/site. This matter is recommended to be investigated further as part of any future heritage review.



Map 3

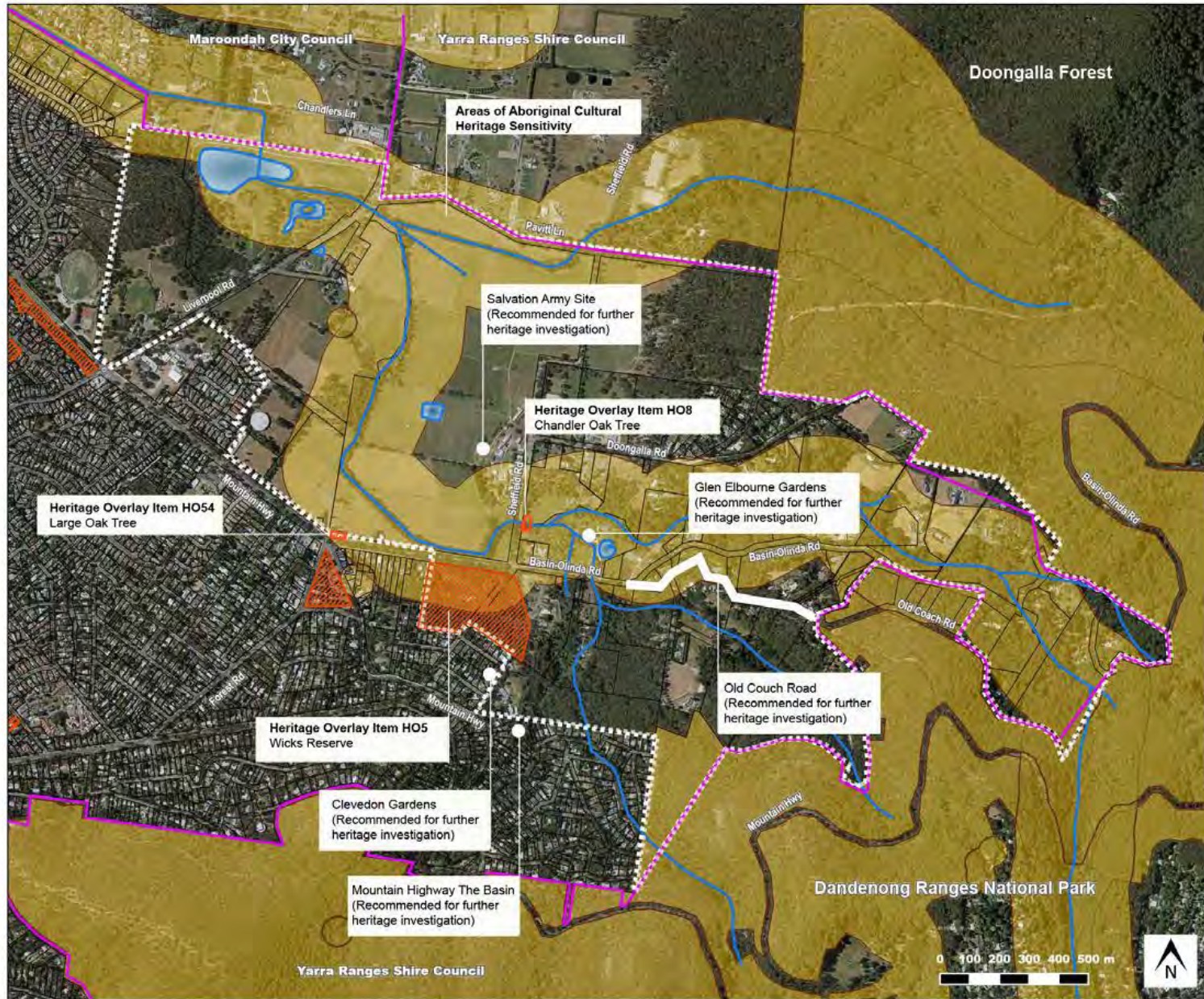
Precinct 1- The Basin Rural Landscape

Theme: Heritage

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

- Precinct Boundary
- Creeks and Lakes
- Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity (Aboriginal Victoria)





Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Land Use and Economy

Precinct 1 is part of Knox Green Wedge located adjacent to the urban boundary and contains high quality agricultural land in the floodplains of the Dobsons Creek and uniquely valuable landscapes and significant vegetation. Protection of the precinct from urban development and subdivision will be a key priority in the coming years.

The precinct also benefits from proximity to the Basin Triangle, community and art facilities, parks, cycling trails and scenic tourist routes. Within limits of the planning framework that applies in Green Wedges, the precinct offers opportunities for rural based business such as eco-tourism, agri-tourism, community/social enterprise and small scale café/restaurant uses which can benefit and complement the precinct’s agricultural, landscape and environmental values. However, such uses can only be supported if they are of low intensity and do they do not adversely affect the identified environmental and landscape values.

The *Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy Economic Study* (Urban Enterprise, 2019) provides the following evaluation of economic, tourism, community and recreation potential for Precinct 1:

Summary of Economic, Tourism, Community and Recreation Potential

Suitability for agriculture intensification	Medium
Suitability for agri- tourism	High
Suitability for standalone tourism uses	High
Suitability for community / social enterprise	High
Accessible to population catchments	Medium
Accessible by public transport	Low
Accessible by bike/hiking/ walking	Low
Suitability for active recreation	Medium
Suitability for other intensive industry	Low
Suitability for passive recreation	Low

Larger Rural Properties (Green Wedge Zone 2 (GWZ2) and Special Use Zone 1 (SUZ1))

The central and western part of the precinct contains a number of larger lots which are used for agriculture, grazing and special uses. The past and present involvement of the Salvation Army in the area is a major contributor to its current open valley, rural outlook. The Basin Centre on Sheffield Road runs rehabilitation programs focused around the benefits of farming, growing crops, raising livestock, bakery and dairy activities. The

Boronia Corps is located adjacent to Miller Park on Liverpool Road and accommodates worship services, community activities, a thrift shop, laser strike and a community garden.

Rainfall and good quality soils provide agriculture potential within the floodplains of the Dobsons Creek. This area has potential for livestock grazing, perennial horticulture or horse agistment. However, the site is limited in scale and isolated from other livestock producers meaning economies of scale are difficult to achieve for a commercial operator. Agriculture use of this land is likely to be of a hobby farming nature used in conjunction with other uses.

This larger lots in the precinct present opportunities for targeted business attraction such as restaurant, winery, visitor accommodation and eco-tourism uses. The property sizes would allow for siting buildings and activities carefully to minimise negative impact on the environmental and landscape values and prevent changes the existing character. For further detail and case studies refer to the report *Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy Economic Study* (Urban Enterprise, 2019).

The SUZ1 is not supportive of a number of tourism uses including visitor accommodation and restaurant, which are identified as some of the best fit uses for the precinct. The land uses allowed under the SUZ1 conflict with both the Green Wedge objectives and the use table under the Core Planning Provisions (Clause 51.02 of the Scheme). In case of future changes, more alignment with Green Wedge objectives are recommended.

Rural Living Lots (Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ1))

The eastern part of Precinct 1 is characterised by rural residential uses with relatively smaller lot sizes in the range of 4ha. These residential lots play a key role in the conservation of native vegetation and the vegetated foothills character. The area is home to a range of homebased businesses including consulting, creative industry and other professional services. This area also accommodates existing community uses such as The Basin Theatre and a place of worship.

For this area, more direction is required to assist with land use decisions. Existing trends indicate an appetite for home based business and small-scale café/restaurant uses in this area. Decision on these uses should ensure they do not adversely affect the local character and biodiversity values. Consideration must be given to bushfire risks, prevention of vegetation removal, traffic impact, car parking. The accumulative impact of such uses in this predominantly residential area should also be considered.

Parks and Reserves

Protecting the existing open space and recreational values is another priority in Precinct 1.



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

The precinct contains Wicks Reserve and Wicks East Nature Reserve which are popular recreational destinations in a rich bushland setting.

The Liverpool Road Retarding Basin, managed by Melbourne Water, is another parkland in Precinct 1 which serves an important drainage function in preventing flooding downstream by providing a considerable area for stormwater retention along the Dandenong Creek. In addition to its drainage function, the retarding basin features a high amenity parkland with recreational opportunities including fishing, cycling and dog walks. Shared paths near the retarding basin provide panoramic views of the hills.

The Basin Triangle

The Basin Neighbourhood Activity Centre (outside Study Area) is recognised as a Knox Gateway in the Planning Scheme and has opportunities for revitalization and enhancements to public realm. Car parking in road verges and reserves is a current problem the area.

Any commercial growth should be limited to the south of Mountain Highway while the priority in the north will be to preserve the openness and long range views.

Other constraints

Limited street lighting is available within the precinct. However, additional street lighting is not desirable due to its potential impact on wildlife.

The majority of the precinct is not connected to reticulated sewer. Servicing needs to be considered as part of any future proposal.

Objective:

To recognise and protect the values of Knox Green Wedges.

Action 1.14. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 1.

Objective:

To ensure land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area.

Action 1.15. Ensure future land use and development complements the precinct's primary environmental and landscape values, including environmental conservation, agriculture, agribusiness, art and culture, with complementary small scale tourism-related purposes.

Action 1.16. Protect the Dobsons Creek valley, as a significant landscape with capable agricultural land, from inappropriate development and use that would compromise these values.

Action 1.17. Maintain the existing residential settlement character and prevent further intensification and vegetation loss. Consider bushfire risks and vegetation impacts early in the planning process and do not support proposals that rely on vegetation removal including for fire management or car parking.

Action 1.18. Maintain the current minimum subdivision sizes in Precinct 1 and prevent fragmentation of land.

Action 1.19. Support enhancements to amenity, scenic qualities and recreational values.

Action 1.20. Facilitate enhancements to The Basin Neighbourhood Activity Centre, through a potential master planning process, to

- strengthen and diversify commercial land use within the existing commercial zones to the south of the roundabout;
- protect and maximise public access to open range views to the north of the roundabout;
- revitalise and enhance the public realm and local character; and
- support and facilitate public art to complement the local character.

Action 1.21. For the larger rural properties within the central and western part of the precinct (GWZ2 and SUZ1), support discretionary uses (i.e. Section 2 uses) that are for tourism, agri-tourism, educational and commercial purposes, where proposals are sited and designed sensitively to protect and enhance the environmental, agriculture and landscape values of this precinct, and do not increase bushfire risk.

Action 1.22. Investigate opportunities to establish parkland to the north of The Basin Triangle roundabout to protect long range views from this location and provide additional passive recreation opportunities.

Action 1.23. In case of future changes to the SUZ1 zoning, support alignment with the VPP Green Wedge objectives and use permissibility, while preventing urban development and land fragmentation.

Access and Connectivity

Due to its general amenity and proximity to recreational and visitor destinations in the DRNP and Doongalla Forest, Precinct 1 presents great opportunities for recreational walking and cycling. Map 4 indicates the existing trails and tracks within and around Precinct 1, including:

- Existing tracks in the Doongalla Forest. Some of these are also used for horse riding.
- The Dandenong Creek Trail to the north-west of the precinct.
- Off-road paths along Mountain Highway and dedicated on-road cycle lanes along Forest Road.
- Victoria Walks Doongalla Homestead walk starts at the Basin shopping centre and visits multiple points of interest including Wicks Reserve, Chandler Oak heritage site and The Basin Theatre before heading into the forest. This walk uses Basin Olinda Road, Sheffield Road and Doongalla Road within Precinct 1.

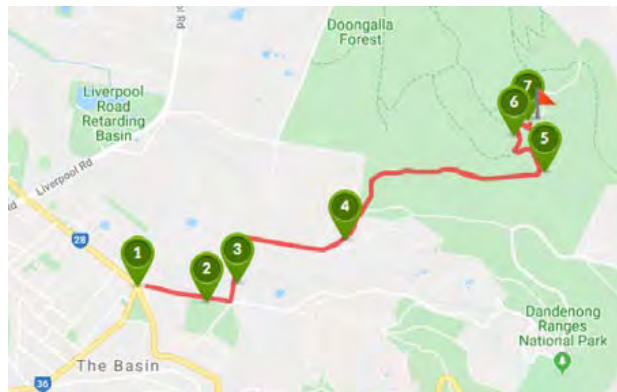


Figure 9 - Doongalla Homestead Walk (Source: Victoria Walks website)

In terms of public transport, bus route 755 runs along Mountain Highway and connects the Bayswater Station and Knox City Shopping Centre via Boronia, The Basin and Ferntree Gully. Other than the areas within the catchment of this route, the rest of Precinct 1 is not within walkable distance to public transport.

The precinct has a good level of access and permeability for vehicular movement. Mountain Highway and Basin-Olinda Road, and to some extent Old Coach Road, provide connectivity to destinations to the east and serve as tourist routes for visitors to the

Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy

Dandenong Ranges. Liverpool Road and Sheffield Road provide the essential north-south connectivity between the suburban areas to the south and Kilsyth/Kilsyth South to the north of the precinct. The precinct also contains some local roads, some of them being unsealed. It is noted that the unsealed roads contribute to the rural and natural character of the precinct and are not considered an issue.

While the precinct provides a good level of connectivity, there are concerns about traffic safety on local roads due to a conflict between walking/cycling and vehicle traffic, in particular on roads without segregated paths. A strong message from the public consultation for this precinct was related to a need for improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure. Multiple respondents mentioned the existing safety concerns along Liverpool Road and the need for an adequate segregated shared path. Similarly, there were concerns raised regarding movement safety along Sheffield Road/Doongalla Road due to a mix of pedestrian, bicycle, horse riders and vehicular traffic.

Another issue identified during the consultation was the need for a pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Liverpool Road and Mountain Highway to address current pedestrian safety issues near The Basin Primary School. There were also specific suggestions for additional trail linkages connecting to the existing tracks to the south of the precinct and to the Dandenong Creek Trail to the north-west.

While the community supported such improvements, it was also noted that new facilities should not be at the expense of native vegetation.

Objective:

To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users.

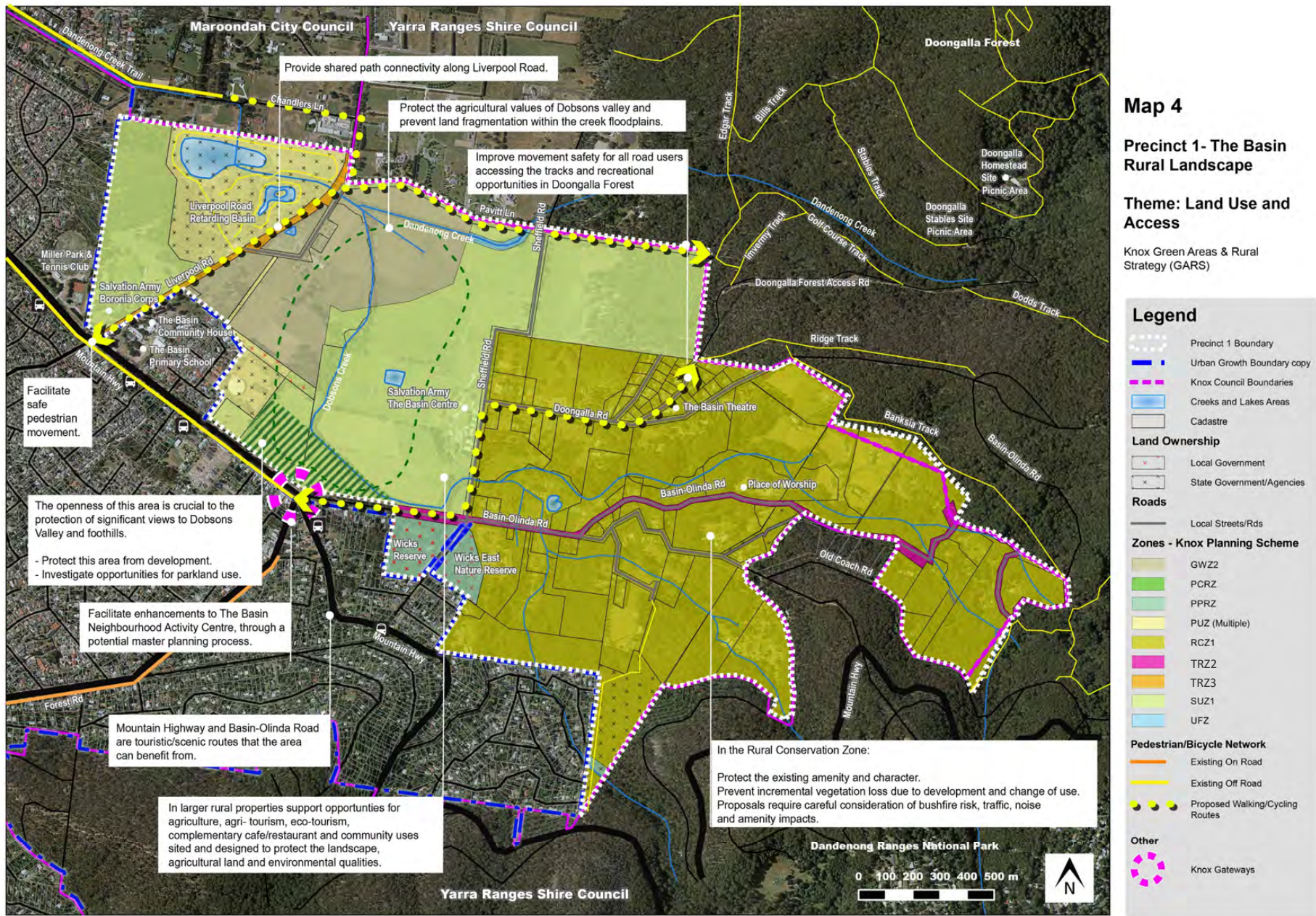
Action 1.24. Investigate upgrades to the Sheffield Road/Doongalla Road route to:

- Provide a safe multi-user path for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.
- Potentially reduce traffic speeds.
- Provide signs regarding horse manure catcher and cleaning up after dogs.

Action 1.25. Investigate upgrades to the Liverpool Road to:

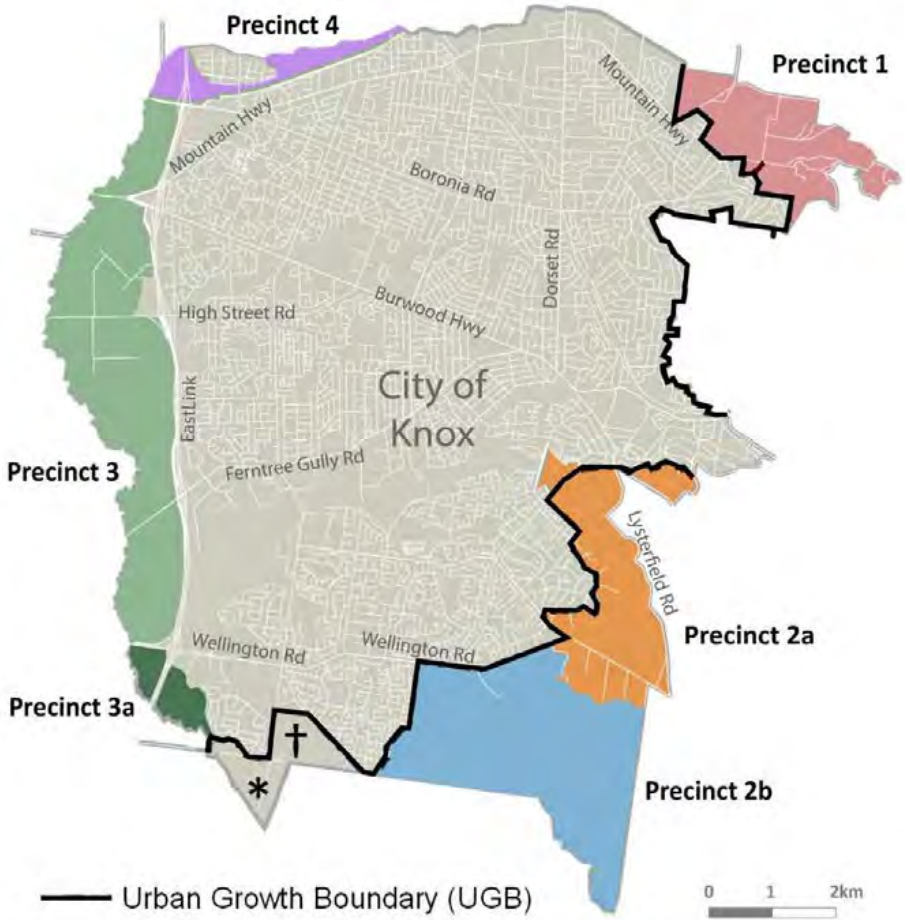
- Provide a shared path.
- Facilitate improved pedestrian movement around the Mountain Highway intersection to ensure safe connectivity to The Basin Primary School.

Action 1.26. Advocate for improved pedestrian safety on Mountain Highway and Basin-Olinda Road near The Basin roundabout.





Precinct 2a:
Lysterfield Valley and Hills





Vision for Precinct 2a

The Vision for Precinct 2a reflects feedback received during public consultation involving the stakeholders and the community. Key themes from the public consultation are summarised below:

- **Prioritising environmental conservation**
Suggestions were made about moving the reference to biodiversity/wildlife connectivity earlier in the vision statement to give it a higher priority over other matters.
- **Green buffer role**
It was recommended that the vision acknowledges the role of this area as part of the green fringe backdrop of Knox providing a buffer between the urban landscape and the hills.
- **Future development and subdivision**
During the consultation, several landowners within this precinct have requested this Strategy to support rezoning of their land to allow for residential subdivision in this precinct, however, the broader community have sought that protecting this area from further development be a priority.

Vision for Precinct 2a:

The Lysterfield Valley and Hills will be protected as a distinct landscape of natural and pastoral character providing an open green buffer on the edge of the urban area with important biodiversity and wildlife connectivity values. The precinct supports agriculture, rural industries and lifestyle living while providing an important role in flood management and water quality.



Theme 1: Ecology

Wildlife Habitat and Connectivity

Due to its creeks, pockets of native vegetation, farm dams and lack of urban development, Precinct 2a provides an important connection for wildlife movement between Lysterfield Park and the Upper Ferntree Gully block of the DRNP.

The southern two-thirds of this precinct contains well connected farm dams and is likely to provide important overland connections for water-dependent species such as the Southern Bullfrog and Eastern Snake-necked Turtle, as well as other ground dwelling amphibians such as the EPBC-listed Growling Grass Frog *Litoria raniformis*, which was historically recorded in this area.

While existing Scheme controls support wildlife conservation and connectivity, there are opportunities for strengthening habitat protection in particular in the vicinity of Monbulk Creek. Currently, Monbulk Creek is covered by a 20m wide ESO2. ESO2 also covers pockets of native vegetation across the precinct. It is understood that Yarra Range is considering a 30m wide ESO over the stretch of Monbulk Creek to the east of Precinct 2a. There are opportunities for connectivity/consistency with this adjoining overlay and to work with the property owners to improve the riparian corridor. The *Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report* encourages habitat enhancements within a 200m corridor.

It is also noted that parts of the Site of Biodiversity area protected by ESO2 are being used for sheep grazing. This poses risks to vegetation and habitat values of this area.

The proposed Dorset Road Extension is a State Government project that is currently on hold. The reservation is protected by an overlay which runs through the floodplains of Monbulk Creek. Should the road be required in the future and constructed in traditional ways, it is likely to have a negative impact on the wildlife conservation and connectivity values of this precinct. However, there are opportunities to approach this road project in ways that deliver improved connectivity benefits for both wildlife and people. A case study example of how this project could be undertaken to deliver both a transport and a wildlife corridor is presented in Appendix 8 of *Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report*.

Six barriers to wildlife movement have been identified within or abutting Precinct 2a as shown on the map, generally where roads intersect the creeks.

Objective:

To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.

Action 2a.1. Support enhancements to the riparian corridor of Monbulk Creek and strengthen habitat values and connectivity within 200m of the creek.

Action 2a.2. Review the existing ESO over Monbulk Creek to ensure it properly covers the environmentally significant areas, in consultation with Melbourne Water to identify the Core Riparian Zone (CRZ) and the adjacent vegetation buffers.

Action 2a.3. Should the proposed Dorset Road Extension be required, advocate for a concept of a multi-modal road/pedestrian and nature conservation corridor that supports both wildlife and human connectivity and contributes to habitat restoration within 200m of Monbulk Creek.

Action 2a.4. Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at the following sites in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report:

- Monbulk Creek – Blackwood Park (ID 19)
- Monbulk Creek – Napoleon Road (ID 20)
- Monbulk Creek – Lysterfield Road (ID 21)
- Monbulk Creek – Dorset Road Extension (ID 40)
- Drainage Channel - Dorset Road Extension (ID 41)
- Drainage Channel – Lysterfield Road (ID 42)

Action 2a.5. Undertake initiatives for supporting/partnering with rural land-holders to protect and enhance the ecological values including the riparian vegetation, and ensuring grazing practices do not damage habitat values.

Waterways and Flood Management

The main waterway in Precinct 2a is the Monbulk Creek which runs through private properties and connects to Corhanwarrabul Creek to the west. The entire precinct is within the Corhanwarrabul Creek catchment.

The floodplains of the Monbulk Creek are currently protected by a 400m wide Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). The floodplain map needs to be updated in the Scheme to ensure it covers flood prone areas based on up-to-date rainfall scenarios. This section of the creek also is covered by a rectangular shaped Floodway Overlay (FO). Considering the unnatural shape of the overlay, a review is required to investigate if the overlay is correctly imposed.

Further protection and enhancement in the northern section of this precinct could help strengthen the resilience of this area. For example, creek embankment and vegetation restoration within the 200m zone adjacent to Monbulk Creek are likely to reduce the risk of flooding in the downstream urban zones. This is something that has become increasingly important considering that construction has occurred in the Comprehensive Development Zone in Waterford Valley to the north-west of this precinct and that future climate will cause more extreme rainfall events.

It is also noted that a small section of Ferny Creek runs through Gilmour Park. This park is owned by Melbourne Water and is publicly managed.

The proposed Dorset Road extension alignment is located in proximity to Monbulk Creek within an areas affected by the 1% AEP flooding from the creek.

Objective:

To improve waterway health and flood management.

- Action 2a.6.** Protect the floodplains of Monbulk Creek from development and level change to maintain their flood storage and retention values and prevent flooding downstream.
- Action 2a.7.** Should the proposed Dorset Road extension proceed, advocate for the design to consider flooding from Monbulk Creek and apply a water sensitive design approach to maximise the natural flow and retention of water.
- Action 2a.8.** Review the Floodway Overlay over Monbulk Creek to ensure it serves a purpose and covers the correct area.



Map 5

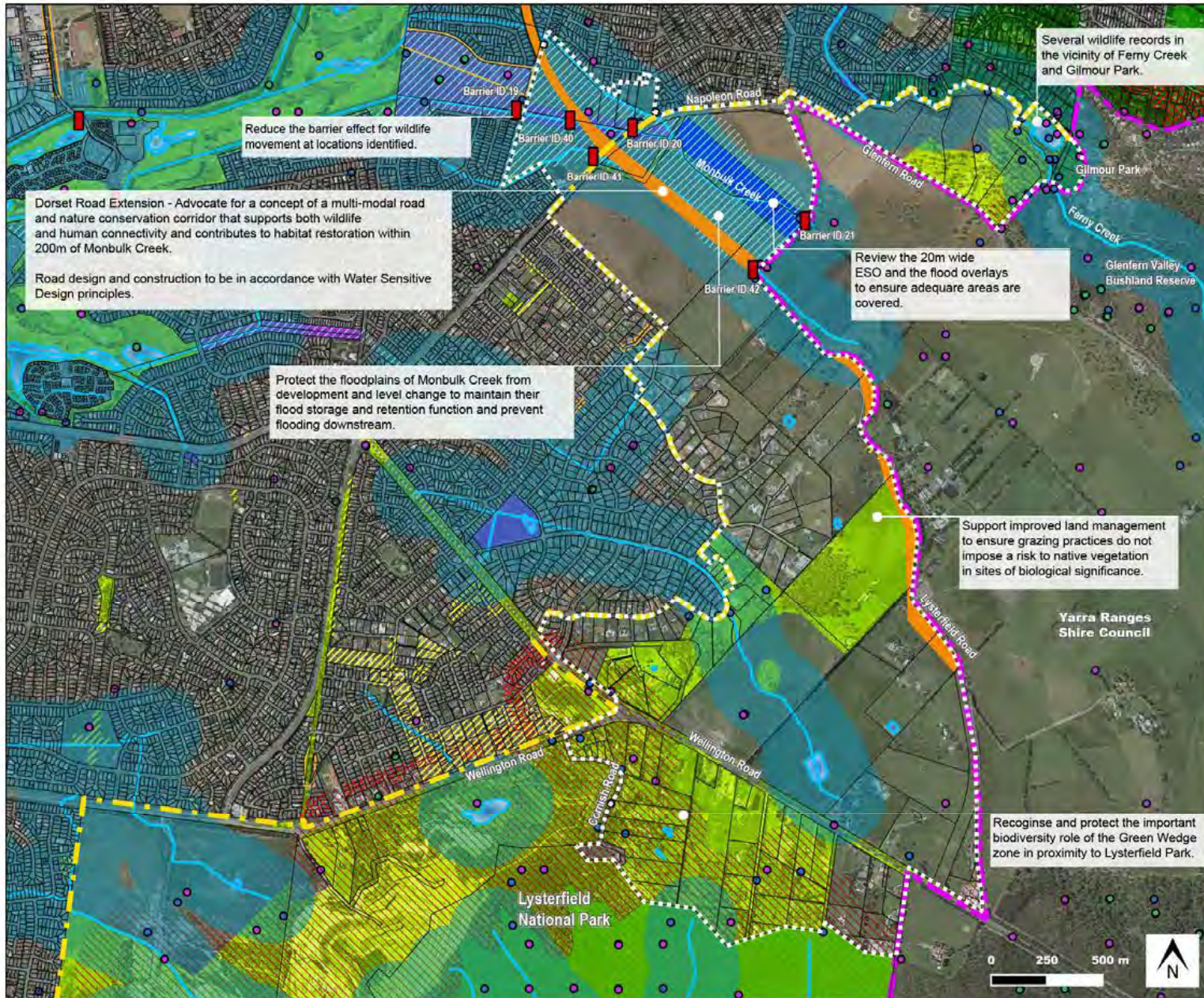
Precinct 2a - Lysterfield Valley and Hills

Theme: Ecology

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

- Knox Wildlife Atlas (1995-2017)**
- Wildlife Records - Multiple Sources
 - Wildlife Records - Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
 - Knox Focal Species 2017
 - Barriers to Wildlife Movement
 - Waterways 200m Buffer
- Knox Planning Scheme**
- Environmental Significance Overlay 2 (ESO2)
 - Environmental Significance Overlay 3 (ESO3)
 - Floodway Overlay (FO)
 - Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO)
 - Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)
 - PCRZ
 - Urban Floodway Zone
 - Public Acquisition Overlay (Vic Roads)
 - Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)
- Other**
- Precinct 2a Boundary
 - Creeks and Lakes
 - WSUD - Project Area
 - Urban Growth Boundary
 - Knox City Boundaries



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Values

The *GARS Landscape and Character Study* (Hansen Partnership, 2019) states that open views towards the bare Lysterfield ridgeline are particularly prominent landscape elements in the local and regional panorama. The study recommends that the ridgeline and the associated slopes be recognised as an important scenic feature. The study identifies the following character areas and details key landscape values for each area:

No.	Description	Approach	Key Landscape Values
1	The Lysterfield Foothills Open Ridgelines	Protection	Bare open ridgelines and saddles, panoramic views from roads, windrow and vegetation clusters
2	The Wellington Road Flood Plain and Flats	Management	Rural integrity and open character, windrow and vegetation clusters, low-lying valley conditions
3	The Monbulk Creek Valley (Eastern Slopes)	Protection	Bare open ridgelines and saddles, panoramic Views from roads, windrow and vegetation clusters
4	The Monbulk Creek Floodplain	Monitoring	Open rural character, riparian vegetation, low lying valley conditions

The minimum subdivision area of 20ha in GWZ1 has been an important factor protecting the topographic landscape values. The majority of Precinct 2a is covered by SLO1 which protects vegetation and viewlines and controls building heights, development above 115m AHD, colours and materials. Clause 21.10 of the MSS also provides strategic direction to protect landscape values in this precinct. There are opportunities to build upon these existing provisions and provide specific guidance for the character areas above.

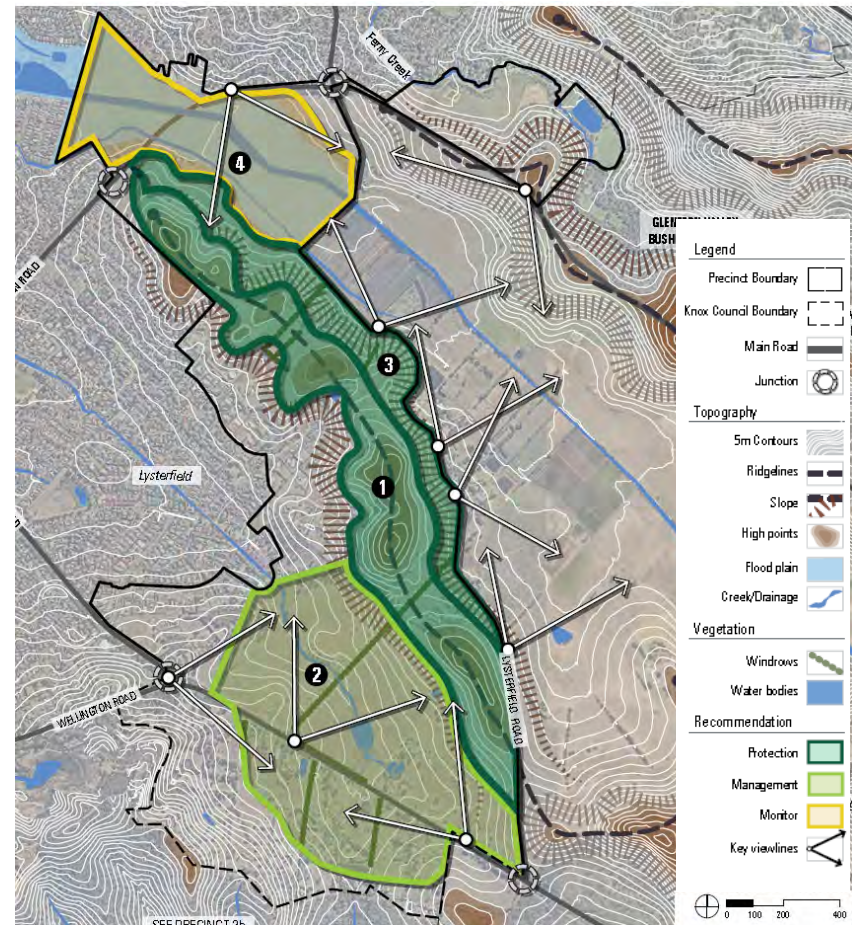
The proposed Dorset Road Extension, if proceeds, will have a significant impact on Area 4 and long range views to the ridgeline in Areas 3 and 4.

Objective:

To protect and enhance local character and landscape values.

Action 2a.9. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS, PPF and SLO1 in light of the findings of the *GARS Landscape and Character Study* (Hansen Partnership, 2019).

Action 2a.10. Should the future Dorset Road extension be required, advocate for a design that respects the landscape character, and celebrates and emphasises the key views and the open rural character of the valley.



Map 6 – Precinct 2a Landscape Assessment (Source: Hansen Partnership)



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Heritage

Precinct 2a contains areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity associated with Monbulk Creek and around Ferny Creek in Gilmour Park. Some artefact scatter is found in this precinct.

The precinct contains a number of Oak trees listed in the Heritage Overlay (HO) and five places from Heritage Study 1993 that are not included in the HO.

The *Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage* (Context, 2017) reviews the existing heritage sites within the precinct (HO items and items listed in Knox Heritage Study 1993) and provides recommendations for each place.

Objective

To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage.

Action 2a.11. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 2a.12. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the *Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage* (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more research to establish the historic landscape character and to help define significant sites and boundaries.
Former Lysterfield School, 1430 Wellington Road Lysterfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for heritage assessment. • Potential historic, aesthetic and social values.
Lysterfield cheese factory, Lysterfield Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place is also part of the Lysterfield valley landscape. • Recommended for heritage assessment. • Potential historic, aesthetic and social values.

Site Name and Description	Recommendations
HO Places	
HO43 Avenue of Honour, Lysterfield Road (ten Silky Oaks, two English Oaks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of historic and social significance • Consider updating the heritage citation to incorporate the description provided in the Knox Heritage Study. • Retain Heritage and Significant Landscape overlays.
Non-HO Places	
Lysterfield Valley Lysterfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for heritage assessment for sites within the landscape. • Recommended for Significant Landscape Assessment.
Fern Tree Gully Market Gardens (Remnant green corridor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommended for heritage assessment for sites within the landscape. Recommended for significant landscape assessment.



Map 7

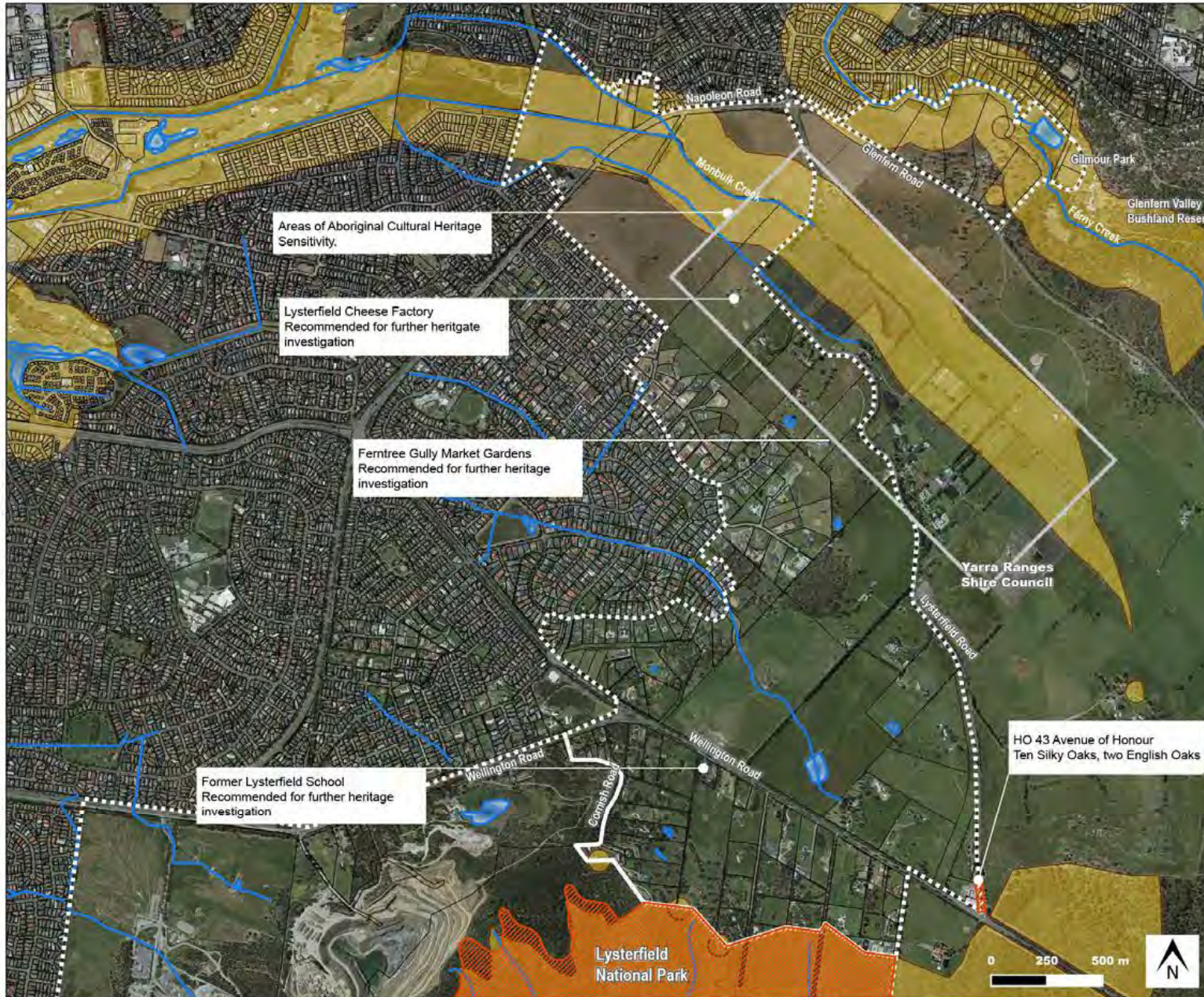
Precinct 2a - Lysterfield Valley and Hills

Theme: Heritage

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

- Precinct Boundary
- Creeks and Lakes
- Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity (Aboriginal Victoria)





Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Land Use and Economy

The land use and economic analysis suggests that the economic potential for this precinct is achievable under the current Planning Scheme controls. Overall, the *GARS Economic Study* (Urban Enterprise, 2019) provides the following evaluation of economic, tourism, community and recreation potential for Precinct 2a:

Summary of Economic, Tourism, Community and Recreation Potential

Suitability for agriculture intensification	Medium
Suitability for agri- tourism	Medium
Suitability for standalone tourism uses	Low
Suitability for community / social enterprise	Low
Accessible to population catchments	Medium
Accessible by public transport	Low
Accessible by bike/hiking/ walking	Low
Suitability for Active Recreation	Low
Suitability for other intensive industry	Low
Suitability for Passive Recreation	Low

Central Valley and large Green Wedge lots

The central valley area within Precinct 2a is characterised by larger landholdings which contain hobby farms, lifestyle properties, horse agistment, horticulture and rural stores along Lysterfield Road. The northern part of this area is affected by the floodplains of the Monbulk Creek extending to the east into Yarra Ranges. There is a minimum Subdivision of 20ha in the Green Wedge Zone 1 (GWZ1).

Medium agricultural capability exists in the low lying areas of the Monbulk Creek floodplain. Elsewhere, agriculture potential is lower due to steep slope and water supply issues for commercial farming. In these areas, opportunities exist for livestock grazing, growing of low water crops, nurseries and other large format supplies.

A small area in the north of the precinct is within the Urban Growth Boundary. This area is zoned Rural Living (RLZ) however is highly affected by flooding from Monbulk Creek and is currently used for farming (incl. brussel sprouts) and rural living purposes.

Larger land holdings in the Lysterfield Valley provide for the grazing/agistment while maintaining the open rural landscape character of the valley. Potential uses for this precinct are livestock grazing, perennial horticulture, nursery, large format supplies and restaurants if co-located with and ancillary to other uses such as a vineyard or garden centre. The existing minimum subdivision is 20ha which applies in the GWZ1. Agricultural production in the precinct is at the risk of land fragmentation, in particular as Dorset Road extension may cut through the precinct. High land values and encroachment issues also threaten long term viability of commercial horticulture enterprises.

It is noted that during public engagement for this Strategy, several landowners within this zone wrote to Council requesting the area to the north of Wellington road and south of the Lysterfield ridgeline be rezoned to allow for 2,000m² to 4,000m² lot subdivisions, as an extension to the adjoining Carrington Park Estate which is zoned Rural Conservation Zone – Schedule 2 (RCZ2). The identified values, and the strategic objectives of GARS, including those related to landscape values, do not support such rezoning or a significant change in character in this area. It is also noted that the Knox Housing Strategy 2015 does not identify a demand for more rural residential lots or a demand for more housing in this particular area outside the Urban Growth Boundary.

Green Wedge lots

Relatively smaller rural residential lots in the range of 2-4ha are located in the northern and southern part of the precinct in Green Wedge Zone 2 (GWZ2). This zone consist of grazing land on the hillside to the north of Glenfern Road, as well as smaller lots in the range of 2-3ha to the south of Wellington Road. These lots provide for a variety of rural uses including lifestyle living, hobby farming and dog kennels.

The area south of Wellington Road has provided for a different range of rural economy within the precinct. Site layouts and considerable building setbacks from Wellington Road have provided for a high quality scenic amenity and rural character in this area. These lots also have an important biodiversity role due to their proximity to Lysterfield Park

Rural Conservation lots

The western part of the precinct is characterised by smaller RCZ2 lots in the range of 0.5ha to 2ha which are located on the edge of the urban area in proximity to the suburban residential areas of Lysterfield. The subdivided area within this zone has resulted in a relatively intense residential character with limited vegetation or biodiversity value which is not in line with the zone purpose. Most of the lots contain extensive building footprints consisting of large houses and outbuildings.



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

The rural residential uses support home based business of varying typologies including creative businesses, construction trades and other professional services.

Public Art Opportunities

Should the Dorset Road extension be required within the Monbulk Creek valley in Precinct 2a, it will be a highly visible alignment within a scenic landscape setting. This corridor offers opportunities for the incorporation of public art to complement the landscape and mitigate the visual impact of the new road.

Objective:

To recognise and protect the values of Knox Green Wedges.

Action 2a.13. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 2a.

Objective:

To ensure land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area.

Action 2a.14. Maintain the current zoning regime.

Action 2a.15. Support the continuation of agriculture within the floodplains of Monbulk Creek.

Action 2a.16. Acknowledge and support the different role of each zone within this precinct to enable a diversity of rural economy and character.

Action 2a.17. Maintain the current minimum subdivision lot size requirements to support landscape values and agricultural potential of land.

Action 2a.18. Support land use which respects the existing landscape character, protect key viewlines and provides positive biodiversity outcomes.

Action 2a.19. Support tourism, agri-tourism and restaurant/café uses where they are accompanied by agriculture or natural systems and protect the landscape and character values.

Action 2a.20. Support and facilitate public art along the proposed Dorset Road extension within the Monbulk Creek valley in Precinct 2a.

Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy

Access and Connectivity

The precinct is well connected for vehicular movement through a network of arterial roads (Wellington Road, Lysterfield Road, Napoleon Road, Glenfern Road and Kelletts Road) and local roads within the precinct.

These roads also provide important routes for visitors to the Dandenong Ranges including Wellington Road which serves as a key gateway and touristic corridor into the hills.

Overall, public transport connectivity is limited to Precinct 2a. Bus Route 691 runs along Napoleon Road connecting the local residents to Boronia and Waverley Gardens. Routes 681 and 682 which are loop services to the Knox City Shopping Centre run via Kelletts Road, Rosewood Boulevard and Heritage Way. Some of the smaller Rural Conservation lots are within walking distance to these bus routes.

Precinct 2a benefits from proximity to Lysterfield Park, which contains very popular and highly used bushwalking and mountain biking trails. There are opportunities to improve connectivity and access to these trails.

Roads in/abutting Precinct 2a do not provide segregated bike lanes or shared paths. The State Government plans propose new on-road cycle lanes along Wellington Road, Kelletts Road and Napoleon Road.

Objective:

To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users.

Action 2a.21. Advocate to the State Government to provide cycle lanes along Wellington Road, Kelletts Road and Napoleon Road.



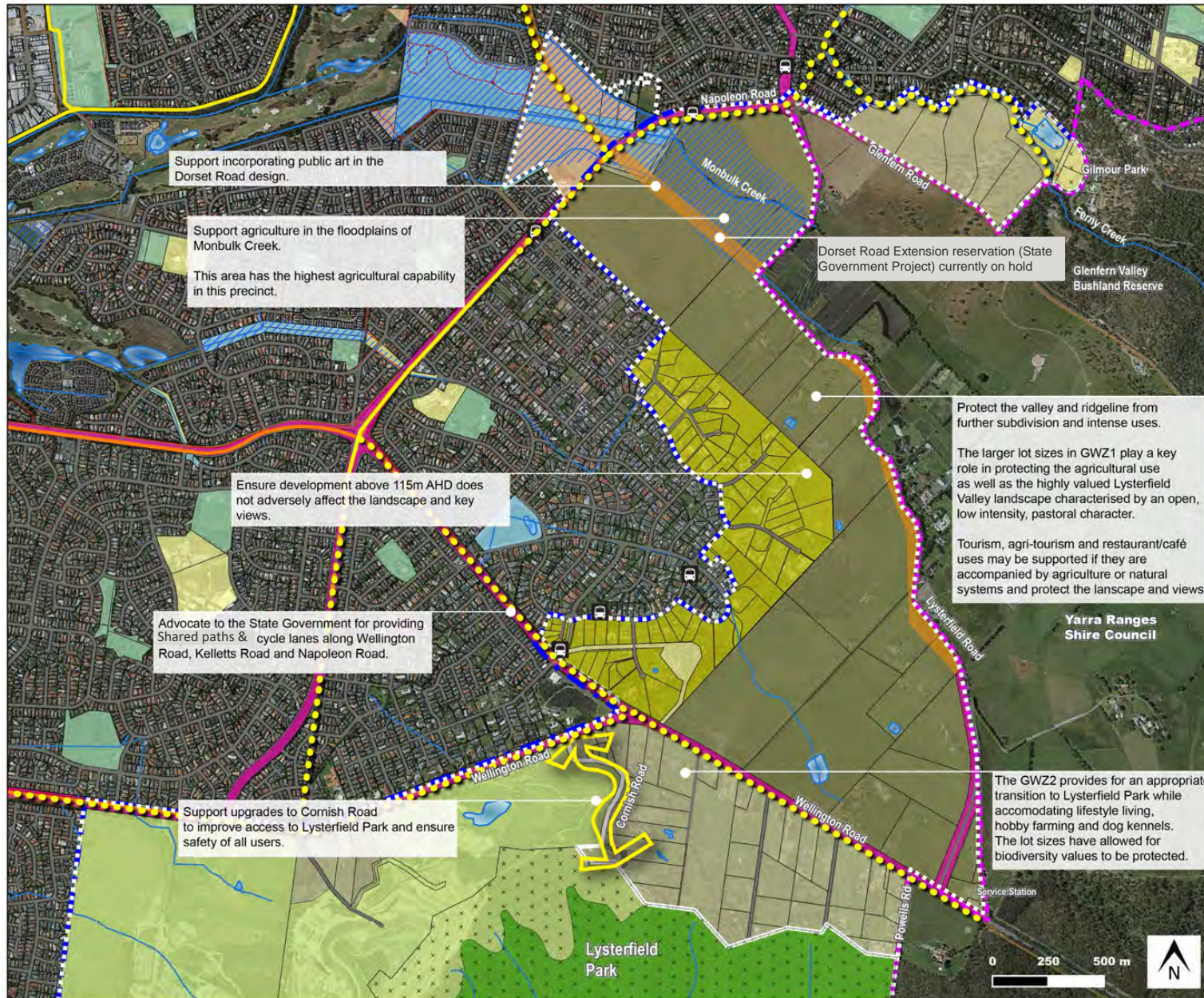
Map 8
Precinct 2a - Lysterfield Valley and Hills

Theme: Land Use & Access

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

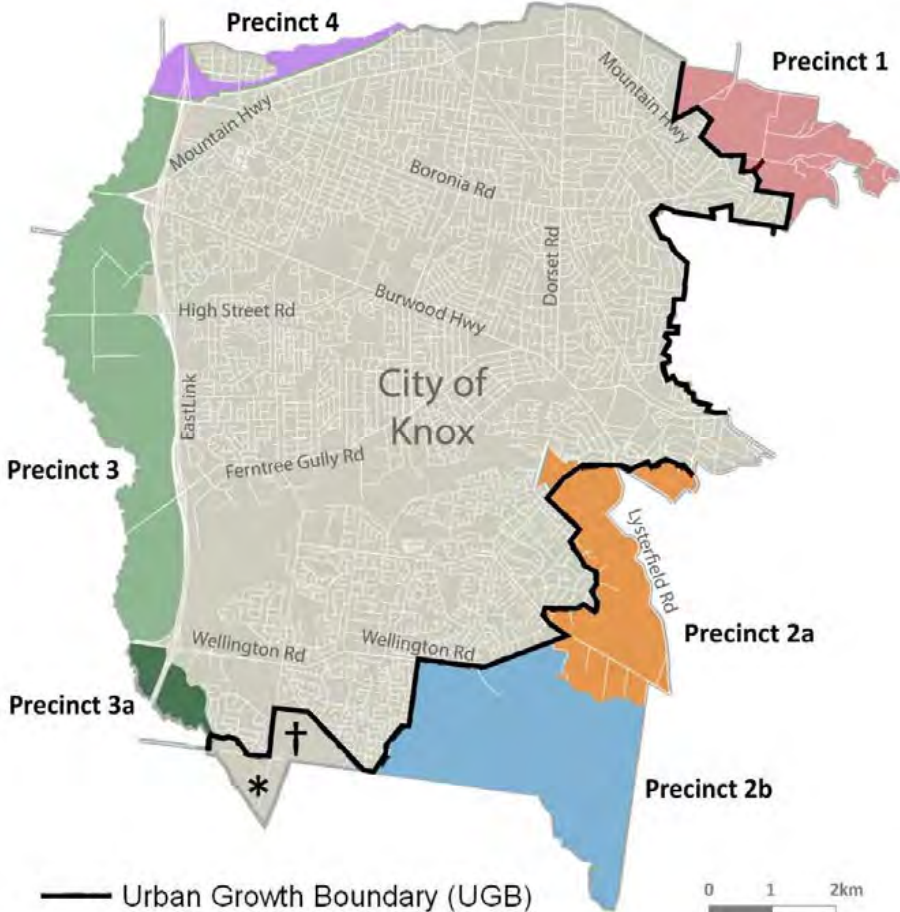
Legend

- Precinct Boundary
 - LGA Boundaries
 - Urban Growth Boundary
 - Creeks and Lakes Areas
 - Cadastre
- Zones - Knox Planning Scheme**
- GWZ1
 - GWZ2
 - PCRZ
 - PPRZ
 - PUZ1
 - RCZ2
 - TRZ2
 - RLZ
 - UFZ
 - Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)
 - Public Acquisition Overlay (Vic Roads)
- Road Centrelines**
- Local Streets/Rds
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Network**
- Existing On Road
 - Existing Off Road
 - Proposed Walking/Cycling Routes
 - Proposed Multi-user Road Enhancements





Precinct 2b:
Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds





Vision for Precinct 2b

The Vision for Precinct 2b reflects feedback received during public consultation involving the stakeholders and the community. Key themes from the public consultation are summarised below:

- **Prioritising environmental conservation**
Protecting vegetation and wildlife in this precinct was considered an important priority for many respondents.
- **Extractive industries**
A considerable level of opposition was expressed to the operation of the two quarries in this precinct, in terms of their scenic, environmental and amenity impacts. In this respect, it is noted that the quarries' lifetime and operation is regulated by the Victorian Government and exempted from KCC planning approval process. The vision seeks to recognise the economic role of the quarries while managing their impact on the surrounding area.
- **Tourism**
Some concerns were raised about the notion of tourism, in particular as it may be interpreted as significant or intense tourism uses. The vision has been amended to clarify that improving access to nature tourism opportunities in the national parks is intended.

Vision for Precinct 2b:

The Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds will preserve significant vegetation and habitat within Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park while enhancing access to recreation and nature tourism opportunities. The precinct will continue to provide a low density rural buffer between the urban area and the sensitive wildlife habitat in the national parks. The economic role of the existing extractive industries will be supported while minimising negative impacts on the surrounding urban areas.



Theme 1: Ecology

Wildlife Habitat and Connectivity

Precinct 2b contains portions of Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park that hold significant ecological and biodiversity values.

The north-east section of this precinct abuts rural land in Precinct 2a, with the many farm dams and the adjacent catchment of Monbulk Creek. Maintaining this connection between the native vegetation and the adjacent agricultural lands will help preserve the populations of Short-beaked Echidna, Southern Bullfrog, Black Wallaby, and the four bird focal species that occur in this landscape.

The national park areas are well protected through a combination of zoning (PCRZ, PPRZ), public ownership, environmental (ESO) and heritage (HO) overlays. The vegetation outside the parkland is also protected by the ESO.

While the majority of existing vegetation in Precinct 2b is protected by overlays, exemption from Planning Permit processes may apply within the scope of the approved work plans for the two quarries. This makes some of the sites of biodiversity in Precinct 2b vulnerable to future clearing in case of extensions to quarry activities. Hanson Quarry has indicated of its intention to expand the quarry activities to the west of the existing quarry area. This is likely to impact native vegetation in this area.

The northern part of Precinct 2b serves as an important buffer between the Rowville residential areas to the north and the significant habitat areas in Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park. It is important that this rural buffer is protected and maintained. The fact that this area is outside the Urban Growth Boundary helps with the protection of this buffer from urban development.

The precinct offers great opportunities for additional vegetation planting to strengthen the existing habitats. Clause 21.10 of the Scheme requires 80% of all new vegetation (both canopy trees and understorey) to be indigenous.

Objective:

To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.

Action 2b.1. Maintain the northern area within Precinct 2b as a low density, rural, open space area to create a buffer between the Rowville residential areas and the sensitive habitat in Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park.

Action 2b.2. Maintain the current Urban Growth Boundary within Precinct 2b.

Action 2b.3. Undertake planting and revegetation within Precinct 2b, with the objective of maintaining and strengthening wildlife connectivity and linkages to the bushland areas within Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park.

Action 2b.4. Require a net gain contribution for any vegetation removal as part of the planned quarry expansion, by native vegetation planting to enhance habitat and wildlife connectivity.

Waterways and Flood Management

The precinct contains a number of streams and much of the catchment for these streams which feed into Lysterfield Lake. The majority of Lysterfield Park is within the Eumemmerring Creek catchment with the north western part the precinct being within the Dandenong Creek (Police Road to Bayswater Road) catchment.

A number of small lakes exist in the precinct, including one within Heaney Park. The key waterways in this precinct are in a public zone and well protected by the planning framework.



Map 9
Precinct 2b - Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds

Theme: Ecology

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

Knox Wildlife Atlas (1995-2017)

- Wildlife Records - Multiple Sources
- Wildlife Records - Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
- Knox Focal Species 2017

Knox Planning Scheme

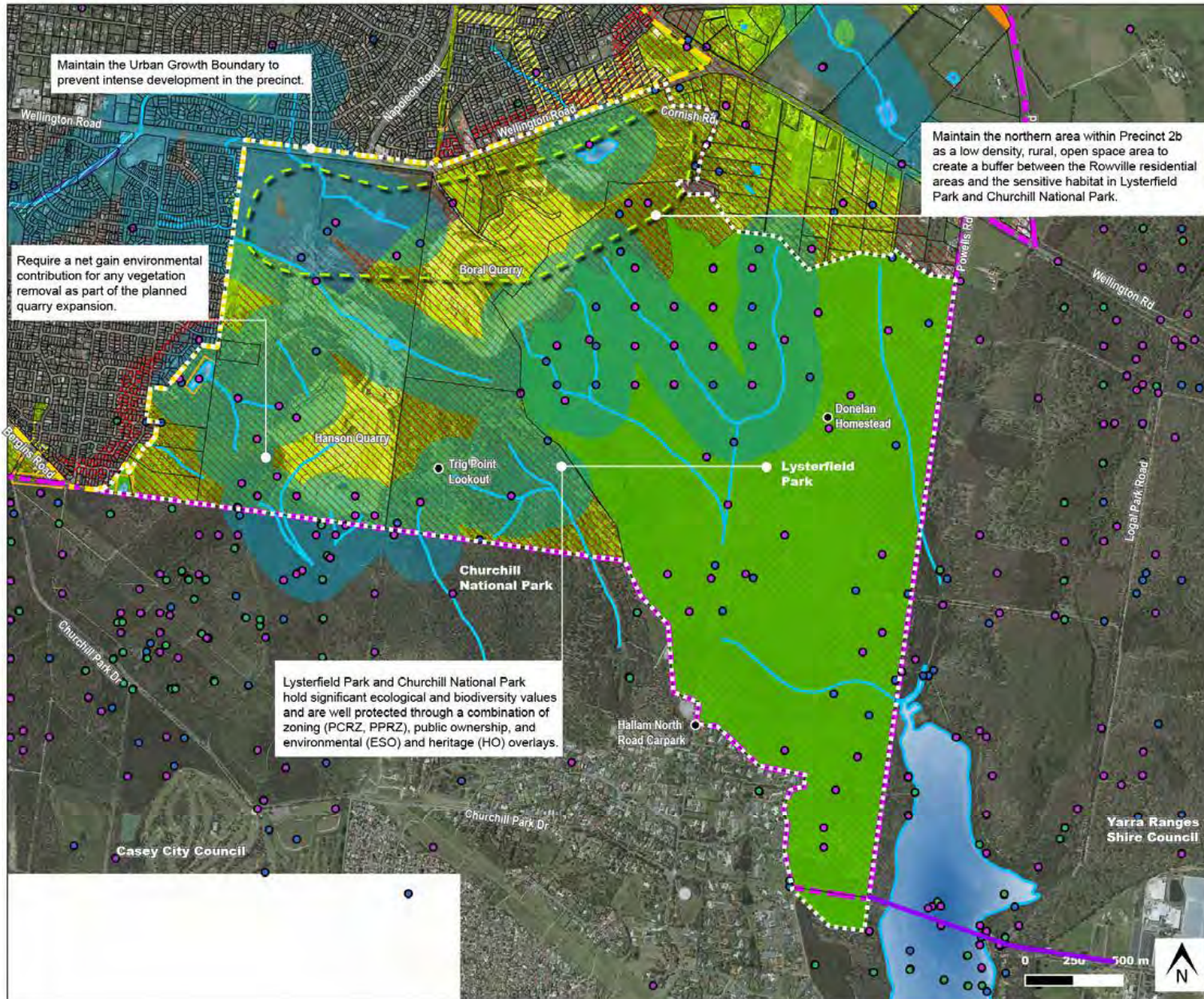
- Environmental Significance Overlay 2 (ESO2)
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO)
- Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO)

Zones - Areas

- PCRZ
- UFZ

Other

- Creeks and Lakes
- WSUD - Project Area
- Precinct 2b Boundary
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Knox City Boundaries



Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary to prevent intense development in the precinct.

Maintain the northern area within Precinct 2b as a low density, rural, open space area to create a buffer between the Rowville residential areas and the sensitive habitat in Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park.

Require a net gain environmental contribution for any vegetation removal as part of the planned quarry expansion.

Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park hold significant ecological and biodiversity values and are well protected through a combination of zoning (PCRZ, PPRZ), public ownership, and environmental (ESO) and heritage (HO) overlays.



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Values

The GARS Landscape and Character Study (Hansen Partnership, 2019) recommends that the defining forested edge of this part of Knox be recognised. Topography and native vegetation cover are important features in this precinct with key view corridors along Wellington Road to both the east and west. The study identifies the following character areas (as shown on the map) and details key landscape values for each area:

No.	Description	Approach	Key Landscape Values
1	The Rising Wellington Road Ridgelines	Management	Native bushland condition
2	The Lysterfield Park and Bushland Silhouette	Protection	Native bushland condition
3	The Extractive Industries and Works	Management	N/A
4	The Open Grazing Land	Monitoring	Rural integrity and open character

The vegetation and landscape qualities of Lysterfield Park are well protected through zoning and public ownership of land. The majority of Precinct 2b is covered by SLO1 which protects vegetation and viewlines. SLO1 also controls building heights, development above 115m AHD, colours and materials.

The north-western corner of the precinct (within Area No 4) is covered by SLO5 which requires that development is sensitive to the natural characteristics of the land including slope, terrain and any remnant vegetation, and that development minimises impact on views of the Dandenong Ranges, Lysterfield Valley, Lysterfield Hills and significant ridgelines.

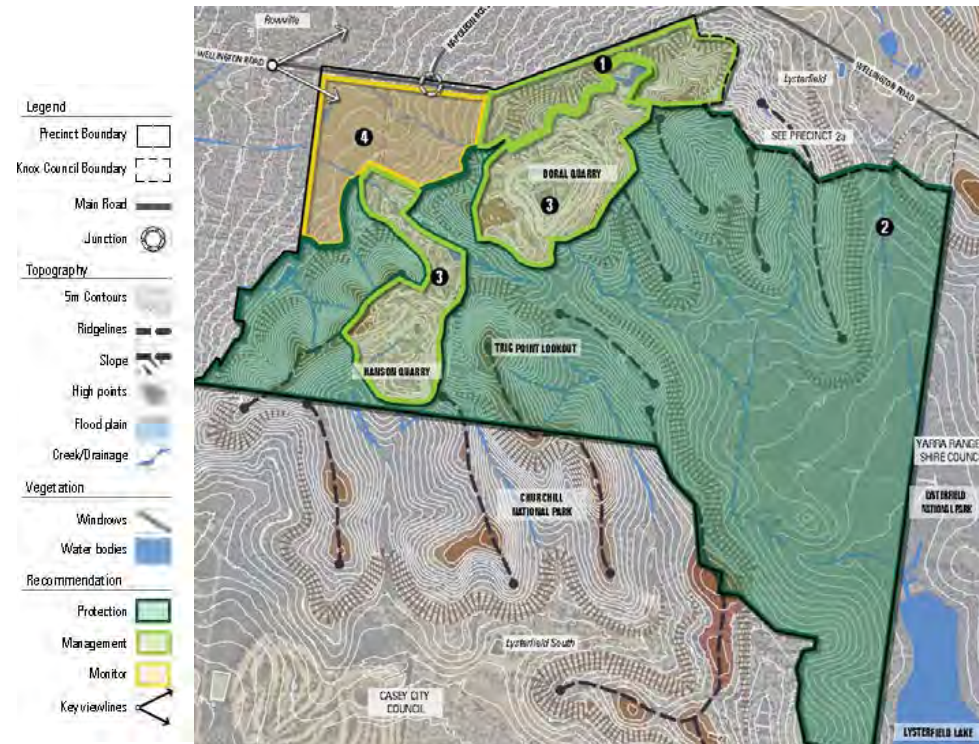
The Scheme at clause 21.10 provides strategic direction to protect landscape values in this precinct. There are opportunities to expand these provisions.

Objective:

To protect and enhance local character and landscape values.

Action 2b.5. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS, PPF and SLO1 and SLO5 in light of the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study (Hansen Partnership, 2019).

Action 2b.6. Ensure future changes on Hanson Quarry land do not adversely impact the key landscape values.



Map 10 – Landscape Assessment (Source: Hansen Partnership)



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Heritage

Precinct 2b contains areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity and artefact scatter within Lysterfield Park.

Precinct 2b includes two heritage places listed in the HO and two non-listed places listed in Knox Heritage Study 1993. The *Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage* (Context, 2017) reviews the existing heritage places within the precinct (HO and non-HO items) and provides recommendations for each place.

Action 2b.7. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 2b.8. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the *Knox Rural Heritage Report* (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.

Site Name and Description	Recommendations
HO Places	
HO1 Lysterfield Lake Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of historic (HO1) and environmental significance (ESO2) Public land, recommend co-ordination with Parks Victoria for assessment of individual sites
HO2 Heany Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well documented, no further consideration Retain heritage and other overlays
Non-HO Places	
Churchill National Park, Churchill Road Rowville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public land, co-ordinate with Parks Victoria. Recommend heritage assessment for specific sites within the Park
Lysterfield Quarries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage assessment not recommended



Map 11

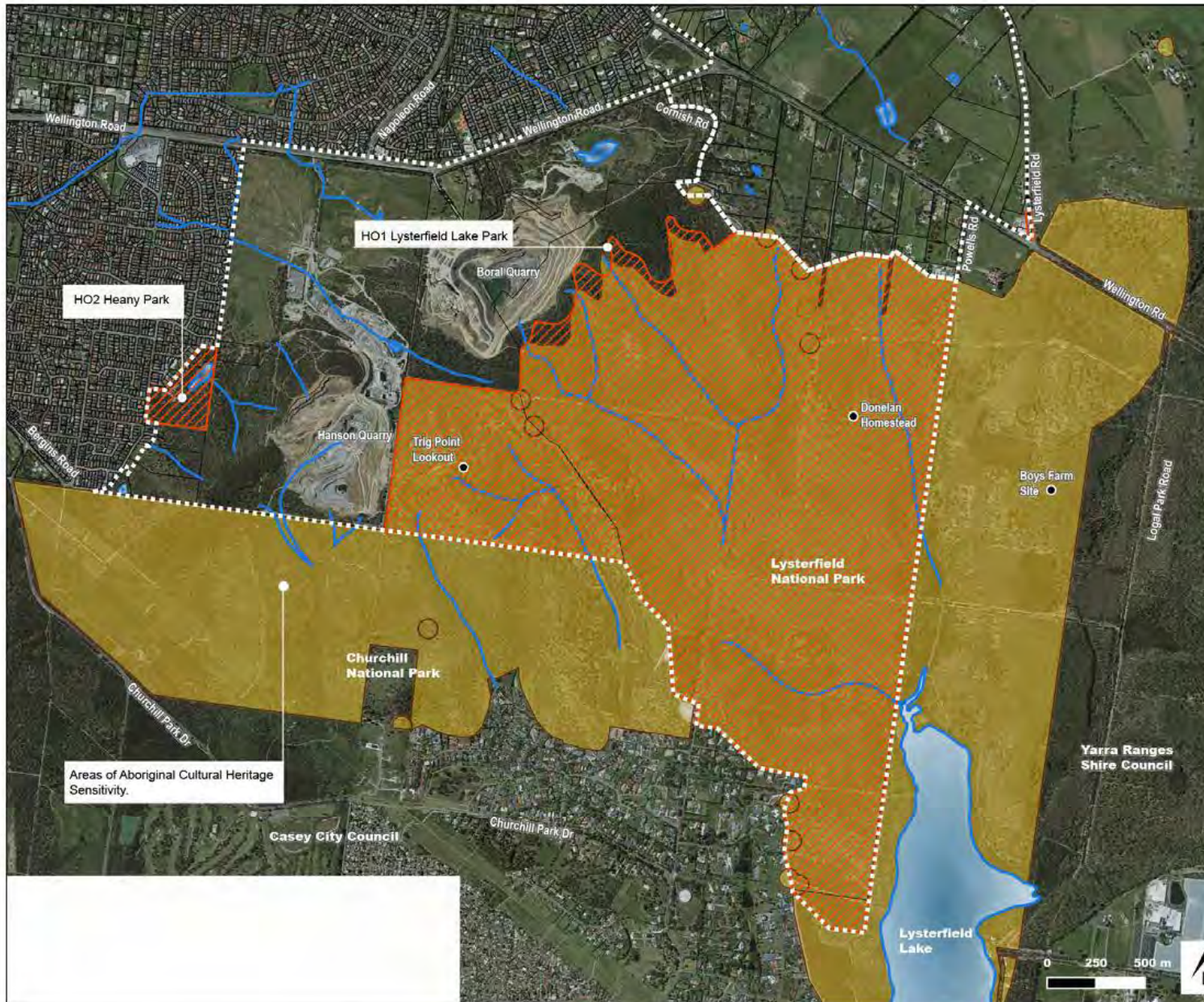
Precinct 2b - Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds

Theme: Heritage

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

- Precinct Boundary
- Creeks and Lakes
- Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity (Aboriginal Victoria)





Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Land Use and Economy

Overall, the *GARS Economic Study* (Urban Enterprise, 2019) provides the following evaluation of economic, tourism, community and recreation potential for Precinct 2b:

Summary of Economic, Tourism, Community and Recreation Potential

Suitability for agriculture intensification	Low
Suitability for agri- tourism	Low
Suitability for standalone tourism uses	Low
Suitability for community / social enterprise	Low
Accessible to population catchments	Medium
Accessible by public transport	Low
Accessible by bike/hiking/ walking	Medium
Suitability for Active Recreation	High
Suitability for other intensive industry	High
Suitability for Passive Recreation	High

Public Parks

The parts of Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park that fall within Precinct 2b contain sloped areas of forest and woodland which are owned and managed by Parks Victoria. The parks are popular for a variety of recreational activities including walking, cycling, nature tourism, picnic, horse riding, mountain biking and orienteering.

Lysterfield Park is one of the best places to mountain bike close to Melbourne. It contains parts of the State Mountain Bike Course which was used for the 2006 Commonwealth Games. The course consists of a network of well connected trails which flow up and down steep hills and through native vegetation. A short diversion from the top of the State Mountain Bike Course provides access to Trig Point Lookout which offers views across to Melbourne's CBD.

The management framework for the area is outlined in Parks Victoria's document *Churchill National Park and Lysterfield Park Management Plan* which was originally prepared in 1998. Parks Victoria amended the management plan in 2020 to reflect changes to the recreational use of these parks over the past twenty years. The scope of this amendment

process was to recognise mountain biking as a significant recreational activity in the park, document existing trails, update management zones and ensure contemporary management practices for Aboriginal cultural heritage are reflected in the management plan. Northern areas within the park have been identified to be protected by a special protection area and special management areas overlay in the amendment to the park management plan to protect park values. The parks have nature based recreation and tourism values that could be enhanced in line with the management plan recommendations.

Within the surrounding area, there are opportunities for outdoor education uses that can leverage from the extensive mountain biking activity that takes place in the precinct of Lysterfield Park.

Heany Park is also a smaller park along the western boundary of Precinct 2b which is owned by KCC. The Park consists of a bushland and a lake, accommodates scout camps and is home to Heany Park Scout Group. The park and the Green Wedge lots to its south provide an important vegetated buffer between the Hanson Quarry and the residential areas to the west.

Extractive Industries

There are two quarries in Precinct 2b operated by Boral and Hanson Australia. Together, the two quarries place Knox as the 4th most critical resource location for hard rock in Victoria.

The quarries have operated for over 30 years, and are currently operating pursuant to Work Authorities issued by the State Government. Hanson Australia seeks to expand its existing extraction limits which would extend the operating life of the quarry by five to ten years, with potential cessation of quarrying activities at the site in 25-30 years.

The extractive industries in this precinct are significant suppliers to the Melbourne construction industry and are well located for supplying the Melbourne region. They provide a significant economic role, including employment and economic output within the region.

The quarries are located on two large parcels of land zoned Special Use Zone (SUZ2). Limited guidance is currently provided within the planning framework regarding future use following the cessation of operation. While such development will be outside the life of his strategy, it is considered that the sustainable long term use of the land should aim for an improved community outcome, including ongoing protection of remaining significant vegetation outside the extent of extraction, improved access to the national parks and the provision of active and passive recreation opportunities.



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Rural Use

The northern strip of Precinct 2b is currently used for rural purposes including grazing and horse agistment on parts of the Hanson quarry land. The precinct also includes a number of smaller privately held Green Wedge Zone (GWZ2) lots abutting Wellington Road and to the south of Heany Park.

This rural area provides an essential buffer role between the Urban Growth Boundary and Lysterfield Park which helps protect the significant biodiversity and scenic landscape values of the park. In case of future rezoning following the life of the quarries, urban development outside the UGB will not be supported. A GWZ2 zone may be appropriate, in line with the existing residential pockets within this rural buffer, subject to detailed investigation.

The northern part of the Hanson Quarry land is clear of vegetation and is currently used for grazing/agistment. There are opportunities for community uses during the ongoing operation of the quarry through the provision of an active recreation complex. KCC has been liaising with Hanson regarding the potential development of the north eastern portion of the Hanson property for community facilities including sporting ovals.

Economic opportunities in Precinct 2b will be based on those uses that can build upon and complement the existing land uses such as recreation and education opportunities including outdoor education. Due to existing land use patterns and constraints, there are limited opportunities for other land uses including agriculture.

Objective:

To recognise and protect the values of Knox Green Wedges.

Action 2b.9. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 2b.

Objective:

To ensure land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area.

Action 2b.10. Acknowledge the ongoing operation of the Boral and Hansen Quarries within the approved work plan areas.

Action 2b.11. Investigate and support the use of the northern part of the Hanson quarry land for active recreation and sporting facilities.

Action 2b.12. Encourage the use of the quarry land following the completion of quarrying to provide for improved community and environmental outcomes, and facilitate permeability to enhance community access to the national parks.

Action 2b.13. Investigate general alignment with the Green Wedge Zone 2, in case of future rezoning of the northern part of the precinct, to provide a low intensity buffer to the national parks.

Action 2b.14. Collaborate with Parks Victoria regarding enhancements to nature based recreation and tourism opportunities within Lysterfield Park and improving access from Knox.

Action 2b.15. Support and facilitate public art along Wellington Road potentially as part of future planned ovals/recreation reserve.

Access and Connectivity

Precinct 2b can provide a positive role in improving connectivity between Lysterfield Park and the residential areas to the north of precinct 2b.

The main access to Lysterfield Park and its highly valued trail network is from south and currently, direct access is limited for the nearby residents in Knox. The quarries act as a physical barrier and there is a lack of connecting shared paths/tracks or a formalised entry point from Knox.

This has resulted in informal car parking issues in the vicinity including on Lysterfield Road approaching the Wellington Road intersection. Powells Road and Cornish Road currently provide informal entry to the parks which creates issues for the local residents. Powells Road has limited capacity due to its narrow road reservation and local traffic generated by rural industry uses. Cornish Road, on the other hand, is believed to be a more suitable option, however, requires substantial upgrades. The current issues relate to traffic and cyclist safety, drainage issues and environmental degradation. It is noted that the *Churchill*



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

National Park and Lysterfield Park Management Plan does not provide for improved access from the northern side.

The precinct is not within walking catchment of public transport, which is another reason why urban development should not be supported.

Objective:

To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users.

Action 2b.16. Provide connectivity between the Lysterfield Park trail network and the suburban areas, as part of future redevelopment of the quarries.

Action 2b.17. Investigate opportunities for upgrades to Cornish Road and the possibility of a formalised entry point, including car parking, to provide access to Lysterfield Park, in collaboration with Parks Victoria.

Action 2b.18. Facilitate improvements to Powells Road to address existing informal car parking issues.



Map 12
Precinct 2b - Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds

Theme: Land Use & Access

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

- Precinct Boundary
- LGA Boundaries
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Creeks and Lakes Areas
- Cadastre

Zones - Knox Planning Scheme

- GWZ2
- PCRZ
- PPRZ
- TRZ2
- TRZ3
- SUZ2
- UFZ
- Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO2)

Land Ownership

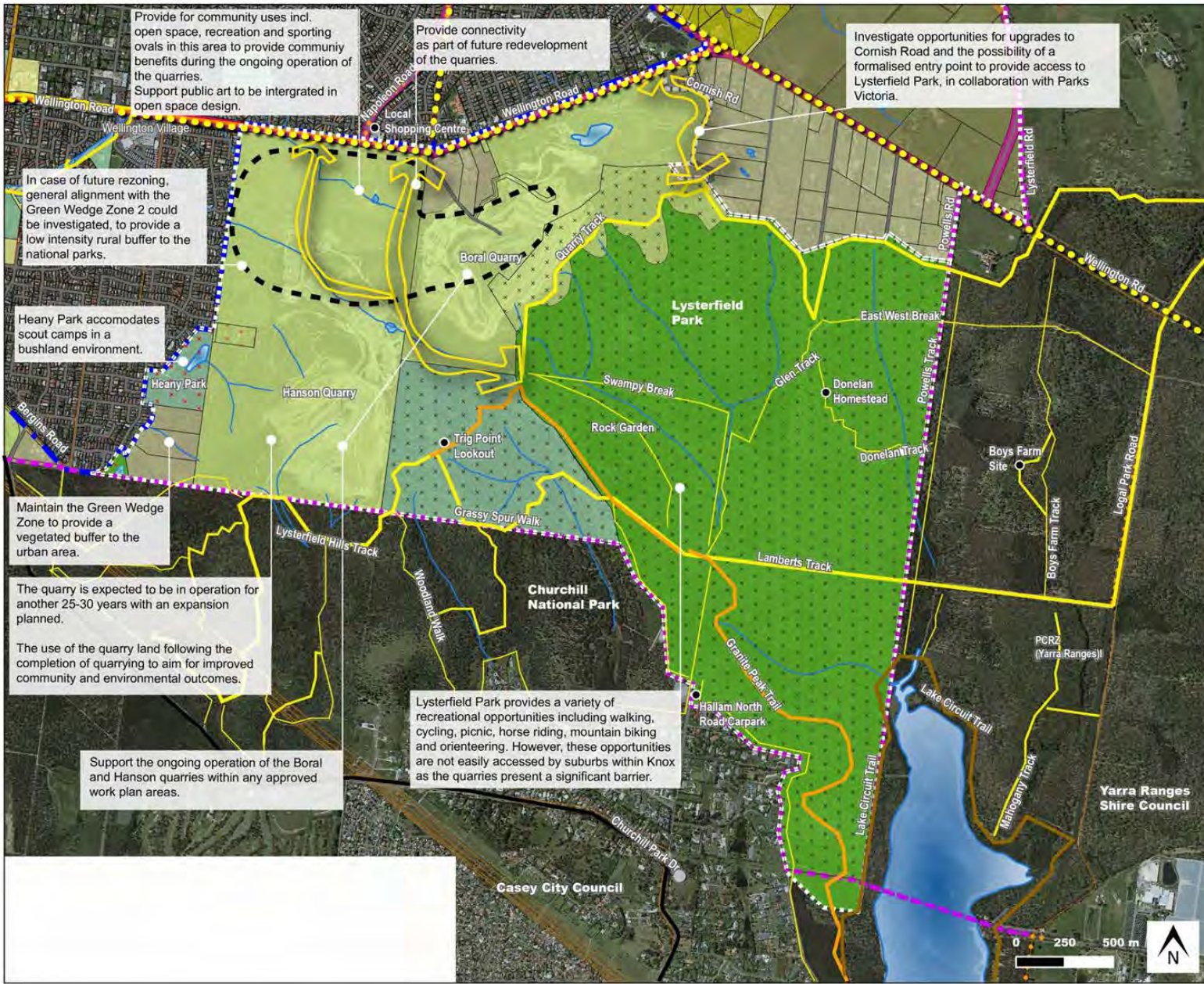
- Local Government
- State Government/Agencies

Road Centrelines

- Local Streets/Rds

Pedestrian/Bicycle Network

- Existing On Road
- Existing Off Road
- Proposed Walking/Cycling Routes
- Routes for improved connectivity



Provide for community uses incl. open space, recreation and sporting ovals in this area to provide community benefits during the ongoing operation of the quarries. Support public art to be integrated in open space design.

Provide connectivity as part of future redevelopment of the quarries.

Investigate opportunities for upgrades to Cornish Road and the possibility of a formalised entry point to provide access to Lysterfield Park, in collaboration with Parks Victoria.

In case of future rezoning, general alignment with the Green Wedge Zone 2 could be investigated, to provide a low intensity rural buffer to the national parks.

Heany Park accommodates scout camps in a bushland environment.

Maintain the Green Wedge Zone to provide a vegetated buffer to the urban area.

The quarry is expected to be in operation for another 25-30 years with an expansion planned.

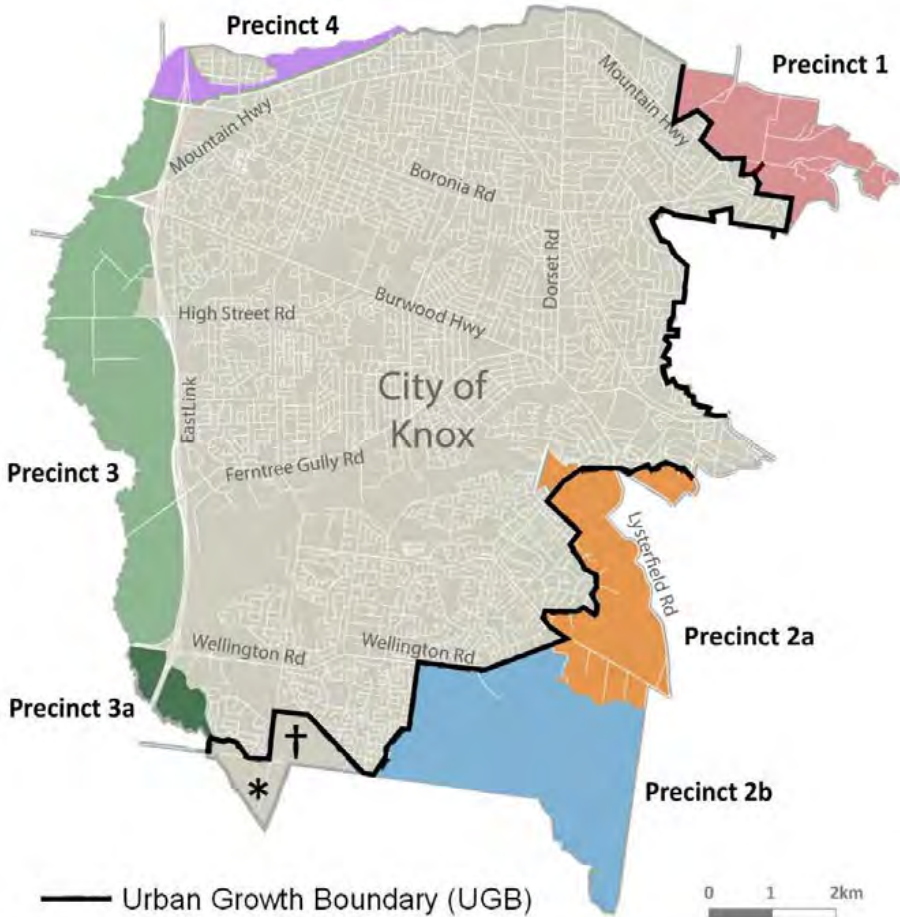
The use of the quarry land following the completion of quarrying to aim for improved community and environmental outcomes.

Support the ongoing operation of the Boral and Hanson quarries within any approved work plan areas.

Lysterfield Park provides a variety of recreational opportunities including walking, cycling, picnic, horse riding, mountain biking and orienteering. However, these opportunities are not easily accessed by suburbs within Knox as the quarries present a significant barrier.



**Precinct 3:
Dandenong Creek Valley**





Vision for Precinct 3

The Vision for Precinct 3 reflects feedback received during public consultation involving the stakeholders and the community. Key themes from the public consultation are summarised below:

- **The importance of waterways and wildlife corridors**
The consultation highlighted the importance of the waterways and the role of this precinct in wildlife movement and connectivity which needs to be recognised by the vision.
- **Development pressures**
Concerns were expressed about the future potential development at Jenkins Orchard and the Boral Redevelopment Site and how they would interact with and affect the function of this precinct as a green lungs corridor.
- **Horse agistment**
Maintaining the current horse agistment activities in this precinct was considered an important and rare recreational opportunity for the community.

Vision for Precinct 3:

The Dandenong Creek Valley Precinct is a consolidated “green lungs” corridor protecting key waterways and wildlife corridors while providing considerable recreational, nature conservation, flood mitigation, urban agriculture and parkland opportunities within the Eastern Metropolitan region.”

Theme 1: Ecology

Wildlife Habitat and Connectivity

Precinct 3 offers significant habitat values as it contains the widest core riparian zones of the Dandenong Creek, many well-connected billabongs, large extents of flood plains, as well as a relatively consistent spread of remnant vegetation along the length of the precinct.

Knox Wildlife Atlas indicates a high level of wildlife sightings recorded along the Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek and Corhanwarrabul Creek which highlight the role of these creek systems in wildlife connectivity. The pockets of remnant vegetation scattered across the precinct also provide important habitat and linkages for wildlife movement.

Public land ownership and management has played a key role in preserving biodiversity values in this precinct. Parks Victoria is a key landowner in Precinct 3 and a key contributor to the protection of habitat values. Melbourne Water also contributes to the health and habitat values of the Dandenong Creek. As part of the Enhancing Our Dandenong Creek project, KCC has been working with Melbourne Water and Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to identify projects including constructing new habitats for threatened fish species, increasing the natural amenity, pollution prevention and detection. Significant investment into the natural assets in this precinct were made by a number of agencies during the construction of EastLink.

The community also contribute significantly to the environmental state of the precinct. There is a high level of community involvement in environmental management including by the Friends of Dandenong Valley Parklands, individual volunteers, students and other community groups.

The Boral redevelopment site has previously been designated for residential development. This site provides a significant opportunity to enhance connectivity along the Blind Creek and incorporate habitat restoration into master planning and open space design.

Poor maintenance of orchards and weed control have the potential to reduce the wildlife connectivity and conservation values of this precinct if they encroach upon areas of native vegetation or other areas of habitat. However, in some cases areas of existing weeds may provide habitat values for wildlife. Therefore, any actions to remove or reduce weed cover should be undertaken in a staged basis, alongside active planting of native vegetation as replacement habitat.

Six barriers to wildlife movement have been identified within or abutting Precinct 2a as shown on the map, generally where roads intersect with the creeks.

An analysis of the Planning Scheme controls indicates that the majority of the identified habitat areas including the riparian vegetation are well protected through the Scheme either, through PCRZ zoning or ESO overlays. The analysis has found the following issues that are recommended for investigation.

Two parcels of land have been identified along the Dandenong Creek corridor that are not zoned for conservation purposes:

- 115-123 Axford Road, Wantirna South – This area of crown land is densely vegetated and the Rural Living Zoning seems to be an anomaly. This matter is currently being investigated by DTP and Parks Victoria.
- 1A Burwood Highway, Wantirna –The area has been cleared and developed for retail purposes (gardening and landscaping supplies). It is recommended that any future redevelopment of the area incorporates habitat restoration.

Objective:

To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.

- Action 3.1.** Acknowledge the significant role of this precinct in providing wildlife habitat and connectivity at a regional scale which is due to the integrity of existing native vegetation and the creek corridors.
- Action 3.2.** Continue the application of ESO2 across the precinct and review the local content to strengthen the provisions in accordance with the recommendations of this Strategy.
- Action 3.3.** Support rezoning to ensure the Dandenong Creek corridor is protected for conservation purposes, in consultation with stakeholders, including at 115-123 Axford Road, Wantirna South.
- Action 3.4.** Encourage reestablishment of the riparian vegetation and habitat as part of any future redevelopment at 1A Burwood Highway, Wantirna.
- Action 3.5.** Provide for habitat restoration and connectivity along the Dandenong Creek, and along Blind Creek as part of future development of the Boral Quarry site.
- Action 3.6.** Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at the sites indicated on the map in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.



Action 3.7. Investigate and rectify the identified zoning anomalies along the Dandenong Creek corridor.

Action 3.8. Advocate for enhancements within this precinct to continue along the creek corridor south of Wellington Road.

Waterways and Flood Management

Precinct 3 supports important waterbodies including the Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek, Corhanwarrabul Creek and their tributaries. The precinct is within the Blind Creek and Dandenong Creek catchments, which flows from the Dandenong Ranges to Port Phillip Bay via Patterson River. The upstream section of Blind Creek in Boronia (outside Study Area) is identified as a “High Value” waterway in Knox as part of the Knox WSUD and Stormwater Management Strategy.

The billabongs and wetlands in Precinct 3 play a key role in water quality of the creek system while providing significant habitat for aquatic species. Melbourne Water works with KCC to manage these creek systems including ongoing monitoring of water quality and sediment control at the Corhanwarrabul Creek and Dandenong Valley treatment wetlands.

Precinct 3 contains large flood plains associated with the creeks. Large open space areas in Precinct 3 assist with flood mitigation. The southern part of the precinct accommodates the floodplain wetlands associated with the Corhanwarrabul Creek. This area has a major impact on flows and water quality in the Dandenong Creek.

The areas affected by flooding are protected by the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO). The flood overlay that currently applies is due for review. Melbourne Water and KCC are currently undertaking the 1%AEP flood modelling using the most recent techniques and methodology. Once this work is completed it is essential that the results are incorporated into the Scheme to ensure adequate development controls apply within floodplains.

Future redevelopment of the Boral quarry site will have to ensure that stormwater impacts are minimised and managed properly to prevent any negative impacts on the waterways or surrounding area. The section of Blind Creek that runs through the Boral quarry site was realigned from its original route and currently presents poor conditions. The future redevelopment of the Boral quarry site presents great opportunities for naturalization of the creek and enhancement of its condition as a healthy waterway.

Objective:

To improve waterway health and flood management.

Action 3.9. Protect the floodplains and wetlands in Precinct 3 for their flood storage and retention values.

Action 3.10. Continue the KCC/MW/Parks Victoria collaboration to improve waterway health and sediment control in Precinct 3.

Action 3.11. Future redevelopment of the Boral quarry site is to ensure that stormwater impacts are minimised and managed to the satisfaction of the relevant agencies.

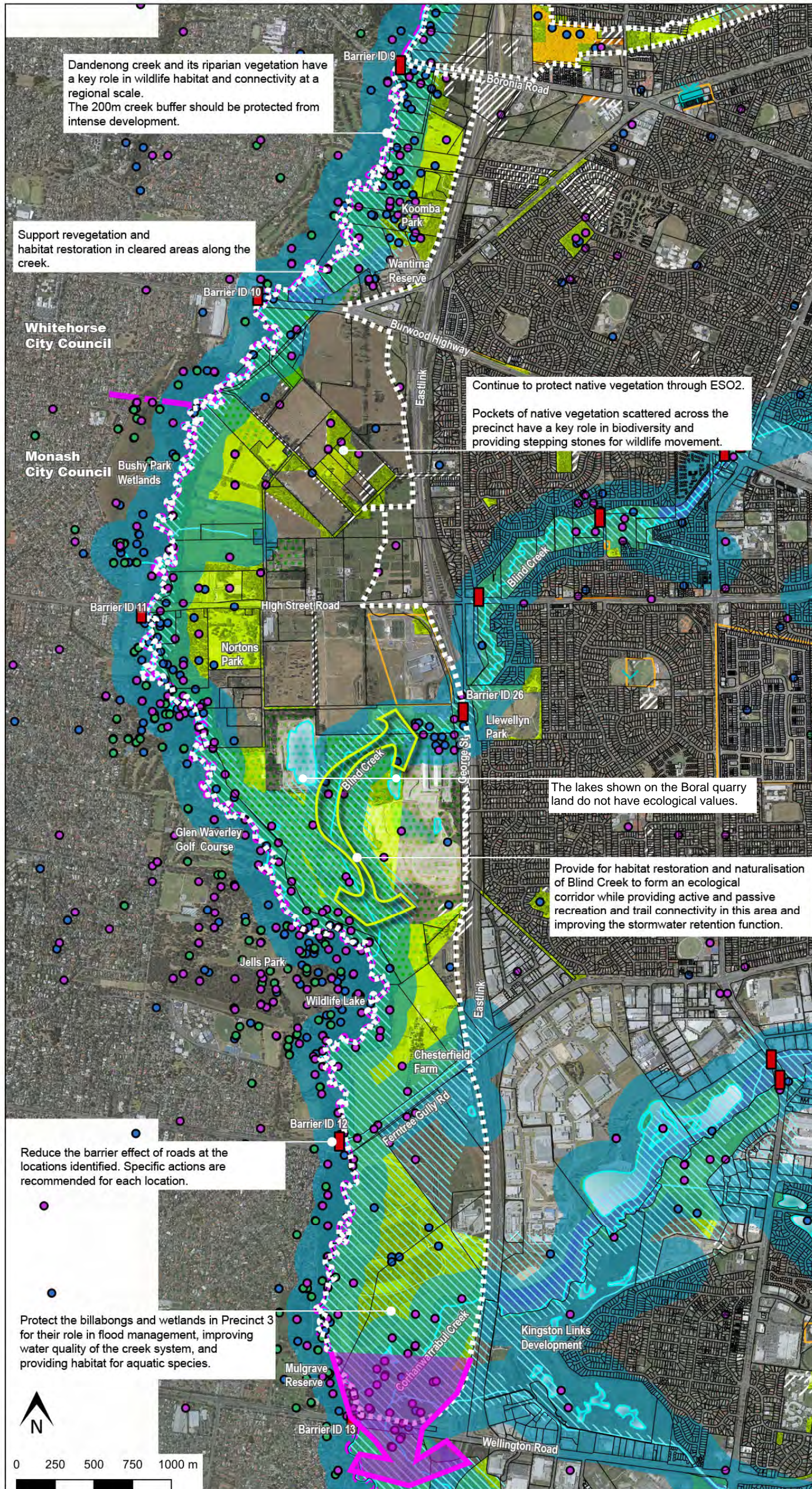
Action 3.12. Naturalise the Blind Creek and enhance its condition as a natural waterway corridor as part of the future development of the Boral quarry site.



Map 13
Precinct 3 - Dandenong Creek Valley Parklands

Theme: Ecology

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)



Legend

Knox Wildlife Atlas (1995-2017)

- Wildlife Records - Multiple Sources
- Wildlife Records - Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
- Knox Focal Species 2017

- Barriers to Wildlife Movement

- Waterways 200m Buffer

Knox Planning Scheme

- Environmental Significance Overlay 2 (ESO2)
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO)
- PCRZ
- Urban Floodway Zone

Other

- Creeks and Lakes
- Floodplains
- WSUD - Project Area
- Precinct 3 Boundary
- Knox City Boundaries

➔ Enhancements within this precinct are to continue along the creek corridor south of Wellington Road

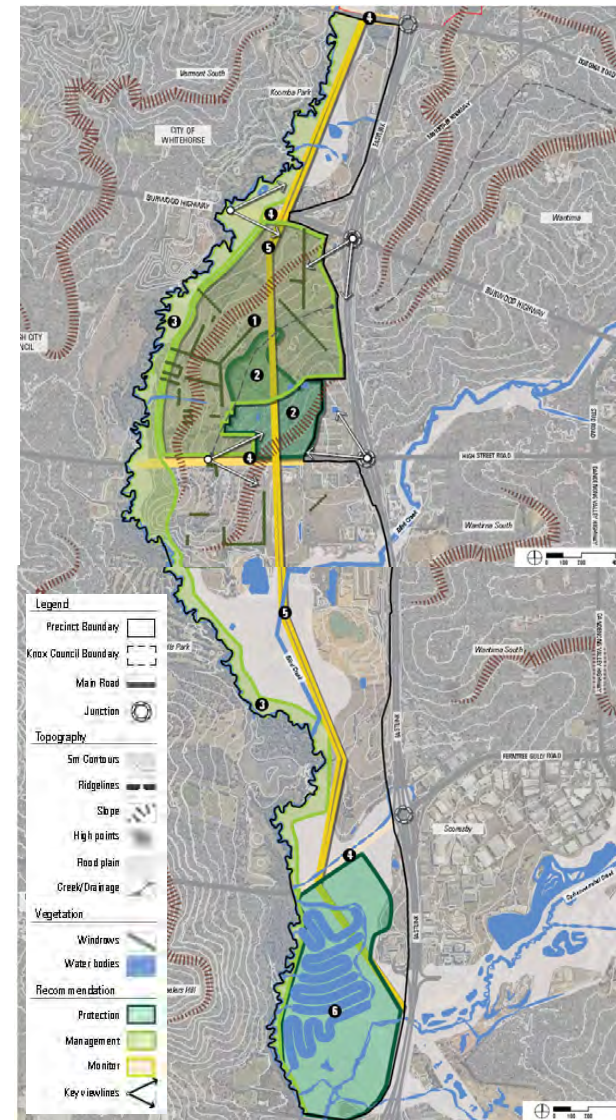
Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Values

The *GARS Landscape and Character Study* (Hansen Partnership) advises that while the corridor is a single entity, there is a notable distinction between the character of its northern sector (with elevated land between the Blind and Dandenong Creeks - immediately north of High Street Road) and its low southern wetlands. The openness and mixed vegetated quality of the valley is important to its character, in particular the elevated Wantirna South Ridgeline and cultivated hilltop. The study identifies the following character areas (as shown on the map) and details key landscape values for each area:

No.	Description	Approach	Key Landscape Values
1	The Wantirna South Ridge	Management	Rural character on rising land; roadside/windrow vegetation; native bushland patches
2	The Central Cultivated Hilltop	Protection	Rural character; Panoramic views from roads; Roadside/windrow vegetation; native bushland patches
3	The Dandenong Creek Riparian Corridor	Management	Riparian vegetation; low-lying valley conditions
4	The East-West Aligned Road Corridors	Management	Framed/open views from roads
5	The High Voltage Power Line Infrastructure	Management	The mitigating effect of vegetation
6	The Dandenong Valley Park and Wetland	Protection	Wetland vegetation; low-lying valley conditions

The Scheme refers to the precinct as a significant landscape and sets high level strategies to protect and enhance the landscape qualities. However, these strategies are not translated into any landscape overlays. Most vegetation within the precinct including the Dandenong Creek riparian corridor are protected through a combination of ESO2 and VPO2. The predominant PPRZ and PCRZ zoning also provides some protections. It is recommended to complement these existing provisions with more direction based on the findings.



Map 14 – Precinct 3 Landscape Assessment (Source: Hansen Partnership) 82



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Objective:

To protect and enhance local character and landscape values.

Action 3.13. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS and PPF in light of the findings of the *GARS Landscape and Character Study*. New strategic policy direction for landscape values of the precinct and a new SLO are to be investigated.

Heritage

Precinct 3 contains areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity associated with Dandenong Creek, Blind Creek and Corhanwarrabul Creek. It also includes a number of Aboriginal sites including artefact scatter and scarred trees.

The precinct includes three heritage places listed in the HO and three non-listed places. The *Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage (Context, 2017)* reviews the existing heritage places within the precinct (HO and non-HO items) and provides recommendations for each place.

Objective

To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage.

Action 3.14. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 3.15. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the *Knox Rural Heritage Report (Context, 2017)*, as summarised in the table below.

Site Name and Description	Recommendations
HO Places	
HO36 Clow Cottage, Dandenong Valley Parklands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain heritage overlay. Recommend heritage assessment to inform current listings.
HO10 Chesterfield Farm, Ferntree Gully Road Scoresby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retain heritage and other overlays.
HO50 Boronia Road Wantirna (west of EastLink) - Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further investigation required to determine extent. Retain heritage and other overlays.
Non-HO Places	
Axford Road Ruin, Axford Road Wantirna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend further investigation and heritage assessment.
Bushy Park, 3 Bushy Park Lane Wantirna South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended for heritage assessment.
Norton Park and Shepherds Bush, Wantirna South	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public land - co-ordinate with Parks Victoria. Recommend heritage assessment for specific sites within the Park.



Map 15

Precinct 3 - Dandenong Creek Valley Parklands

Theme: Heritage

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)



Whitehorse City Council

Monash City Council

Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Land Use and Economy

The Dandenong Valley Parklands play a key role within the broader open space network as a large scale consolidated green corridor reserved for open space purposes, serving the eastern suburbs catchment. A large portion of the parkland is owned by Parks Victoria and is zoned for public and conservation purposes.



Figure 10 - Dandenong Creek Valley Parklands in the metropolitan open space context (Source of base map: Plan Melbourne)

Some areas of this corridor have been developed for parkland, sport and recreation purposes. The other parts are leased by Parks Victoria to private operators who use the land for a variety of purposes including horticulture, fresh produce markets, horse agistment and cattle grazing. Chesterfield Farm is an example of leased land which provides educational and tourism services such as interaction with farm animals and farm shows. Parts of the parklands are owned privately and have a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO) on them.

Parks Victoria prepared the Dandenong Valley Parklands Future Directions Plan in 2006. This document sets out Parks Victoria’s vision, management framework and implementation actions for the wider Dandenong Valley Parklands area. The plan is due for a review however no review is planned by Parks Victoria in the short term.

Out of the GARS precincts, this precinct offers the greatest opportunities for agriculture, recreation, agri-tourism and community uses. The *GARS Economic Study* (Urban Enterprise, 2019) provides the following evaluation of economic and land use potential for Precinct 3:

Summary of Economic, Tourism, Community and Recreation Potential

Suitability for agriculture intensification	High
Suitability for agri- tourism	High
Suitability for standalone tourism uses	High
Suitability for community / social enterprise	High
Accessible to population catchments	High
Accessible by public transport	Medium
Accessible by bike/hiking/ walking	High
Suitability for Active Recreation	High
Suitability for other intensive industry	Medium
Suitability for Passive Recreation	High

As the population increases in Knox and the region, there are opportunities to explore this additional potential to meet the growing demand of the community. This would be in line with Plan Melbourne vision for an integrated and high quality open space network, as well as the purpose of the PPRZ zone.

While the above opportunities have been identified, preliminary consultation for this Strategy did not find sufficient support from the stakeholders and the local community to



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

support changes in the short term. It is also noted that Parks Victoria as a key landowner has no immediate plans for comprehensive planning for the parklands.

The evidence base in this Strategy can be used to guide future planning in partnership with the stakeholders in case opportunities arise in the future.

Objective:

To ensure land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area.

Action 3.16. Acknowledge the important role of the Dandenong Creek Valley Parkland as a significant green corridor within the eastern region.

Action 3.17. Support the following opportunities for the Dandenong Creek Valley parklands:

- a) Enhancements to open space to enable more active and passive recreational use.
- b) Tourism, agri-tourism, urban agriculture and cafes.
- c) Community partnerships with opportunities for KCC to connect community businesses and commercial partners with Parks Victoria.
- d) Education opportunities such as nature-based education.
- e) Cycling-oriented activities/businesses along the bike routes, support opportunities for such as bike shops, storage, organic trails and food trails.
- f) Urban agriculture models such as city farms/community gardens, community nurseries and plant exchanges, edible landscapes, food forests, indigenous food production, institutional and demonstration gardens and restaurant gardens (refer case study of CERES in the *GARS Economic Study*).

High Street Road Corridor

High Street Road serves an important role as a key gateway to Knox with a distinct rural, horticultural character. With the future redevelopment of Jenkins Orchard and the Boral

quarry, it would be important to recognise the existing landscape character and take actions to maintain and complement the character where possible.

The future development in these areas will need to respond to the local character. Monitoring changes to the other parcels of land on this corridor will also be important over the coming years.

Action 3.18. Define High Street Road corridor as a Gateway to Knox. Seek opportunities to enhance its aesthetics through landscaping, building design and public art which reflect its horticultural history and bush boulevard character.

Boral Quarry Redevelopment Site

The Boral Quarry site at 191 George Street, Wantirna South has been designated as a Strategic Investigation Site in the Scheme for future residential and employment uses.

The development will include residential and employment areas and provide for nature conservation and passive recreation uses in proximity to the Dandenong Creek riparian corridor.

The current use of the site as a quarry and the modified section of Blind Creek has lowered wildlife connectivity through this area. The development presents great opportunities to undertake revegetation and habitat restoration along the creek to revitalise its function as an ecological corridor.

Action 3.19. Future redevelopment of the Boral Quarry site to

- a) Provide for the revegetation and naturalisation of Blink Creek to reestablish its function as an ecological corridor.
- b) Protect and enhance the habitat values of the Dandenong Creek ecological corridor.
- c) Provide for passive and nature based recreation in appropriate areas.

Knox Regional Sports Park

Knox Regional Sports Park is located on crown land managed by KCC. It currently includes an indoor sports stadium, two synthetic soccer pitches and associated soccer pavilion, open grassed areas for informal recreation, grassed field and operations area for the Victorian Association of Radio Model Soaring (VARMS), car parking areas and groups of predominantly native and indigenous trees.



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

In 2018 KCC approved a Masterplan for the sports park which provides for the following upgrades:

- Ten additional domestic basketball courts;
- A new gymnastics facility suitable for regional level competition;
- A Centre of Excellence facility and high-performance training centre;
- An 8,000 seat capacity sports/entertainment area with overflow parking for 2,500 vehicles within the adjacent Cathies Lane Landfill site;
- The conversion of the existing 5-a-side soccer pitches to one full size field, six new 5-1-side pitches and extension to the existing pavilion; and
- At grade car parking facilities and intersection upgrade works to facilitate parking demands and traffic flows.

The Masterplan is KCC's response to growing demand across Knox for high quality sporting and recreational facilities. Basketball, gymnastics and soccer are all experiencing significant growth and, as a result, demand for facilities at a local level is exceeding supply. Implementation of the Masterplan will be funded jointly by KCC and the State Government.

Action 3.20. Support complementary uses in proximity to the Knox Regional Sports Park including allied health and sports medicine.

Existing Parks

Koomba Park (managed by Parks Victoria) is a popular destination for birdwatching and incorporates both the Dandenong Creek Trail which branches off to a boardwalk section and the EastLink Trail that continues on to follow EastLink. During public consultation for this strategy issues were raised by community members regarding maintenance of Koomba Park, including the removal of blackberries and maintenance during the wet weather.

An area of land zoned Transport Zone 2 (TRZ2) exists within Koomba Park. This area could be investigated for potential rezoning and inclusion in Koomba Park.

Wantirna Reserve on the corner of EastLink and Burwood Highway is currently managed by KCC by agreement with Parks Victoria. A Masterplan is currently being prepared for Wantirna Reserve. A number of feasibility studies indicated that Wantirna Reserve was an ideal location of a new hockey facility. The construction of the hockey pitch was completed in June 2023 and the new hockey facility is open to the public and is home to the Knox Hockey Club.

[Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy](#)

The approved masterplan for the expansion of Knox Regional Sports Park presents great opportunities for the surrounding area, including for allied health and sports medicine.

Nortons Park (also a dog park) is managed by Parks Victoria. A leash free dog park has recently been created which has improved visitor experience and has been well received by the community.

A number of small pockets of land are used for parkland purposes but are not correctly zoned. These have been identified on the map for investigation.

Action 3.21. Investigate the area within Koomba Park which is zoned for road purposes for potential rezoning and inclusion in the park.

Action 3.22. Investigate parkland lots that are not zoned PPRZ for potential rezoning, in consultation with DTP and Parks Victoria.

Action 3.23. Advocate for further improvements to Nortons Park by Parks Victoria.

Cathies Lane Landfill Site

Cathies Lane landfill site is currently vacant, however, land use opportunities for this site are limited due to soil condition and applicable buffers. This site is currently being investigated for a potential solar park by KCC.

Action 3.24. Investigate opportunities for renewable energy production (solar park) at the Cathies Lane landfill site, while preventing any adverse impact on any existing or planned residential areas.

Public Art Opportunities

The east-west corridors within Precinct 3 provide gateways to Knox with a high level of visibility. These corridors offer opportunities for public art to enhance aesthetics and help

Action 3.25. Support and fund public art along the High Street Road and Burwood Highway to enhance amenity and sense of place consistent with the local character.

Access and Connectivity

Precinct 3 is well served by the arterial road network including EastLink, Boronia Road, Burwood Highway, High Street Road, Ferntree Gully Road and Wellington Road. The



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

precinct is also supported by an excellent network of trails including the Dandenong Creek Trail and the EastLink Trail. These trails provide strong linkages with surrounding municipalities and other recreational areas.

Multiple bus services run along Boronia Road, Burwood Highway, High Street Road, Ferntree Gully Road and Wellington Road. However, a large area internal to the precinct, including the Boral redevelopment site is not within walkable catchment of public transport.

The area to the north of High Street Road presents a barrier to connectivity, both for vehicular movement and walking/cycling connectivity. Road access is limited to a number of cul-de-sacs, mostly rough surfaced. Overall this area does not provide much permeability.

The State Government plans propose on-road cycle lanes on Burwood Highway and the section of EastLink south of Ferntree Gully Road. However, it does not propose any upgrades along High Street Road. This road has no cycle lanes or shared paths which is an issue considering the number of bus services stopping at this location. Considering the potential for future urban developments at the Boral and Jenkins Orchard sites, and the expansion of the Knox Regional Sports Park, there will be more demand for pedestrian and cyclist movement on this road.

The Boral Quarry redevelopment will create a new population catchment which needs adequate connectivity to the surrounding network. Main access will be from High Street Road. The development needs to provide a high level of permeability and connectivity including shared path connectivity through the site and to the surrounding trails including the Dandenong Creek Trail, EastLink Trail and the Regional Sports Park. The Blind Creek corridor presents great opportunities for shared path connectivity and new linkages to Jells Park which is a popular destination.

EastLink (freeway) represents a barrier to pedestrian/cyclist connectivity. The area near Kingston Links has been identified as a missing link by the Eastern Regional Trail Strategy's Ferny Creek Trail extension to the Dandenong Creek Trail. A new bridge connection is appropriate at this location.

Objective:

To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users.

Action 3.26. Advocate for and support the on-road and off-road cycling proposals shown on the map.

Action 3.27. Advocate for a shared path along High Street Road connecting with the EastLink Trail with the Dandenong Creek Trail.

Action 3.28. Seek opportunities to improve access and connectivity through the area between High Street road and Burwood Highway, in a collaborative process involving Parks Victoria and Knox and Whitehorse City Councils.

Action 3.29. The Boral redevelopment site to provide for shared path connectivity through the site connecting with the surrounding trails, including along the Blind Creek linking to Jells Park.

Action 3.30. Support the provision of public transport to the Boral redevelopment site and ensure the road network are designed to facilitate bus movement.

Action 3.31. Improve access to Knox Regional Sports Park.

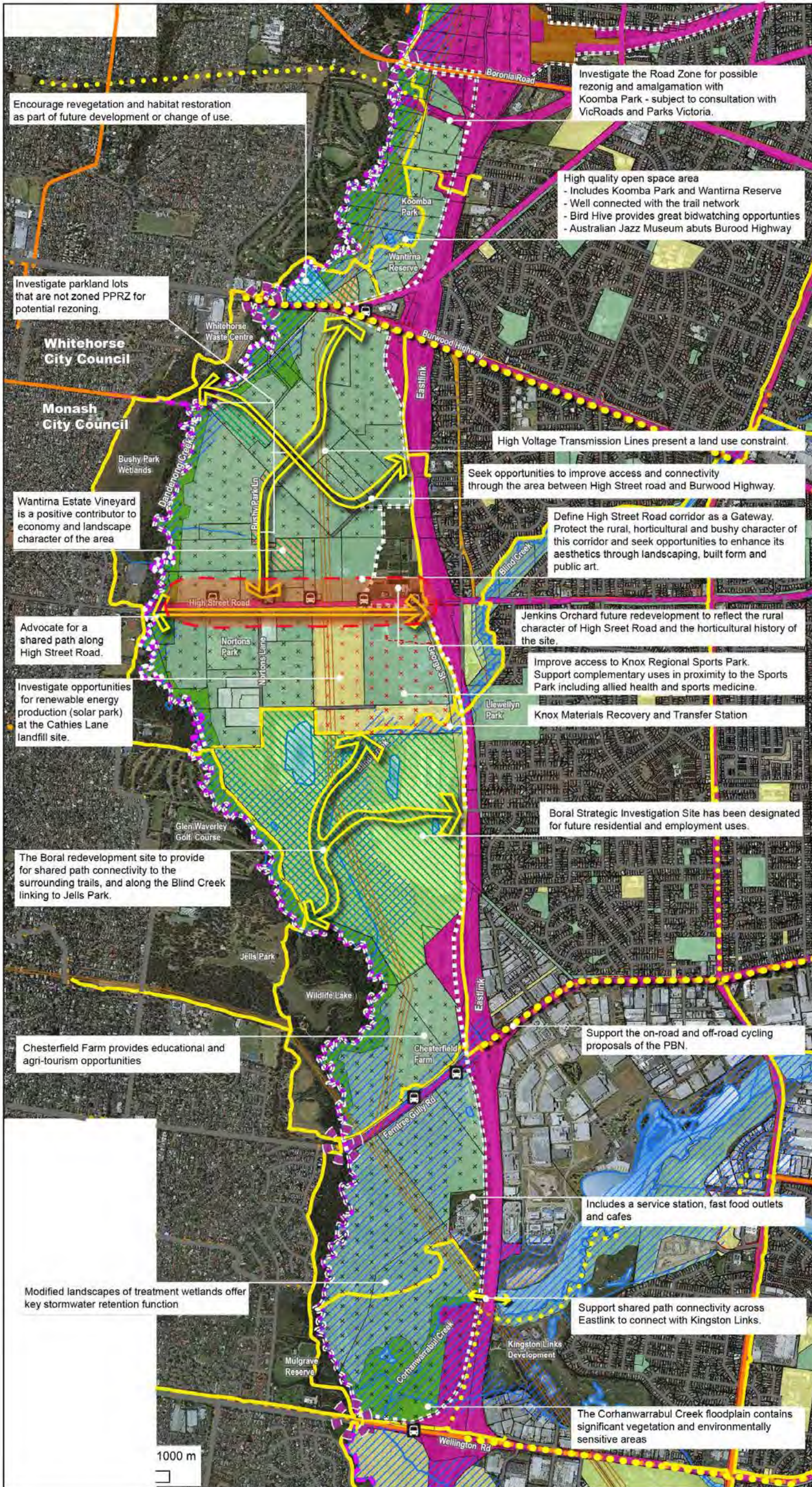
Action 3.32. Support shared path connectivity across Eastlink to Kingston Links.



Map 16
Precinct 3 - Dandenong Creek Valley Parklands

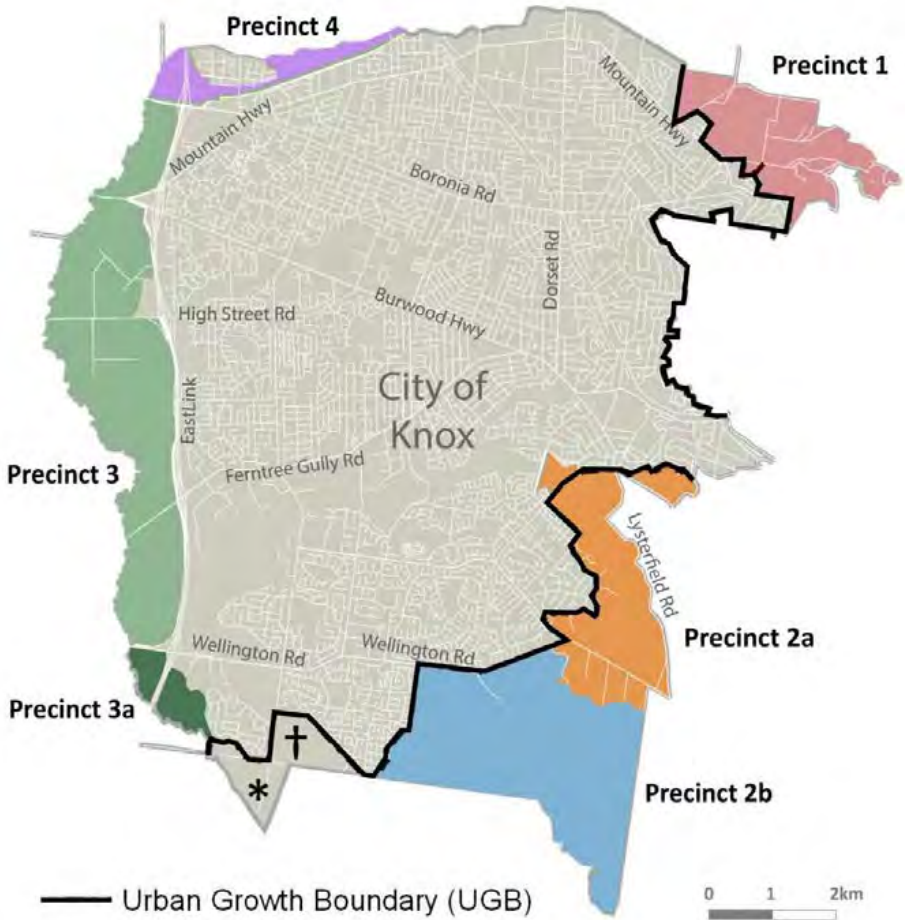
Theme: Land Use & Access

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)





Precinct 4:
Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds





Vision for Precinct 4

Precinct 4 contains the land corridor reserved by the State Government for the potential extension of the Healesville Freeway to connect to EastLink. Plans for this road corridor to the west of Knox in Whitehorse were cancelled a few years ago and the reservation area was declared surplus and rezoned, with plans to redevelop this corridor for public open space.

The stretch of the reservation within Knox, however, has been maintained by VicRoads with no timelines for design or construction. The uncertainty surrounding the road has resulted in a lack of clear direction or long term purpose for the reserved land as well as the surrounding area.

To accommodate this uncertainty, the vision and recommendation for this precinct are formulated under two scenarios: a **“Road Scenario”** and a **“No-Road Scenario”**.

The Vision for Precinct 4 reflects feedback received during public consultation involving the stakeholders and the community. Key themes from the public consultation are summarised below:

- **Open space/parkland opportunities**

The creation of new parkland (recreational & environmental) was supported to provide opportunities to provide a linkage between Dandenong Creek, Bateman St Bushland and surrounding park/habitat sites.

- **Biodiversity and conservation buffer**

One comment suggested that the vision should make a direct reference to “Biodiversity” as an important priority for this precinct.

Vision for Precinct 4:

Road Scenario: The future Healesville Freeway extension will be sensitive and responsive to the Dandenong Creek ecological and waterway corridor, seeking opportunities for water and habitat enhancements, while supporting the open space and recreational uses.

No Road Scenario: The precinct will provide an integrated high quality open space and parkland corridor with complementary uses which protect and enhance native vegetation, wildlife connectivity and waterway health.

Theme 1: Ecology

Wildlife Habitat and Connectivity

The precinct includes parts of the Dandenong Creek and its 200m buffer zone which has significant biodiversity values. The Knox Wildlife Atlas indicates high levels of wildlife records in proximity to the creek and within areas of native vegetation. Previous revegetation and restoration efforts by KCC and Maroondah City Council and community groups such as Friends of Dandenong Creek have greatly added to the wildlife habitat and dispersal opportunities.

The greatest threat to wildlife habitat in this precinct is the Healesville Freeway reservation which affects some areas of native vegetation located on land parcels either zoned for road purposes or affected by a Public Acquisition Overlay.

This includes the Bateman Street Bushland which is a Site of Biodiversity of state-level significance and contains one of the largest and most intact areas of endangered Valley Heathy Forest in the Melbourne region. This bushland is protected by ESO2, however, is subject to a Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO1).

Winton Wetlands is another area of high habitat values, with significant wildlife sightings recorded. Although the vegetated area is protected by PCRZ zoning, it abuts land zoned Transport Zone and could be affected by future road works. This area requires careful protection in case of future road construction to minimise wildlife exposure to traffic. Should the adjoining land not be required for road purposes, the land within 200m of the Creek is recommended to be rezoned to PCRZ to facilitate protection and revegetation.

The creek and its riparian vegetation are well protected through the Scheme. The Urban Floodway Zone (UFZ) covers the Dandenong Creek and the Public Conservation and Resource Zone (PCRZ) protects the adjoining riparian corridor. There are great opportunities within 200m of the creek to improve habitat through revegetation which would also provide additional passive recreation opportunities.

Compatible land-uses for this precinct are: nature-based health activities to complement and strengthen health outcomes, nature-based or open air sports and recreation, bush playgroups and community gardens.

Objective:

To protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity.

- Action 4.1.** Continue the application of ESO2 in Precinct 4 to protect native vegetation and habitat values.
- Action 4.2.** Acknowledge the role of the Dandenong Creek corridor and previous investments in bushland restoration along the creek in wildlife connectivity within the broader region.
- Action 4.3.** Prohibit development within the Melbourne Water's Core Riparian Zone (CRZ) and the adjacent vegetation buffers.
- Action 4.4.** Investigate mechanisms to achieve an ecologically sensitive development approach to new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges) across the precinct.
- Action 4.5.** Reduce the wildlife barrier effects of EastLink over the Dandenong Creek corridor in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.
- Action 4.6.** Review the VPO in Precinct 4 to ensure it covers all the intended vegetation.

Road Scenario

- Action 4.7.** Advocate for an underpass design to protect Bateman Street bushland.
- Action 4.8.** Minimise the risk of exposure of wildlife to vehicular traffic from the future freeway through adequate buffer areas.
- Action 4.9.** Design and construction in proximity to Winton Wetlands should be sensitive to the ecological values of this wetland and minimise wildlife exposure to works or traffic.

No-Road Scenario

- Action 4.10.** Protect the Bateman Street Bushland and other Sites of Biological Significance and enhance their environmental and passive recreation values.
- Action 4.11.** Support future uses of the reservation corridor that can protect and enhance the ecological values.



Action 4.12. Investigate the Transport Zoned land in the vicinity of Winton Wetlands which is within 200m of the Creek for possible rezoning to PCRZ to protect habitat values and facilitate revegetation.

Waterways and Flood Management

Precinct 4 abuts the Dandenong Creek along its northern and western boundaries and the entire precinct is within the Dandenong Creek catchment.

The strip of land to the north of the Healesville Freeway reservation, including Manson Reserve and the golf driving range have a key role in the storage and retention of flooding from the Dandenong Creek.

Wetland building has recently been undertaken at JW Manson Reserve to improve stormwater management and water quality.

The existing open spaces and road reservation are affected by floodplains of the Dandenong Creek.

Objective:

To improve waterway health and flood management.

Action 4.13. Any development or the addition of impervious surfaces in the flood affected area (1% AEP level) needs to be accompanied by adequate studies and plans to demonstrate how flooding can be managed in particular through WSUD measures.



Map 17

Precinct 4 - Healesville Freeway Reservation & Surrounds

Theme: Ecology

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

Knox Wildlife Atlas (1995-2017)

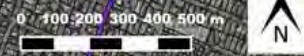
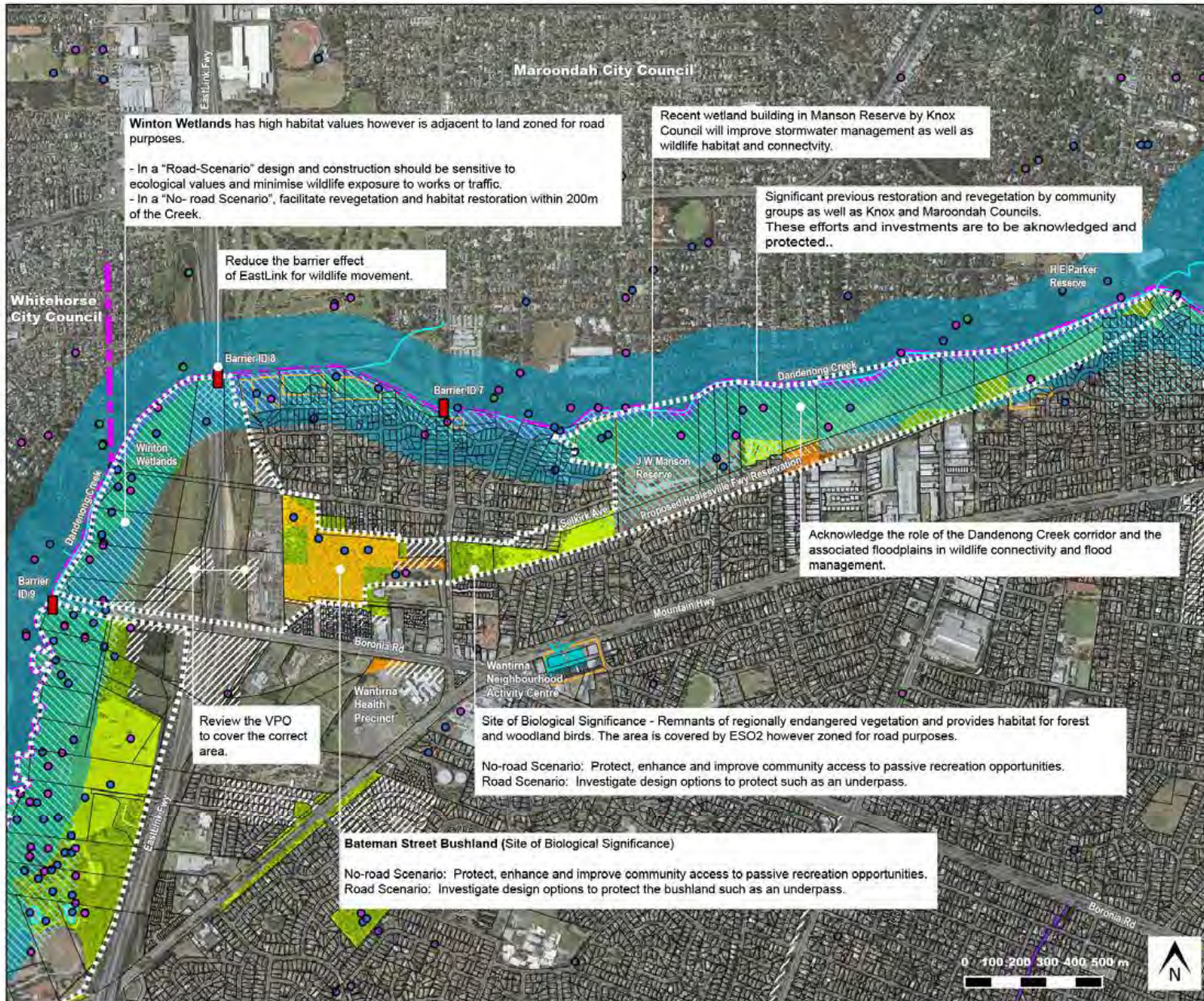
- Wildlife Records - Multiple Sources
- Wildlife Records - Victorian Biodiversity Atlas
- Knox Focal Species 2017
- Barriers to Wildlife Movement

Knox Planning Scheme

- Waterways 200m Buffer
- Environmental Significance Overlay 2 (ES02)
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO)
- Urban Floodway Zone
- Public Acquisition Overlay (Vic Roads)

Other

- Creeks and Lakes
- Floodplains
- WSUD - Project Area
- Knox City Boundaries
- Precinct 4 Boundary





Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Landscape Values

The GARS Landscape and Character Study (Hansen Partnership, 2019) advises that the key landscape character of the Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds relates to the natural native vegetation corridor along the Dandenong Creek and the Bateman Street Bushland. The area has a modest profile suitable for future recreation activities and facilities if required.

The study identifies the following character areas (as shown on the map) and details key landscape values for each area:

No.	Description	Approach	Key Landscape Values
1	The Wantirna Road Cutting	Monitoring	Roadside vegetation aspect to nature
2	The Bateman Street Bushland	Management	native bushland condition
3	Dandenong Creek Floodplain	Monitor	open aspect and views
4	Dandenong Creek Riparian Corridor	Management	Riparian vegetation low lying valley conditions

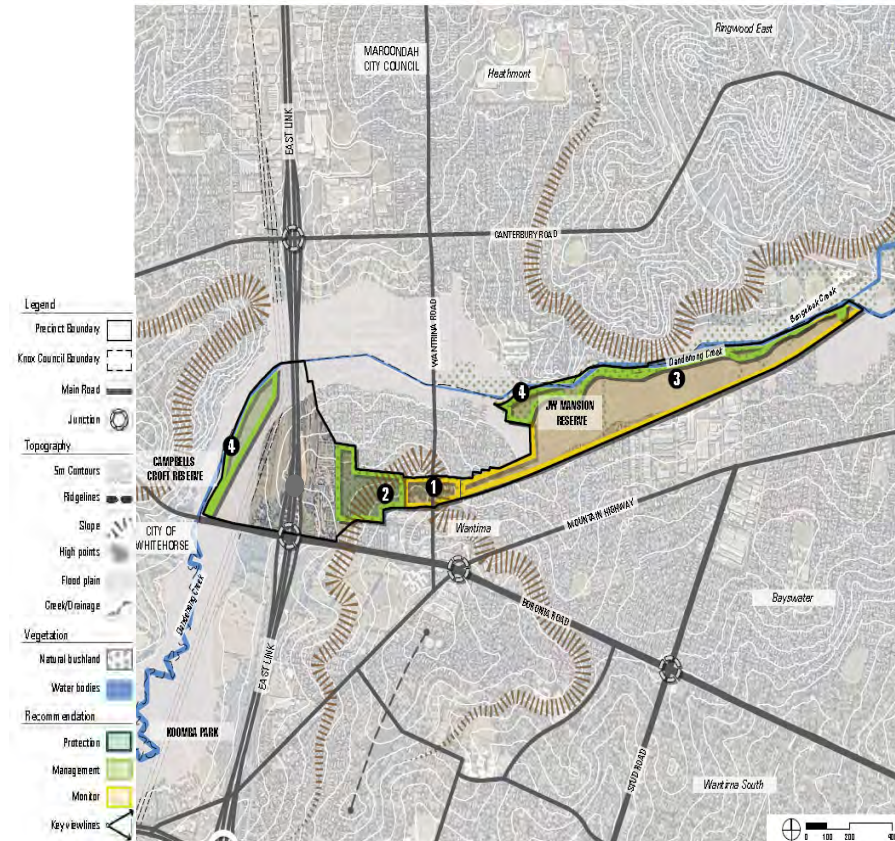
No landscape policies or overlays currently apply in Precinct 4. The Landscape Study confirms that “Protection” from a landscape perspective is not required in this precinct. It is considered that areas identified for “Management” coincide with areas of native vegetation which are recommended for protection for environmental reasons. The open areas are also identified for monitoring so that open views to the vegetated areas are maintained. It will be important to ensure any future development or road construction in this precinct is sensitive to this bushland character and where possible enhances the natural/leafy character of the area.

Objective:

To protect and enhance local character and landscape values.

Action 4.14. Review the Planning Scheme provisions for opportunities to reflect the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.

Action 4.15. Ensure future development responds to the character areas, celebrates the natural/leafy character of the precinct and provides opportunities for views to the vegetated areas.



Map 18 – Precinct 4 Landscape Assessment (Source: Hansen Partnerships)



Theme 2: Landscape and Heritage

Heritage

Precinct 4 contains areas of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity associated with Dandenong Creek and a number of sites of artefact scatter.

The precinct includes one Heritage Overlay (HO) item which covers several trees along Boronia Road. The *Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage (Context, 2017)* reviews the existing heritage sites within the precinct and provides recommendations for each place.

During the consultation for this strategy, submissions were received that suggested there are heritage values associated with the pines located between the northern end of Waldheim Road and the track off the end of Ricdanic Drive, with a history of being planted as a tribute to those who established the adjacent soccer field and the European settlers in the area. This matter is recommended to be investigated further as part of a future heritage assessment.

Objective:

To recognise, protect and promote existing heritage.

Action 4.17. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Places and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 4.18. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the Knox Rural Heritage Report (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.

Site Name and Description	Recommendations
HO Places	
HO50 Boronia Road Wantirna (west of EastLink) - Trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further investigation required to determine extent • Retain heritage and other overlays.



Map 19

Precinct 4 - Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds

Theme: Heritage

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

- Precinct Boundary
- Creeks and Lakes
- Heritage Overlay (HO)
- Areas of Cultural Heritage Sensitivity (Aboriginal Victoria)





Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Land Use and Economy

The Healesville Freeway corridor in Knox has been protected through a combination of Transport Zone – Schedule 2 (TRZ2) and Public Acquisition Overlay (PAO). A number of lots within the reservation and to the north of the reservation are owned by VicRoads. KCC also owns a number of properties in this precinct including the Bateman St Bushland.

Apart from its environmental values, Bateman Street Bushland provides excellent nature-based recreation and opportunities for the surrounding residential areas.

The creek and the trail network along it provide high quality recreational benefits. JW Manson Reserve contains sporting grounds that are owned and managed by the City of Maroondah. The facility is used by the community for recreation as well as a variety of community events. Parts of Manson Reserve which are used for open space are currently zoned Rural Living Zone.

Land fragmentation and lack of long term certainty has resulted in short term uses and the precinct is generally considered under-utilised. The current uses include a plant supply nursery, a golf driving range, community gardens and a number of horse agistment properties. Some of these represent interim uses as the land reserved for the road is leased by VicRoads to private operators. The golf driving range is subject to site specific controls incorporated into the Scheme to allow for the use.

Land use in this precinct is affected by significant constraints. Large areas of land are affected by the Dandenong Creek floodplain including the 1%AEP flood level. The entire site is also within the Declared Bushfire Prone Areas.

Overall, the *GARS Economic Study* (Urban Enterprise, 2019) provides the following evaluation of economic, tourism, community and recreation potential for Precinct 4:

Summary of Economic, Tourism, Community and Recreation Potential	
Suitability for agriculture intensification	Low
Suitability for agri- tourism	Low
Suitability for standalone tourism uses	Low
Suitability for community / social enterprise	Medium
Accessible to population catchments	High
Accessible by public transport	Medium
Accessible by bike/hiking/ walking	High

Suitability for Active Recreation	High
Suitability for other intensive industry	Low
Suitability for Passive Recreation	Medium

Future land use within this precinct depends largely upon the future of the Healesville Freeway reservation. It is noted that the western stretch of this reservation within the Whitehorse City Council was declared surplus, rezoned and is intended to be developed largely for open space purposes. To date, VicRoads plan is to maintain the reservation within Knox in case the freeway extension is required.

Should road construction go ahead, it is important that the road protects the amenity and functionality of the existing open space and recreational uses, and improves access and connectivity to these areas where possible.

In the event that the reservation be declared surplus, there will be opportunities for consolidation of the land parcels within this precinct and undertake comprehensive planning. The following matters could be provided for as part of comprehensive planning:

- **Open Space and recreation** - Knox faces a growing demand for open space, recreational and sport facilities, in particular as we have planned for densification across the municipality, including the implementation of the Housing Strategy and the delivery of activity centres such as Boronia and Bayswater. It would be crucial for Knox to maintain existing open space and also seek opportunities to expand and enhance them where possible. This corridor presents a unique opportunity to create a network of high quality active open space while maintaining the environmental values of the creek system.
- **Urban farm** - Due to good soils, the precinct offers opportunities for small scale urban agriculture.
- **Compatible Development**– Opportunities may be investigated for compatible development to be integrated with the open space, including café/restaurant uses or mixed use opportunities. The key constraint to development within this corridor is flooding. Stormwater investigation and consultation with Melbourne Water would be required to determine whether the stormwater can be mitigated, potentially through a water sensitive design approach across the entire precinct, and to determine if any areas within the corridor could be considered for potential development.
- **Connectivity** – Improved vehicular access and walking/cycling connectivity through the site as well as to the surrounding area.



Theme 3: Land Use and Access

Objective:

To ensure land uses are carefully located and managed to be consistent with the values and functions of the Study Area.

Action 4.19. Advocate for VicRoads to review the operation of the broader traffic network to determine whether the Healesville Freeway Reservation in Knox is required.

Road Scenario

Action 4.20. Ensure the new road alignment preserves the existing recreational values of the existing open space and trails.

No- Road Scenario

Action 4.21. Remove the PAO from Bateman Street Bushland and rezone to PCRZ for conservation purposes.

Action 4.22. Undertake comprehensive planning for the precinct to:

- a) Consolidate land with possible amalgamation and rationalisation of zoning along the reservation.
- b) Expand and upgrade the existing open space to create a high quality active and passive open space corridor.
- c) Improve vehicular access and walking/cycling connectivity, making the open space corridor more accessible the surrounding community.
- d) Investigate opportunities for compatible uses to be integrated with the open space, including café/restaurant or mixed use development, subject to flood mitigation investigations.
- e) Enhance the environmental values associated with the creek.
- f) Incorporate water into the design, through a water sensitive design approach with potential swales integrated with the open space.

Access and Connectivity (Map 23)

Precinct 4 is accessed via local roads coming off Wantirna Road and Mountain Highway. Access to the open spaces and trails within the precinct is very poor due to limited permeability through the leased properties along the reservation. The main access to Manson Reserve is via Selkirk Ave which runs through the residential area to the west

and then becomes a cul-de-sac. Proximity to main roads and trails provides great opportunities for access improvements in this precinct.

The Healesville Freeway extension, if constructed, provides opportunities for improved access. However, this corridor could also act as an urban barrier if not planned well.

The Dandenong Creek Valley Trail in Precinct 4 runs within the Knox side of the creek which provides strong opportunities for additional walking/cycling linkages with the surrounding recreational destinations. The State Government plans propose new on-road cycle lanes along Wantirna Road and a new shared path along the potential future Healesville Freeway.

Traffic projections for Wantirna Road suggest that it will need to be duplicated at some point in the future. However, the recently constructed bridge over the Dandenong Creek may prevent that.

Bus services currently run along Wantirna Road and Mountain Highway. The majority of the precinct is not within walking catchment of public transport.

Objective:

To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users.

Action 4.23. Support the walking and cycling connectivity proposals shown on the map.

Action 4.24. Support continuous shared trail connectivity and linkages to Dandenong Creek Trail and the Whitehorse section of Healesville Freeway Reserve.

Road Scenario

Action 4.25. Ensure the future Healesville Freeway extension does not present an urban barrier but rather facilitates improved access to Manson Reserve, the Dandenong Creek Trail and other recreational opportunities in the area.

No- Road Scenario

Action 4.26. Improve vehicular access to the open space as part of comprehensive planning, preferably through the industrial area on Mountain Highway to avoid traffic pressure on the residential streets to the west. Shared path connectivity is to be provided to this residential area as well as the Dandenong Creek Trail. Alternatively, a part of the Healesville Reservation can be used to create a new access road with a shared path connecting this area to Wantirna Road.



Map 20

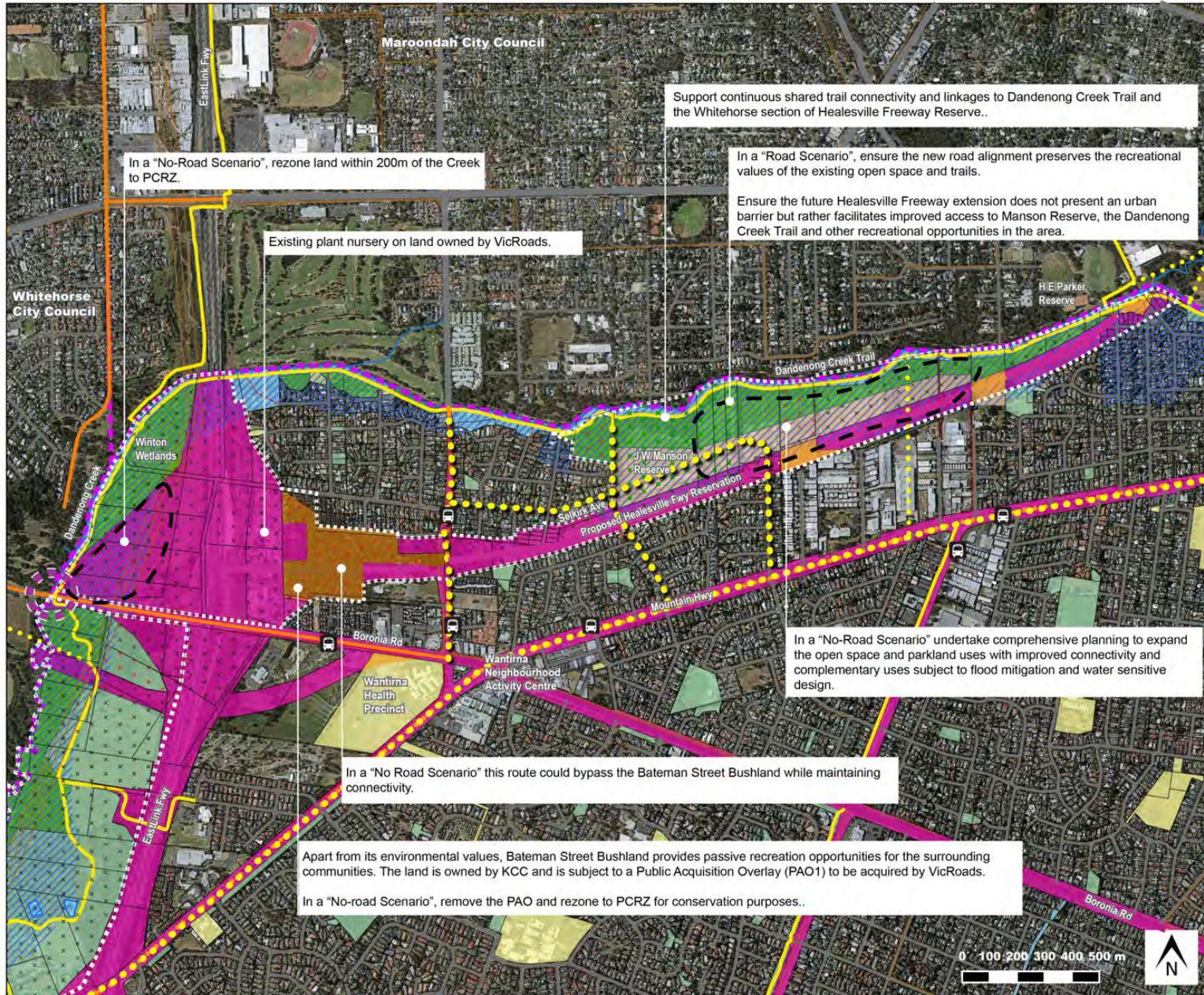
Precinct 4 - Healesville Freeway Reservation & Surrounds

Theme: Land Use & Access

Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy (GARS)

Legend

- Precinct Boundary
- LGA Boundaries
- Creeks and Lakes Areas
- Cadastre
- Zones - Knox Planning Scheme**
- PCRZ
- PPRZ
- TRZ2
- RLZ
- UFZ
- Scheme Overlays**
- Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO)
- Public Acquisition Overlay (Vic Roads)
- Land Ownership**
- Local Government
- Local Government Other
- State Government/Agencies
- Pedestrian/Bicycle Network**
- Existing On Road
- Existing Off Road
- Proposed Walking/Cycling Routes
- Knox Gateways





7. Implementation and review

Successful implementation will require effective monitoring, evaluation and review processes. KCC is responsible for the monitoring and evaluation of the actions identified within this Strategy.

Subject to Council adoption of the Strategy, an Implementation Plan will be prepared incorporating the actions identified within this document.

A large number of the actions included in GARS are related to planning. These actions will involve further planning investigations or planning scheme amendments to incorporate relevant recommendations of the strategy into the Knox Planning Scheme.

The strategy also includes actions outside the planning realm. Some of these will require delivery by other departments within Council or cross-departmental collaborations. Examples include Actions related to transport, open space, waterways or biodiversity enhancements.

It is also noted that some of the actions across the document are of an advocacy nature and can inform Council's position in relation to projects led by the State Government or neighbouring Councils. Examples include improvements to Lysterfield Park (managed by Parks Victoria) or proposed new shared path along arterial roads (Department of Transport and Planning).

Additionally, some actions may be longer term considering Council's work program and budget/resource availability. While budget constraints are acknowledged and may require prioritising of key actions in the short term, having a complete list of actions prepared for the study area means that Council is in a better position to progress actions in case internal resources or external opportunities for grants or partnerships arise.

The strategy is complemented by an Implementation Plan which provides more information about the delivery mechanisms and timeframes for all actions identified through the strategy.

The monitoring and evaluation process will allow the community, stakeholders and government agencies to have access to information about the progress of the management plan and increases KCC's credibility and accountability.

The Strategy will be reviewed every five years and updated as required.



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List of Abbreviations

AEP	Annual Exceedance Probability	Precinct 2a	Lysterfield Valley and Hills Precinct
AHD	Australian Height Datum	Precinct 2b	Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds Precinct
BMO	Bushfire Management Overlay	Precinct 3	Dandenong Creek Valley Precinct
CBD	Central Business District	Precinct 4	Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds Precinct
CRZ	Core Riparian Zone	PUZ	Public Use Zone
DTP	Department of Transport and Planning	PUZ6	Public Use Zone – Local Government
DRNP	Dandenong Ranges National Park	PUZ1	Public Use Zone – Service and Utility
EPA	Environment Protection Authority	RCZ1	Rural Conservation Zone (Schedule 1)
EPBC Act	Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	RCZ2	Rural Conservation Zone (Schedule 2)
ESO	Environmental Significance Overlay	RLZ	Rural Living Zone
ESO1	Environmental Significance Overlay (Schedule 1)	RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
ESO2	Environmental Significance Overlay (Schedule 2)	SBO	Special Building Overlay
ESO3	Environmental Significance Overlay (Schedule 3)	SBO1	Special Building Overlay (Schedule 1)
ESO4	Environmental Significance Overlay (Schedule 4)	SBO2	Special Building Overlay (Schedule 2)
EVC	Ecological Vegetation Class	SLO	Significant Landscape Overlay
FO	Floodway Overlay	SLO1	Significant Landscape Overlay (Schedule 1)
FZ	Farming Zone	SLO4	Significant Landscape Overlay (Schedule 4)
GARS	Knox Green Areas & Rural Strategy	SLO5	Significant Landscape Overlay (Schedule 5)
GW	Green Wedge	SUZ1	Special Use Zone (Schedule 1)
GWMP	Green Wedge Management Plans	SUZ2	Special Use Zone (Schedule 2)
GWZ1	Green Wedge Zone (Schedule 1)	TRZ2	Transport Zone (Schedule 2)
GWZ2	Green Wedge Zone (Schedule 2)	TRZ3	Transport Zone (Schedule 3)
HO	Heritage Overlay	The Scheme	The Knox Planning Scheme
KCC	Knox City Council	UFZ	Urban Floodway Zone
LGA	Local Government Area	UGB	Urban Growth Boundary
LSIO	Land Subject to Inundation Overlay	VPO	Vegetation Protection Overlay
MPS	Municipal Planning Strategy	VPO2	Vegetation Protection Overlay (Schedule 2)
MSS	Municipal Strategic Statement	WSUD	Water Sensitive Urban Design
MW	Melbourne Water		
PAO1	Public Acquisition Overlay (Schedule 1)		
PAO2	Public Acquisition Overlay (Schedule 2)		
PBN	Principal Bicycle Network		
PCRZ	Public Conservation and Resource Zone		
PPF	Planning Policy Framework		
PPRZ	Public Parks and Recreation Zone		
Precinct 1	The Basin Rural Landscape Precinct		



Appendix 1 - Wildlife Barrier Locations and Recommendations

Precinct 1: The Basin Rural Landscape Precinct

Site Name and Map ID	Structure type, purpose and dimensions (H x W x L)	Assessment and recommendations	Site Images
Dandenong Creek and Liverpool Rd ID #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 concrete box culvert • 3m x 3m x 16m • For creek flow • Natural substrate(?) • Tree gap ~30m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely barrier to some focal bird species due to traffic volume • Replace culvert with open span bridge • No dry passage – add shelf • Plant trees between Dobson Ln and Liverpool Rd or install rope bridge over Liverpool Rd 	
Dandenong Creek and Dobson Ln ID #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 concrete box culvert • 3m x 3m x 5m • For creek flow • Natural substrate • Tree gap ~20m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low traffic volume service road adjacent to Liverpool Rd • Unlikely a barrier to wildlife movement due to narrow road and low traffic volume • Plant trees between Dobson Ln and Liverpool Rd or install rope bridge over Dobson Ln • Replace culvert with open span bridge • No dry passage – add shelf 	



Precinct 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills

Site Name and Map ID	Structure type, purpose and dimensions (H x W x L)	Assessment and recommendations	Site Images
Monbulk Creek and Blackwood Park Dr ID #19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 open span bridge for pedestrians • 1 open span bridge for traffic • Pedestrian bridge 2m x 5m x 3m • Traffic bridge 2m x 5m x 5m • Both bridges for creek flow • Natural substrate • Tree gap ~10m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road bridge is currently single lane only, likely to be widened in near future • If widening occurs, ensure open span bridge with maximum height and allow for flat embankment on both sides of creek channel • Not a barrier for gliders or turtles • Possibly a barrier for focal bird species due to traffic volume, but gap size small so less of a concern • Likely a barrier for wallabies due to narrow channel, lack of flat embankment and road bridge filled with water 	



<p>Monbulk Creek and Napoleon Rd ID #20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open span bridge • 4m x 12m x 15m • Natural substrate • For creek flow • Tree gap ~40m • No flat embankment on either side of creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely a barrier to focal birds due to narrow road and dense shrub growth in river channel • Possible barrier to gliders • Install rope bridge, but powerlines on one side of Napoleon Rd is a complication • Re-contour embankments under bridge to create some flat space on one or both sides of creek 	
<p>Monbulk Creek and Lysterfield Rd ID #21</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open span bridge • 2m x 6m x 16m • For creek flow • Natural substrate • Tree gap ~4m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a complete barrier to any focal species • Might hinder movement of focal bird species due to relatively high traffic volume 	



<p>Monbulk Creek and Dorset Rd extension ID#40</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An easement exists for an extension of Dorset Rd to the south of Burwood Hwy, currently used as informal open space • The Dorset Rd extension will traverse Monbulk Creek near Napoleon Rd, potentially disrupting movement along the creek 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the crossing of Monbulk Creek takes into account the natural values of the adjacent area and enhances both the quality of habitat and the landscape connectivity for wildlife. Special consideration should be given for platypus as there are recent records in this area • The easement for the Dorset Rd extension should also encompass recreational and conservation uses (see Appendix 8) 	
<p>Dorset Rd extension and drainage channel ID#41 and Lysterfield Rd ID#42</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An easement exists for an extension of Dorset Rd to the south of Burwood Hwy. • The easement for Dorset Rd runs through private property to the south-east of Blackwood Park Drive • The drainage channel is a small drain to the south east of Napoleon Rd, within private property, and the Dorset Rd extension encompasses this drainage channel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the function, flow and quality of the channel by returning it to a natural stream, with bends and floodplains • The easement for the Dorset Rd extension should also encompass recreational and conservation uses (see Appendix 8) 	



Precinct 2b: Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds

Site Name and Map ID	Structure type, purpose and dimensions (H x W x L)	Assessment and recommendations	Site Images
Nil			

Precinct 3: Dandenong Creek Valley

Site Name and Map ID	Structure type, purpose and dimensions (H x W x L)	Assessment and recommendations	Site Images
Dandenong Creek and Boronia Rd ID #9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two open span bridges, separated by 2m • Each structure 12m wide • For creek flow and pedestrians • Pedestrian section 4m x 2.5m x 12m • Creek flow section 4m x 13m x 12m • Tree gap size ~ 60m • Pedestrian section with concrete base • Creek flow section with large rocks in creek and concrete abutment. • Pedestrian path fenced from creek-flow section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrier to gliders • No issues for turtles or birds • Lack of natural stream bank a limitation for terrestrial species • Reduce weed cover and revegetate • Plant trees in median of Boronia Rd and on verges of both bridges • Install rope bridge above Boronia Rd 	



<p>Dandenong Creek and Burwood Hwy ID #10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two open span bridges, separated by 12m • Each bridge 2.5m x 40m x 15m • For creek flow and pedestrians • Pedestrian path fenced from creek-flow section • Centre channel for creek has concrete base • Flood zones either side of creek channel with natural substrate • Dense reeds and shrubs on both approaches • Tree gap size ~ 60m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely a barrier to most focal species, except gliders • Plant trees between bridge structures and within median of Burwood Hwy • Lots of cat, dog and fox prints in mud under bridges, including rat footprints (possibly water rat?) • Install rope bridge above bridges over Burwood Hwy 	
<p>Dandenong Creek and High Street Rd ID #11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 open span bridges, separated by 2m • Each bridge 2.5m x 30 m x 15 m • For creek flow and pedestrians • Natural substrate for section with creek flow • Pedestrian path with concrete substrate • Pedestrian path fenced from creek-flow section • Tree gap ~40m • For pedestrians and creek flow 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlikely a barrier to birds given dense reeds and understorey • Possibly a barrier for gliders, given gap size and relative height of trees and bridge structure • Not an issue for turtles • Replace weed cover with native shrubs and grasses • Plant trees between within median and possibly between bridge structures if sufficient space • Consider installing rope bridge above High Street Rd • Install furniture (logs, rocks etc) under bridge structures to provide shelter for small vertebrates 	



<p>Dandenong Creek and Ferntree Gully Rd ID #12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 open span bridges, separated by 4m • Each bridge 2.5m x 40m x 15m • For creek flow and pedestrians • Pedestrian path has concrete substrate • Pedestrian path fenced from creek-flow section • Natural substrate for section with creek flow • Tree gap ~50m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely a barrier for glider movement due to gap size and low relative height of trees above bridge height • Unlikely a barrier for other species – lots of fox and cat prints in mud under bridge • Plant trees within median of Ferntree Gully Rd • Plant trees between bridge structures • Install rope bridge above creek • Install furniture (logs, rocks etc) under bridge structures to provide shelter for small vertebrates 	
<p>Dandenong Creek and Wellington Rd ID #13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 open span bridges, separated by 3m • Each bridge 3.5m x 45m x 15m • 1 concrete pipe culvert, 2m diameter x 50m • Substrate under bridge is concrete, but with soil and grass growth covering much of it • Bridge for high-flow events and pedestrians • Pedestrian path fenced from creek-flow section • Culvert takes regular creek flow • Tree gap ~70m • Powerlines on south side of Wellington Rd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrier to gliders • Unlikely an issue for other species, but approaches to bridge structure quite open and will limit use by small birds • Replace concrete base with natural substrate • Plant trees in median of Wellington Rd • Plant trees and shrubs on both approaches to bridge structure • Install rope bridge over Wellington Rd • Install furniture (logs, rocks etc) under bridge structures to provide shelter for small vertebrates 	



<p>Blind Creek and EastLink ID #26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 multi-span bridges for EastLink separated by 7m • 3 pipe culverts for bike path adjacent to EastLink • Bridges 2.4m x 40m x 28 m • Culverts 1.5m x 6m • Bridges for creek flow and pedestrians • Culvert for creek flow • Tree gap > 100m • Natural substrate for creek under EastLink and concrete for pedestrian path • Culvert has metal substrate • Pedestrian path is fenced from creek section • Wire mesh fence along bike path will limit wildlife movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-span bridges have large open spaces underneath • Definitely a barrier to gliders • May limit movement from focal birds due to large open spaces under bridges, but not a complete barrier • Install rope bridge underneath EastLink • Install furniture (e.g. logs, rocks etc) to provide cover for wildlife • Plant trees and shrubs on both approaches and between multi-span bridges and between EastLink bridges and bike path • Replace wire mesh fence with more open-style barrier to allow wallaby movement, if occurring in area 	
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Precinct 4: Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds

Site Name and Map ID	Structure type, purpose and dimensions (H x W x L)	Assessment and recommendations	Site Images
<p>Dandenong Creek and Wantirna Rd ID #7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open span bridge • 4m x 20m x 13m • For pedestrians and creek flow • Pedestrian path fenced from creek-flow section • Tree canopy gap ~30m, with powerlines on west side 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor barrier to most species • Undertake revegetation on both sides to improve approaches • Replace concrete base with natural substrate • Plant trees on west side of Wantirna Rd 	



<p>Dandenong Creek and EastLink (North), Wantirna ID #8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two open span bridges, separated by ~10m • 3m x 60 m x 18m • Natural substrate under bridges • For creek flow and pedestrians • Pedestrian path is not fenced from creek-flow section • Tree gap size > 100m 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete barrier to gliders • No issues for turtles • Minor barrier to other focal species due to lack of vegetation on approaches to underpass • Protect small tree growing between the two structures • Plant trees and shrubs on both sides of EastLink and between both structures • When trees sufficiently tall, install rope bridge under or over EastLink • Place 'furniture' (i.e. logs, tree stumps, rock etc) under bridges to provide cover for small animals 	
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Appendix 2 – Summary of Actions

Actions for all precincts

Action 1. Investigate options to incorporate relevant recommendations from the Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report (Ecology and Infrastructure International et al., 2017) into the Knox Planning Scheme, including the following recommendations:

- a) Ensuring the connectivity elements and important habitats are considered in the review of planning applications and strategic planning decisions.
- b) Applying appropriate buffers along the waterways including the Dandenong Creek, Dobsons Creek, Monbulk Creek and Blind Creek to the extent of the Study Area.
- c) Mandating an ecologically sensitive development approach to new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges) within high ecological value buffer zones.
- d) Encourage habitat restoration and revegetation within 300m buffer zones to existing areas of native vegetation, in areas that do not increase bushfire risk to existing settlements.

The above action might entail new policy or overlay provisions and making the Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report a reference document in the Scheme, subject to further planning investigation.

Action 2. Investigate the need for further guidelines to facilitate Ecologically Sensitive Design for new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges).

Action 3. Advocate for wildlife linkages to continue outside the Study Area, in accordance with the recommendations of the Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report (Ecology and Infrastructure International et al., 2017).

Action 4. Continue collaboration with other councils and the state government regarding pest management and pollution control.

Action 5. Continue to support and grow community partnerships and initiatives including the Gardens for Wildlife program.

Action 6. Undertake a tree canopy mapping and monitoring project for Knox to:

- a) Map the existing tree canopy and vegetation cover broken down by height and surface cover types.
- b) Investigate setting of measurable tree canopy cover targets including sub-targets for public land (parks, streets) and private property.
- c) Define actions to achieve the canopy targets.
- d) Establish a program for regular monitoring of vegetation cover and control progress against the established targets.
- e) Facilitate enforcement in cases of unlawful tree removal.

Action 7. Undertake a review of the Vegetation Protection Overlays (VPOs) to correct the existing anomalies and identify opportunities for additional trees to be protected by the overlay.

Action 9. Following the completion of the flood mapping project by KCC and Melbourne Water (MW), undertake a Scheme amendment to update overlays to areas affected by the 1% AEP (1:100yr ARI) flood level

Action 10. Provide greater guidance in the Planning Scheme to limit the extent of impervious surface including guidance for car parking areas in the Study Area.



- Action 11.** Continue to collaborate with stakeholders on regional and multi-agency initiatives that improve the waterways and catchments, including the Living Links and the Enhancing our Dandenong Creek projects.
- Action 12.** Undertake a review of the existing Planning Scheme provisions to recognise the character and protect landscape values in the Study Area, in line with the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.
- Action 13.** Undertake a comprehensive review of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage across the Knox municipality, taking into consideration the specific recommendations in this report and the *Preliminary Heritage review: Knox Rural Heritage (Context, 2017)*.
- Action 14.** Avoid any changes to the Urban Growth Boundary in Precincts 1, 2a and 2b.
- Action 15.** Investigate Planning Scheme options to provide local strategic direction for Knox Green Wedge land in line with the recommendations of this Strategy for Precincts 1, 2a and 2b.
- Action 16.** Clarify, through strategic directions in the Planning Scheme, that a transitional buffer approach to the Green Wedge interface is not intended, and that a place-based, value-based approach to assessment is required.
- Action 17.** Investigate Planning Scheme options to provide strategic direction for agriculture and agricultural land in Knox.
- Action 18.** Investigate initiatives and incentives, such as rate exemptions, to help protect agricultural production and improve land management practices.
- Action 19.** Investigate the potential for Carbon Farming and climate friendly agricultural practices including regenerative agriculture.
- Action 20.** Support the provision of public art in the Study Area including at the locations identified, subject to detailed assessment.
- Action 21.** Advocate for the construction of proposed shared paths and cycle lanes identified in this strategy.

[Precinct 1](#)

- Action 1.1.** Review the planning framework to
- ensure the protection of native vegetation and habitat is prioritised in Precinct 1
 - recognise the role of Dandenong and Dobsons Creeks in wildlife connectivity
 - ensure bushfire risk and management in BMO affected areas is considered from early stages of any development proposal, such as pre-application stage, and proposals that require vegetation removal to comply with the bushfire requirements are not supported.
- Action 1.2.** Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at the following sites in accordance with the recommendations in Appendix 1:
- Action 1.3.** Investigate mechanisms to support private landowners to improve maintenance and weed control including of Sugarloaf Hill.
- Action 1.4.** The planning framework to acknowledge that Precinct 1 is in the high value catchment of the Dobsons Creek.
- Action 1.5.** Investigate options to incorporate WSUD measures as part of new development in the Dobsons Creek catchment.
- Action 1.6.** Support a WSUD approach to public works and infrastructure including the construction or upgrade of roads within this precinct.
- Action 1.7.** Ensure the Dobsons/Dandenong Creek floodplain is protected from development and level change.



Action 1.9. Undertake a review of the existing Planning Scheme provisions to better recognise and protect landscape values, in line with the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.

Action 1.10. Discourage fragmentation of land within the Dobsons Creek floodplain character area.

Action 1.11. Investigate opportunities for weed management and removal of shrub, to open up foothill views, particularly those on public owned land.

Action 1.12. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 1.13. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the *Knox Rural Heritage Report* (Context, 2017), as summarised below.

Action 1.14. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 1.

Action 1.15. Ensure future land use and development complements the precinct's primary environmental and landscape values, including environmental conservation, agriculture, agribusiness, art and culture, with complementary small scale tourism-related purposes.

Action 1.16. Protect the Dobsons Creek valley, as a significant landscape with capable agricultural land, from inappropriate development and use that would compromise these values.

Action 1.17. Maintain the existing residential settlement character and prevent further intensification and vegetation loss. Consider bushfire risks and vegetation impacts early in the planning process and do not support proposals that rely on vegetation removal including for fire management or car parking.

Action 1.18. Maintain the current minimum subdivision sizes in Precinct 1 and prevent fragmentation of land.

Action 1.19. Support enhancements to amenity, scenic qualities and recreational values.

Action 1.20. Facilitate enhancements to The Basin Neighbourhood Activity Centre, through a potential master planning process, to

- strengthen and diversify commercial land use within the existing commercial zones to the south of the roundabout;
- protect and maximise public access to open range views to the north of the roundabout;
- revitalise and enhance the public realm and local character; and
- support and facilitate public art to complement the local character.

Action 1.21. For the larger rural properties within the central and western part of the precinct (GWZ2 and SUZ1), support discretionary uses (i.e. Section 2 uses) that are for tourism, agri-tourism, educational and commercial purposes, where proposals are sited and designed sensitively to protect and enhance the environmental, agriculture and landscape values of this precinct, and do not increase bushfire risk.

Action 1.22. Investigate opportunities to establish parkland to the north of The Basin Triangle roundabout to protect long range views from this location and provide additional passive recreation opportunities.

Action 1.23. In case of future changes to the SUZ1 zoning, support alignment with the VPP Green Wedge objectives and use permissibility, while preventing urban development and land fragmentation.

Action 1.24. Investigate upgrades to the Sheffield Road/Doongalla Road route to:

- a) Provide a safe multi-user path for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders.



- b) Potentially reduce traffic speeds.
- c) Provide signs regarding horse manure catcher and cleaning up after dogs.

Action 1.25. Investigate upgrades to the Liverpool Road to:

- a) Provide a shared path.
- b) Facilitate improved pedestrian movement around the Mountain Highway intersection to ensure safe connectivity to The Basin Primary School.

Action 1.26. Advocate for improved pedestrian safety on Mountain Highway and Basin-Olinda Road near The Basin roundabout.

Precinct 2a

Action 2a.1. Support enhancements to the riparian corridor of Monbulk Creek and strengthen habitat values and connectivity within 200m of the creek.

Action 2a.2. Review the existing ESO over Monbulk Creek to ensure it properly covers the environmentally significant areas, in consultation with Melbourne Water to identify the Core Riparian Zone (CRZ) and the adjacent vegetation buffers.

Action 2a.3. Should the proposed Dorset Road Extension be required, advocate for a concept of a multi-modal road/pedestrian and nature conservation corridor that supports both wildlife and human connectivity and contributes to habitat restoration within 200m of Monbulk Creek.

Action 2a.4. Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at the following sites in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.

Action 2a.5. Undertake initiatives for supporting/partnering with rural land-holders to protect and enhance the ecological values including the riparian vegetation, and ensuring grazing practices do not damage habitat values.

Action 2a.6. Protect the floodplains of Monbulk Creek from development and level change to maintain their flood storage and retention values and prevent flooding downstream.

Action 2a.7. Should the proposed Dorset Road extension proceed, advocate for the design to consider flooding from Monbulk Creek and apply a water sensitive design approach to maximise the natural flow and retention of water.

Action 2a.8. Review the Floodway Overlay over Monbulk Creek to ensure it serves a purpose and covers the correct area.

Action 2a.9. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS, PPF and SLO1 in light of the findings of the *GARS Landscape and Character Study* (Hansen Partnership, 2019).

Action 2a.10. Should the proposed Dorset Road extension be required, advocate for a design that respects the landscape character, and celebrates and emphasises the key views and the open rural character of the valley.

Action 2a.11. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 2a.12. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the *Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage* (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.

Action 2a.13. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 2a.

Action 2a.14. Maintain the current zoning regime.



Action 2a.15. Support the continuation of agriculture within the floodplains of Monbulk Creek.

Action 2a.16. Acknowledge and support the different role of each zone within this precinct to enable a diversity of rural economy and character.

Action 2a.17. Maintain the current minimum subdivision lot size requirements to support landscape values and agricultural potential of land.

Action 2a.18. Support land use which respects the existing landscape character, protect key viewlines and provides positive biodiversity outcomes.

Action 2a.19. Support tourism, agri-tourism and restaurant/café uses where they are accompanied by agriculture or natural systems and protect the landscape and character values.

Action 2a.20. Support and facilitate public art along the proposed Dorset Road extension within the Monbulk Creek valley in Precinct 2a.

Action 2a.21. Advocate to the State Government to provide cycle lanes along Wellington Road, Kelletts Road and Napoleon Road.

Precinct 2b

Action 2b.1. Maintain the northern area within Precinct 2b as a low density, rural, open space area to create a buffer between the Rowville residential areas and the sensitive habitat in Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park.

Action 2b.2. Maintain the current Urban Growth Boundary within Precinct 2b.

Action 2b.3. Undertake planting and revegetation within Precinct 2b, with the objective of maintaining and strengthening wildlife connectivity and linkages to the bushland areas within Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park.

Action 2b.4. Require a net gain contribution for any vegetation removal as part of the planned quarry expansion, by native vegetation planting to enhance habitat and wildlife connectivity.

Action 2b.5. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS, PPF and SLO1 and SLO5 in light of the findings of the *GARS Landscape and Character Study* (Hansen Partnership, 2019).

Action 2b.6. Ensure future changes on Hanson Quarry land do not adversely impact the key landscape values.

Action 2b.7. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 2b.8. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the *Knox Rural Heritage Report* (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.

Action 2b.9. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 2b.

Action 2b.10. Acknowledge the ongoing operation of the Boral and Hansen Quarries within the approved work plan areas.

Action 2b.11. Investigate and support the use of the northern part of the Hanson quarry land for active recreation and sporting facilities.

Action 2b.12. Encourage the use of the quarry land following the completion of quarrying to provide for improved community and environmental outcomes, and facilitate permeability to enhance community access to the national parks.

Action 2b.13. Investigate general alignment with the Green Wedge Zone 2, in case of future rezoning of the northern part of the precinct, to provide a low intensity buffer to the national parks.



Action 2b.14. Collaborate with Parks Victoria regarding enhancements to nature based recreation and tourism opportunities within Lysterfield Park and improving access from Knox.

Action 2b.15. Support and facilitate public art along Wellington Road potentially as part of future planned ovals/recreation reserve.

Action 2b.16. Provide connectivity between the Lysterfield Park trail network and the suburban areas, as part of future redevelopment of the quarries.

Action 2b.17. Investigate opportunities for upgrades to Cornish Road and the possibility of a formalised entry point, including car parking, to provide access to Lysterfield Park, in collaboration with Parks Victoria.

Action 2b.18. Facilitate improvements to Powells Road to address existing informal car parking issues.

Precinct 3

Action 3.1. Acknowledge the significant role of this precinct in providing wildlife habitat and connectivity at a regional scale which is due to the integrity of existing native vegetation and the creek corridors.

Action 3.2. Continue the application of ESO2 across the precinct and review the local content to strengthen the provisions in accordance with the recommendations of this Strategy.

Action 3.3. Support rezoning to ensure the Dandenong Creek corridor is protected for conservation purposes, in consultation with stakeholders, including at 115-123 Axford Road, Wantirna South.

Action 3.4. Encourage reestablishment of the riparian vegetation and habitat as part of any future redevelopment at 1A Burwood Highway, Wantirna.

Action 3.5. Provide for habitat restoration and connectivity along the Dandenong Creek, and along Blind Creek as part of future development of the Boral Quarry site.

Action 3.6. Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at the sites indicated on the map in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.

Action 3.7. Investigate and rectify the identified zoning anomalies along the Dandenong Creek corridor.

Action 3.8. Advocate for enhancements within this precinct to continue along the creek corridor south of Wellington Road.

Action 3.9. Protect the floodplains and wetlands in Precinct 3 for their flood storage and retention values.

Action 3.10. Continue the KCC/MW/Parks Victoria collaboration to improve waterway health and sediment control in Precinct 3.

Action 3.11. Future redevelopment of the Boral quarry site is to ensure that stormwater impacts are minimised and managed to the satisfaction of the relevant agencies.

Action 3.12. Naturalise the Blind Creek and enhance its condition as a natural waterway corridor as part of the future development of the Boral quarry site.

Action 3.13. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS and PPF in light of the findings of the *GARS Landscape and Character Study*. New strategic policy direction for landscape values of the precinct and a new SLO are to be investigated.

Action 3.14. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 3.15. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the *Knox Rural Heritage Report* (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.

Action 3.16. Acknowledge the important role of the Dandenong Creek Valley Parkland as a significant green corridor within the eastern region.

Action 3.17. Support the following opportunities for the Dandenong Creek Valley parklands:



- a) Enhancements to open space to enable more active and passive recreational use.
- b) Tourism, agri-tourism, urban agriculture and cafes.
- c) Community partnerships with opportunities for KCC to connect community businesses and commercial partners with Parks Victoria.
- d) Education opportunities such as nature-based education.
- e) Cycling-oriented activities/businesses along the bike routes, support opportunities for such as bike shops, storage, organic trails and food trails.
- f) Urban agriculture models such as city farms/community gardens, community nurseries and plant exchanges, edible landscapes, food forests, indigenous food production, institutional and demonstration gardens and restaurant gardens (refer case study of CERES in the *GARS Economic Study*).

Action 3.18. Define High Street Road corridor as a Gateway to Knox. Protect the rural, horticultural character of this corridor and seek opportunities to enhance its aesthetics through landscaping, building design and public art which reflect its horticultural history and bush boulevard character.

Action 3.19. Future redevelopment of the Boral Quarry site to:

- a) Provide for the revegetation and naturalisation of Blink Creek to reestablish its function as an ecological corridor.
- b) Protect and enhance the habitat values of the Dandenong Creek ecological corridor.
- c) Provide for passive and nature based recreation in appropriate areas.

Action 3.20. Support complementary uses in proximity to the Knox Regional Sports Park including allied health and sports medicine.

Action 3.21. Investigate the area within Koomba Park which is zoned for road purposes for potential rezoning and inclusion in the park.

Action 3.22. Investigate parkland lots that are not zoned PPRZ for potential rezoning, in consultation with DTP and Parks Victoria.

Action 3.23. Advocate for further improvements to Nortons Park by Parks Victoria.

Action 3.24. Investigate opportunities for renewable energy production (solar park) at the Cathies Lane landfill site, while preventing any adverse impact on any existing or planned residential areas.

Action 3.25. Support and fund public art along the High Street Road and Burwood Highway to enhance amenity and sense of place consistent with the local character.

Action 3.26. Advocate for and support the on-road and off-road cycling proposals shown on the map.

Action 3.27. Advocate for a shared path along High Street Road connecting with the EastLink Trail with the Dandenong Creek Trail.

Action 3.28. Seek opportunities to improve access and connectivity through the area between High Street road and Burwood Highway, in a collaborative process involving Parks Victoria and Knox and Whitehorse City Councils.

Action 3.29. The Boral redevelopment site to provide for shared path connectivity through the site connecting with the surrounding trails, including along the Blind Creek linking to Jells Park.

Action 3.30. Support the provision of public transport to the Boral redevelopment site and ensure the road network are designed to facilitate bus movement.

Action 3.31. Improve access to Knox Regional Sports Park.



Action 3.32. Support shared path connectivity across Eastlink to Kingston Links.

Precinct 4

Action 4.1. Continue the application of ESO2 in Precinct 4 to protect native vegetation and habitat values.

Action 4.2. Acknowledge the role of the Dandenong Creek corridor and previous investments in bushland restoration along the creek in wildlife connectivity within the broader region.

Action 4.3. Prohibit development within the Melbourne Water's Core Riparian Zone (CRZ) and the adjacent vegetation buffers.

Action 4.4. Investigate mechanisms to achieve an ecologically sensitive development approach to new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges) across the precinct.

Action 4.5. Reduce the wildlife barrier effects of EastLink over the Dandenong Creek corridor in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.

Action 4.6. Review the VPO in Precinct 4 to ensure it covers all the intended vegetation.

Road Scenario

___ **Action 4.7.** Advocate for an underpass design to protect Bateman Street bushland.

___ **Action 4.8.** Minimise the risk of exposure of wildlife to vehicular traffic from the future freeway through adequate buffer areas.

___ **Action 4.9.** Design and construction in proximity to Winton Wetlands should be sensitive to the ecological values of this wetland and minimise wildlife exposure to works or traffic.

No-Road Scenario

___ **Action 4.10.** Protect the Bateman Street Bushland and other Sites of Biological Significance and enhance their environmental and passive recreation values.

___ **Action 4.11.** Support future uses of the reservation corridor that can protect and enhance the ecological values.

___ **Action 4.12.** Investigate the Transport Zoned land in the vicinity of Winton Wetlands which is within 200m of the Creek for possible rezoning to PCRZ to protect habitat values and facilitate revegetation.

Action 4.13. Any development or the addition of impervious surfaces in the flood affected area (1% AEP level) needs to be accompanied by adequate studies and plans to demonstrate how flooding can be managed in particular through WSUD measures.

Action 4.14. Review the Planning Scheme provisions for opportunities to reflect the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.

Action 4.15. Ensure future development responds to the character areas, celebrates the natural/leafy character of the precinct and provides opportunities for views to the vegetated areas.

Action 4.17. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Places and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.

Action 4.18. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the Knox Rural Heritage Report (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.



Action 4.19. Advocate for VicRoads to review the operation of the broader traffic network to determine whether the Healesville Freeway Reservation in Knox is required.

Road Scenario

___ **Action 4.20.** Ensure the new road alignment preserves the existing recreational values of the existing open space and trails.

No-Road Scenario

___ **Action 4.21.** Remove the PAO from Bateman Street Bushland and rezone to PCRZ for conservation purposes.

___ **Action 4.22.** Undertake comprehensive planning for the precinct to:

- a) Consolidate land with possible amalgamation and rationalisation of zoning along the reservation.
- b) Expand and upgrade the existing open space to create a high quality active and passive open space corridor.
- c) Improve vehicular access and walking/cycling connectivity, making the open space corridor more accessible the surrounding community.
- d) Investigate opportunities for compatible uses to be integrated with the open space, including café/restaurant or mixed use development, subject to flood mitigation investigations.
- e) Enhance the environmental values associated with the creek.
- f) Incorporate water into the design, through a water sensitive design approach with potential swales integrated with the open space.

Action 4.23. Support the walking and cycling connectivity proposals shown on the map.

Action 4.24. Support continuous shared trail connectivity and linkages to Dandenong Creek Trail and the Whitehorse section of Healesville Freeway Reserve.

Road Scenario

___ **Action 4.25.** Ensure the future Healesville Freeway extension does not present an urban barrier but rather facilitates improved access to Manson Reserve, the Dandenong Creek Trail and other recreational opportunities in the area.

No-Road Scenario

___ **Action 4.26.** Improve vehicular access to the open space as part of comprehensive planning, preferably through the industrial area on Mountain Highway to avoid traffic pressure on the residential streets to the west. Shared path connectivity is to be provided to this residential area as well as the Dandenong Creek Trail. Alternatively, a part of the Healesville Reservation can be used to create a new access road with a shared path connecting this area to Wantirna Road.



Written Submissions Analysis Table – Knox Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS)

Common Issues Raised in Submissions:

Issue A

A commonly raised issue in the submissions related to potential sale and redevelopment of the land parcels in The Basin to the north of The Basin-Olinda Road roundabout, known as the Salvation Army Farm.

Officer response

The subject land is located at 1267 Mountain Highway Boronia and 11 and 49 Basin-Olinda Road, The Basin and falls within Precinct 1 of draft GARS.

The level of concerns received during the GARS consultation was following to an Expression of Interest (EoI) ad placed in the paper regarding this site during the consultation period for draft GARS. Council had no involvement or prior notice of the EoI referred to in the submissions. Property owners have a right to list their properties for sale at any time and Council is not involved in that process.

The subject site is located outside the Urban Growth Boundary and is part of Green Wedge land where urban development is restricted. The Knox Planning Scheme currently includes a number of provisions that seek to protect the environmental and landscape values of this site. The draft GARS provides additional information and seeks to strengthen these protections as detailed in Actions across the document.

Should the owners or future purchasers seek to bring this area into the Urban Growth Boundary or change the zoning to increase the subdivision potential beyond what is currently permissible, this would not only require a full planning scheme amendment process, but also requires majority support of both houses of the Victorian Parliament. As of the date of drafting this report, Council has not received any rezoning or development proposals for this site.

Some of the submissions also express disappointment that they were not able to receive information from officers at the consultation sessions for GARS about the development proposal by the Salvation Army and the intent behind the EoI. In this respect, it is reiterated that Council had no involvement in the EoI and had not received any applications to develop or rezone this site. Existing Council policy and planning controls do not allow this site to be developed/subdivided for urban scale residential development and this message was clearly communicated during the consultation. The draft GARS seeks to maintain and strengthen this position.

Community members were advised of the above matters during the consultation.

Issue B

A few submissions raise concerns about the potential development of a CFA fire station on the Salvation Army site in The Basin (GARS Precinct 1) and enquire why Council is not providing information to residents about sites being considered.

Officer response

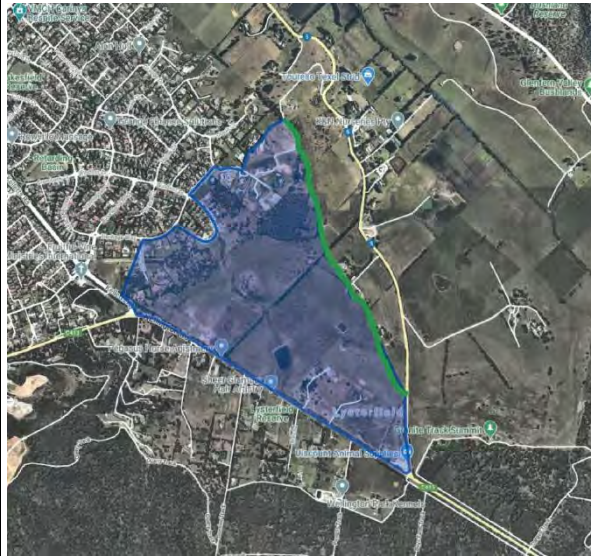
Council has not received any permit applications for a CFA facility on this site. However, it should be noted that the State Government has significant powers in relation to the development of emergency services facilities in Victoria and these developments may be approved by the Minister for Planning without a need for a planning permit from local Councils. Community members were advised during the consultation that any questions regarding locations being considered for future stations may be forwarded to the CFA.

Submission No.	Relevant Precinct(s)	Submission Summary	Council Officer Response	Recommended Changes to GARS
1	1	<p>1. General support for draft GARS</p> <p>2. Raises concerns regarding the potential sale of The Salvation Army site. Wants to see the site protected for its environmental, landscape, heritage and farmland values. The area is not supported by adequate infrastructure and is not appropriate for high density housing development. Supports maintaining the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB).</p>	<p>1. Noted</p> <p>2. See Issue A</p>	No change
2	1	<p>Suggests improvements to the Liverpool Road Retarding Basin including bins for disposing of dog waste and maintenance of grass.</p>	<p>The Liverpool Road Retarding Basin is managed by Melbourne Water. GARS deals with land use matters and long term strategic issues to guide Council's advocacy. Immediate requests such as bin requests may be forwarded to Melbourne Water.</p>	No change
3	1	<p>1. Indicates support for the preparation of GARS and agrees with its key messages and objectives for the protection of the study area.</p> <p>2. Raises concerns regarding the potential sale of The Salvation Army site and the prospect of the land being subdivided. Suggests, if subdivision is inevitable, protecting the floodplain corridors and views, limiting building heights to single story, applying a minimum lot size of 5 acres, use of building envelopes sensitive to the landscape and ecosystem, mandating environmentally sustainable design standards such as capture-reuse systems for stormwater, and pervious driveways.</p> <p>3. Raises concerns that the Country Fire Authority (CFA) may construct buildings on The Salvation Army site and the impact this would have on the landscape, both visually and environmentally.</p>	<p>1. Noted</p> <p>2. See Issue A</p> <p>3. See Issue B</p>	No change
4	1	<p>Raises concerns regarding the potential sale of The Salvation Army site and possibility of future multi dwellings development on this site. Asks Council to stop development of this site and draws on multiple issues to support this argument including traffic capacity and safety concerns, limited parking availability, bushfire concerns, existing fauna and flora, ecological values and historical importance of the site and The Basin suburb in general.</p>	<p>See Issue A</p> <p>It is also noted that Action 1.26 of GARS is to "Advocate for improved pedestrian safety on Mountain Highway and Basin-Olinda Road near The Basin roundabout".</p>	No change

5	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supports the draft plan and notes any measures to maintain the green wedge is vital to the preservation of the unique advantages of the area. 2. Has concerns about the implementation of the plan. 3. Suggests the restoration of a full time park ranger to Doongalla Forest. 4. Requests better resources for the control of pests, particularly cats and deer. 5. Requests Council's efforts to preserve trees to be continued in the future. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Noted. 2. Section 7 of the strategy explains that an Implementation Plan will be prepared for the actions identified throughout the strategy. It is noted that some of the implementation actions are longer term or will require additional funding. While budget constraints are acknowledged and may require prioritising of key actions in the short term, having a complete list of actions prepared for the study area means that Council is in a better position to progress actions in case internal resources or external opportunities for grants or partnerships arise. 3. Doongalla Forest is located within Yarra Ranges Shire Council and managed by Parks Victoria. 4. GARS includes high level strategic direction in this regard, including Action 4 to continue collaboration with other councils and the state government regarding pest management and pollution control. The <i>Eastern Regional Pest Animal Strategy 2020-2030</i>, which has been collaboratively developed with other Councils as well as public land managers and authorities, contains a lists of pest control actions. This feedback was also shared with Council's Biodiversity and Open Space teams during the public consultation. Agriculture Victoria also provides information on their website on how to manage feral rabbits on private properties. 5. Noted. GARS includes several strategies and action in this regard. 	<p>Section 7 of the draft GARS has been updated to better clarify the implementation of the actions.</p> <p>An Implementation Plan has been prepared which clarifies how the actions will be delivered including delivery mechanisms, timeframes and budget requirements.</p>
6	1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raises concerns about the potential sale and development of The Salvation Army Site. 2. Notes that the current zoning limits development of the sites and that rezoning will require approval both houses of the Victorian Parliament, however, has concerns that an application refused by Council may be overridden by VCAT, e.g. somebody at VCAT who is unfamiliar with the area. 3. Notes that a small part of the site near the roundabout is currently covered by a Heritage Overlay and suggests placing a Heritage Overlay on the entire Salvation Army land to protect this site from development. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See Issue A. 2. While VCAT has powers to revoke Council's decision in relation to planning permit applications, VCAT members would give regard to State and Council policy and best practice planning in their decision making. The location of this site outside the Urban Growth Boundary will be a significant consideration alongside several existing overlays and controls that apply to this site. The adoption of GARS would also provide an additional layer of policy support to guide the future of this precinct as it better clarifies the 	<p>No change</p>

		<p>4. Notes multiple landscape and habitat values of the site.</p> <p>5. Raises concerns about the potential development of a CFA fire station on the Salvation Army site and asks why Council is not providing a response to residents about possible sites for this facility.</p>	<p>various attributes including key views and ecological considerations.</p> <p>3. Applying the Heritage Overlay to a new site needs to be supported by comprehensive heritage assessment. The draft GARS notes that there are no known archaeological reviews of the subject site and recommends it for both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage assessment to explore potential Aboriginal, historic, aesthetic and social values.</p> <p>It is also noted that a large portion of the site is in an area of Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Sensitivity, where any proposed development may trigger the preparation of a Cultural Heritage Management Plan to the satisfaction of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung representatives.</p> <p>4. Noted.</p> <p>5. See Issue B</p>	
7	1	<p>1. Raises concerns about potential sale and development of The Salvation Army Site.</p> <p>2. Enquires whether the land is crown owned and leased to The Salvation Army.</p> <p>3. Seeks clarification on the strategy to protect the precinct from “intense development”. Enquires what constitutes “intense development” and whether this represents a compromise or alternative agenda by Council to allow some level of development on this site.</p> <p>4. Raises the ability of VCAT to overturn Council policy and whether this can lead to the development of the Salvation Army site.</p>	<p>1. See Issue A</p> <p>2. The land parcels in The Basin subject of the EoI are not publicly owned.</p> <p>3. The phrase “intense development” has been used to describe urban development as opposed to what can legally occur in Green Wedge and rural areas under the current zoning regime and planning scheme requirements. The strategy cannot prevent “any development”, considering that certain use and development can legally occur in Green Wedge areas. The strategy aims to allow for compatible uses that protect the landscape while preventing the introduction of intense urban type zones in this area (similar to what occurs inside the Urban Growth Boundary).</p> <p>It should also be noted that the adoption of GARS will not delete or change any existing planning controls in place. This means it will not create any additional development potential for the site compared to what exists under the current planning framework. The draft GARS does not represent a compromise position (e.g. does not support medium density</p>	<p>Draft GARS has been amended to avoid the term “intense development” where possible to prevent confusion and clarify the intent. This has included rewording to “urban development” in some instances and rewriting of Actions 1.14, 2a13 and 2b.2 to state “maintain the Urban Growth Boundary” in these precincts, which was the intent of the original phrase “prevent intense development” in these precincts.</p>

			housing). It is not supportive of any changes to the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), as specified in Action 14, which will be key to keeping the non-urban character and use of this precinct. 2. Refer to Response 2 to Submission 6.	
8 (submitted in two emails)	1	Advises of heritage values in The Basin associated with a time capsule from 1967, a small inscribed cairn on land donated by the Salvation Army opposite the Progress Hall with a tree planted atop as a living memento. Also provides a quote by Edna Chandler in relation to this event/site. The submitter suggests that the time capsule may be opened now.	An Oak tree exists at the described location which is currently protected by the Heritage Overlay (HO54) and recognised for its historic importance. Some reference is included in the Knox Heritage Study 1993 including the history of the Chandler family. GARS recognises this existing heritage, recommends the Heritage Overlay to be maintained over this site and includes a broader action to undertake a comprehensive review of heritage across the municipality (subject to Council allocating resources). Any additional information can be assessed as part of such review and the place record for this site can be updated if the information is confirmed. Whether the time capsule can be opened now is a matter for the community and outside the scope for this strategy.	The information provided by the submission has been added to the heritage section for Precinct 1 to be investigated further as part of any further heritage reviews.
9	1	Requests to prevent any changes to the planning scheme relating to the Salvation Army farm to maintain its natural outlook and positive impact on local residents' wellbeing.	See Issue A	No change
10	1	Raises concerns about the EoI for the Salvation Army property and potential future development of that land, with concerns about associated traffic, parking, loss of trees and wildlife.	See Issue A	No change
11	1	Raises concerns about the EoI for the Salvation Army property and potential future development of that land, with concerns about native flora and fauna, ecosystem, urban heat island effect, traffic congestion, pollution and loss of green space.	See Issue A	No change
12	2a	<u>Submission on behalf of seven landowners in Precinct 2a (Lysterfield)</u> Requests the area to the north of Wellington road and south of the Lysterfield ridgeline ('subject area' shown in the figure below) to be rezoned to allow for residential development, and provides the following rationale and comments in this regard:	1. The identified landscape and character values in the draft GARS are informed by the Landscape and Character Study prepared by Hansen Partnership. The ridgeline is identified as having higher values and is proposed for "Protection", while the area subject of this submission (described in GARS as Wellington Road Flood Plan and flats character area) has a lower landscape rating and is proposed for	The discussion regarding the Dorset Road extension has been updated throughout the document to reflect the current status of this State Government project (on hold).



1. Objects to protecting the landscape features and open valley character on the southern side of the ridgeline. Suggests that only the Lysterfield ridgeline and valley area to the north of the ridgeline are worthy of protection. Advises that the size of blocks in the subject area only gives rise to agistment of farmland where the return is insufficient to pay the costs of land maintenance and Council rates. This leads to the lots being treated as tips and junk yards.
2. Objects to the proposed protection of views from Wellington Road and Glenfern Road and suggests that only the views from Napoleon Road and Glenfern Road are worthy of protection to open up additional land for residential subdivision. Suggests applying an 8-10m buffer to the ridgeline and allowing for 2,000m² to 4,000m² lot subdivisions in the subject area, as an extension to the adjoining Carrington Park residential zone.
3. Objects to the draft GARS vision to maintain the current subdivision size requirements in this area. Suggests allowing for 1,350m² to 4,000m² lot subdivisions to occur on grounds that there is a need for additional residential land in this area and that such subdivision can create larger, well landscaped

“Management”. The draft GARS recommends these findings to be considered in a further review of the Planning Scheme provisions.

It should be noted that the subject area is already covered by Schedule 1 to the Significant Landscape Overlay (SLO1) which sets strong controls applying to this area. The additional recommendations in GARS can further inform the existing controls but that would be subject to a planning scheme amendment process and will involve further detailed assessment, public exhibition and consideration of any submissions by a planning panel. GARS in itself is not changing the statutory planning framework from the current state.

2. The identified key views are also recommendations from by the above-mentioned Hansen study. To translate this objective into any planning control would require further detailed assessment and planning scheme amendment process.
3. Officers note that the RC22 currently requires a minimum 5,000m² subdivision size. Regardless, the submitters’ proposal to rezone the area is considered to be at odds with the current Green Wedge objectives and the State Government policy to consolidate residential growth inside the Urban Growth Boundary and in locations close to public transport and services. The introduction of RC22 to the west of this area has been to facilitate a transition between the Neighbourhood Residential zones inside the Urban Growth Boundary in Lysterfield and the Green Wedge. To expand the RC22 further into the green wedge zoned land is not justified by any planning analysis. The Knox Housing Strategy 2015 does not identify a need for more properties of the RC22 size range or expansion of residential land in this area. The officer analysis and consultant work on GARS does not suggest there is adequate justification for Council to propose rezoning to RC22 in this area.

If the landowners seek to pursue a rezoning amendment, this may be run as a proponent-led

	<p>allotments sympathetic to the natural environment and will attract a higher socio-economic calibre of residents.</p> <p>4. Advises that wildlife in the subject area includes only kangaroos, rabbits and hares. Supports strengthening the wildlife habitat of the riparian corridor of Monbulk Creek, however, this should be done without further endangering motorists travelling along Wellington Road.</p> <p>5. States that Dorset Road extension does not need to proceed. Wellington road is progressively being updated and adequately meets the traffic needs of current and future residential areas.</p> <p>6. Regarding the proposed reduction of the wildlife barrier effect of road crossings over Monbulk Creek, does not consider this to be a problem.</p> <p>7. Supports protecting the environmental values of Monbulk Creek and its floodplains.</p> <p>8. Does not support strategies in relation to land management practices on grazing land given does not consider agistment for grazing on these lots economically viable.</p> <p>9. Supports agriculture uses within the floodplains of Monbulk Creek, but only to the north of the ridgeline.</p> <p>10. Regarding tourism, agri-toursim and restaurants/café uses, considers similar uses in the area are failing due to lack of critical mass of people to support them. Suggest that instead introducing residential to this area can incorporate a neighbourhood shopping centre.</p> <p>11. Supports improving access to Lysterfield Park, however, not only for Knox residents but also for the broader community. Suggests having a controlled entry and exit point.</p>	<p>amendment, however, it should be noted that any amendment that introduces additional subdivision potential outside the Urban Growth Boundary, in addition to the normal amendment process and approval by the Minister for Planning, will require ratification by both Houses of the Victorian Parliament.</p> <p>4. Enhancements to Monbulk Creek (Action 2a.1) will not impact motorists along Wellington Rd as they do not intersect.</p> <p>5. The proposed Dorset Road extension and Wellington Road upgrades are State Government projects that have been placed on hold. Council’s transport advocacy position so far has been in support for these projects. GARS does not provide a position in this regard, but rather includes guidance for future design of roads in case they go ahead. Thee reference in GARS can be updated to reflect the latest status of these projects.</p> <p>6. Noted</p> <p>7. Noted</p> <p>8. As discussed above</p> <p>9. Noted</p> <p>10. The GARS Economic Study (Urban Enterprise) identifies opportunities to allow for low scale, café/restaurant uses compatible in a rural setting. Such uses do not rely on a critical mass in a walking distance but rather serve as an attraction to a broader user catchment. However, the study notes the opportunity is medium for this area and GARS Action 2a.19 seeks to ensure the planning framework supports these uses in case any applications are received. A full scale neighbourhood shopping centre is not intended in Green Wedge.</p> <p>11. The reference to “access from Knox” in the GARS including in Action 2b.14 is not about limiting access to Knox residents but to flag a need for an access point from the Knox side of the park, recognising there is an existing formalised access point from the south within Yarra Ranges. Action 2b.17 clarifies this</p>	
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			<p>matter better by making specific reference to an entry point from to Cornish Road. This is an advocacy action as the park is managed by Parks Victoria.</p>	
13	2a	<p>1. Is generally supportive of the preparation and implementation of GARS, however, opposes heritage protection of 1430 Wellington Road, Lysterfield (Former Lysterfield School) due to constraints it would impose on the future use and development of the land.</p> <p>2. Expects that a full heritage assessment be undertaken as part of a municipality-wide heritage review, where the submitter is able to have Council’s heritage assessment reviewed by their consultant and make a submission to the process.</p> <p>3. Requests such assessment to clarify whether the whole site, just the main school building, or other buildings are considered to be of heritage value, and seeks Council to clarify the opportunity to relocate the school building, if necessary, to accommodate a new dwelling or other buildings on the land.</p> <p>4. The submission includes photos of the exterior and interior of the main former school building.</p>	<p>1. Noted. Draft GARS is informed by the Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage (Context, 2017) which broadly reviewed the study area and provides recommendations for sites worthy of further investigation. It does not represent a full heritage assessment or citation. The reference to this property in GARS does not mean that the site necessarily has heritage values to the extent that requires a Heritage Overlay. The property in question has been identified as having potential historic, aesthetic and social values, and is recommended for heritage assessment.</p> <p>2. The submitter’s expectation is reasonable. It is proposed that a heritage study would be undertaken for the City of Knox, noting Council’s current heritage study is dated 1993. This would involve detailed heritage assessment of all sites, a planning scheme amendment and extensive consultation processes. The land owner(s) will be notified of such process and will have an opportunity to review any assessments and make a submission. Timing of undertaking such a municipality wide heritage review is uncertain as it is not currently on the Council work program and will be subject to budget allocation.</p> <p>It is recommended that further clarification is added to Draft GARS to better clarify that the next step is to prepare a heritage study.</p> <p>3, 4 – These matters can be taken into consideration as part of any future heritage investigations.</p>	<p>Actions 1.13, 2a.12, 2b.8, 3.15 and 4.18 have been modified to better clarify that the information provided does not represent a heritage assessment and is to inform a future municipality wide heritage study, as follows:</p> <p>'When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the <i>Knox Rural Heritage Report (Context, 2017)</i> as summarised in the table below.'</p>
14	2a	<p>1. Requests Precinct 2a be removed from the study area. Does not support the proposed Vision for this precinct as it does not adequately reflect the intentions of the landowners. It is the submitter’s understanding that the majority (if not all) of</p>	<p>1. Refer to the response to Submission 12.</p> <p>2. The intent of Action 2a.13 “to protect the precinct from more intense urban development” is in essence to maintain the Urban Growth Boundary at its</p>	<p>Action 2a.13 has been modified to state “Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 2a.”</p>

		<p>landowners within Precinct 2a support the further development of their land, in a manner generally consistent with Schedule 2 of the Rural Conservation Zone (RCZ2), which applies to part of the Carrington Estate. While they understand rezoning of the land is beyond the scope of the strategy, has concerns that the strategy will further inhibit rezoning opportunities in the future.</p> <p>2. Does not support Action 2a.13 which relates to protecting the precinct from more intense urban development. Further, it is suggested that the reference to 'more intense urban development' applies not only conventional residential developments, but also to a density of development that already exists within and contributes to the character of the precinct.</p> <p>3. Does not support Action 2a.14 which relates to maintaining the current zoning regime. It is suggested to rezone Green Wedge Zone - Schedule 1 (GWZ1) to, Green Wedge Zone - Schedule 2 (GWZ2) and Rural Conservation Zone - Schedule 2 (RCZ2) to reduce the minimum subdivision area of 20 hectares to 4 hectares and 0.5 hectares respectively. It is submitted that the character and biodiversity values of the precinct could be maintained.</p> <p>4. Action 2a.13 is contrary to Action 2a.16 which acknowledges the different role of each zone within this precinct to enable a diversity of rural economy and character.</p> <p>5. Does not support Action 2a.17 which relates to maintaining the current minimum subdivision lot size, to support landscape values and agricultural potential of land. It is submitted that the land is not suitable for agriculture due to proximity of residential development and competing priorities to protect biodiversity values and native vegetation.</p> <p>It is requested Actions 2a.13, 2a.14 and 2a.17 be deleted from GARS.</p>	<p>current location. It is recommended to change the wording of this action to clarify this intent.</p> <p>3. Refer to the response to Submission 12.</p> <p>4. The actions are not considered contrary. One is to maintain the Urban Growth Boundary while the other supports the different role of each zone within this precinct to enable a diversity of rural economy and character.</p> <p>5. Refer to the response to Submission 12.</p>	
15	2b	<p>1. Generally supports the vision for Precinct 2b which acknowledges the economic role of the existing extractive industries while minimising negative impacts on surrounding areas.</p>	<p>1. Noted.</p> <p>2. The draft GARS supports “a variety of recreational activities” in the future, where equestrian activities are not excluded. It is considered that specific recreation types are not required to be listed and</p>	<p>The discussion on page 73 has been amended to remove the wording “avoid creating a lake following the completion of quarrying” and instead referring to</p>

		<p>2. Recommends equestrian activities be supported on the Hanson Quarry site as part of the rehabilitation plan for the quarry.</p> <p>3. Objects to the statement in the GARS that a lake should not be created following the completion of quarrying. Argues that to backfill the site and avoid a lake will require a substantial volume of fill and can only be commenced at the cessation of quarrying activities, thus extending the community's exposure to the adverse impact of truck traffic in the area.</p> <p>4. Seeks that the GARS recognise that quarrying can operate within Council's green areas and that future rehabilitation outcomes can align with GARS to restore and enhance landscape and environmental values.</p>	<p>can be considered as part of future rehabilitation plans for the quarry.</p> <p>3. It is noted that the GARS includes a statement that the rehabilitation 'should avoid creating a lake'. Considering the long term nature of the quarry operation (approximately 30 years into the future) and the fact that the future use needs to be planned as part of rehabilitation plan for the quarries which is outside the GARS scope, it is recommended that this reference is removed from GARS to allow the outcome be decided at a later stage.</p> <p>4. The GARS recognises current quarry operations within this precinct and notes that the operations may continue for another 25-30 years. The GARS is a long term strategic plan and its objectives/strategies to enhance environmental and landscape outcomes can guide future rehabilitation processes.</p>	<p>the broader objective which is to aim for an improved community outcome.</p>
16	2b	<p>Has concerns regarding the proposed expansion of the Hanson quarry and the impact on native vegetation and wildlife in Churchill National Park. Provides a copy of the submitter's submission to the Victorian Parliament regarding the above proposal.</p>	<p>Council has not received a planning permit application from Hanson, however, the submitter refers to a previous application by Hanson to the Victorian Government with regard to quarry expansion.</p> <p>It should be noted that decision making in relation to work authorities for quarries sits with the State Government and that the planning framework provides exemptions from Council planning permit processes (including vegetation removal) to enable the carrying out of extractive industry in accordance with an approved work plan and work authority granted by the State Government.</p> <p>In this regard, the GARS recognises significant vegetation and habitat in proximity to the quarries and includes a range of strategies and actions which aim to protect and enhance vegetation and habitat outside the extent of extraction.</p>	<p>No change</p>
17	2a & 2b	<p>1. Commends the draft strategy for its comprehensiveness and attempt at optimising benefits to local communities.</p> <p>2. Queries why the environmental features of the eucalypts inside the eastern boundary of the quarry, abutting Lysterfield</p>	<p>1. Noted.</p> <p>2. The Knox Wildlife Atlas data shown on the Ecology map (Map 9) indicates wildlife sighting records and does not include trees/vegetation. It should also be</p>	<p>No change</p>

		<p>Park, are not recognised in the Wildlife Atlas records marked on Map 11.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Prefers the location of the proposed entry/car park to Lysterfield Park be located at the end of Cornish Road as it is central to the area and would provide easy access to many attractions. A paved Cornish Road would provide great benefits to local residents and many park users. 4. The area of Lysterfield Park behind the quarries is a breeding ground and habitat for many bird species including wedged-tailed eagles, cockatoos and galahs. Recreational and tourist activities should be restricted to main access trails only. 5. Suggests the land north of the intersection of Glen Road and Wellington Road would make an ideal wetland, which could contribute to the biodiversity and tourist potential of the area. 6. Requests Donelan Homestead within Lysterfield Park be recommended for heritage assessment. 7. Suggests the provision of a concreted pathway along Wellington Road to open up the area for the users of Lysterfield National Park. 8. The large number of kangaroos frequenting the area between Wellington Road and Lysterfield Park is affecting the amenity of the area and presents a traffic hazard, particularly at night. 	<p>seen as one data source in conjunction with other layers of information, and is not an exhaustive data source. The vegetation in the area in question are included in the Sites of Biological Significance in Knox – 2nd Edition (Lorimer, 2009) which is a more comprehensive resource and informs the data behind Environmental Significance Overlays which apply to the area and are also shown on Map 9.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Noted. This is consistent with the actions included in GARS. 4. Noted. 5. The subject area consists of privately owned properties zoned Green Wedge - Schedule 1. 6. The Heritage Overlay currently applies to the entire Lysterfield Park which includes Donelan Homestead. The GARS recommends co-ordination with Parks Victoria for assessment of individual sites as part of a whole of municipality Heritage Study. 7. Comment noted. The State Government has had previous plans to upgrade Wellington Road and this included a shared path. However, this project was placed on hold in late 2022 and is no longer budgeted by the current State Government. The draft GARS supports the provision of a pathway along Wellington road and Map 8 reflects this. This provides Council with an advocacy position to the State. 8. Kangaroos are a protected species in Victoria. Considering the roads are State owned, any concerns about animals presenting a traffic hazard may be raised with the Department of Transport and Planning. 	
18	3	<p>The submission relates to 191 George Street Wantirna South, a Strategic Investigation Site, and makes the following specific comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In Map 13, requests removal of the 200m buffer noting that the buffer requirements to Dandenong Creek and Blind Creek have, are decided on a site-specific basis. 2. In Map 13, queries whether the “Floodplains” follow the LSIO. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The 200m buffer shown on the maps does not represent a restriction on development and is not proposed as a statutory planning tool (e.g. an overlay). It is shown as a guide consistently in the Ecology maps in the strategy to highlight opportunities to strengthen habitat values and connectivity within 200m of the creek where there is an opportunity. No Action is included in Precinct 3 to place restriction on development within this buffer. 	<p>A notation has been added to Map 13 to clarify the water bodies in the quarry site do not have ecological values.</p> <p>Action 3.24 has been amended to add that investigations for renewable energy production at the Cathies Lane landfill site</p>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. In Map 13, delete the arrow indicating Blind Creek realignment. It is also not noted in the legend. 4. In Maps 13 and 15, remove water bodies shown in quarry zones as they are not relevant to ecology or heritage. 5. Raises concerns with characterisation of High Street Road in as rural in Action 3.18 and the supporting analysis considering the planned changes. 6. Requests modifying the description of the Boral Quarry Redevelopment Site and Action 3.19 to better define and reflect the draft amendment currently being prepared and the location of uses proposed. 7. Suggests modifying Action 3.24 to ensure investigations for renewable energy production on Cathies Lane landfill site does not adversely impact on any existing or planned residential areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. The Floodplains layer shown on Map 13 represents the LSIO. 3. The arrow shown along blind creek is a schematic graphic element which broadly follows the current alignment of the creek to highlight the future vision to naturalise and enhance the creek. There is no action in GARS requiring realignment of the creek at this location. While this arrow is not referenced in the legend, there is a notation attached which explains the outcome sought. 4. The waterbodies shown represent the existing geographical features and there is no corresponding action in the strategy to protect all existing water bodies. Given the concern raised, a notation may be added to Map 13 to clarify the water bodies in the quarry site do not have ecological values. 5. The characterisation of High Street Road is not intended to result in a rural character but rather reflect the horticultural history of this area. It is not intended to prevent development on adjoining sites but rather achieve a green and leafy road interface in line with the classification of this road as a Bush Boulevard. 6. The draft amendment for this site is not yet in the public domain and cannot be reflected in a public document. It is not within the scope of GARS to specify detailed development outcomes for individual sites. The draft GARS guides brad environmental outcomes for this site but does not prejudice future rezoning and development as part of a planning scheme amendment process. 7. Action 3.24 may be amended to recognise the residential areas. 	<p>prevent any adverse impact on any existing or planned residential areas.</p> <p>Action 3.18 has been modified to better clarify the intent:</p> <p>“Define High Street Road corridor as a Gateway to Knox. Seek opportunities to enhance its aesthetics through landscaping, building design and public art which reflect its horticultural history and bush boulevard character.”</p>
19	3 & 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Suggests maintenance/upgrading of Koomba Reserve, including the removal of blackberries and the installation of a wooden walkway along Dandenong Creek from the southern end at Mountain Highway/Burwood Highway corner to Boronia Road to enable walking during wet weather. Further suggest planting of native trees within the woodland and along the creek bank. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Koomba Park is Managed by Parks Victoria. The trail network through Koomba Park incorporates both the Dandenong Creek Trail which branches off to a boardwalk section and the Eastlink Trail that continues on to follow the Eastlink Freeway. The feedback regarding maintenance can be added to the 	<p>Feedback about Koomba Park has been added to the discussion under Precinct 3.</p> <p>The information in GARS about Wantirna Reserve has been</p>

		<p>2. Suggests maintenance and upgrades to the oval at Wantirna Reserve including installing a concrete cricket pitch and picnic facilities. The car park should also be concreted.</p> <p>3. Highlights the heritage of the pines in Precinct 4, located between the northern end of Waldheim Road and the track off the end of Ricdanic Drive, and suggests the area to be complemented with more trees including conifers, cedars, pine oaks etc. as a tribute to those who established the adjacent soccer field and the European settlers. Also suggests similar planting around the pond at the north east corner of the golf driving range.</p>	<p>strategy to inform future advocacy with Parks Victoria.</p> <p>2. Wantirna Reserve is currently undergoing redevelopment by Council with the preparation of a masterplan currently underway. A number of feasibility studies indicated that Wantirna Reserve was an ideal location of a new hockey facility. The construction of the hockey pitch was completed in June 2023 and the new hockey facility is open to the public and is home to the Knox Hockey Club.</p> <p>3. Information about the pines is recommended to be included in the heritage section of the strategy so it can be assessed as part of a future Heritage Study.</p>	<p>updated including reference to the new hockey facility.</p> <p>Information about the history of the pines in Precinct 4 (north of Ricdanic Drive/ Waldheim Road) has been added to the heritage section of the strategy so it can be investigated further as part of a future Knox Heritage Study.</p>
20	3 & 4	<p><u>Whitehorse City Council (officer level submission)</u></p> <p>Provides support for the overall direction and objectives of the strategy, and specific comments in relation to Precincts 3 and 4:</p> <p>Precinct 3</p> <p>1. Strongly supports the proposed vision for Precinct 3 and states that it complements work being undertaken by Whitehorse to protect and increase the tree canopy across the municipality.</p> <p>2. Enquires about the 200 metres creek buffer, how it is proposed to be implemented and whether there would be an expectation that neighbouring municipalities limit development within this extent. Advises such buffer may not be feasible in Whitehorse given the current land use and zoning in proximity to the creek.</p> <p>3. Supports Action 3.13 to review the existing planning policy to implement GARS but also recommends the application of a Significant Landscape Overlay to Precinct 3, to protect and enhance the landscape qualities, which would complement Whitehorse’s SLO9 which seeks to protect tree canopy.</p> <p>4. Supports rezoning of the Transport Zone land within Koomba Park noting it would better align with the adjacent Public Park</p>	<p>1. Noted.</p> <p>2. The Draft GARS is not recommending any new planning controls within the 200 metre buffer. The Knox side of the creek is covered by the Environmental Significance Overlay – Schedule 2 (ESO2) and the mapped 200m buffer can assist officers with identifying higher opportunities to strengthen habitat within the exiting ESO2. The GARS is not seeking to downzone land or prevent development where the existing zoning/overlays allow for it. There is also no expectation that a similar approach will be applied in Whitehorse.</p> <p>3. Noted. Action 3.13 covers both policy review and the investigation of a new SLO. It is noted that the landscape assessment by Hansen has not identified landscape values for the entirety of Precinct 3, so any future SLOs may be appropriate for selected areas within this precinct, subject to further investigation.</p> <p>4. Noted.</p> <p>5. Noted. Action 3.28 has been modified to reflect this.</p> <p>6. Noted.</p> <p>7. Noted. The information in draft GARS has been updated to reflect this.</p> <p>8. Noted.</p> <p>9. This has been reflected in a separate Action (Action 4.24).</p>	<p>Action 1 has been amended to remove ambiguity in relation to the 200 buffer to the waterways.</p> <p>Action 3.28 has been modified to reflect the proposed walking and cycling connectivity between High Street Road and Burwood Highway needs to be planned through a collaborative process involving Parks Victoria and Knox and Whitehorse City Councils.</p> <p>Discussion on Pages 91 and 98 of the GARS has been updated to reflect that redevelopment of the Healesville Freeway corridor for public open space within Whitehorse has not yet eventuated.</p>

	<p>and Conservation Zone (PCRZ) land in Whitehorse. Supports Action 3.22 to implement this.</p> <p>5. Expresses interest in the proposed walking and cycling connectivity between High Street Road and Burwood Highway and how this will transition to a link within Whitehorse and would like to see a collaborative approach between Whitehorse, Knox and Parks Victoria.</p> <p>6. Provides information about the landfill status of the land currently occupied by the Whitehorse Waste and Recycling Transfer Centre and the surrounding land, including the Lookout Trail.</p> <p>Precinct 4</p> <p>7. Supports the huge opportunities presented by the Healesville Freeway corridor to deliver wildlife corridors, passive and active recreation spaces and links into other regional parks and open space corridors beyond Whitehorse. Regarding the area of the reservation in the City of Whitehorse, advises that while some of the rezoning and transfer of land has occurred, the actual conversion of the corridor into public open space for the community has not yet eventuated. Requests that draft GARS be updated to correctly reflect this.</p> <p>8. Supports Actions 4.14 and 4.15 in relation to reflecting the landscape and character of the area in the Knox Planning Scheme, and advises that this will be complementary to the <i>Whitehorse Neighbourhood Character Study 2014</i>.</p> <p>9. As part of the Master Plan by Parks Victoria for the abandoned Healesville Freeway corridor, officers would like to see an improved east-west connection to provide a safe and accessible link for pedestrians and cyclists, and suggests this be included in Action 4.23.</p> <p>10. Strongly supports actions to undertake comprehensive planning for land between Dandenong Creek and the freeway reservation to create high quality active and passive open space and notes opportunities for the Crown Land at the</p>	<p>10. Noted. The crown land suggested as a sports field is within Whitehorse but this is noted in terms of integration opportunities between the two municipalities.</p>	
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		<p>south-west junction of Dandenong Creek and Boronia Road to be used as a sports field.</p>		
21	3	<p>Frequently uses the Dandenong Creek Trail, and appreciate the work done to keep the creek and trail clean. Notes the following matters in the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Graffiti and vandalism, though acknowledges the regular cleaning of graffiti along the trail. - Litter built up along the creek and appreciates the work of teams of people cleaning the litter. - Pollution, noting that there use be bad smells coming from the creek in the past but is no longer an issue. 	<p>Comments noted. Melbourne Water manages the Dandenong Creek, and their project 'Enhancing our Dandenong Creek Program' in recent years have sought to improve the health of the Dandenong Creek. Community members including the Friends of the Dandenong Creek are also very active in the area.</p>	No change
22	N/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pleased to see that the Waverly Golf Course is recognised as a Strategic Investigation Site consistent with the Knox Housing Strategy. It is requested that the GARS provides new directions or actions in respect to the future of the golf course, given the time since the adoption of the housing strategy. 2. Suggests reference to the possible future capacity of 350 dwellings for the Waverley Golf Course be amended (paragraph 2 on page 8) as this was a "potential" capacity rather than explicit outcomes. 3. Requests paragraph 3 on page 8 under 'Out of Scope: Waverley and Rowville Lake Golf Courses' be revised as it could be perceived as a request to be considered by the Golf Course Redevelopment Advisory Committee applies only to the Rowville Lakes Golf Course. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Draft GARS excludes the golf course from its study area given future direction for the site is already provided in the <i>Knox Housing Strategy 2015</i> and incorporated into the Knox Planning Scheme. The current policy of Council supports future redevelopment at this location which is different to Council's vision for other areas of Green Wedge in Knox municipality. Future guidance for this site can be revisited as part of any future reviews of the <i>Knox Housing Strategy</i>. 2. The capacity included in the <i>Knox Housing Strategy January 2015</i> is preliminary and indicative only. It is supported that reference to the Housing Strategy's indicative capacity be removed from GARS as the site is outside the strategy's scope. 3. The <i>Planning Guidelines for Conversion of Golf Courses Land to Other Purposes June 2020</i> applies to any golf course development. It is recommended the relevant section of the strategy is amended to better clarify this matter. 	<p>The discussion on Page 8 regarding Waverley Lakes Golf Courses has been modified to delete the reference to a possible future capacity of 350 dwellings.</p> <p>The discussion on Page 8 has been changed to clarify that the Ministerial Direction 21 and the <i>Planning Guidelines for Conversion of Golf Courses Land to Other Purposes June 2020</i> may be applied to any golf course redevelopment.</p>

Green Areas & Rural Strategy

Knox City Council

Engagement Summary Report
September 2023

Prepared by
Conversation Co.

Conversation Co.

About this report

This report comprises raw feedback received from the Knox community through the consultation period. It summarises findings of activities hosted by Knox City Council.

Information obtained via this public consultation and summarised in this document will directly inform the development of the updated Green Areas and Rural Strategy.

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1. Executive Summary

Conversation Co. was engaged by Knox City Council to plan, design and deliver an engagement program to test the direction of the Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS). The Strategy identifies what is unique about each green and rural area and proposes a vision and set of initiatives to protect and enhance the environmental and cultural assets within each precinct. This program focused on engaging the wider community, community groups and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the actions laid out in the Strategy.

Throughout November and December 2021, a range of face-to-face and online activities were conducted. Approximately 273 people provided feedback through face-to-face pop-up events, an online survey, written submissions or an online information session. Participation by method is shown in Table 1.

1.1. Participation

Engagement activities were promoted through Knox City Council’s corporate website, social media channels, signage, and print media. Participation was supported via Knox Have Your Say, Knox City Council’s online engagement platform.

Table 1: Participation by engagement method

Engagement Method	Number of Participants
Online survey	147
Six community pop-ups and intercepts	79
Written submissions received by Council	22
Online information session	25
Total	273

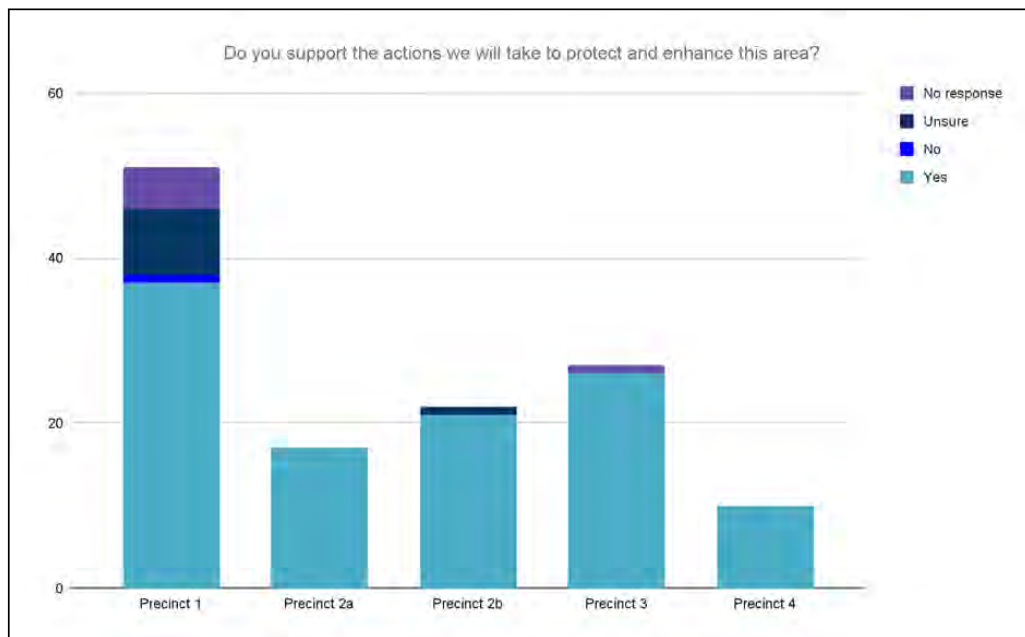
1.2. Overview of engagement findings

Participants were asked to consider the actions in the Strategy that applied to each specific Precinct, as well as overall actions that applied to the whole Study Area. They were asked if they agreed with the actions outlined in the draft GARS, if any actions concerned them, and whether they thought anything had been missed. Participants could provide feedback on as few or as many Precincts as desired and could provide as in depth or as broad feedback as they desired.

At face-to-face pop-up events, participants were asked if they supported the proposed actions Council will take to protect and enhance the precinct in which they were providing feedback on. Of the 127 participants that provided handwritten feedback at the pop-ups, a total of 111 participants supported the actions in that precinct, one did not support the actions, eight were unsure and a further six did not provide a response to these questions. Figure 1 shows the level of support for the actions by precinct.

Responses are further reviewed and participant concerns and stated gaps analysed within Section 5 of this report.

Figure 1: Level of support for proposed Strategy actions at pop-ups



Common gaps and concerns about the actions from the community are outlined in Table 2 and are expanded throughout Section 5 of this document.

Table 2: Gaps and concerns identified in the GARS actions as identified by participants

Gaps and concerns	
Gaps	<p>Key gaps in the Strategy identified by participants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how Council intends to manage green areas for waste removal, illegal dumping or weeds management • research into current and future impacts of the quarry and large developments, including communicating findings to the community • strategies to celebrate and promote Indigenous history (in addition to engagement and research actions already identified) • proactively looking at where development can go, along roads and existing infrastructure • process for implementing and monitoring delivery of the strategy • giving a hierarchy to certain parks and reserves and their level of use (concern some areas have intensive visitation).
Concerns	<p>Key concerns raised by participants included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • desire for greater protection of existing wildlife and flora • potential sale of the Salvation Army site (The Basin) and change of its land use • current operations and expansion of the quarry sites and its impact on the community, fauna and flora • Healesville freeway extension and its impact on biodiversity • lack of understanding of potential environmental impacts for future developments • Council's ability to limit development in green and rural areas even with the appropriate measures in place • lack of trust in Council and its ability to implement the Strategy effectively

2. Introduction

Conversation Co. was engaged by Knox City Council to plan, design and deliver an engagement program to test the direction of the Draft Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS). The Strategy provides a 20-year strategic land usage direction to five precincts with high environmental and landscape significance. The engagement program focused on engaging the wider community, community groups and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the actions within the Strategy.

2.1. Project Background

In March - April 2020, Knox City Council undertook consultation with the community to inform development of the Draft GARS.

In August 2021, Knox City Council engaged Conversation Co. to conduct a community engagement program to provide feedback on the actions within the Draft Strategy, and to provide an opportunity for identification of gaps in or concerns about the actions.

Feedback was sought from local residents, visitors, community groups and other stakeholders.

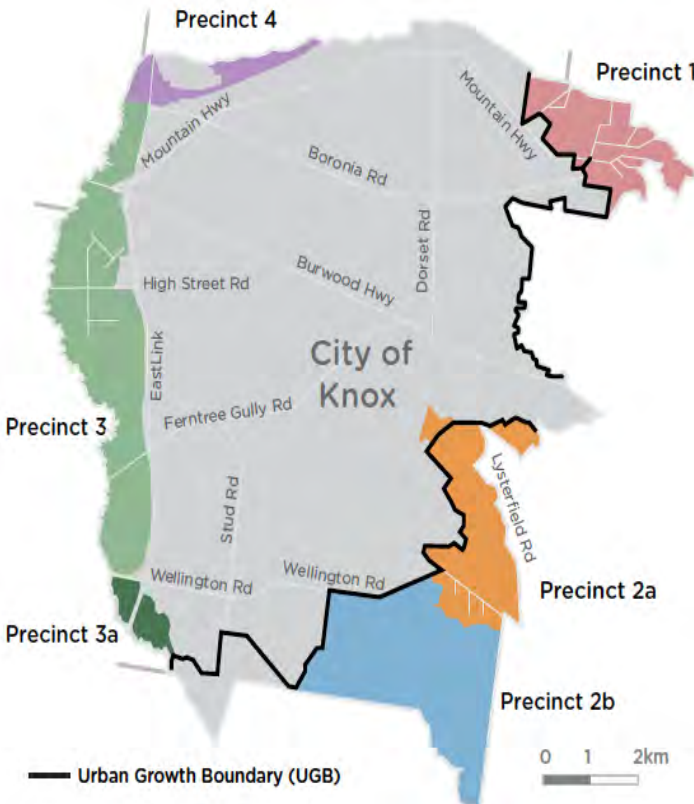
About the Green Areas and Rural Strategy

The Draft Knox GARS looks at five precincts that have environmental and landscape significance in Knox. It provides a framework for thinking about the future of these precincts and looks at the values and challenges of each. The Strategy also identifies objectives for each area and actions that Council and its key partners will take to protect and enhance its environmental and social values. It will provide Knox City Council with a tool to guide future decision making and ensure these spaces are preserved for future generations.

The five precincts in Knox are:

- Precinct 1: The Basin Rural Landscape
- Precinct 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills
- Precinct 2b: Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds
- Precinct 3 (including Precinct 3a): Dandenong Creek Valley
- Precinct 4: Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds.

Figure 2. Overview of the five precincts



2.2. Engagement Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the engagement was:

- to communicate and create awareness of the themes, objectives and strategies that underpin all GARS precincts. These were developed in response to what Council heard from the community in the first round of community engagement
- to test the level of community support for the precinct specific actions for the purpose of refining the draft Strategy
- to ensure direct and targeted engagement of key stakeholders and community groups (e.g. friends groups, sports clubs etc.) with a close connection to the identified precincts.

Green and rural areas are valued by a wide range of stakeholders. Project stakeholders were therefore defined as being the wider Knox community and more specifically:

- community groups, Friends Groups, or other user groups that regularly use spaces in the study area
- participants from the last GARS Issues and Opportunities consultation
- affected Knox property owners and occupiers.

Topics that the project stakeholders could influence and inform (negotiables) were:

- proposed precinct-wide actions
- Proposed precinct specific actions
- additional precinct specific actions within Council's powers, discretion or advocacy role
- editorial errors in the Strategy.

Topics not open for discussion (non-negotiables) during the engagement were:

- Study Area and number of precincts
- background expert advice informing the draft Strategy
- Urban Growth Boundary and Victorian Planning Provisions as applicable in the Study Area
- Planning and Environment Act 1987 requirements
- precinct Themes
- precinct Objectives
- precinct Visions
- precinct Names.

3. Methodology

In order to meet the project objectives, Conversation Co. recommended a mixed method community engagement program to reach participants from a range of demographics and geographic locations.

Due to the easing of COVID-19 restrictions a combination of in person and online sessions were offered. The engagement program ran from Monday 8th of November to Friday 23rd of December 2021.

Images: Conversation Co. and Council project team speak with the community



3.1. Engagement Activities

Table 3 lists the community engagement activities delivered as part of this project. It describes the purpose and role of Council and Conversation Co. in implementation.

Table 3: Community engagement activities

Activity	Purpose	Roles
Community pop-ups (4 sessions)	Meet the community where they gather, with a visible presence promoting the project.	Conversation Co: Plan and conduct pop-up activities, documentation of feedback. Council: Promote events and support conversation facilitation.
Community intercept surveys (1 session)	Engage community using a place-based approach to have meaningful face to face conversations.	Conversation Co: Plan and conduct pop-up activities, documentation of feedback. Council: Promote events and support conversation facilitation.
Community/ stakeholder survey	Receive targeted and detailed feedback from the general community.	Conversation Co: Develop and implement survey, and analysis of feedback. Council: Project and survey promotion.
GARS Fact Sheets (6 fact sheets)	Provide the community with an accessible snapshot of the GARS.	Conversation Co: Refine the actions for each Precinct of the GARS Study Area for public consultation..
Online information session (1 session)	Engage community members in conversations during the lockdown period.	Council: Promote and facilitate an information session, develop a project introduction talk. Conversation Co: Develop information session content and co-facilitate.

Community/Stakeholder Survey

The online community/stakeholder survey was promoted via the Knox City Council Have Your Say project page and was also made available in hard copy format.

Participants were asked to consider the actions in the Strategy that applied to each specific precinct, as well as overall actions that applied to the whole Study Area. They were asked if they agreed with the actions outlined in the draft GARS, if any actions concerned them, and whether they thought anything had been missed. Participants could provide feedback on as few or as many precincts as desired and could provide as in depth or as broad feedback as they desired.

Participants were also asked to provide demographic identifiers including gender, age, suburb, and their connection to the precinct.

Community pop-ups and intercept surveys

Four place-based community pop-up events and one intercept survey session were held across the Knox City Council area at different locations and at different times. Locations and times were chosen to ensure maximum engagement from a diverse range of people from different backgrounds across the precincts.

Pop-up events:

- Wellington Village Shopping Centre, 1100 Wellington Road, Rowville, 11 November 2021, 10.00am-12.00pm
- Wantirna Farmers Market, 120 Mountain Highway Wantirna South, 21 November 2021, 9.00am-2.00pm
- Tim Neville Arboretum (playground), Francis Crescent & Dorset Road, Ferntree Gully, 4 December 2021, 10.00am-12.00pm
- The Basin Triangle, 326 Mountain Hwy, The Basin, 4 December 2021, 2.00-5.00pm

Intercept surveys:

- Bayswater Park Marie Wallace, Jim Abernethy Memorial Drive, Bayswater, 11 November 2021, 3.00-4.00pm

Three pop-up events and three intercept survey sessions were initially planned. However, in response to the high amount of interest at The Basin Triangle (mainly due to the contentious Salvation Army site), a proposed intercept survey session at The Basin Triangle was changed to a full pop-up event that included extended consultation timings and a full interactive display. This meant that the intercept survey session originally planned the same day at Dandenong Creek Trail was unable to go ahead. The change in approach provided the project with more feedback from a highly interested group and responded to emerging community needs.

Participants at all of the above events were asked to respond to a series of questions in line with the online survey. As a COVID-19 safety precaution, participants were encouraged to scan a QR code to complete the online survey, or if they felt comfortable to provide feedback in writing.

A worksheet was designed for younger children to draw a picture or write a response to the question, 'What do you love most about nature?'. The worksheet was available at pop-ups and intercepts, and although it was not utilised by any participants, it was made readily available where younger children were present in case they wanted to participate.

Images: Conversation Co. and Council project team speak with the community



Online information session

A one-hour online information session was held on the evening of Thursday 25 November 2021 as an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to find out about the project and how to provide feedback on the Strategy. Twenty-five participants attended the information session, and were provided with an opportunity to ask the project team questions. As many questions as possible were responded to during the session and all questions received a written response that was provided to all attendees after the session.

Written submissions

Key concepts and ideas from written submissions have been summarised and included in this engagement report. Council Officers have carried out a more detailed review and provide this as an attachment to the community engagement report.

3.2. Engagement Questions

Participants were invited to review a precinct-specific fact sheet or the Strategy in its entirety and respond to the following questions:

- Do you agree with the actions outlined in the draft Green Areas and Rural Strategy? (asked at pop-ups only)
- How strongly do you support or oppose each objective? (asked in the online survey only)
- If any actions concern you please tell us more.
- If you think anything has been missed please tell us more.

Participants were also asked to provide personal demographic information, which has been reported on in Section 4 of this report.

Images: Sample of Precinct 1 Fact Sheet: The Basin Rural Landscape



3.3. Strategies to Support Participation

Community participation was supported through the following initiatives:

- **Communications campaign:** This was coordinated through Knox City Council. The communications campaign included promotion through Council's corporate channels, direct emails to interested community organisations, social media posts, signage in customer service centres and libraries, notices in local community papers, corflute signs in public parks/reserves, and direct mail-out to owner/occupiers within the study area
- **Dedicated project page:** A dedicated project page was created on Council's *Have Your Say* website, to provide a consistent location for the community to access information and participate in the survey and other online activities.
- **Leveraging Council's connections:** Council Officer connections and existing networks were used to increase uptake and participation in the project. Surrounding Local Government and relevant State Government agencies were also notified. The following organisations were contacted to help distribute the survey to their networks:

Walking groups:

- Knox Ramblers
- Knox Street Orienteering Walkers
- Lollipop Walkers and Friends
- Heritage Walks
- Eastern Heart and Sole
- Good for the Sole
- Walking Warriors
- Dandenong Ranges Walking Group

Heritage groups:

- Knox Heritage Society

Cycling groups:

- The Knox Bicycle Touring Club
- Rowville Riders
- University of the Third Age
- Knox BMX
- Wheel Woman Australia
- Metro East Bicycle User Group
- Lysterfield District Trail Riders

Friends groups:

- Friends of the Koolunga Native Reserve
- First Friends of Dandenong Creek
- Friends of Blind Creek Billabong
- Friends of Old Joes Creek Bushland
- Friends of the Glenfern Green Wedge

Going to where people enjoy gathering: Pop-ups were held at locations across Knox where they typically attract a crowd and a cross-section of the community, tapping into community events wherever possible.

- **Variety of engagement methods:** Multiple methods were offered, allowing participants to participate in their own time through the online survey, as they were going about their day at a pop-up or intercept, or in the comfort of their own home through an online information session. The multiple methods encouraged community members with different time commitments, locations, and interest levels to provide feedback and find out about the project.
- **Using community interest:** During the consultation program, there was a lot of community concern and interest in a property owned by the Salvation Army in The Basin and the future of the site. Council staff and Councillors directed community members to provide feedback via the planned engagement activities, such the online information session, online survey or pop-up events. Given the high interest and attendance at The Basin Triangle pop-up event, the event was extended from one hour to three.
- **Promoting engagement through an online information session:** The online information session was an opportunity for the community and stakeholders to find out about the project and how to have their say on the actions within the Strategy.

Potential barriers to participation

- **COVID-19 Pandemic:** Face to face engagement on this project was delivered outside of COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. However, as restrictions had recently eased there were likely fewer people circulating in the community and a reluctance to participate in face to face activities. With COVID-19 infections at a record high in Victoria at the time, it is also likely that civic participation was less of a priority during this time thus impacting participation levels.

3.4. Managing Risks

Table 4 shows the identified risks and mitigation strategies used in the project delivery outlined during the planning stage.

Table 4: Identified risks and mitigation responses

Identified risk	Mitigating Response
Lack of interest or engagement on the project	Hosting a range of community engagement activities including face to face pop-ups across the municipality, an online survey, and an online information session.
Lack of clarity regarding what the community can and can't influence	Developing all engagement questions around the identified negotiables.
Not reporting back to community on next steps and decisions	Provide clear information on the next steps and further opportunities to be involved.
Community misunderstanding the Strategy	Provide credible information, in plain English, to help develop understanding of risks and solutions. Be clear about the intention of the project, the overall benefits to the community.

3.5. Drawing meaning from the data

Limitations

Collecting demographic data from participants was not mandatory, as such demographic details from some participants may be missing (e.g. age or connection to precinct).

Duplication in participation

Participants were encouraged to engage across multiple methods. We expect that some people took up this opportunity and participated more than once, for example, attended the online information session and also attended a community pop-up event. There is no way to check for multiple forms of participation.

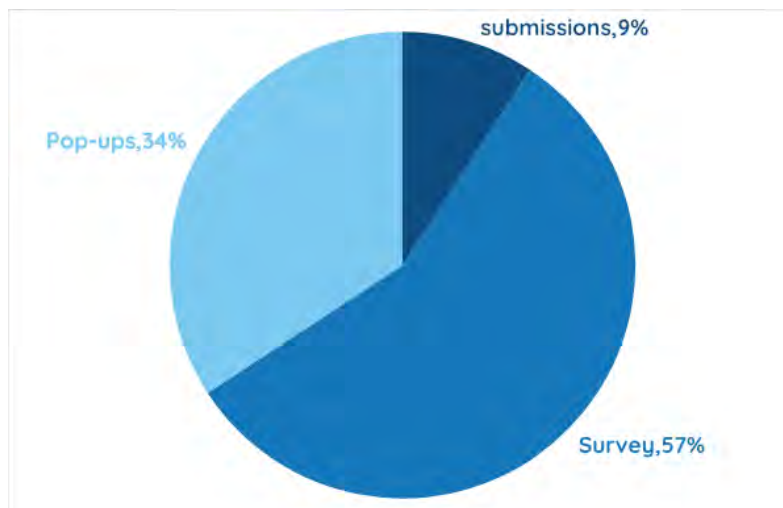
4. Community Participation

We conservatively estimate that 250 people participated in this engagement program, as we have no means of tracking duplication in participation across the methods. The following section details participation in the project by engagement method and precinct, and describes a demographic profile of the participants.

4.1. Participation by engagement method

Figure 3 shows the breakdown of participation and reach across the various engagement methods. The majority of responses to the engagement program were received via the survey, with 147 responses (56.5%). Participation via one of the five place-based community pop-ups contributed 89 responses (34.2%). Less than 10% of responses were received in the form of a written submission to the Council project team.

Figure 3: Participation across engagement activities

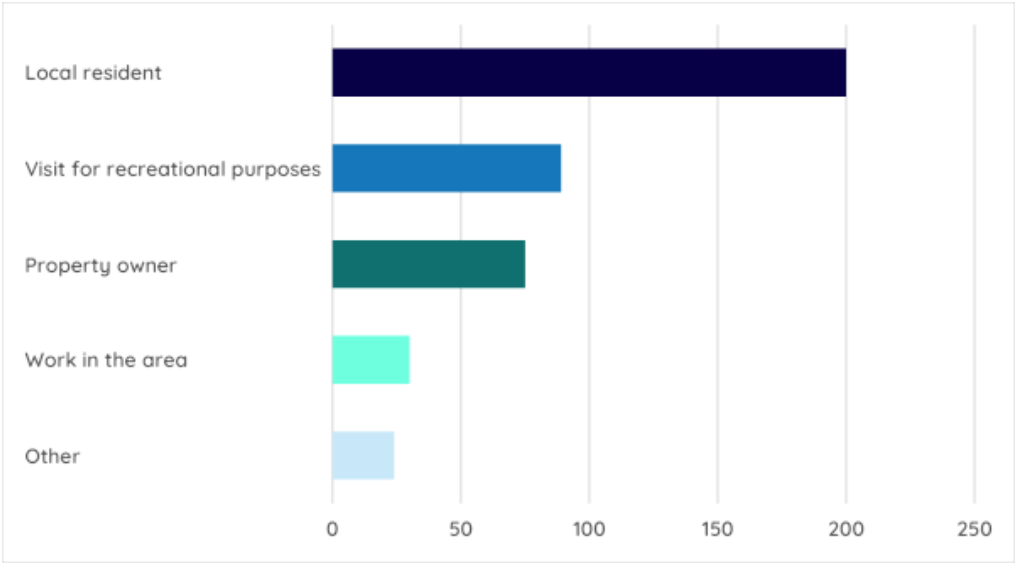


Participants were asked to provide some demographic information including describing their gender, age bracket, and whether they were providing feedback as an individual or as an organisation. Participants making submissions via email were not required to provide any demographic information.

4.2. Connection to precinct

Participants at the pop-ups and the survey were asked to describe their connection to the precinct/s that they provided feedback on, as detailed in Figure 4 below. Participants could nominate more than one connection to the particular precinct/s. Of those that responded, 200 participants identified that they were a local resident, while 89 said they visited the precinct/s for recreational purposes. Meanwhile, 75 participants were property owners and 30 worked in the area.

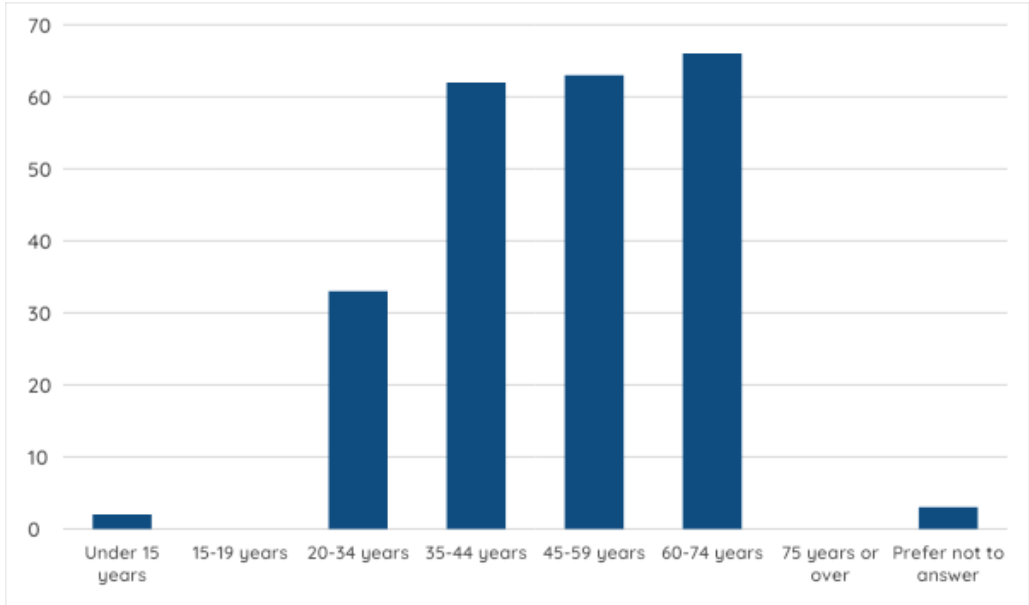
Figure 4: Participant connection to precinct/s



4.3. Age

Figure 5 shows the age data gathered from participants at community pop-ups and via the online survey. Participation from the 60-74 years age bracket was highest with 66 participants (28.8%). This was followed by the 45-59 years age bracket at 63 participants (27.5%). There was no participation in the engagement from the 15-19 years or 75 years or over age brackets from those responded to this question.

Figure 5: Age brackets of participants across engagement activities



4.4. Gender

Across the community pop-ups and online survey, 226 participants responded to a request to describe their gender. Participants were provided the following gender descriptors to select from: Woman or female, Man or male, Non binary, Prefer to self describe or Prefer not to answer.

The largest group of participants (55.8%) described their gender as female, 39.4% described their gender as male, and 4.9% of participants said they preferred not to answer (see Figure 6). There was slightly higher participation by females, as compared to the demographics of the Knox municipality with the 2016 Census showing a population of 48.9% female and 51.1% male.

Figure 6: Gender of participants across engagement activities

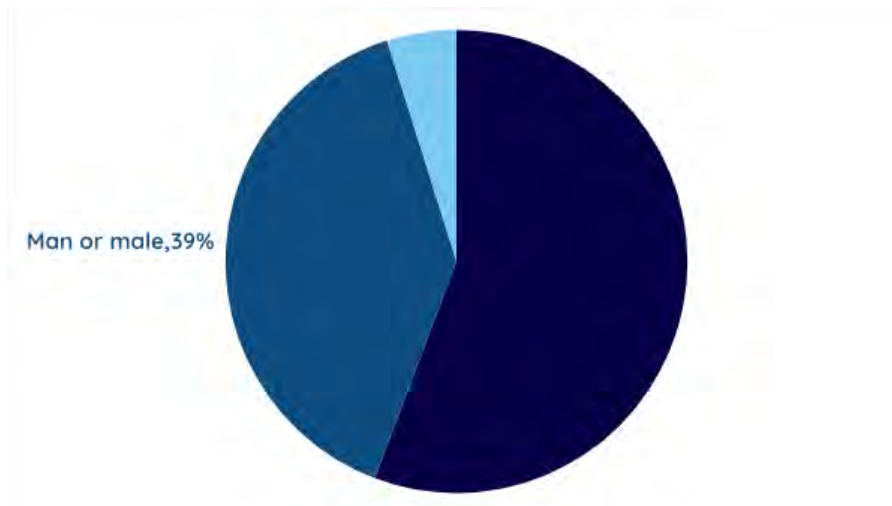
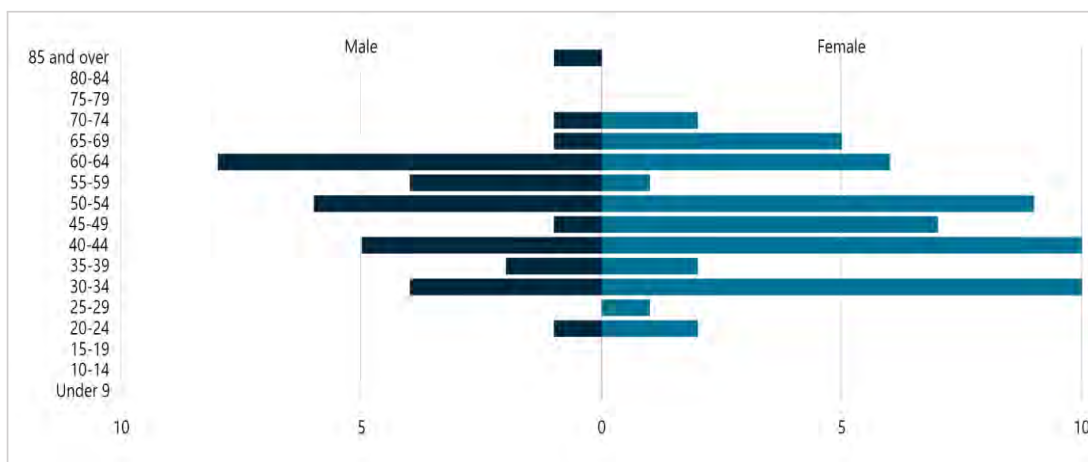


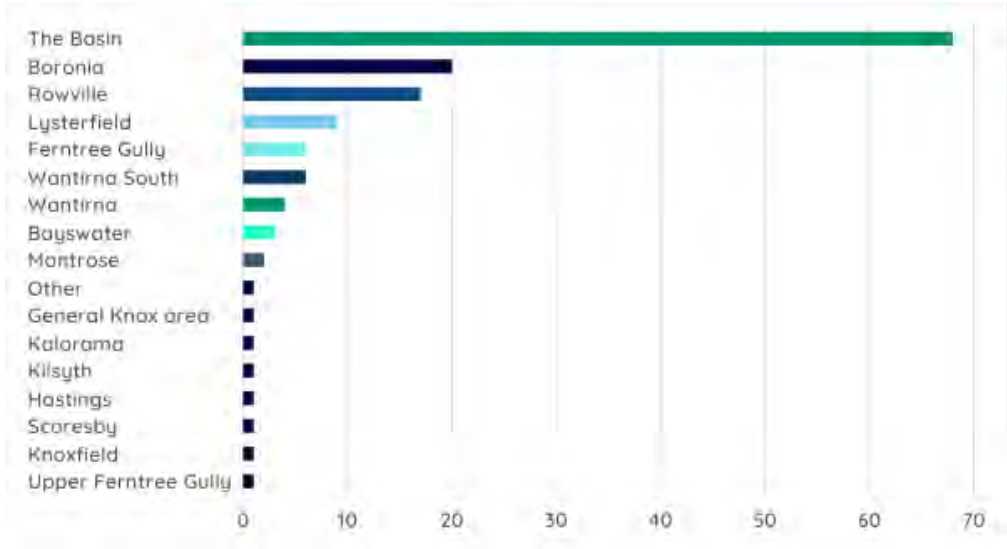
Figure 7: Survey Participant Gender by Age



4.5. Suburb of residence

Only participants in the survey were asked to identify the suburb they lived in. This information is shown in Figure 8. The largest group of participants (68, 47.5%) said they lived in The Basin. This number is more than triple the next largest participant group, which is 20 participants from Boronia (13.9%). Six participants identified that they lived outside of the Knox City Council municipality. We believe this is due to the interest in the potential sale of the Salvation Army property in The Basin.

Figure 8: Suburb of residence of participants



4.6. Individual or Organisation

Participants across the pop-ups and survey were asked to specify whether they were responding to the engagement as an individual or on behalf of an organisation. Of the 250 responses received the majority (240, 96%) were responding as an individual. Nine responses (3.6%) identified that they were responding as an organisation, and one response specified neither option.

Organisations that responded to the survey were from the following organisations:

- Friends of the Glenfern Green Wedge
- Green Wedge Coalition
- 1st The Basin Scout Group.

Written submissions received by the Council project team included responses from the following organisations:

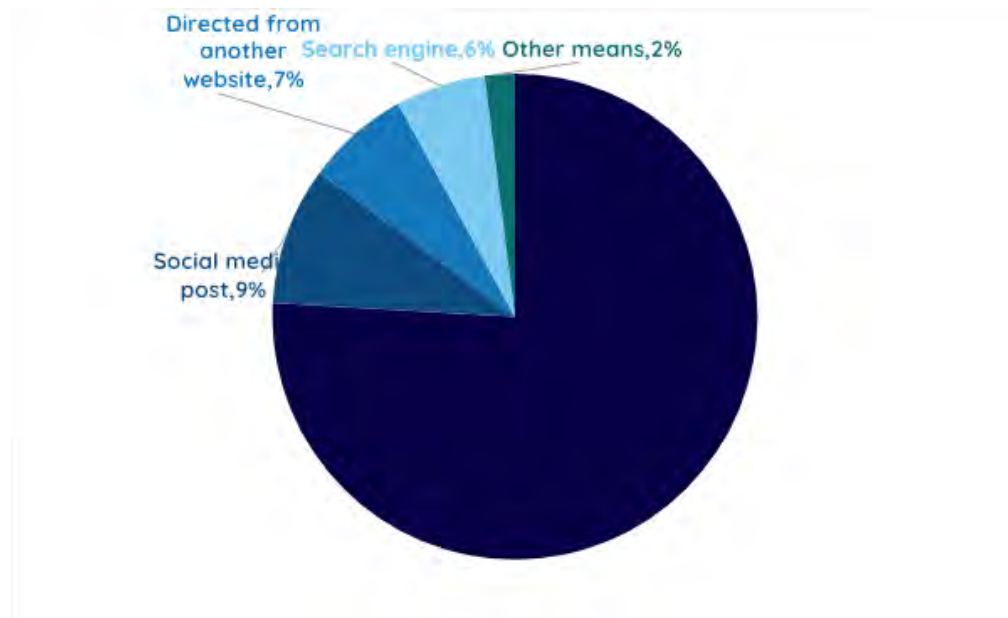
- Hansen Partnership Pty Ltd
- Insight Planning Consultants Pty Ltd on behalf of landowners of 2 Lysterfield Road, Lysterfield
- Pride Marine Corporation
- Hanson HeidelbergCement Group
- Whitehorse City Council
- Echelon Planning (representing Mirvac and the Boral Property Group (Boral)).

4.7. Participation via online portal

Knox City Council has an online community engagement portal called ‘Have Your Say Knox City Council’. The project page ‘Protecting Our Green Areas’ had 5,204 visits and 3,914 unique visitors. There were 147 contributions via the online survey and 157 people following the project to receive project updates.

The majority of project page visitors (255, 75.9%) arrived via a direct link. This suggests that approximately three quarters of respondents clicked on a link via an email from Council. A further 31 (9.2%) clicked through to the project page via a link provided in a social media post. 23 (6.9%) were directed to the project page from another website, 20 (6%) via a search engine and 7 (2%) via other means. Figure 9 shows this breakdown.

Figure 9: Method by Which Visitors Arrived at the Project Page

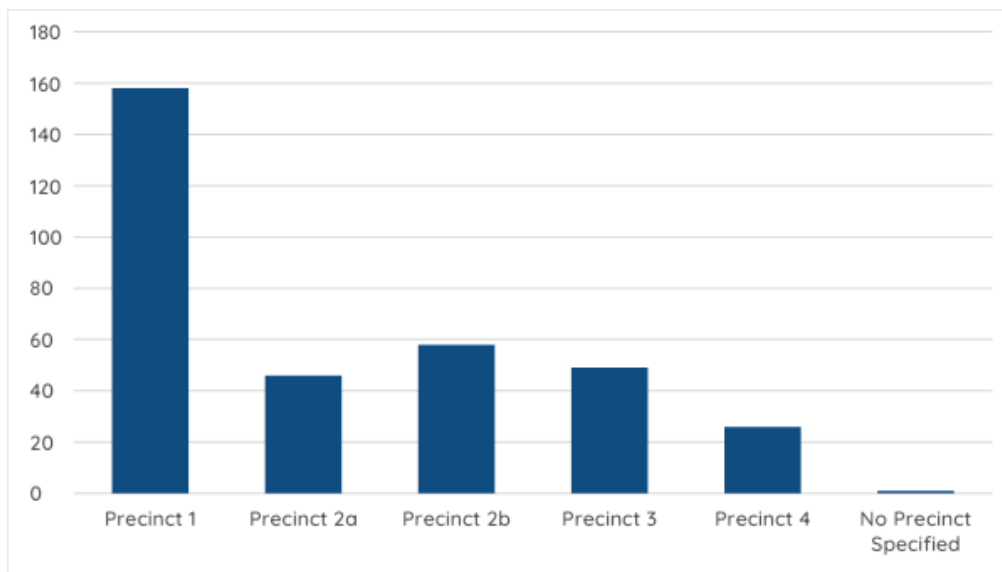


5. Key Findings

Participants were invited to select a precinct/s to provide feedback on as well as provide feedback on actions relating to all precincts.

Precinct 1: The Basin Rural Landscape invited the most participation, which aligns with the higher number of participants from that area. Figure 10 shows the number of responses per precinct.

Figure 10: Precinct/s specified in participant responses over the engagement



Key findings within this report are structured according to precinct, including a section on the actions covering comments common to all precincts:

- All Precincts
- Precinct 1: The Basin Rural Landscape
- Precinct 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills
- Precinct 2b: Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds
- Precinct 3: Dandenong Creek Valley
- Precinct 4: Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds.

Findings have been further broken down by theme:

- Theme 1: Ecology
- Theme 2: Landscape & Character
- Theme 3: Land Use & Access
- Theme 4: Council Action

Within each theme, comments have been grouped according to sub-categories outlined in the Strategy. A separate sub-category for 'Development' has also been included due to the significant amount of responses received concerning possible development within the precincts.

These subcategories are:

- Theme 1: Ecology
 - Wildlife conservation and connectivity
 - Vegetation canopy cover
 - Waterways and flood management
- Theme 2: Landscape & Character
 - Landscape Values
 - Heritage
 - Development
- Theme 3: Land Use & Access
 - Land use and economy
 - Public art
 - Access and connectivity
- Theme 4: Council Action
 - Communication about the project
 - Trust in Council actions
 - Engagement with community/ other community groups.

Responses to questions vary in length, some responses are singular in focus and can be assigned easily to a theme, or subcategory; whereas others are longer and may contain feedback across multiple themes or subcategories. Where this is the case they will be assigned multiple themes or subcategories.

Images: Conversation Co. and Council project team speak with the community



27

Across five precincts there was recognition of the role each played in assisting biodiversity and value for the significant areas of native bushland and waterways. Each of the precincts was regarded as presenting unique opportunities for future habitat restoration, improvements to wildlife connectivity, caring for healthy waterway ecosystems and aiding flood management. Figure 11 shows a selection of quotes, by theme, relevant to all precincts.

Figure 11: Selected quotes by common use from participants about all precincts



Level of support for GARS objectives

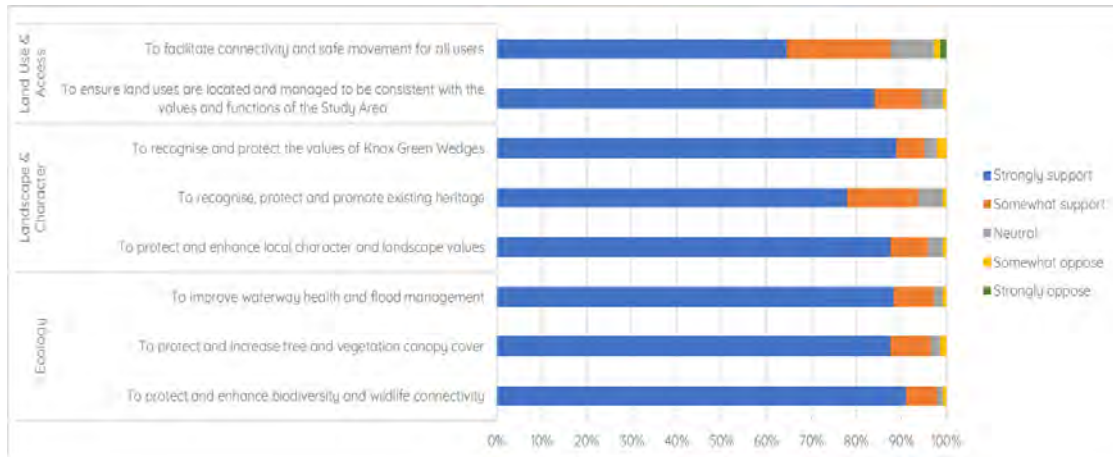
Survey participants were asked their level of support towards the objectives underpinning the Strategy, 145 responses were received with a minimum of 65% 'Strongly Support' given for each objective.

The Ecology theme had the most support, with 91% of votes (386 votes) strongly supporting the three objectives within the theme. A further 7% (36 votes) somewhat supported the objectives, 1% (8 votes) were neutral and 1% (4 votes) were somewhat

opposed to the objectives within the Ecology theme. There were no participants that strongly opposed any of the three objectives within the Ecology theme.

Participants showed less support for the objectives under the Land Use and Access theme prioritising the objectives under the Ecology theme followed by Landscape and Character. The objective that received the least amount of support was "To facilitate connectivity and safe movement for all users." While this had the lowest support, over 85% strongly or somewhat supported this objective. From the free text comments, it may be interpreted that this is due to a concern with increased development as well as the ability to track weeds or damage vegetation through increased access. Figure 12 presents the findings from survey participants.

Figure 12: Level of support from survey participants for GARS objectives related to all precincts (n=145)



Concerns for proposed actions

Survey and pop-up participants were presented with a list of proposed actions that Council will take to protect and enhance the green spaces in all precincts. They were then asked to comment on any actions that concerned them; 78 responses were received with 75 collected via the online survey and three at the pop-ups events.

Of those responses, 19 were common across all precincts with the remaining 59 comments related to a specific precinct. Where comments relate to a specific precinct, they have been analysed and included in the findings from that precinct and not in this section of the report.

Table 5: Key concerns for proposed actions by theme

Sub Category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Ecology		
Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Protection of endangered species ● Cat control ● Desire for expansion of wildlife areas ● Ecological impact of proposed road upgrades ● Preserving wildlife corridors.
Vegetation canopy cover	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Only 3% remnant bush left in Knox ● Loss of green spaces and forest areas.
Waterways and flood management	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Unsure of specifics on how Council aims to 'improve waterway and flood management'.
Landscape & Character		
Landscape Values	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Preserve views ● Preserve neighbourhood character ● Restore and maintain green spaces.
Heritage	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Desire to further celebrate and recognise the First Nations communities.
Development	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Selling land to developers ● Growing number of dwellings ● Impact of road developments, including traffic and ecological impact ● Future development and desire for council to be "more rigid with issuing planning permits" ● Future development in green areas, preference for it to be sustainable and located close to train lines and highways.

Sub Category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Land Use & Access		
Land use and economy	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desire for more recreational areas and separated dog areas • Removal of farmland.
Access and connectivity	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in traffic from proposed road upgrades • Unsure how Council intends to support facilitating connectivity • Ensure development is near train stations and highways.

From the feedback, of most concern was preserving the natural character and ecology of the area, while limiting development.

There were two comments that related to participants’ perception that Council may “lack the ability to enforce the planning schemes”. Some participants expressed concern that developers work around stated objectives to ensure their development gets approved by either Council or VCAT.

Image: Completed postcards at a pop up



Additional comments

Survey participants were asked to provide comments on anything missed in the Strategy (39 comments) or provide extra comments on the Strategy (63 comments). Of the 102 responses received, 36 related to specific precincts and have been included in the analysis of those precincts and not in this section of the report. The remaining 66 comments have been analysed in Table 6 and group according to theme.

Nine of the comments applauded Council's efforts and fully supported the intent of the document, providing no additional comments or concerns. Some provided feedback on Council's approach to implementing the Strategy:

- **Ability to limit development:** perception that Council is not able to limit development in accordance with the planning scheme, thus undermining objectives within the Strategy.
- **Community education:** desire for more communication, support and education for residents about the importance of the local ecology, weed management and conservation.
- **Greenwashing:** concern that Council is not genuine in its desire to protect and enhance green areas, one participant would like Council to declare within the Strategy that "Council will do its best to uphold the objectives of the GARS".
- **GARS affecting planning outside of the precincts:** responses used in this engagement will be applied to all planning decisions for the Knox area, rather than just the GARS precincts.
- **Communication and engagement:** a general desire for more community engagement around decision making and better communication.
- **Proactively purchasing land:** one participant expressed a desire for Council to purchase private land within the Green Wedge, or with Vegetation Protection Overlay.
- **SMART implementation:** one participant was concerned that the objectives are too broad and need to be Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound.

Table 6: Additional comments received via the online survey

Sub Category	No. of mentions	Comment Examples
Ecology		
Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for preservation of native wildlife (9) • Protection of habitat (3) • Better management of pest control needed (2) • Need to broaden the range of flowers and shrubs to attract bird life to middle and lower canopies.
Vegetation canopy cover	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over the destruction of vegetation and the need for preservation (16) • Desire for more education around conservation (2) • Desire for more removal of weeds and better general maintenance by Council (5) • Concern over removal of established trees (3) • Desire for more native trees to be planted as buffers in high use areas, especially along quarries (2).
Waterways and flood management	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater protection of waterways needed (6) • Overseeing Melbourne Water's upgrade of infrastructure to better manage flood mitigation. • Better managing and maintenance of waterbodies.
Landscape & Character		
Landscape Values	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of green spaces, views and natural environment (5) • Desire for expansion of green areas as resident populations increase.
Heritage	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for Council's proposed heritage conservation actions. • Concern that there is little left in cultural heritage values.
Development	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to roads and housing (13) • Concern regarding Council's ability to enforce planning scheme and limit development (6) • More regulations needed on new developments (2).
Land Use & Access		
Land use and economy	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about land being sold to developers or foreign owners (8) • Concern about quarries (life, operation, noise and dust) • Need for Council to encourage more use of green spaces, such as walking tours and environmental education (2).
Access and connectivity	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education needed around shared pathway usage (pedestrians, dog walkers, cyclists etc)

- Enhanced access via pathways.

5.2. Precinct 1: The Basin Rural Landscape

Participants appreciated the unique landscape that The Basin offers being surrounded by the Dandenong Ranges National Park. Many noted the wildlife in the area and the vital role this part of Knox plays in sheltering wildlife and aiding wildlife movement. Of greatest concern was overdevelopment. Many participants cited their experiences of witnessing the sale, subdivision and eventual development of properties in the local area. Local residents further mentioned that they had seen development encroaching into other areas of Knox and abutting natural areas like Jells Park. Figure 13 shows a selection of quotes from participants about this precinct.

Precinct 1 attracted 158 responses from across the pop-ups, survey and written submissions. This precinct had the most responses.

Image: Completed postcards at a pop up

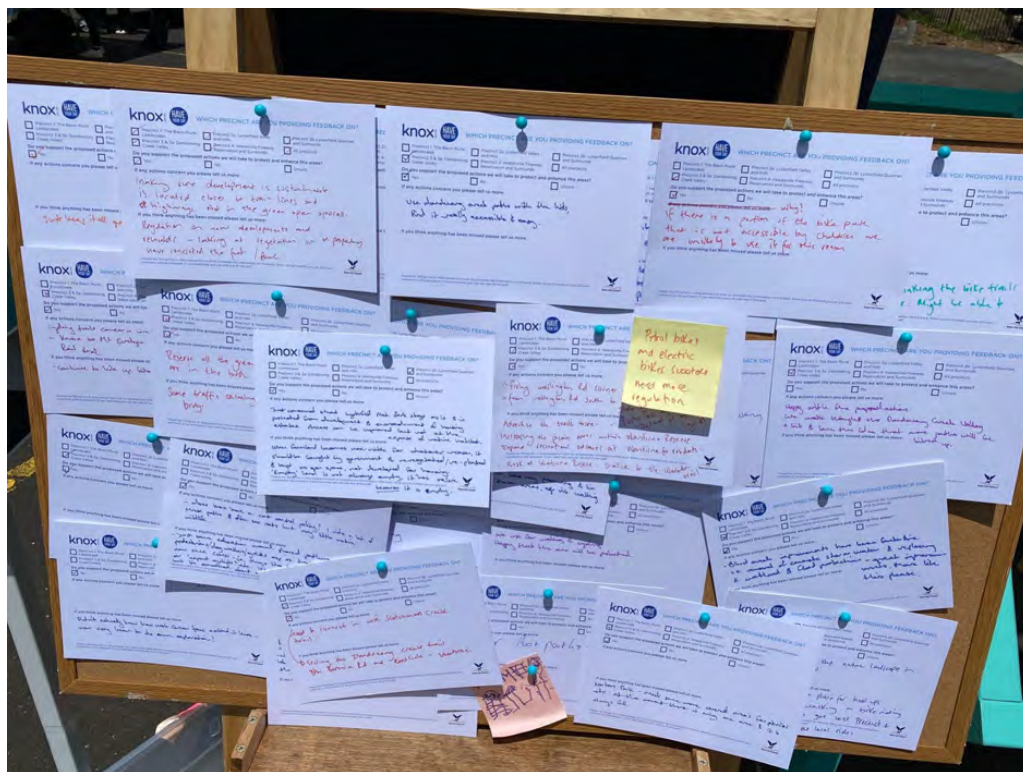
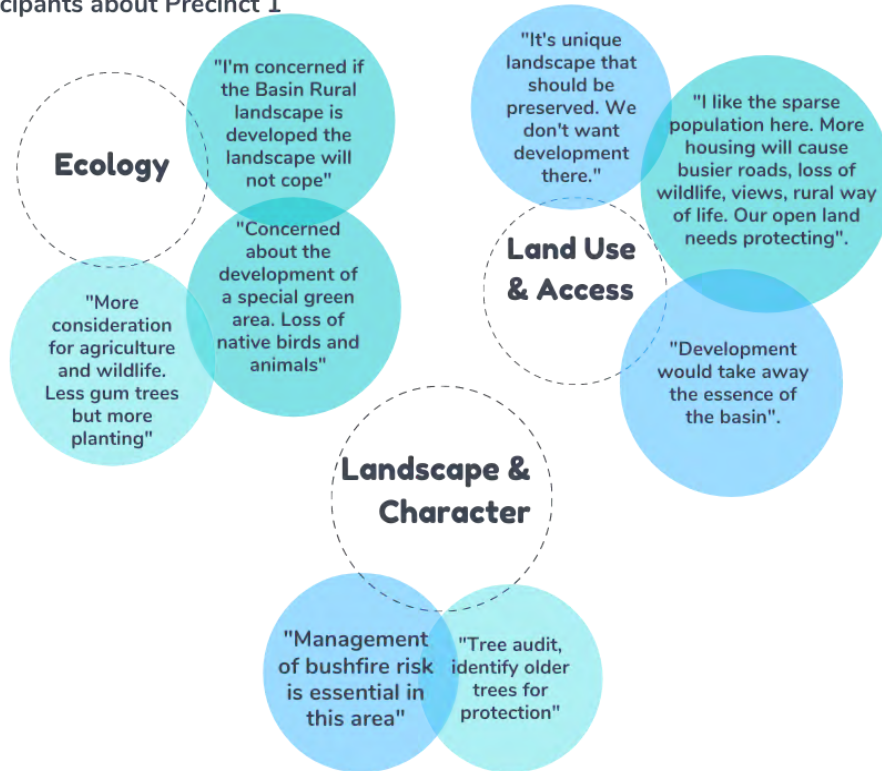


Figure 13: Selected quotes by common issue from participants about Precinct 1

SELECTED QUOTES BY COMMON ISSUE

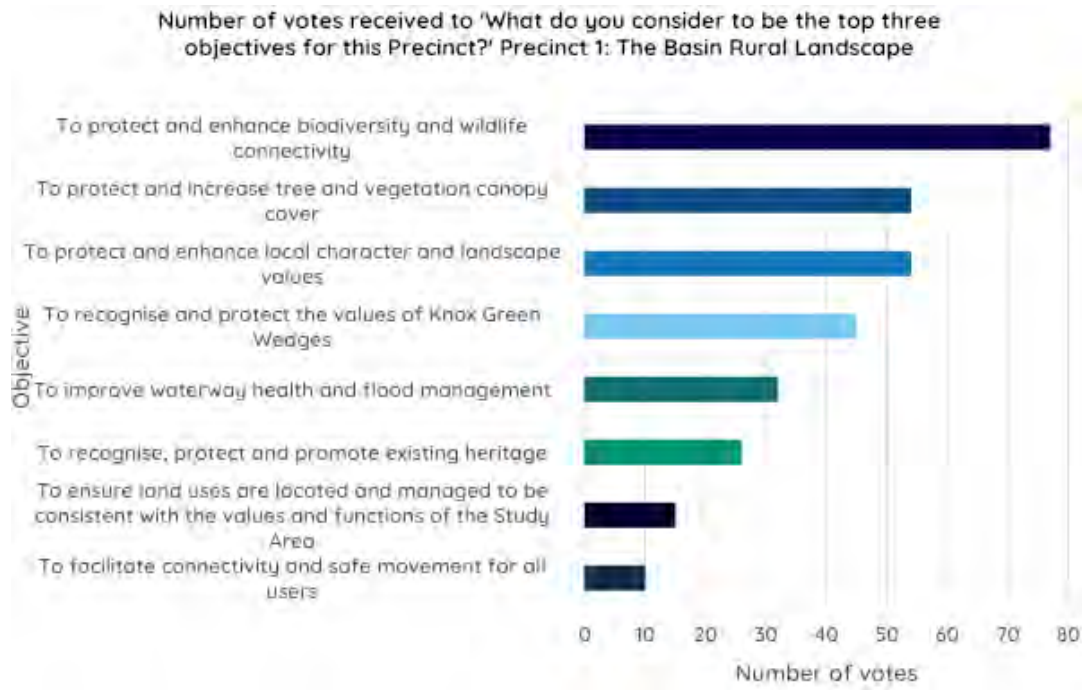
from participants about Precinct 1



Priority objectives for participants

Participants were asked what they considered to be the top three objectives for each precinct, 106 people responded to this question. The top three objectives for Precinct 1 were: to protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity (77 votes); to protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover and to protect and enhance local character and landscape values (each receiving 54 votes). Figure 14 shows how participants have voted and prioritised the objectives for this precinct.

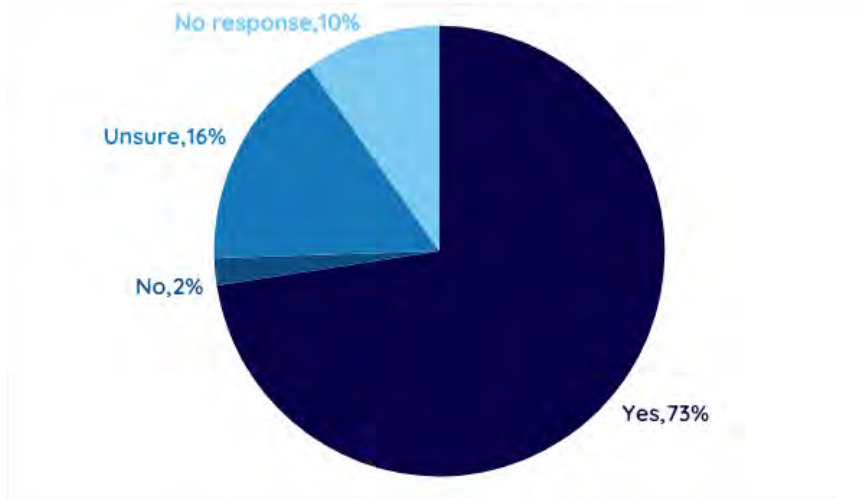
Figure 14: Survey participants’ priority objectives for Precinct 1 (n=106)



Level of support for actions by theme

Participants at face-to-face pop-up events were asked 'Do you support the proposed actions we will take to protect and enhance this area?' Out of 51 responses about Precinct 1 from participants across the pop-ups, 37 said they supported the proposed actions for this precinct. This equates to 72.5% support from pop-up participants for the proposed actions for this precinct.

Figure 15: Support for the GARS actions for Precinct 1 by attendees at pop-ups



Concerns for proposed actions and additional considerations

Survey and pop-up participants were presented with a list of proposed actions that Council will take to protect and enhance the green spaces in Precinct 1. They were then asked to comment on any actions that concerned them; there were 120 responses to this question.

Key community concerns related to Landscape & Character theme, with 106 mentions. Many of the comments in this regard related to the potential sale/change of land use associated with the Salvation Army owned property. This was a clear issue across all themes within this precinct, with the overarching opinion that minimal development should be allowed on the site. Participants expressed concern about protecting the green wedge, the local character, landscape and existing flora and fauna found in the precinct.

Survey participants were further asked to provide comments on anything missed in the Strategy (51 responses). These have been combined into Table 7.

As some participants made multiple suggestions per response the total number of comments in the table may be higher than the number of responses to the question.

Table 7: Participant concerns about actions, and gaps tallied by theme (Precinct 1)

Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Ecology			
Responses to “If any actions concern you please tell us more”	Vegetation canopy cover	25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect green wedge/ nature of land (20). Reference to the Salvation Army site (8). Increase planting (4). Conduct a tree audit and identify those

			<p>for protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address clearing of trees in residential areas (such as the Ravine - Claremont Avenue & Inverness Avenue area).
	Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect wildlife (22) Address rubbish (2)
	Waterways and flood management	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the creek and waterways (6) Address rubbish and pollution in creek waterways.
Responses to "If anything has been missed please tell us more"	Vegetation canopy cover	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigation of illegal vegetation removal. Monitor some privately owned properties to manage alterations to landscape e.g. destruction and removal of green canopy. Increase awareness of the endangered ecology. Maintain and increase highway planting. Consider native grasslands. Desire for signs/cameras to be placed along the road where regular rubbish dumping occurs.
	Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity	11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase emphasis on control of domestic cats, feral cats and deer in the region. More accessible information for landowners regarding species retention with habitat and plantings, access to nursery stock. Include native wildlife corridors (2). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connecting up the retarding basin to the bushland behind Sheffield road could be an opportunity. Protecting The Basin and its community, biodiversity and wildlife (4). Protection of Grey Kangaroos.
	Waterways and flood management	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rubbish dumping along Sheffield Road is an ongoing problem and ends up in the waterways. George Grumont Reserve rainwater making parts unusable (NB: This is outside of the study area) Wetland in Koolunga Native Reserve needs to be included (NB: This is outside the study area)
Landscape & Character			

Responses to “If any actions concern you please tell us more”	Landscape Values	39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect local character and landscape values e.g. semi-rural feel, open spaces, and views of mountains, hills and cows (36) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reference to the Salvation Army site (8) Consider implications to roads (2) Clarify what areas are to “be protected” as it is unclear in Action 1.14
	Heritage	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect heritage of precinct (5) Protect heritage of the Salvation Army property (4) Address the clearing of trees in residential areas (such as the Ravine - Claremont Avenue & Inverness Avenue area).
	Development	58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern over potential sale and development of Salvation Army site (28) Protect The Basin from over-development including high-rise (28) Concern about proposed Country Fire Authority relocation Clarify what area is to “be protected” as it is unclear in Action 1.14
Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Responses to “If anything has been missed please tell us more”	Landscape Values	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor some privately owned properties (including The Salvation Army land) to manage alterations to landscape e.g. changing the gradient of the land. Plan needs to make specific and strong mention of the importance of maintaining the ‘green view’ to the Dandenong Ranges in this area.
	Heritage	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To celebrate and make more prominent the First Nations history of the local area. Heritage value of the existing building at 29 Olinda Road has been missed.
	Development	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unrealistic to stop developments better to address affordable housing whilst preserving existing character. Against the building of a fire station at 11 Basin-Olinda Road (2). Extent and style of Boral development. Lack of environmental impact study for development at 49 Olinda Road, The Basin. Lack of community consultation re: 49 Olinda Road, The Basin (A Salvation

			Army rehabilitation site) (2). (NB: Relevant to Precinct 3.)
Land Use & Access			
Responses to “If any actions concern you please tell us more”	Land use and economy	33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect all areas that exist as agriculture, open space and bushland (10) Concern over the potential sale and development of Salvation Army site (17) Concern over increased visitors looking for places to exercise (2) Concern over proposed CFA relocation Quarries should be abolished and restoration work completed (Hanson and Boral) Concern about over-development (2)
	Access and connectivity	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan for safe access for horse riders (2) Ensure safe access for Doongalla and Sheffield Road (2) Improve pedestrian, bike and horse traffic along Sheffield Rd between Pavitt Lane and Doongala Road.
	Public Art	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure local and indigenous artists are engaged.

Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Responses to “If anything has been missed please tell us more”	Land use and economy	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor some privately owned properties (including The Salvation Army land) to manage alterations. Consider putting a local high school on the Salvation Army land on Mountain Highway. Consideration should be made to include this land as part of the National Park. If land is protected, is zoning elsewhere changed or affected. ie. smaller blocks of land in other areas. Against Salvation Army land being used for housing.
	Access and connectivity	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for a safe exit from the Basin Triangle reserve by car, currently forced to go to Toorak Avenue or near the bus (people do unsafe u-turns). Traffic congestion. More housing will cause busier roads. Parking issues are often exacerbated by bike riders, bike riders could park their cars down at the Boronia Railway Station

			and ride up to The Basin for their ride up the mountain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novice hang-gliders launching from near the summit of Mount Dandenong target open fields in The Basin as safe landing sites.
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In addition, 34 comments were received that related to Council’s role regarding community engagement and implementation of the Strategy:

- **Communication about the project:** Within the free text responses, 13 comments identified the desire for more opportunities to engage and better promotion of the project, especially around the Salvation Army-owned site and a clearer understanding of how ‘overdevelopment’ is defined.
- **More community engagement:** Of the 15 participants that expressed a desire for more opportunities to participate in engagement activities, key ideas included stronger partnerships with other agencies (e.g. Parks Victoria), engaging more with First Nations communities and more visibility of elected officials in the engagement activities.
- **Trust in Council:** Approximately seven comments were received that referenced a lack of trust in Council. This included such things as the need for stronger leadership, lack of transparency or the need for more information.

5.3. Precinct 2a: Lysterfield Valley and Hills

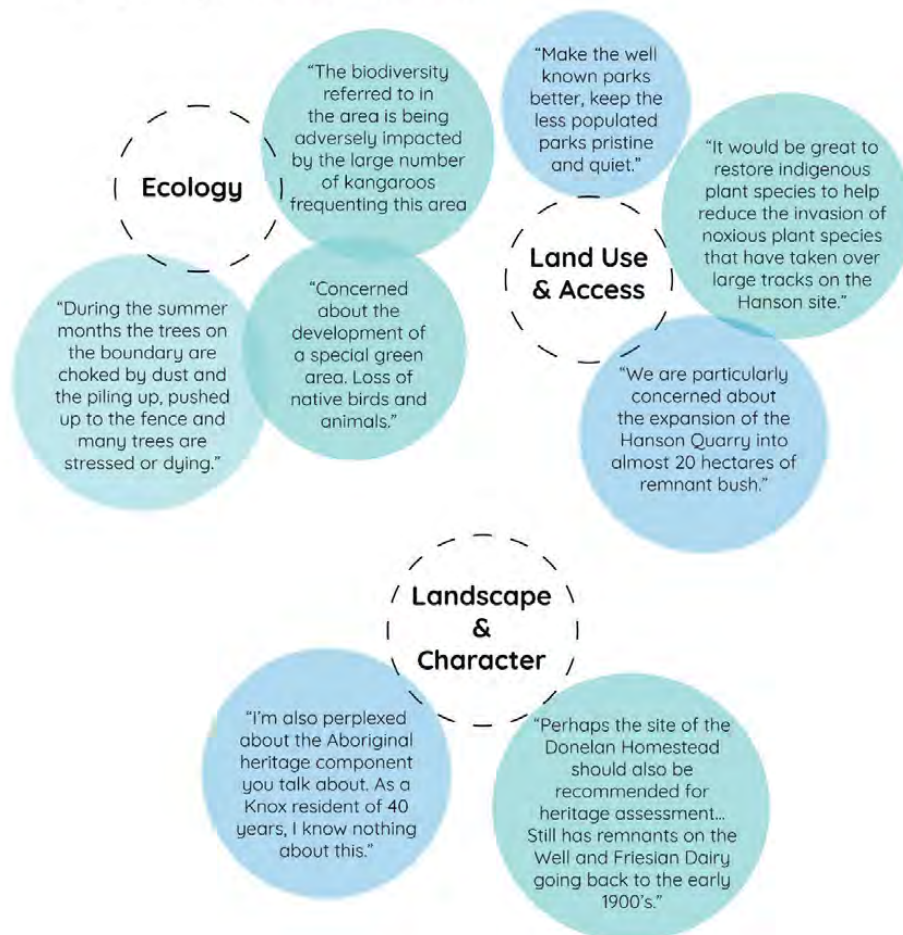
The quarry in this precinct invited the most attention, with participants concerned that its operation encroaches on the community’s way of life. Key features of this precinct that are most valued are access and enjoyment of Lysterfield Park, views to Dandenong Ranges National Park and the water elements that dominate the landscape. For some, the proposed Dorset Road extension was seen as an opportunity to secure access, while for others this action posed risks to wildlife connectivity. Figure 16 shows a selection of quotes from participants about this precinct.

Precinct 2a attracted 46 responses from across the pop-ups, survey and written submissions.

Figure 16: Selected quotes by common issue from participants about Precinct 2a

SELECTED QUOTES BY COMMON ISSUE

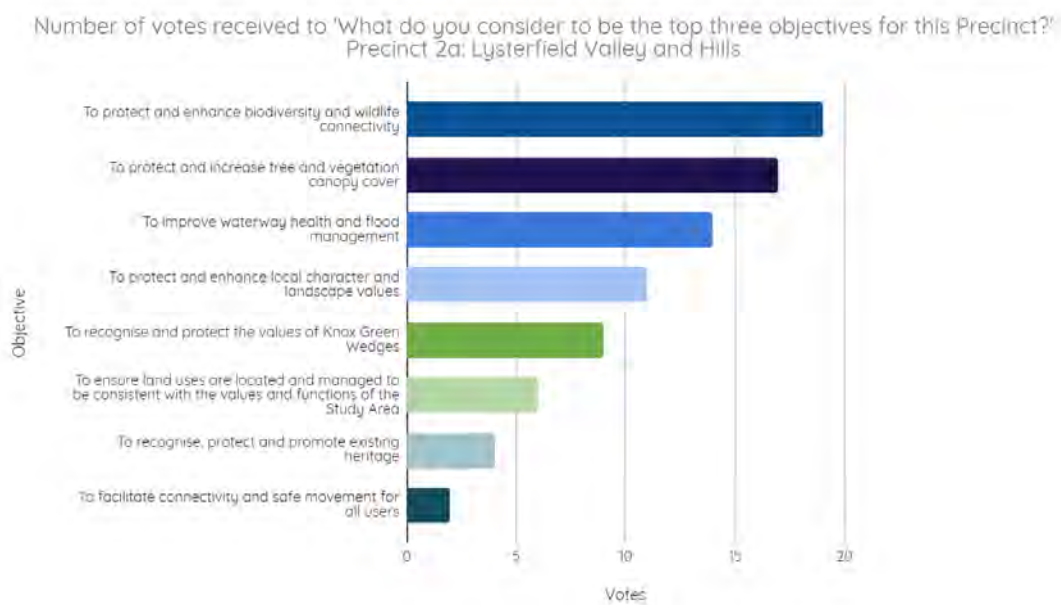
From participants about Precinct 2a



Priority objectives for participants

Survey participants were asked what they considered to be the top three objectives for each precinct. 28 responses were received to this question for Precinct 2a. The top three objectives for the region were: to protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity (19 votes); to protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover (17 votes); and to improve waterway health and flood management (14 votes). Figure 17 shows how participants have voted and prioritised the objectives for this precinct.

Figure 17: Survey participants’ priority objectives for Precinct 2a



Level of support for actions by theme

Out of 17 responses about Precinct 2a from participants across the pop-ups, all 17 said they supported the proposed actions for this precinct.

Concerns for proposed actions and additional considerations

Survey and pop up participants were presented with a list of proposed actions that Council will take to protect and enhance the green spaces in Precinct 2a. They were then asked to comment on any actions that concerned them; there were nine responses to this question.

The action with the most concern related to the Ecology theme, with six mentions, likely due to the quarry operations and consultation on the quarry expansion proposed at the time of this consultation.

Survey participants were asked to identify if anything was missing from the strategy, there were four responses related to Precinct 2a. These have been combined into Table 8.

Table 8: Participant concerns about actions and gaps tallied by theme (Precinct 2a)

Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
	Ecology		
Responses to "If any actions concern you please tell us more"	Vegetation and canopy cover	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reverse the 2018 PAO removal for Parks Victoria and Council to jointly acquire remaining natural bushland. • Create an ecologically managed access into the park. • Restore indigenous plant species to help reduce the invasion of noxious plant species that have taken over large tracts (e.g. Hanson site).
	Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect wildlife and flora (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Green Wedge land, including Lysterfield Valley, and areas adjacent to Lysterfield and Churchill National Parks and along Wellington Rd, which are all zoned Green Wedge.
	Waterways and flood management	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of flooding (Lysterfield Valley).

Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Responses to "If anything has been missed please tell us more"	Vegetation canopy cover	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Factoring in waste removal/people are dumping along Glenfern Rd. Increase tree planting.
	Waterways and flood management	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetland in Koolunga Native Reserve needs to be included with Strategy (NB: This is outside the study area)
Landscape & Character			
Responses to "If any actions concern you please tell us more"	Heritage	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unclear on Aboriginal Heritage of area.
	Development	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council has allowed developers to destroy vegetation.
Responses to "If anything has been missed please tell us more"	Development	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed opportunity to provide more amenities to local residents. Lack of local shops within walking distance to residents in this part of Rowville/Lysterfield.
Land Use & Access			
Responses to "If any actions concern you please tell us more"	Land Use and Economy	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of support for cafes and restaurants (2). Protect Green Wedge (2). Improve well known parks and keep less popular parks quiet (for resident use).

Additionally, two comments were received that related to Council's role in implementing the Strategy. These related to Knox City Council having a perceived bias towards developers over property owners, as well as the need to strengthen objectives around collaboration and partnership with water and utility authorities.

5.4. Precinct 2b: Lysterfield Quarries and Surrounds

As with Precinct 2a, the potential expansion of the Hanson Quarry invited the most attention, with participants concerned that this operation would expand into green areas of Knox. The additional road freight as a result of this operation was also a cause for concern, with some feeling they had seen increased death and injury or wildlife and increased dust sediment in the area. Development concerns were also more apparent in this precinct, with some participants commenting that increased residential development in this area would likely impact the flow of streams and important vegetation.

Precinct 2b attracted 58 responses from participants across the pop-ups, survey and written submissions making it the second most talked about precinct. Figure 18 shows a selection of quotes from participants about this precinct.

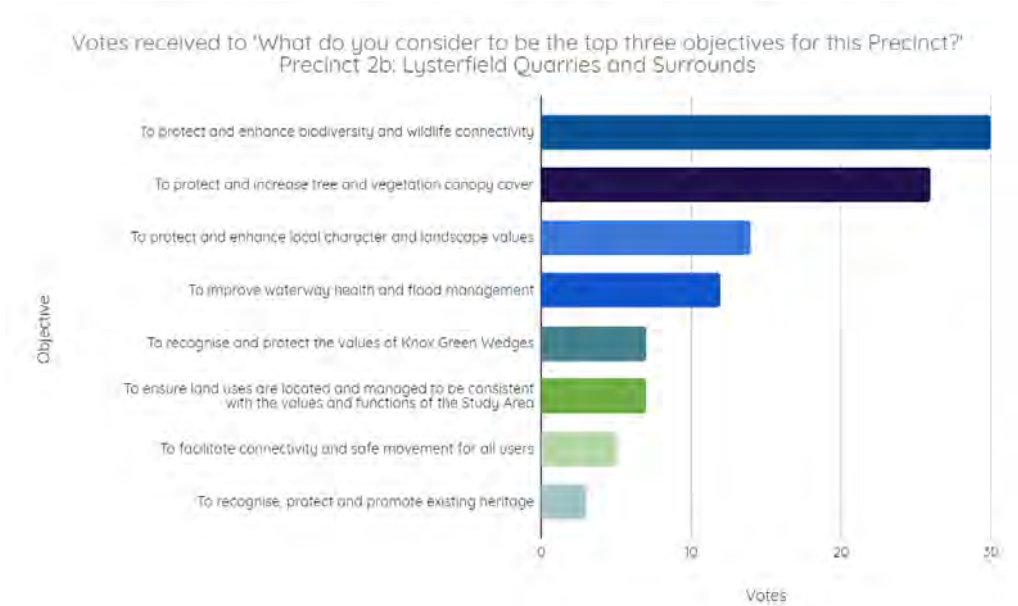
Figure 18: Selected quotes by common issue from participants about Precinct 2b



Priority objectives for participants

Survey participants were asked what they considered to be the top three objectives for each precinct, 35 responses were received for Precinct 2b. The top three priorities for the region were: protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity (30 votes); protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover (26 votes) and improve waterway health and flood management (14 votes). Figure 19 shows how participants have voted and prioritised the objectives for this precinct.

Figure 19: Survey participants’ priority objectives for Precinct 2b

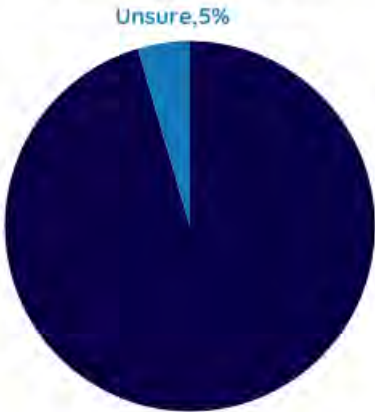


Level of support for actions by theme

Out of 22 responses about Precinct 2b from participants across the pop-ups, 21 said they supported the proposed actions for this precinct. This equates to 95.5% support from pop-up participants for the proposed actions for this precinct.

Figure 20: Support for the GARS actions for Precinct 2b by attendees at pop-ups

Do you support the actions we will take to protect and enhance this area? (Precinct 2b)



Concerns for proposed actions and additional considerations

Survey and pop up participants were presented with a list of proposed actions that Council will take to protect and enhance the green spaces in Precinct 2b. They were asked to comment on any of the actions that concerned them.

There were 34 responses to this question, the action with the most concern related to the Ecology theme, with 25 mentions. Again, this is likely due to the potential expansion of the quarry and its current and future impact on the areas of liveability, flora and fauna.

Survey participants were asked to identify any gaps in the Strategy, There were 25 responses related to Precinct 2b. These have been combined into Table 9 with responses relating to participants’ concerns.

Table 9: Participant concerns about actions, identified gaps tallied by theme (Precinct 2b)

Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns and gaps
Ecology			
Responses to “If any actions concern you please tell us more”	Vegetation canopy cover	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarry operations and potential expansion (11). Protect flora (1).
	Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarry operations and potential expansion and impact on surrounding parks (Lysterfield park and Churchill National Park) (11). Support for Lysterfield National Park to stay as is, natural habitat is protected. Protect wildlife.
Responses to “If anything has been missed please tell us more”	Vegetation canopy cover	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase farmland when it becomes non-viable for farmers and revegetate not develop. Address the increased rabbit population as it is causing erosion and loss of native vegetation. Address quarry expansion impacting on green areas (3).
	Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address recreation and wildlife. Protect the wildlife from the quarry expansion.
	Waterways and flood management	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a study of what impact the quarries have/having on the and waterways. Including the wetland area in Koolunga Native Reserve within the GARS (NB: This is outside the study area) .

Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns and gaps
Landscape & Character			
Responses to "If any actions concern you please tell us more"	Landscape Values	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarry operations and potential expansion impact on surrounding parks and views (2).
	Development	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarry operations and potential expansion, increased development, more infrastructure and movement of vehicles (6). Lysterfield National Park to stay as is.
Responses to "If anything has been missed please tell us more"	Landscape value	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a study of what impact the two quarries have on the landscape (2). Strengthen policy on the importance of protecting scenic views and aesthetic value for communities. Strengthen policy on protecting rural zones as form land, connecting children in particular with agriculture.
	Development	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address buildings on road reserve, along Dandenong Creek (between Cumberland Avenue and golf driving range). There are more buildings than needed to keep animals in this area.
Land Use & Access			
Responses to "If any actions concern you please tell us more"	Land use and economy	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern for quarry operations and potential expansion (16)
	Access and connectivity	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of trucks at the quarry, the speed limit is too fast. Managing the risk associated with access through buffer area (e.g. fire). Peregrine Reserve - Parking consideration in this area and maintenance of this park (NB: This is outside the GARS precinct in the urban area.)
Responses to "If anything has been missed please tell us more"	Access and Connectivity	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address danger of large volume of quarry trucks. Ensure adequate car parking in Wellington Road.

In addition to comments relating to the various themes outlined in the Strategy, seven responses were received that related to Council’s involvement in the implementation of the Strategy. This included four comments relating to mistrust in Council’s management of the Hanson quarry and associated communication with the community around the quarry. Comments relating to management of green spaces, such as fly-tipping were also received.

Image: Participant at a pop up



5.5. Precinct 3 and 3a: Dandenong Creek Valley

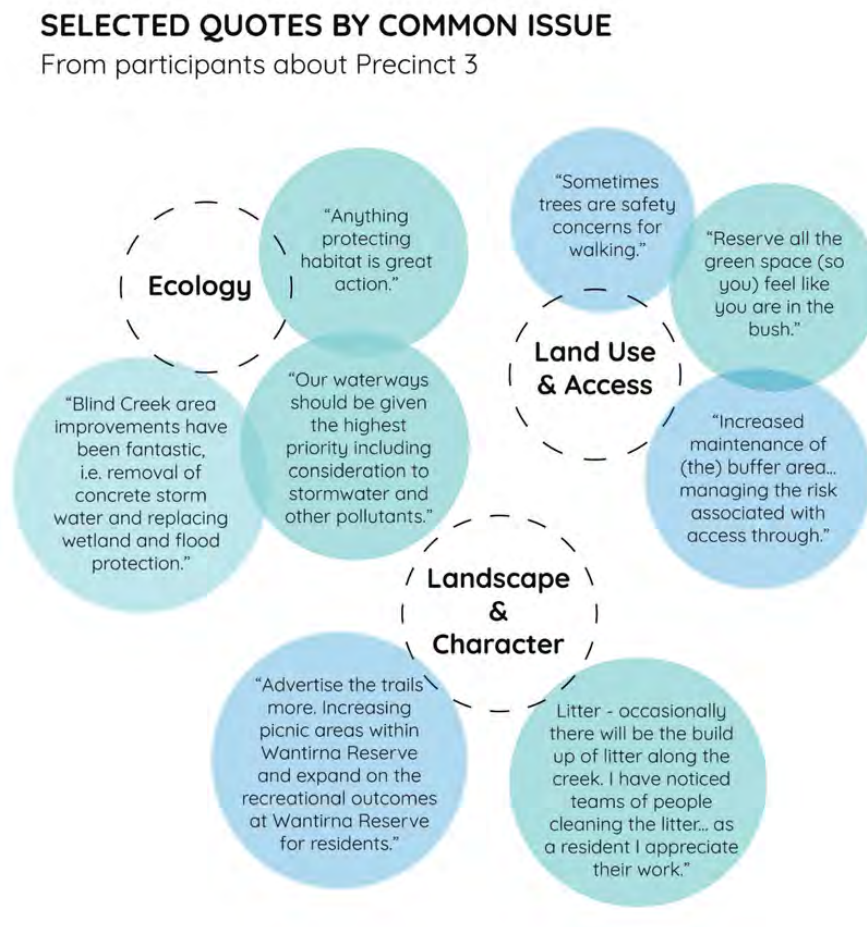
Precinct 3 and 3a attracted 49 responses from participants across the pop-ups, survey and written submissions making it the third most discussed precinct.

The long stretches of walking and cycling tracks along creeks and within bushlands makes this precinct unique. Participants were supportive of the proposed actions to strengthen this connectivity. Particularly linking paths to connect Eastlink to Kingston Links; and off and on road cycling connections.

Of more immediate concern was vegetation, water and protection for wildlife that is often seen in this precinct. There was some fondness towards the variety of users and uses within this precinct, that being fresh produce markets, horse and cattle grazing.

Figure 21 shows a selection of quotes relating to this precinct.

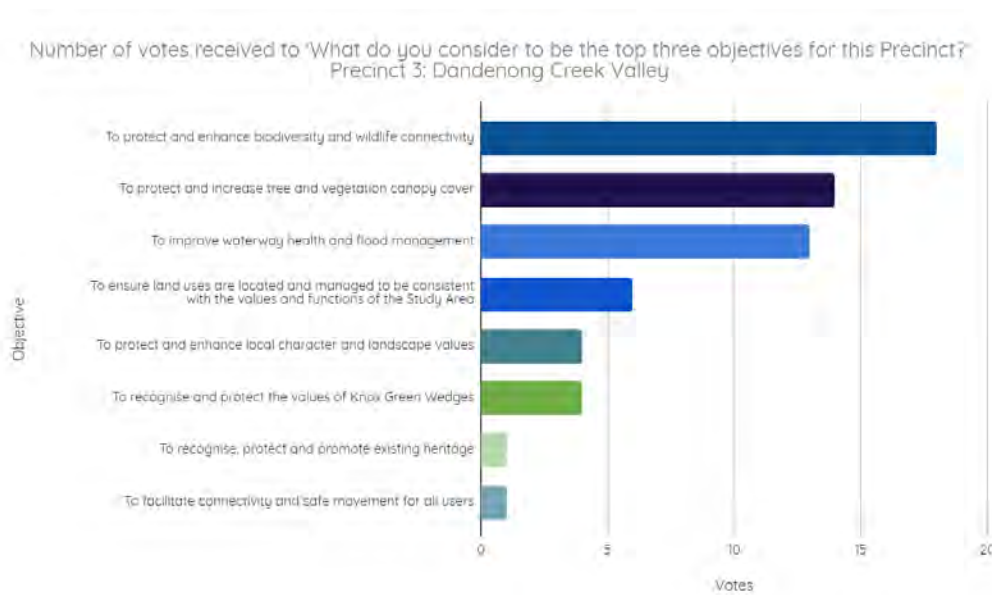
Figure 21: Selected quotes by common issue from participants about Precinct 3



Priority objectives for participants

Survey participants were asked what they considered to be the top three objectives for each precinct and 21 responses were received for Precinct 3 and 3a. The top three priorities for this area were: to protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity (18 votes); to protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover (14 votes); and to improve waterway health and flood management (13 votes). Figure 22 shows how participants have voted and prioritised the objectives for this precinct.

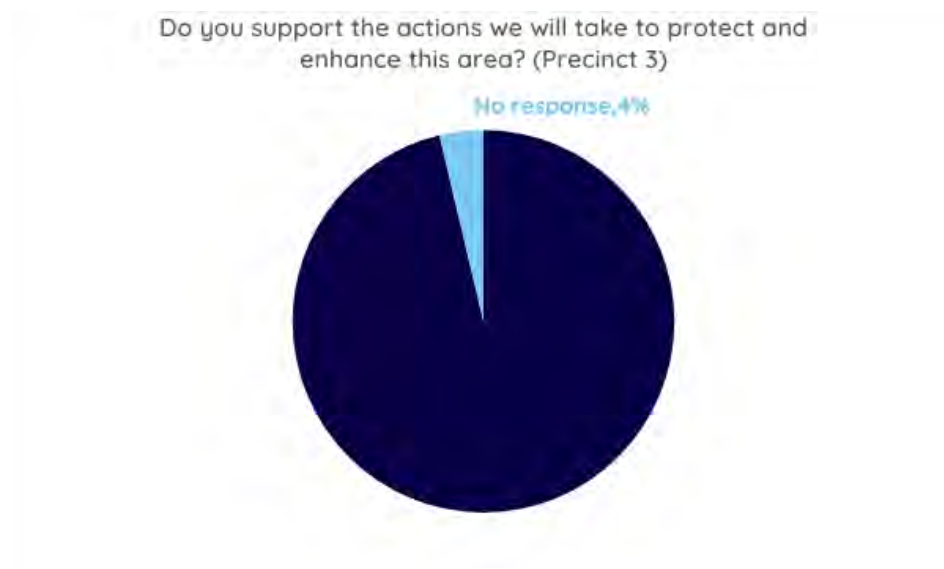
Figure 22: Survey participants’ priority objectives for Precinct 3



Level of support for actions by theme

Out of 27 responses about Precinct 3 from participants across the pop-ups, 26 said they supported the proposed actions for this precinct and one person had no response. This equates to 96.3% support from pop-up participants for the proposed actions for this precinct. Figure 23 shows this breakdown.

Figure 23: Support for the GARS actions for Precinct 3 by attendees at pop-ups



Concerns for proposed actions and additional considerations

Survey and pop up participants were presented with a list of proposed actions that Council will take to protect and enhance the green spaces in Precinct 3 and 3a. They were asked to comment on any of the actions that concerned them.

There were 26 responses to this question, the action with the most concern related to the Land Use and Access theme, with 12 mentions. The most common concerns were regarding Blind Creek. In particular, participants expressed concern for protection of habitat, management of weeds, erosion and human interference.

Participants were asked to identify any gaps in the Strategy. There were 10 responses related to Precinct 3 and 3a. Table 10 shows the breakdown of community concerns and additional considerations outlined by participants.

Table 10: Participant concerns about actions, tallied by theme (Precinct 3/3a)

Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Ecology			
Responses to "If any actions concern you please tell us more"	Vegetation canopy cover	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repurpose dead trees for habitat. Address noxious weeds. Revegetation of locally indigenous plants. Protecting remnant vegetation and habitat. (Koomba Park is a concern).
	Wildlife conservation and connectivity	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect habitats (3) including the lake on Blind Creek.
	Waterways and flood management	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue with removal of concrete storm water and replacing wetland and flood protection. Address impact of Boral quarry on the Dandenong Valley Green Wedge. Protect lake on Blind Creek (2). Improve water quality through Dandenong Creek.
Landscape & Character			
Responses to "If any actions concern you please tell us more"	Development	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address impact of Boral quarry on the Dandenong Valley Green Wedge. Concern Blind Creek is threatened by development.
Land Use & Access			
Responses to "If any actions concern you please tell us more"	Access and connectivity	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan bike paths thoughtfully for the safety of bike riders, walkers. Fix Wellington Road corner (for cyclists) connect in with Scotchmans Creek. Seal the Dandenong creek trail. Ensure the bike path is accessible for children. Join Knox to Mt Evelyn to the Warburton Rail Trail. Widen High Street. Address safety concerns of some trees for those walking.

Question	Sub category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Responses to "If anything has been missed please tell us more"	Land Use and Economy	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase picnic areas within Wantirna Reserve and expand on the recreational outcomes at Wantirna Reserve for residents (eg. kiosk). • Increase covered areas in Nortons Park. • Increase drinking fountains along East link and Dandenong Creek Trail. • Cease the development of East Field park sports field (not needed) (NB: Outside Knox municipality). • Increase public seating.
	Access and connectivity	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the petrol bikes and electric scooters they need more regulation. • Increase promotion including wayfinding signage, walking and bike riding maps. • Boronia Rd and Eastlink safety and connectivity • Traffic calming needed with bridges.

Additional feedback was received pertaining to Council's role in managing the implementation of the Strategy and promotion of the area:

- confusion around the Blind Creek area, its access to community and connection through the Boral land
- desire for increased promotion of the trails
- desire for enhanced communication and collaboration with Melbourne Water

5.6. Precinct 4: Healesville Freeway Reservation and Surrounds

Precinct 4 attracted the least amount of feedback of all the precincts with 26 responses collected from participants across the pop-ups, survey and written submissions. Figure 24 shows a sample of participant quotes.

Of most concern was the proposed extension of the Healesville Freeway and the impact this would have on vegetation and wildlife. Some see this ‘opening’ up of this section of Knox leading to increased development and eventually more traffic. Others expressed concern that the proposal would occur and wanted to see Knox City Council increase vegetation and strengthen biodiversity links.

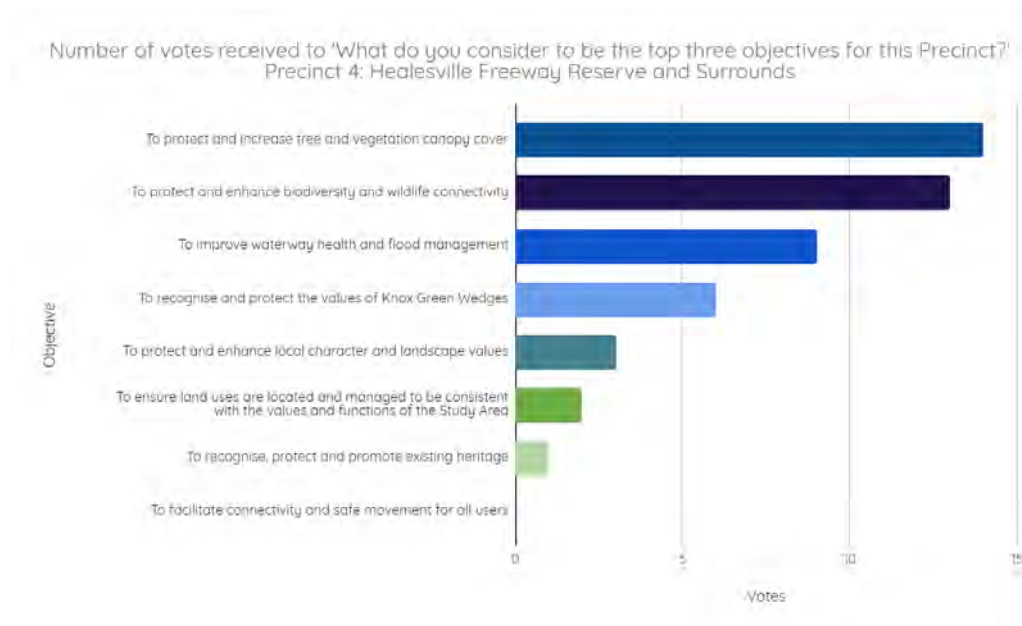
Figure 24: Selected quotes by common issue from participants about Precinct 4



Priority objectives for participants

Survey participants were asked what they considered to be the top three objectives for each precinct and 16 responses were received for Precinct 4. The top three priorities for the area were: protect and increase tree and vegetation canopy cover (14 votes); protect and enhance biodiversity and wildlife connectivity (13 votes) and improve waterway health and flood management (9 votes). Figure 25 shows this breakdown.

Figure 25: Survey participants’ priority objectives for Precinct 4



Level of support for actions by theme

Out of 10 responses about Precinct 4 from participants across the pop-ups, all 10 said they supported the proposed actions for this precinct. This question was not asked in any other engagement activity.

Concerns for proposed actions and additional comments

Survey and pop up participants were presented with a list of proposed actions that Council will take to protect and enhance the green spaces in Precinct 4. They were asked to comment on any of the actions that concerned them.

There were a total of eight responses to this question, with most of the mentions relating to the potential freeway connection in Healesville and its future impact crossing over all of the three themes. Table 11 shows this breakdown of responses to this question as well as responses where participants were asked to identify if anything is missing.

It is worth noting that the total number of mentions exceed the total number of comments received as some comments had multiple points relating to various sub-categories.

Table 11: Participant concerns and additional comments by theme (Precinct 4)

Question	Sub Category	No. of mentions	Key concerns
Ecology			
Responses to “If any actions concern you please tell us more	Vegetation canopy cover	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect green and open space from developments. Protect native plants. Freeway connection will impact biodiversity (3), particularly Bateman Street.
	Wildlife conservation and connectivity	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Species extinction and/or biodiversity. Freeway connection will impact biodiversity (3).
Responses to “If anything has been missed please tell us more”	Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community value of green space and biodiversity.
Landscape & Character			
Responses to “If any actions concern you please tell us more	Landscape value	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeway connection will impact the natural values of the area.
	Development	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widen existing roads to improve traffic flows rather than to build more. Protect green and open space from developments. Removal of green space for freeway.

6. Recommendations

We are not technical experts in the planning of green and rural planning, rather experts in community consultation. Here we report findings based on what the community identified as gaps, or where we noticed interest that wasn’t quite covered within the Strategy. Conversation Co. makes the following recommendations for consideration by the project team:

Project recommendations - Strategy Inclusions

- **Include plans for implementation and monitoring:** There was significant participant interest in the Strategy's implementation and how Council would monitor its progress.
- **Include the other management responsibilities of Council:** There was community interest in not only the protection and planning of these spaces, but also what could be expected from a maintenance perspective. This is related to daily or weekly inconveniences like illegal dumping, weed management, or the impact of increased visitation during certain times of the year.
- **Council's role in enforcing and managing development:** A significant number of concerns related to community's trust in Council managing development into the future. Consider including an extra section about managing development within each of the precincts addressing key development sites e.g. Salvation Army site, quarry sites and the freeway extension.
- **Council's role in working with authorities and landowners:** Consider the inclusion of an extra section about how Council plans to work with Melbourne Water and other authorities around any upgrades of infrastructure (e.g. infrastructure to better manage flood mitigation).
- **Include education and communication:** Participants expressed a desire to be better informed on local ecology and environmental management. Consider including a statement of intent around communication and education from Council for residents about the importance of the local ecology, weed management and conservation.
- **Enhance understanding of wildlife values:** Appreciation and understanding of wildlife corridors appeared to vary across participants. This could be enhanced by explicitly stating the need for wildlife corridors within the Strategy, thus bringing it to life more for community members. For example, consider including the typical animal species found in certain areas and the movement patterns of these species.
- **Bring heritage and cultural values to life more:** Cultural and heritage values were hardly mentioned by the community in their feedback. This could be due to a lack of understanding of what is available or a lack of understanding of what the intent of this objective is. Consider finding ways to connect the importance of this to landscape values as well as building in actions to celebrate and promote Indigenous history.
- **Include all green areas:** Consider including parks and recreation reserves within the Strategy. Although treated differently in a planning sense, this would help to demonstrate how the work within the GARS intersects with Knox City Council's Open Space or Recreation Strategy.
- **Enhance access and connectivity understanding** We understand that the connections (cycling, walking and road) need balancing with the management and protection of green and rural areas. However, participants were unclear or unaware of the extent of the work Council is doing to enhance connections across Knox. Consider an alternative way to communicate the work, perhaps by showing the routes the new actions will affect, or if the impact action should or could be reduced by working with landowners to reduce access.

Process recommendations - Special Circumstances

The intention to sell the Salvation Army owned site created project interest and enthusiasm for the GARS, however it also created some confusion and negatively impacted Council's relationship with the community. We understand that it is not a Council managed process, however Conversation Co. recommends having more Council representation at future engagement events where there is potential for contentious issues to be discussed. Having Councillors or Council Officers attend sessions that have significant community interest will help demonstrate to residents Council's understanding and commitment to working together.

Process recommendations - Next Steps

Engagement on this project has already created significant interest and aspirations for the Knox community, for those who participated, read a post online or were at a location with a pop up.

- **Keeping people updated:** Issue a statement and update the Council project page thanking participants for participating in the project and for sharing their ideas. As we move into the next phase of the project we need to keep the wider community updated about the progress of this project.
- **Share the data:** Even after this initial stage we have collected a substantial level of data that can be used by other departments to plan the delivery of services. Consider ways you can share this data such as creating a snapshot of the engagement data, to bring the data to life with infographics to help participants digest the information in an easy form.
- **Adherence to the Local Government Act 2020:** Keeping participants informed in engagement and the project is called 'closing the loop' - the information loop is currently open. Participants have shared their ideas and their feedback through the engagement process and are waiting to see what happens next. A new requirement of the Act requires councils to share the information that has been collected and inform the community as to how this will shape thinking.

7. Attachments

Attachment 1 - Green Areas and Rural Strategy Precinct Fact Sheets

Fact Sheets were made available at pop-ups, intercepts, and in a link on the online survey. The six Fact Sheets (one for each precinct and one for all precincts) are available as attachments.

Green Areas and Rural Strategy (GARS) Implementation Plan

<p>Budget Operational (incl. staff time); Funded; Future Budget Bid (\$ = <\$10,000; \$\$= \$10,000 - \$50,000; \$\$\$= >\$50,000)</p> <p>Timeframe Ongoing; Short (1-2 years); Medium (up to 5 years); Long (up to 10 years)</p> <p>GARS PSA The GARS Planning Scheme Amendment (PSA) is referenced as the implementation vehicle for many of the actions recommended by the strategy. The GARS PSA will be prepared and implemented following the adoption of the strategy, to incorporate key directions, policy positions and actions from the GARS within the Knox Planning Scheme to guide future decisions within the GARS precinct areas. This process requires the preparation of the planning scheme provisions (potential consultant work to refine recommendations, draft Planning Scheme ordinance and create maps), Ministerial authorisation to commence, public exhibition, potentially a panel hearing process, Council decisions a various stages and Ministerial approval to gazette the changes. This action is referenced as GARS PSA throughout the Implementation Plan.</p> <p>Acronyms CC Connected Communities Directorate CF City Futures Department CPB City Planning & Building Department CSH City Safety & Health Department GSE Green Spaces & Environment Department ID Infrastructure Directorate IT Information Technology Department</p>				
Action	Implementation Approach	Budget	Timeframe	Lead/Partner
Actions for all precincts				
<p>Action 1. Investigate options to incorporate relevant recommendations from the Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report (Ecology and Infrastructure International et al., 2017) into the Knox Planning Scheme, including the following recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring the connectivity elements and important habitats are considered in the review of planning applications and strategic planning decisions. Applying appropriate buffers along the waterways including the Dandenong Creek, Dobsons Creek, Monbulk Creek and Blind Creek to the extent of the Study Area. Mandating an ecologically sensitive development approach to new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges) within high ecological value buffer zones. Encourage habitat restoration and revegetation within 300m buffer zones to existing areas of native vegetation, in areas that do not increase bushfire risk to existing settlements. <p>The above action might entail new policy or overlay provisions and making the Knox Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report a reference document in the Scheme, subject to further planning investigation.</p>	<p>Existing project – Parts of this action will be implemented through the Biodiversity Resilience Plan currently underway</p> <p>GARS PSA</p> <p>Appropriate buffers to waterways are determined through referral to Melbourne Water</p>	<p>Funded</p> <p>Future Budget Bid (\$\$\$)</p> <p>Operational</p>	<p>Short</p> <p>Short – Medium</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>GSE</p> <p>CF</p> <p>CPB; CF</p>
Action 2. Investigate the need for further guidelines to facilitate Ecologically Sensitive Design for new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges).	New Project – include Action 4.4	Future Budget Bid (\$)	Medium	GSE; ID
Action 3. Advocate for wildlife linkages to continue outside the Study Area, in accordance with the recommendations of the Wildlife Conservation and Connectivity Report (Ecology and Infrastructure International et al., 2017).	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	GSE; CF
Action 4. Continue collaboration with other councils and the state government regarding pest management and pollution control.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	GSE
Action 5. Continue to support and grow community partnerships and initiatives including the Gardens for Wildlife program.	Existing Program	Operational	Ongoing	GSE
<p>Action 6. Undertake a tree canopy mapping and monitoring project for Knox to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map the existing tree canopy and vegetation cover broken down by height and surface cover types. Investigate setting of measurable tree canopy cover targets including sub-targets for public land (parks, streets) and private property. Define actions to achieve the canopy targets. Establish a program for regular monitoring of vegetation cover and control progress against the established targets. Facilitate enforcement in cases of unlawful tree removal. 	New Project	Future Budget Bid (\$\$)	Short	CF; GSE; IT
Action 7. Undertake a review of the Vegetation Protection Overlays (VPOs) to correct the existing anomalies and identify opportunities for additional trees to be protected by the overlay.	New Project - Include Action 4.6	Future Budget Bid (\$\$\$)	Medium	CF; GSE
Action 8. Investigate Planning Scheme options to further recognise the role of trees, vegetation and surface cover types in moderating the temperature and reducing the urban heat island effect.	GARS PSA			

Action 9. Following the completion of the flood mapping project by KCC and Melbourne Water (MW), undertake a Scheme amendment to update overlays to areas affected by the 1% AEP (1:100yr ARI) flood level	Existing program	Operational	Short – Medium (depends on Melbourne Water timeframes)	CF; ID
Action 10. Provide greater guidance in the Planning Scheme to limit the extent of impervious surface including guidance for car parking areas in the Study Area.	GARS PSA			
Action 11. Continue to collaborate with stakeholders on regional and multi-agency initiatives that improve the waterways and catchments, including the Living Links and the Enhancing our Dandenong Creek projects.	Ongoing collaboration and partnerships	Operational	Ongoing	GSE
Action 12. Undertake a review of the existing Planning Scheme provisions to recognise the character and protect landscape values in the Study Area, in line with the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.	GARS PSA			
Action 13. Undertake a comprehensive review of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage across the Knox municipality, taking into consideration the specific recommendations in this report and the Preliminary Heritage review: Knox Rural Heritage (Context, 2017).	New Project – include Actions 1.13, 2a.12, 3.15, 4.18	Future Budget Bid (\$\$\$)	Medium	CF
Action 14. Avoid any changes to the Urban Growth Boundary in Precincts 1, 2a and 2b.	Ongoing operation; Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	CF
Action 15. Investigate Planning Scheme options to provide local strategic direction for Knox Green Wedge land in line with the recommendations of this Strategy for Precincts 1, 2a and 2b.	GARS PSA			
Action 16. Clarify, through strategic directions in the Planning Scheme, that a transitional buffer approach to the Green Wedge interface is not intended, and that a place-based, value-based approach to assessment is required.	GARS PSA			
Action 17. Investigate Planning Scheme options to provide strategic direction for agriculture and agricultural land in Knox.	GARS PSA			
Action 19. Investigate the potential for Carbon Farming and climate friendly agricultural practices including regenerative agriculture.	GARS PSA			
Action 20. Support the provision of public art in the Study Area including at the locations identified, subject to detailed assessment.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CC
Action 21. Advocate for the construction of proposed shared paths and cycle lanes identified in this strategy.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Precinct 1				
Action 1.1. Review the planning framework to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensure the protection of native vegetation and habitat is prioritised in Precinct 1 recognise the role of Dandenong and Dobsons Creeks in wildlife connectivity ensure bushfire risk and management in BMO affected areas is considered from early stages of any development proposal, such as pre-application stage, and proposals that require vegetation removal to comply with the bushfire requirements are not supported. 	GARS PSA			
Action 1.2. Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at specific sites in accordance with the recommendations in Appendix 1.	New Project – include Actions 2a.4, 3.6, 4.5	Future Budget Bid (Capital Works) (\$\$\$)	Medium - Long	ID
Action 1.3. Investigate mechanisms to support private landowners to improve maintenance and weed control including of Sugarloaf Hill.	New Project	Operational/Future Budget Bid (\$)	Medium	ID
Action 1.4. The planning framework to acknowledge that Precinct 1 is in the high value catchment of the Dobsons Creek.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.5. Investigate options to incorporate WSUD measures as part of new development in the Dobsons Creek catchment.	New Project	Operational/Future Budget Bid (\$)	Medium	CF; ID
Action 1.6. Support a WSUD approach to public works and infrastructure including the construction or upgrade of roads within this precinct.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID
Action 1.7. Ensure the Dobsons/Dandenong Creek floodplain is protected from development and level change.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.9. Undertake a review of the existing Planning Scheme provisions to better recognise and protect landscape values, in line with the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.10. Discourage fragmentation of land within the Dobsons Creek floodplain character area.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.11. Investigate opportunities for weed management and removal of shrub, to open up foothill views, particularly those on public owned land.	New Project	Operational/Future Budget Bid (\$\$)	Medium	GSE; ID
Action 1.12. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CPB; CF
Action 1.13. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the Knox Rural Heritage Report (Context, 2017), as summarised below.	Included in Action 13			
Action 1.14. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 1.	Ongoing operation; GARS PSA	Operational	Ongoing	CF
Action 1.15. Ensure future land use and development complements the precinct’s primary environmental and landscape values, including environmental conservation, agriculture, agribusiness, art and culture, with complementary small scale tourism-related purposes.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.16. Protect the Dobsons Creek valley, as a significant landscape with capable agricultural land, from inappropriate development and use that would compromise these values.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.17. Maintain the existing residential settlement character and prevent further intensification and vegetation loss. Consider bushfire risks and vegetation impacts early in the planning process and do not support proposals that rely on vegetation removal including for fire management or car parking.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.18. Maintain the current minimum subdivision sizes in Precinct 1 and prevent fragmentation of land.	Ongoing operation; GARS PSA	Operational	Ongoing	CF

Action 1.19. Support enhancements to amenity, scenic qualities and recreational values.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.20. Facilitate enhancements to The Basin Neighbourhood Activity Centre, through a potential master planning process, to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> strengthen and diversify commercial land use within the existing commercial zones to the south of the roundabout; protect and maximise public access to open range views to the north of the roundabout; revitalise and enhance the public realm and local character; and support and facilitate public art to complement the local character. 	New Project – include Action 1.22	Future Budget Bid (\$\$)	Medium	CF
Action 1.21. For the larger rural properties within the central and western part of the precinct (GWZ2 and SUZ1), support discretionary uses (i.e. Section 2 uses) that are for tourism, agri-tourism, educational and commercial purposes, where proposals are sited and designed sensitively to protect and enhance the environmental, agriculture and landscape values of this precinct, and do not increase bushfire risk.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.22. Investigate opportunities to establish parkland to the north of The Basin Triangle roundabout to protect long range views from this location and provide additional passive recreation opportunities.	Included in Action 1.20			
Action 1.23. In case of future changes to the SUZ1 zoning, support alignment with the VPP Green Wedge objectives and use permissibility, while preventing urban development and land fragmentation.	GARS PSA			
Action 1.24. Investigate upgrades to the Sheffield Road/Doongalla Road route to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a safe multi-user path for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders. Potentially reduce traffic speeds. Provide signs regarding horse manure catcher and cleaning up after dogs. 	New Project	Operational/Future Budget Bid (\$)	Medium	ID
Action 1.25. Investigate upgrades to the Liverpool Road to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a shared path. Facilitate improved pedestrian movement around the Mountain Highway intersection to ensure safe connectivity to The Basin Primary School. 	New Project	Operational/Future Budget Bid (\$)	Medium	ID
Action 1.26. Advocate for improved pedestrian safety on Mountain Highway and Basin-Olinda Road near The Basin roundabout.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Precinct 2a				
Action 2a.1. Support enhancements to the riparian corridor of Monbulk Creek and strengthen habitat values and connectivity within 200m of the creek.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.2. Review the existing ESO over Monbulk Creek to ensure it properly covers the environmentally significant areas, in consultation with Melbourne Water to identify the Core Riparian Zone (CRZ) and the adjacent vegetation buffers.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.3. Should the proposed Dorset Road Extension be required, advocate for a concept of a multi-modal road/pedestrian and nature conservation corridor that supports both wildlife and human connectivity and contributes to habitat restoration within 200m of Monbulk Creek.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Action 2a.4. Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at specific sites in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.	Included in Action 1.2			
Action 2a.5. Undertake initiatives for supporting/partnering with rural land-holders to protect and enhance the ecological values including the riparian vegetation, and ensuring grazing practices do not damage habitat values.	New Project	Operational/Future Budget Bid (\$)	Medium	GSE; ID
Action 2a.6. Protect the floodplains of Monbulk Creek from development and level change to maintain their flood storage and retention values and prevent flooding downstream.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.7. Should the proposed Dorset Road extension proceed, advocate for the design to consider flooding from Monbulk Creek and apply a water sensitive design approach to maximise the natural flow and retention of water.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Action 2a.8. Review the Floodway Overlay over Monbulk Creek to ensure it serves a purpose and covers the correct area.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.9. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS, PPF and SLO1 in light of the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study (Hansen Partnership, 2019).	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.10. Should the proposed Dorset Road extension be required, advocate for a design that respects the landscape character, and celebrates and emphasises the key views and the open rural character of the valley.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Action 2a.11. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CPB; CF
Action 2a.12. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the Preliminary Heritage Review: Knox Rural Heritage (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.	Included in Action 13			
Action 2a.13. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 2a.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.14. Maintain the current zoning regime.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.15. Support the continuation of agriculture within the floodplains of Monbulk Creek.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.16. Acknowledge and support the different role of each zone within this precinct to enable a diversity of rural economy and character.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.17. Maintain the current minimum subdivision lot size requirements to support landscape values and agricultural potential of land.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.18. Support land use which respects the existing landscape character, protect key viewlines and provides positive biodiversity outcomes.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.19. Support tourism, agri-tourism and restaurant/café uses where they are accompanied by agriculture or natural systems and protect the landscape and character values.	GARS PSA			
Action 2a.20. Support and facilitate public art along the proposed Dorset Road extension within the Monbulk Creek valley in Precinct 2a.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CC
Action 2a.21. Advocate to the State Government to provide cycle lanes along Wellington Road, Kelleys Road and Napoleon Road.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF

Precinct 2b				
Action 2b.1. Maintain the northern area within Precinct 2b as a low density, rural, open space area to create a buffer between the Rowville residential areas and the sensitive habitat in Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park.	GARS PSA			
Action 2b.2. Maintain the current Urban Growth Boundary within Precinct 2b.	GARS PSA			
Action 2b.3. Undertake planting and revegetation within Precinct 2b, with the objective of maintaining and strengthening wildlife connectivity and linkages to the bushland areas within Lysterfield Park and Churchill National Park.	Advocacy (Parks Vic); GARS PSA (private land)	Operational	Ongoing	GSE; ID
Action 2b.4. Require a net gain contribution for any vegetation removal as part of the planned quarry expansion, by native vegetation planting to enhance habitat and wildlife connectivity.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	GSE
Action 2b.5. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS, PPF and SLO1 and SLO5 in light of the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study (Hansen Partnership, 2019).	GARS PSA			
Action 2b.6. Ensure future changes on Hanson Quarry land do not adversely impact the key landscape values.	GARS PSA			
Action 2b.7. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CPB; CF
Action 2b.8. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the Knox Rural Heritage Report (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.	Included in Action 13			
Action 2b.9. Maintain the Urban Growth Boundary in Precinct 2b.	GARS PSA			
Action 2b.10. Acknowledge the ongoing operation of the Boral and Hansen Quarries within the approved work plan areas.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CPB; CF
Action 2b.11. Investigate and support the use of the northern part of the Hanson quarry land for active recreation and sporting facilities.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CF; CPB
Action 2b.12. Encourage the use of the quarry land following the completion of quarrying to provide for improved community and environmental outcomes, and facilitate permeability to enhance community access to the national parks.	GARS PSA			
Action 2b.13. Investigate general alignment with the Green Wedge Zone 2, in case of future rezoning of the northern part of the precinct, to provide a low intensity buffer to the national parks.	GARS PSA			
Action 2b.14. Collaborate with Parks Victoria regarding enhancements to nature based recreation and tourism opportunities within Lysterfield Park and improving access from Knox.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	CF; ID
Action 2b.15. Support and facilitate public art along Wellington Road potentially as part of future planned ovals/recreation reserve.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CC
Action 2b.16. Provide connectivity between the Lysterfield Park trail network and the suburban areas, as part of future redevelopment of the quarries.	GARS PSA			
Action 2b.17. Investigate opportunities for upgrades to Cornish Road and the possibility of a formalised entry point, including car parking, to provide access to Lysterfield Park, in collaboration with Parks Victoria.	New Project	Operational/Future Budget Bid (\$)	Medium	ID
Action 2b.18. Facilitate improvements to Powells Road to address existing informal car parking issues.	New Project	Operational/Future Budget Bid (\$)	Medium	ID
Precinct 3				
Action 3.1. Acknowledge the significant role of this precinct in providing wildlife habitat and connectivity at a regional scale which is due to the integrity of existing native vegetation and the creek corridors.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.2. Continue the application of ESO2 across the precinct and review the local content to strengthen the provisions in accordance with the recommendations of this Strategy.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.3. Support rezoning to ensure the Dandenong Creek corridor is protected for conservation purposes, in consultation with stakeholders, including at 115-123 Axford Road, Wantirna South.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.4. Encourage reestablishment of the riparian vegetation and habitat as part of any future redevelopment at 1A Burwood Highway, Wantirna.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.5. Provide for habitat restoration and connectivity along the Dandenong Creek, and along Blind Creek as part of future development of the Boral Quarry site.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.6. Reduce the wildlife barrier effects at the sites indicated on the map in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.	Included in Action 1.2			
Action 3.7. Investigate and rectify the identified zoning anomalies along the Dandenong Creek corridor.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.8. Advocate for enhancements within this precinct to continue along the creek corridor south of Wellington Road.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	CF; GSE
Action 3.9. Protect the floodplains and wetlands in Precinct 3 for their flood storage and retention values.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.10. Continue the KCC/MW/Parks Victoria collaboration to improve waterway health and sediment control in Precinct 3.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	GSE; ID
Action 3.11. Future redevelopment of the Boral quarry site is to ensure that stormwater impacts are minimised and managed to the satisfaction of the relevant agencies.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.12. Naturalise the Blind Creek and enhance its condition as a natural waterway corridor as part of the future development of the Boral quarry site.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.13. Review the existing Planning Scheme provisions including the MPS and PPF in light of the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study. New strategic policy direction for landscape values of the precinct and a new SLO are to be investigated.	GARS PSA			

Action 3.14. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Sites and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CPB; CF
Action 3.15. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the Knox Rural Heritage Report (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.	Included in Action 13			
Action 3.16. Acknowledge the important role of the Dandenong Creek Valley Parkland as a significant green corridor within the eastern region.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.17. Support the following opportunities for the Dandenong Creek Valley parklands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancements to open space to enable more active and passive recreational use. Tourism, agri-tourism, urban agriculture and cafes. Community partnerships with opportunities for KCC to connect community businesses and commercial partners with Parks Victoria. Education opportunities such as nature-based education. Cycling-oriented activities/businesses along the bike routes, support opportunities for such as bike shops, storage, organic trails and food trails. Urban agriculture models such as city farms/community gardens, community nurseries and plant exchanges, edible landscapes, food forests, indigenous food production, institutional and demonstration gardens and restaurant gardens (refer case study of CERES in the GARS Economic Study). 	GARS PSA			
Action 3.18. Define High Street Road corridor as a Gateway to Knox. Seek opportunities to enhance its aesthetics through landscaping, building design and public art which reflect its horticultural history and bush boulevard character.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.19. Future redevelopment of the Boral Quarry site to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide for the revegetation and naturalisation of Blink Creek to reestablish its function as an ecological corridor. Protect and enhance the habitat values of the Dandenong Creek ecological corridor. Provide for passive and nature based recreation in appropriate areas. 	GARS PSA			
Action 3.20. Support complementary uses in proximity to the Knox Regional Sports Park including allied health and sports medicine.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.21. Investigate the area within Koomba Park which is zoned for road purposes for potential rezoning and inclusion in the park.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.22. Investigate parkland lots that are not zoned PPRZ for potential rezoning, in consultation with DTP and Parks Victoria.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.23. Advocate for further improvements to Nortons Park by Parks Victoria.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	GSE
Action 3.24. Investigate opportunities for renewable energy production (solar park) at the Cathies Lane landfill site, while preventing any adverse impact on any existing or planned residential areas.	Complete			
Action 3.25. Support and fund public art along the High Street Road and Burwood Highway to enhance amenity and sense of place consistent with the local character.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CC
Action 3.26. Advocate for and support the on-road and off-road cycling proposals shown on the map.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Action 3.27. Advocate for a shared path along High Street Road connecting with the EastLink Trail with the Dandenong Creek Trail.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Action 3.28. Seek opportunities to improve access and connectivity through the area between High Street road and Burwood Highway, in a collaborative process involving Parks Victoria and Knox and Whitehorse City Councils.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.29. The Boral redevelopment site to provide for shared path connectivity through the site connecting with the surrounding trails, including along the Blind Creek linking to Jells Park.	GARS PSA			
Action 3.30. Support the provision of public transport to the Boral redevelopment site and ensure the road network are designed to facilitate bus movement.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	CF; ID
Action 3.31. Improve access to Knox Regional Sports Park.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Action 3.32. Support shared path connectivity across Eastlink to Kingston Links development.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; CF
Precinct 4				
Action 4.1. Continue the application of ESO2 in Precinct 4 to protect native vegetation and habitat values.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CF; CPB
Action 4.2. Acknowledge the role of the Dandenong Creek corridor and previous investments in bushland restoration along the creek in wildlife connectivity within the broader region.	GARS PSA			
Action 4.3. Prohibit development within the Melbourne Water's Core Riparian Zone (CRZ) and the adjacent vegetation buffers.	GARS PSA			
Action 4.4. Investigate mechanisms to achieve an ecologically sensitive development approach to new development and the construction of linear infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges) across the precinct.	Included in Action 2			
Action 4.5. Reduce the wildlife barrier effects of EastLink over the Dandenong Creek corridor in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix 1 to this report.	Included in Action 1.2			
Action 4.6. Review the VPO in Precinct 4 to ensure it covers all the intended vegetation.	Included in Action 7			
Road Scenario				
Action 4.7. Advocate for an underpass design to protect Bateman Street bushland.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; GSE; CF
Action 4.8. Minimise the risk of exposure of wildlife to vehicular traffic from the future freeway through adequate buffer areas.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; GSE; CF
Action 4.9. Design and construction in proximity to Winton Wetlands should be sensitive to the ecological values of this wetland and minimise wildlife exposure to works or traffic.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID; GSE; CF

No-Road Scenario				
Action 4.10. Protect the Bateman Street Bushland and other Sites of Biological Significance and enhance their environmental and passive recreation values.	New project to prepare a Masterplan for the Healesville Freeway Corridor - to incorporate Actions 4.11, 4.12, 4.13, 4.15, 4.20, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, 4.24, 4.26	Future Budget Bid (\$\$\$)	Medium	CF
Action 4.11. Support future uses of the reservation corridor that can protect and enhance the ecological values.	Included in Action 4.10			
Action 4.12. Investigate the Transport Zoned land in the vicinity of Winton Wetlands which is within 200m of the Creek for possible rezoning to PCRZ to protect habitat values and facilitate revegetation.	Included in Action 4.10			
Action 4.13. Any development or the addition of impervious surfaces in the flood affected area (1% AEP level) needs to be accompanied by adequate studies and plans to demonstrate how flooding can be managed in particular through WSUD measures.	Included in Action 4.10			
Action 4.14. Review the Planning Scheme provisions for opportunities to reflect the findings of the GARS Landscape and Character Study.	GARS PSA			
Action 4.15. Ensure future development responds to the character areas, celebrates the natural/leafy character of the precinct and provides opportunities for views to the vegetated areas.	Included in Action 4.10			
Action 4.17. Ensure adequate consultation occurs prior to any proposals affecting the Aboriginal Places and Areas of Cultural Sensitivity as shown on the heritage map.	Ongoing operation	Operational	Ongoing	CPB; CF
Action 4.18. When undertaking a Heritage Study for the Knox municipality (Action 13), consider the recommendations from the Knox Rural Heritage Report (Context, 2017), as summarised in the table below.	Included in Action 13			
Action 4.19. Advocate for VicRoads to review the operation of the broader traffic network to determine whether the Healesville Freeway Reservation in Knox is required.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	ID
Road Scenario				
Action 4.20. Ensure the new road alignment preserves the existing recreational values of the existing open space and trails.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	CF; ID
No-Road Scenario				
Action 4.21. Remove the PAO from Bateman Street Bushland and rezone to PCRZ for conservation purposes.	Included in Action 4.10			
Action 4.22. Undertake comprehensive planning for the precinct to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consolidate land with possible amalgamation and rationalisation of zoning along the reservation. Expand and upgrade the existing open space to create a high quality active and passive open space corridor. Improve vehicular access and walking/cycling connectivity, making the open space corridor more accessible the surrounding community. Investigate opportunities for compatible uses to be integrated with the open space, including café/restaurant or mixed use development, subject to flood mitigation investigations. Enhance the environmental values associated with the creek. Incorporate water into the design, through a water sensitive design approach with potential swales integrated with the open space. 	Included in Action 4.10			
Action 4.23. Support the walking and cycling connectivity proposals shown on the map.	Included in Action 4.10			
Action 4.24. Support continuous shared trail connectivity and linkages to Dandenong Creek Trail and the Whitehorse section of Healesville Freeway Reserve.	Included in Action 4.10			
Road Scenario				
Action 4.25. Ensure the future Healesville Freeway extension does not present an urban barrier but rather facilitates improved access to Manson Reserve, the Dandenong Creek Trail and other recreational opportunities in the area.	Advocacy	Operational	Ongoing	CF; ID
No-Road Scenario				
Action 4.26. Improve vehicular access to the open space as part of comprehensive planning, preferably through the industrial area on Mountain Highway to avoid traffic pressure on the residential streets to the west. Shared path connectivity is to be provided to this residential area as well as the Dandenong Creek Trail. Alternatively, a part of the Healesville Reservation can be used to create a new access road with a shared path connecting this area to Wantirna Road.	Included in Action 4.10			

7 Public Question Time

8 Officer Reports

8.1 Draft Waste Resource Strategy

SUMMARY: Program Lead Waste Strategy and Landfills – Marissa France

A draft 'Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023-2030' has been prepared to guide actions on waste management, minimisation and resource recovery across Knox. It describes a future vision for waste and resource management in Knox and incorporates the goals, targets and direction for waste from state and national legislation and policy.

After being endorsed by Council for community consultation, a period of consultation will occur, and feedback incorporated where appropriate, into a final draft to be endorsed by Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the draft 'Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023 – 2030' as set out in Attachment 1 for the purpose of community consultation.**
- 2. Note the draft 'Our waste and Resource Strategy- Implementation plan' as set out in Attachment 2 for the purpose of community consultation. for the purpose of community consultation**
- 3. Note following the completion of the community consultation a final version of the 'Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023 – 2030' will be presented to Council for adoption.**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Knox City Council Waste Management Plan (2014 – 2021) outlined the actions to guide and improve waste management in Knox. Since that time, several state and national Acts and policies have been released setting ambitious targets to reduce waste generation and increase recovery of materials typically disposed to landfill.

In Victoria, the *Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021* provides strengthened regulation and oversight of the waste and recycling sector. Including laws to underpin the transformation of Council kerbside collection services set out in Recycling Victoria policy.

A draft Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023 – 2030 ('draft Strategy') to guide the future direction of waste and resource recovery in Knox has been prepared. The draft Strategy highlights four goals to drive change across Knox, each with aims, targets, high level Council commitments and actions the community can take. It aligns with the intent, targets and timeframes set out in National and State waste policy. It details how we can achieve the waste aspirations set out in the Knox Community Plan, and further expands on waste strategies and initiatives from the Knox Council Plan. The draft Strategy intends to set the context, and broadly identify the high-level future direction for waste and resource recovery in Knox.

A separate draft Implementation Plan details the specific actions for Council to implement to meet with the intent of the Strategy. It is broken down into detailed actions for each high-level goal and includes estimated timeframes and resourcing. It allows for flexibility to quickly adapt actions

should there be any further change in policy or circumstances across the sector, while still seeking to achieve the goals and targets as set out in the strategy.

2. DISCUSSION

The Knox Council Waste Management Plan (2014 – 2021) guided the direction of waste and resource management in Knox over the last 9 years. By the time of sunseting of the Plan a considerable number of new regulations, policies and plans have changed the direction of waste management in Australia, including Victoria.

A new Waste Strategy needs to align with regulation and policy direction, meet with initiatives in the Knox Council Plan and provide future direction for waste and resource management in Knox.

In late 2022 in initial stages of developing the draft Strategy workshops/sessions were held with internal stakeholders, the Environment Advisory Committee and Councillors to obtain feedback on early goals, and the overall strategy. A ‘Future of waste’ survey obtained feedback on the community's priorities for future waste services in Knox.

Consideration was given to the early feedback, legislation, challenges in the sector, context of our city (what services we offer, historical waste profile), and community engagement feedback when preparing the draft strategy/implementation plan.

A vision to ‘Lead and support our community to move towards a circular economy by avoiding waste and maximising resource recovery’ has been developed. To achieve this the following goals have been identified:

GOAL	AIM
Goal 1 – Avoid waste	Avoid waste where possible and reduce how much waste we generate
Goal 2 – Recover more from our waste	Maximise resource recovery and minimise waste to landfill
Goal 3 – Engage and empower our community	Engage and empower our community to make informed decisions about waste and resource recovery
Goal 4 – Care for our environment	Keep our local environment clean and manage our closed landfills

Goals 1&2: Align with national and state policy, circular economy principles and the waste hierarchy. Targets for these goals are adopted directly from Recycling Victoria Policy.

Achieving these targets will require a concerted effort. Actions include support uptake of reusable items, support avoidance of single use items, advocacy, implement Recycling Victoria kerbside reforms, identify opportunities for viable long-term options for soft plastics, conduct service reviews and seek alternatives to landfill.

Goal 3: Engaging and empowering our community is its own distinct goal. Although specific education actions can sit under each goal it has been kept separate to highlight and acknowledge the considerable long-term behaviour change and community engagement program ahead.

With no corresponding targets in national or state policy Knox specific targets are developed. Actions include regular update of data and information, workshops, and tailored communications.

Goal 4: Ties in with the key direction 'Natural environment and sustainability' from the Knox Community Plan and Council Plan. The aim of this goal from a waste perspective is to keep our local environment clean (from impacts of litter and dumped waste) and manage historical waste (in former landfills).

With no corresponding targets in national or state policy Knox specific targets are developed. Actions include review of public litter bin policy to consider placement criteria and limited public food and garden bins, overflowing public bins reporting system, internal working group and on-going landfill management.

Review: A mid-term review of the draft Strategy will be completed by December 2027, focusing on any changes to legislation or policy. The draft Strategy provisionally sunsets in 2030, aligning with the timeframes for targets in state (Recycling Victoria) and national (National Waste) policy.

The draft Strategy sets an ambitious yet practical program for Knox, striking a balance between the community's future priorities, regulatory requirements and targets, the need to deliver waste services and navigate the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. In providing a strong and clear basis for decision making on waste and resource recovery issues, the draft Strategy provides a pathway to mitigate risks associated with legislative and policy driven requirements in ways which are both financially and environmentally sustainable.

3. CONSULTATION

Early consultation on the draft strategy included Councillor workshop, formal community consultation through community survey including future waste priorities (1,152 responses), internal stakeholder feedback and Environmental Advisory Committee feedback.

Following the draft Strategy being endorsed by Council for the purposes of consultation, the strategy will be released for public consultation and feedback, in line with an approved community engagement plan. Communicating the draft Strategy and providing opportunities for feedback will be via online channels, face to face drop-in sessions, for a 3-4 week period. Draft strategy consultation is tentatively scheduled for early 2024.

A summary of community feedback and any change from the original draft Strategy and Implementation Plan will be presented to Council to be endorsed, and the Implementation Plan noted.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has been considered in the context of climate change and its relevance to the Knox Climate Response Plan 2021 – 2031. The Climate Response Plan identifies emissions from off-site facilities or activities not under operational control of Council, such as waste from Council operations, are categorised as scope 3. The Plan does not expand on this any further.

Although Knox does not have an active landfill, and reducing waste to landfill does not directly count towards Knox's emissions profile, emissions from waste management activities, waste treatment facilities, and transporting waste all contribute towards carbon emissions and climate

change. Goals identified in the draft Strategy work towards Knox Council reaching net zero emissions by 2030 (indirect emissions) and for community net zero emissions by 2040.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental benefits of achieving goals set out in the draft Strategy include the overall reduction in volumes of waste produced and requiring management and processing, reduction in extraction and depletion of natural resources, reduction in associated energy consumption from extraction of natural resources, reduction in associated greenhouse gas emissions from manufacture, transport and disposal of materials, and reduction in material disposed to landfills.

These benefits are far reaching and not just for the local Knox community.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The implementation plan details specific tasks to be investigated or actioned by Council, and includes budgeted, mandatory, grant funded and/or unbudgeted items, with further detail:

Most actions are included in existing operational budget, forward budget or can be incorporated under existing programs (41 actions). Review of service or policy represents existing budget through current staffing but does not include cost implications of any potential service change.

Mandatory actions (6 actions) from Recycling Victoria policy represents the greatest cost. Most actions are already included in the existing operational budget (food and garden service, bin lid change) and forecast budget (continuation of bin lid change, future glass service).

Grant funding only covers a small percentage of the cost to implement mandatory changes under State policy. Further grant funding is provided for some aspects of the re-usable nappy project, and delivering a program to build a capacity and knowledge building leadership course around circular economy principles. (5 actions).

A small number of tasks are currently unbudgeted (6 in total), they are:

TASK	ESTIMATED COST \$	COMMENT
Support avoidance of single use items	<\$75,000	Audit of single use items in use in Council buildings
Avoid waste at Council run events	<\$75,000	Waste initiatives such as plate washing, promoting re-usable items, giveaways of re-usable items
Review Council procurement systems	TBC	Outside of waste budget – new system being considered as part of ICT Strategy
Provide staff with resources/training for procurement	<\$75,000	Full cost outside of waste budget, with some aspect included as part of procurement training
Long term solutions for Advanced Waste Processing	>\$200,000	Initiative in Council Plan
New tools for online waste information	<\$75,000	IT resourcing to provide new tools

The cost to implement these actions will be included as part of the five-year operational and capital works forecasting and planning process, and incorporated into annual budget cycles. Wherever possible funding opportunities will be sought to improve waste and resource recovery services, communications and infrastructure throughout Knox in line with goals set out in the Strategy.

The waste service is a full recovery cost model seen in the annual residential garbage charge. Commitments in the strategy focus on the delivery of financially and environmentally sustainable waste services.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The draft Strategy identifies and documents key priorities in waste minimisation and reduction across Knox to 2030. It will guide the waste team to identify and prioritise actions, and work towards achieving the overall stated goals.

Costs associated with the transport, sorting, removal of contamination and disposal of waste continues to increase. The levy on waste disposed to landfill is expected to continue to increase. Changes to Council kerbside collection services mandated by Recycling Victoria policy will cost more than grant funding covers. Finding suitable alternatives to landfill, and infrastructure for this technology will require initial substantial investment.

All of this points to the cost of delivery of Council waste services rising. As the waste service is a full recovery cost model this is seen in the annual residential garbage charge, which is ultimately borne by residents. This will have a financial impact on some residents living in Knox.

Acknowledging these costs are expected to continue to increase into the future, the goals set out in the draft Strategy, and actions in the draft Implementation plan aim to minimise and buffer these increases as much as possible to deliver environmentally and financially sustainable waste services to and for the community.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Natural Environment & Sustainability

Strategy 3.2 - Prepare for, mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Strategy 3.3 - Lead by example and encourage our community to reduce waste.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information from the Local Government Act 2020.

Report Prepared By: Program Lead Waste Strategy and Landfills - Marissa France

Report Authorised By: Director, Infrastructure - Grant Thorne

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Draft - Waste as a resource strategy - for Council v 7 [**8.1.1** - 31 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Draft - Implementation plan - Waste strategy - for Council - v 5 [**8.1.2** - 10 pages]

Waste as a resource

Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023-2030



knox



Waste as a resource: Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023-2030



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Executive Summary

A huge transformation of the waste and resource recovery sector is underway. A shift in policy internationally has greatly impacted and highlighted how vulnerable the recycling sector is within Australia, forcing a rethink about how it has been viewed and managed historically.

Community awareness and interest is increasing about the products we purchase, where the products come from and where they end up. There is a need for more information about how waste is managed and a greater awareness of the legacy it leaves behind for future generations.

Our current linear take - make - use - throw away way of doing things does not recognise our natural resources are finite. It does little to reduce how much waste is sent to landfill, and is not sustainable long term.

In a few years there will be no landfills to accept household rubbish in the south east of Melbourne, with remaining options a considerable distance from Knox. Alternatives to sending waste to landfill exist, including proven

technology such as advanced waste processing, or waste to energy being used successfully and safely overseas.

Knox City Council (Council) declared a Climate Emergency in 2022, acknowledging the significant threat climate change poses to our environment and community. The generation and production of materials through to the management, processing and disposal of waste all emit greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, and contributes to climate change.

Policy and legislation at national and state level frames waste management at a local government level, including in Knox. New waste policy applies the principles of a circular economy to waste

Waste

material which has finished its initial use and entered a waste stream including waste we recycle as well as waste we send to landfill.

Resource recovery

the collection, sorting, extraction and recirculation of materials, products or energy from waste. It includes traditional processes such as recycling, reuse, composting, mulching, and newer processes such as conversion of waste into usable heat, electricity or fuel.

A circular economy

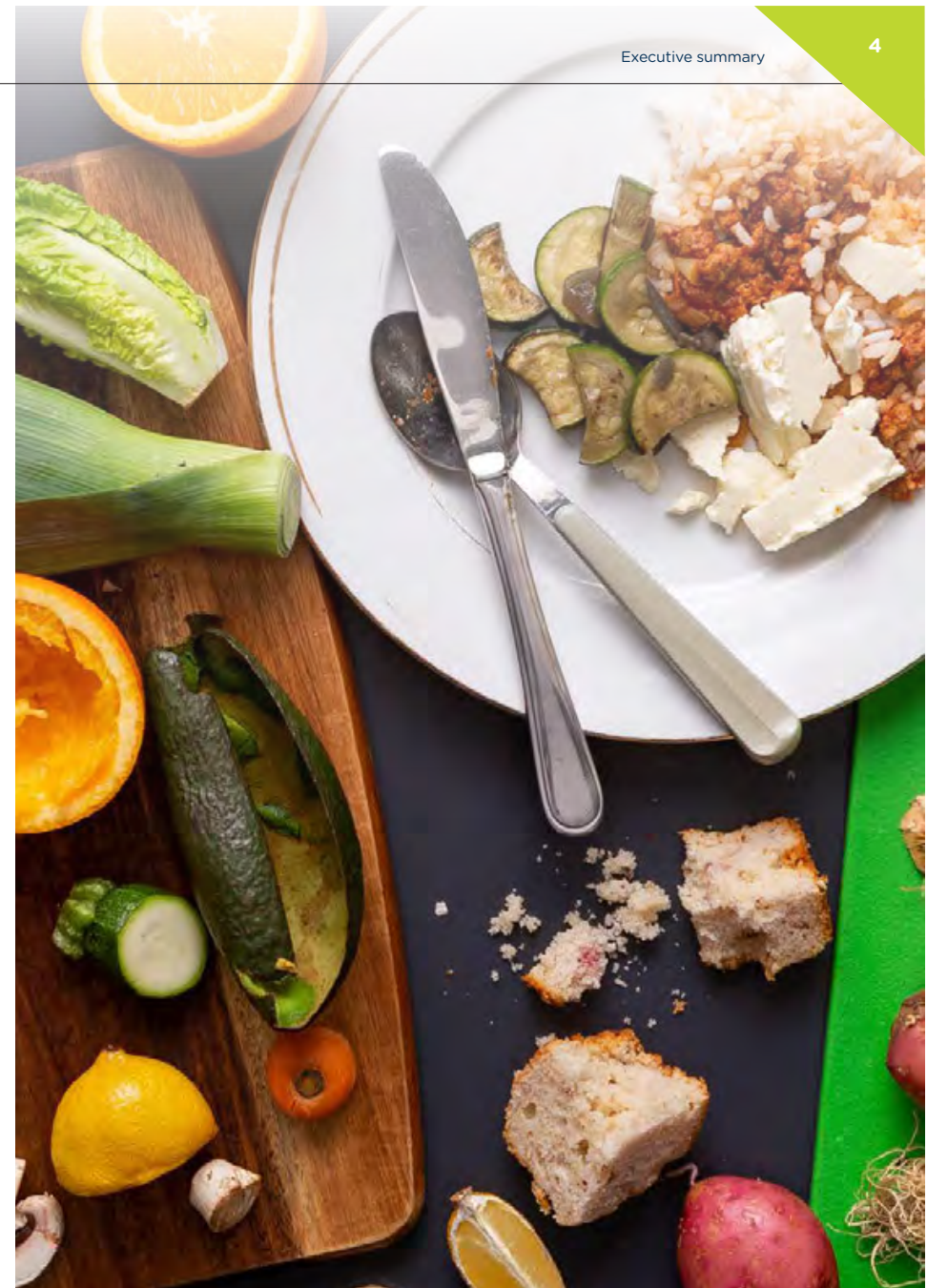
seeks to retain the value of materials in 'the loop' for as long as possible, reducing our reliance on the extraction of natural resources and reducing our impact on the environment.

management, and instead of the linear take - make- use - throw away model, this principle recognises the value of material and circulates it in use as long as possible. Across the state change to waste management is being driven by the state government Recycling Victoria policy released in February 2020. This policy describes the most substantial changes to waste management across the state in decades, including changes to Council kerbside bin services.

The purpose of our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023-2030 (Strategy) is to set a clear direction and vision for the future of waste and resource recovery across Knox to 2030. It supports delivery of the Knox Council Plan 2021- 2025, and Knox Community Plan 2021 - 2031 goals. The community told us their aspirations for the future include to reuse and recycle as much as possible. Preparing the strategy we consulted with the community

and heard your future priorities for waste management across Knox are regular collections and ease of use. This strategy seeks to strike a balance between the community's future priorities, regulatory requirements and targets, the need to deliver waste services which are both financially and environmentally sustainable, and navigate the challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

The strategy aligns with the ambitious targets set out in state policy, highlights four goals we will set out to achieve, and sets the path for Council to work towards these goals. Success of the strategy relies on Council, the community, business, industry and governments to work together to achieve the best outcomes for our community and environment.





This Strategy:

- > **outlines our vision**
- > **describes the goals we set out to achieve**
- > **sets our aims**
- > **identifies how we intend to achieve our goals**
- > **establishes clear targets**

This Strategy supports delivery of one of the five key directions identified in the Knox Community Plan and Knox Council Plan.

In developing this Strategy, various factors influencing the delivery of waste and resource recovery in Knox now and into the future have been considered.

These factors are described in detail further in the Strategy and include:

- our City’s waste and resources
- feedback from our community
- the guiding principles of waste management
- legislation and policies, and accompanying regulatory framework for waste and resource recovery
- the Council Plan’s and Community Plan’s key directions, aspirations and goals
- shared responsibility of waste management
- challenges and opportunities, and how this influences how Council manages waste and resource recovery.



To guide and focus our efforts towards 2030, our vision is to:

Lead and support our community to move towards a circular economy by avoiding waste and maximising resource recovery.



GOALS	AIMS
Avoid waste	Avoid waste where possible and reduce how much waste we generate
Recover more from our waste	Maximise resource recovery and minimise waste to landfill
Engage and empower our community	Engage and empower our community to make informed decisions about waste and resource recovery
Care for our environment	Keep our local environment clean and manage our closed landfills

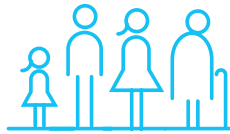
This strategy for waste and resource recovery in Knox to 2030 includes goals, aims, commitments of action from Council and sets measurable targets. This strategy aligns with targets set out in state and federal waste policy, including the target timeframe for implementation.

A separate Implementation Plan details the specific actions for each goal and Council commitment. Each action includes proposed timelines, resources required and delivery partners, and will work towards achieving our targets.

A check of progress towards the targets, including review of the status of each action in the Implementation Plan will be conducted annually. The Implementation Plan will be revised and updated if needed.

Progress towards each of the targets and status of actions will be reported to the community annually.

Our city



160,484

people call Knox home; this is expected to increase to 169,585 by 2031 and 185,226 by 2041



62,011

households; this is expected to increase to 64,168 by 2031 and 70,334 by 2041



Household composition

37% couples with children, 25% couples, 21% lone persons, 11% one-parent families, 2% group household and 4% other family configurations



Housing type

82% separate house
16% medium density
2% high density



27%

speaking language other than English at home



Our waste services

Council manages a wide range of waste and resource recovery services in Knox, outlined below:

SERVICE	DESCRIPTION	SERVICE	DESCRIPTION
Residential kerbside rubbish	Fortnightly collection and disposal	Council venues, including community centres and sporting grounds waste service	Collection and disposal rubbish (bulk bins) and 240-litre bins for recycling
Residential kerbside recycling	Fortnightly collection and processing	Festivals and sporting events waste service	Limited rubbish and recycling services for community festivals and events
Residential kerbside food and garden bin service	Weekly collection and processing	Illegally dumped rubbish	Investigation and removal of dumped rubbish from Council property
Residential hard waste collection service	Two on-call hard waste collections per financial year	Compost rebate	Subsidies of up to 60% off a range of products including compost bins, worm farms and bokashi bins, and education on their uses
Residential bundled branch/own container service	Fortnightly collection and processing	Waste education	Community workshops and events, bin inspection program, social media campaigns, media campaigns, waste calendar and A-Z guide
Public place litter and recycling bins	Collection and processing of rubbish and recycling from public litter bins, and clearing litter from around bins. Frequency of collection alters depending upon season and demand	Closed landfill management	Manage closed landfills at Llewellyn Park, Cathies Lane and Wantirna Reserve
Dorset Square bin enclosure	User-pays rubbish and recycling bulk bin services at communal waste compound for traders	Knox Transfer Station	Contract management of the Operation and Management of the Knox Transfer Station, and lease of the rear of the property for waste processing to KTS Recycling Pty Ltd until early 2027
Business collection service	User-pays rubbish and recycling collection services for offices and small businesses	Planning permit referrals	Review waste management plans submitted in planning permit applications, assessing waste services for proposed multi-unit developments
Mixed use property waste collection (pre-schools, care facilities, Council-run facilities)	Collection and disposal services for a combination of waste, recycling and green waste services. Eligibility for the services, offerings and if user pays is dependent on Council policy and eligibility criteria		

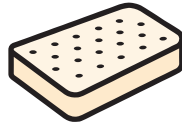
A snapshot of our waste services in 2022/23



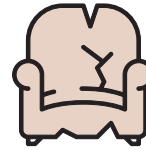
Over **135,200**
public litter and
recycling bin
collections



12,844
bulk bin
collections from
Council venues



11,568
mattresses



31,565
hard waste
bookings



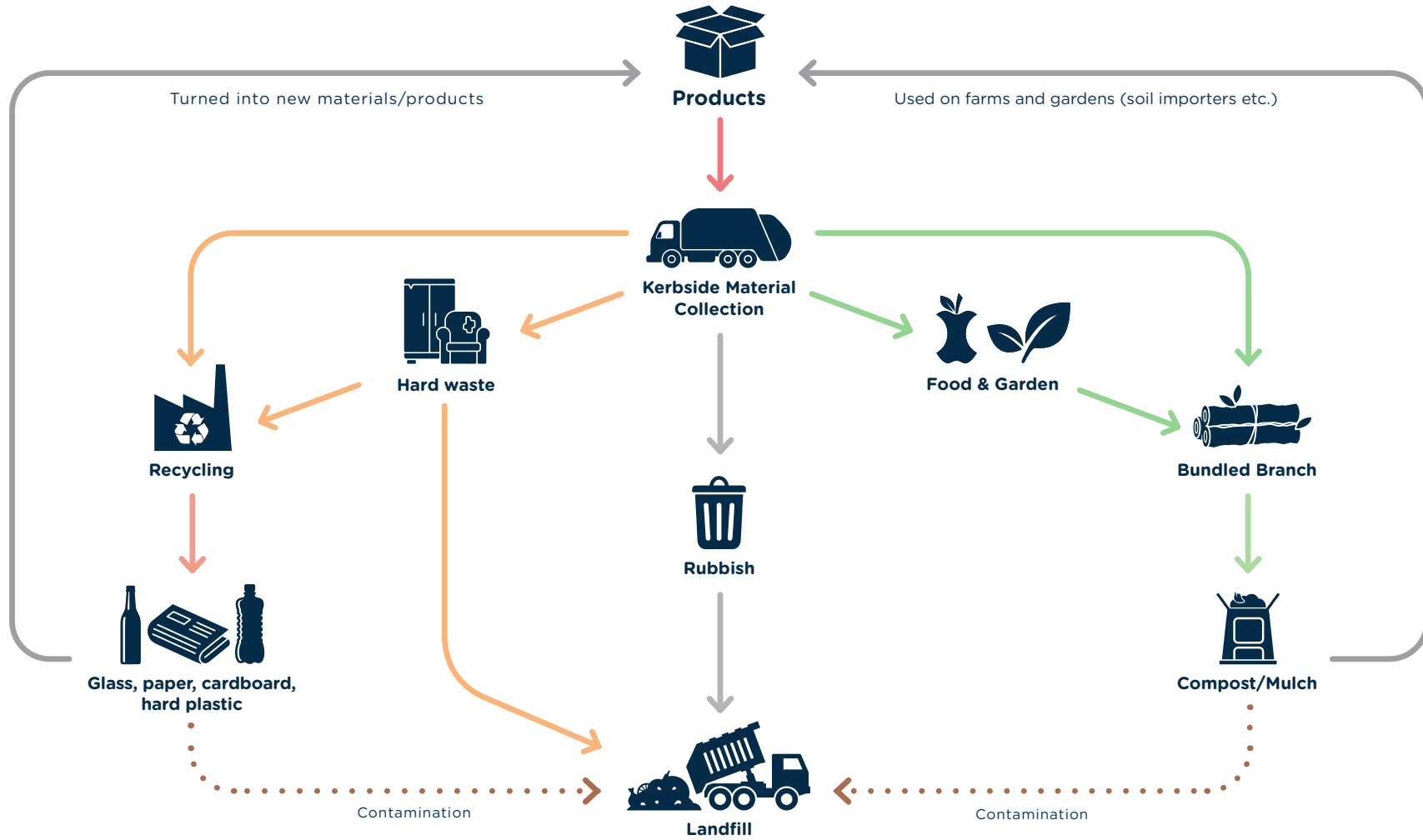
4,850,430
household rubbish
and recycling bin
collections



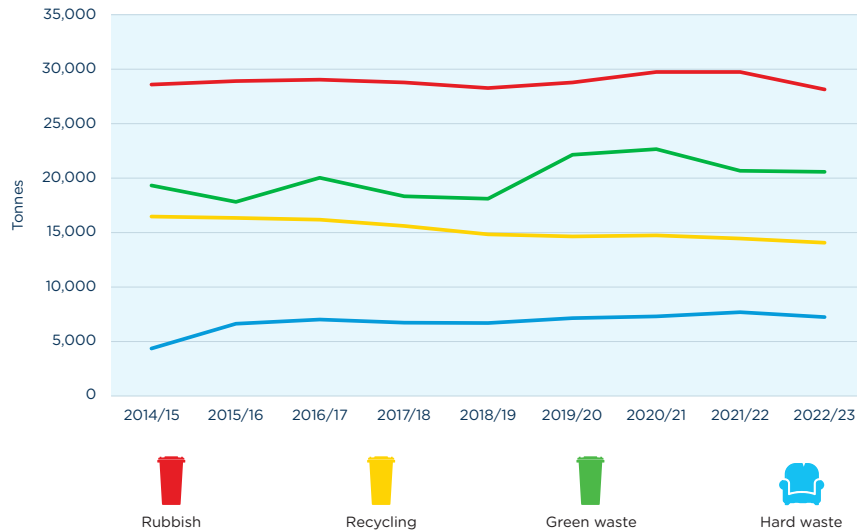
157
compost rebates



Where our waste goes



Our waste and resource profile



Looking at the tonnes of waste collected in Knox each year since 2014/15, we can see:

- The amount of rubbish collected remains fairly consistent, with the least collected in 2022/23.
- Over time, the amount of recycling collected is steadily decreasing, likely due to the increased use of lightweight materials for packaging such as plastic, instead of heavier materials such as glass.
- The stream which fluctuates the most is garden waste, with increases in 2019/20 and 2020/21 attributed to COVID-19 lockdown periods, consistent with the experience of other metropolitan Melbourne councils. This data does not include the food and garden bin service.

- The booked hard waste system was introduced in 2015/16, with hard waste tonnes collected slightly increasing over the years.

Over this time period the population of Knox increased by approximately 3,500 residents.



A snapshot of tonnes of kerbside waste collected in 2022/23



27,804
rubbish



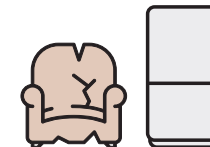
13,963
recycling



17,545
garden waste



3,018
bundled branch/
own containers



7,181
hard waste

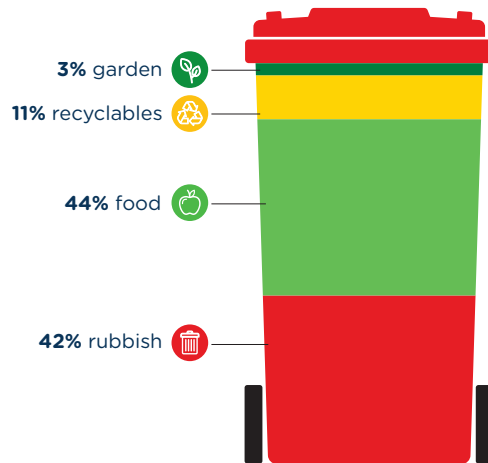
Our rubbish

On average, each property in Knox throws out 443 kilograms of rubbish every year, which ends up in landfill.

This is comparable to the rest of metropolitan Melbourne, and 9 kilograms more than the state average (Recycling Victoria database 2023).

Each year, randomly selected rubbish bins are audited to provide a snapshot of what is presented for collection.

The contents of the bin is hand-sorted into waste type and weighed. Based on data obtained over the last four years, before the start of the food and garden bin service, by weight the typical rubbish bin in Knox contains:

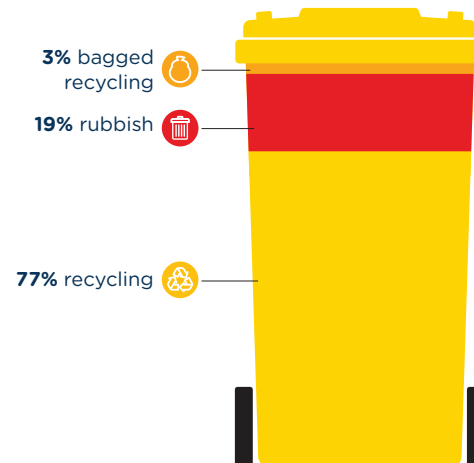


Our recycling

On average, each property in Knox separates 220 kilograms of recycling into its recycling bin for collection and processing every year.

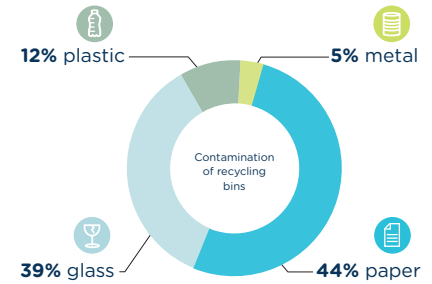
This is 8 kilograms more than the metropolitan Melbourne average, and 13 kilograms more than the state average.

Based on data obtained from bin audits over the last four years, by weight the typical recycling bin in Knox contains:



Contamination of our recycling bins has potential to impact on the ability to process materials, create hazards and in some contracts incurs additional costs.

Taking out contamination, our recycling is mostly made up of:



The Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) will commence in Victoria in November 2023. Eligible beverage containers (glass beer bottles, plastic drink bottles, aluminium cans) receive a refund when returned to a collection point. This is expected to remove these items from the typical household recycling bin.

The new weekly food and garden service rolled out across Knox by July 2023. The next bin audit (scheduled February 2024) is expected to show a decline in food waste presented in rubbish bins, as indicated by current collection tonnages from the first few months of the new service

The separate glass service, to be offered by councils under Recycling Victoria reforms by 2027, will remove glass from the recycling bin not covered by the CDS (such as jars and wine bottles).

Our garden waste

An optional fortnightly garden bin service operated in Knox until May 2023, when a new food and garden bin service for all residents started rolling out.

In July 2023 the food and garden bin service collection frequency changed to weekly (and the rubbish changed to fortnightly).

A separate fortnightly bundled branch/own container service also operates for all residents.

Over 80% of garden waste across Knox is collected through the garden bin service, with the remainder collected by the fortnightly bundled branch/own container service.

Before the start of the food and garden bin service, on average, each property with an optional green waste bin service in Knox deposited 385 kilograms of garden waste into their bins, and every property put out 56 kilograms of bundled/branches each year.

This is 48 kilograms more than the Melbourne average, and 35 kilograms more than the State average per property for the food and garden bin service.

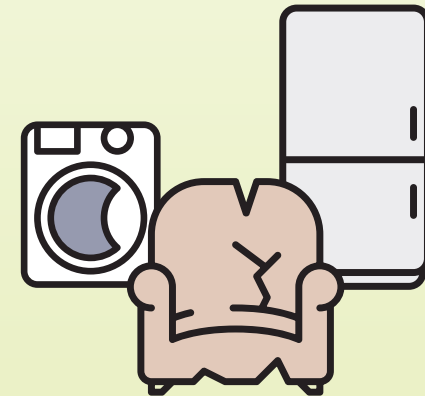
Audits of trucks at the processing facility report a very low contamination rate of less than 1%, which by weight includes rock, rubble, bricks and concrete.

Light plastic (such as plastic bags) has the potential to travel throughout the composting process and impact on the quality of the final product, but due to its light weight, it does not contribute to the overall contamination percentage.

Our hard waste

Over 32,000 hard waste bookings were lodged, with each collection averaging 236 kilograms in 2020/21.

More than 25% of the hard waste collected in Knox is diverted from landfill and includes metals, mattresses, fridges and e-waste.



Comparison data obtained from Recycling Victoria Data Hub, latest data 2021/22 year

Diverting waste from landfill

Since 2014/15, between 45% and 55% of material presented in kerbside bins in Knox has been recycled, composted or mulched and ultimately not sent to landfill.

In 2021/22 the Knox community diverted 45% of material away from landfill which is comparable to the metropolitan Melbourne and state average.



This data takes into consideration the contamination presented in kerbside recycling and food and garden bins which is sent to landfill from the processing facility.

Data reported through the Council Annual Report historically does not take into consideration the contamination presented in bins. Future data will take this into consideration.

Our old waste - closed landfills

Rubbish thrown into household bins 40 years ago ended up in Council operated landfills located in Knox.

Although these landfills closed more than 20 years ago, Council is still responsible today for their ongoing management, in accordance with Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements.

The locations of these closed landfills are:



LOCATION	ADDRESS	YEAR OF OPERATION (approximate)
Wantirna Reserve	Mountain Highway, Wantirna	1968-1975
Llewellyn Park	14 Coppelia Street, Wantirna South	1975-1986
Cathies Lane	1180 High Street Road, Wantirna South	1986-2004

Old landfill sites, and the rubbish in them, need to be monitored and managed for many years after they have closed, and can include:

- collection and flaring of landfill gas which consists of methane a greenhouse gas, which is generated by the decomposing organic waste
- collection and treatment of liquid within the landfill
- site inspections
- routine environmental monitoring and annual reporting
- oversight by an independent environmental auditor, including review of monitoring results, risk assessment and recommending improvements.

Monitoring, reporting and maintenance of these closed landfills are ongoing costs to Council; however, they are required to demonstrate compliance with regulations and minimise impact on the surrounding environment.

Both Wantirna Reserve and Llewellyn Park provide open spaces for the public.

Community engagement and feedback

To develop this Strategy, we asked for community feedback on current and future waste and resource recovery services in Knox.

Feedback was sought in August 2022 through online and hard copy surveys, pop-up and drop-in sessions at numerous locations, and an online focus group session.

Topics included:

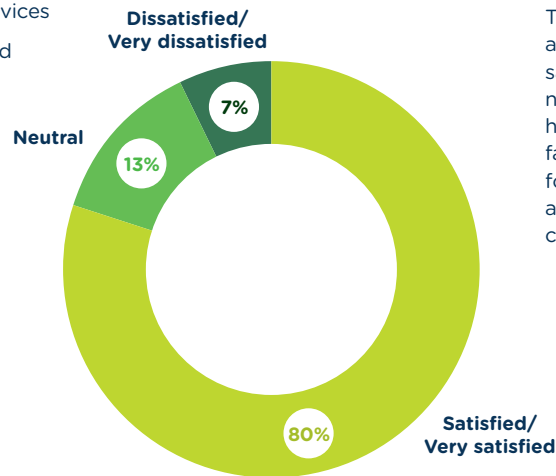
- use and satisfaction with current waste and resource recovery services in Knox
- ranking priorities for what is most important when planning for future waste and resource recovery services
- thoughts about the new food and garden bin service
- opinion about changes to collection frequency

- how Council could support residents through changes to food and garden bin and collection frequency.

In total, we received 1,152 responses, and used the feedback to assist developing this Strategy, and to help design future waste services and education programs.

What you told us

We learned in August 2022, before the start of the food and garden bin service, the majority of residents were either satisfied or very satisfied with waste and resource recovery services:



You told us your ranking of overall priorities for current and future waste and resource recovery services:

HIGHEST PRIORITY	Regular scheduled collection from my property
▼	Easy for me to use/organise
▼	Low cost to me
LOWEST PRIORITY	Send less to landfill/lower environmental impacts

The majority of residents, homeowners and businesses completing the survey said that they 'know enough' about a number of waste topics. On the other hand, a common theme emerged during face-to-face engagement: the need for more education and information, as it was felt the recycling system was confusing.

You asked for more information about the Detox Your Home program, home composting, and further tips on hard to recycle items and how to reduce waste.

A copy of the Community Engagement Report - Future of waste can be found on Council's Have your Say website.

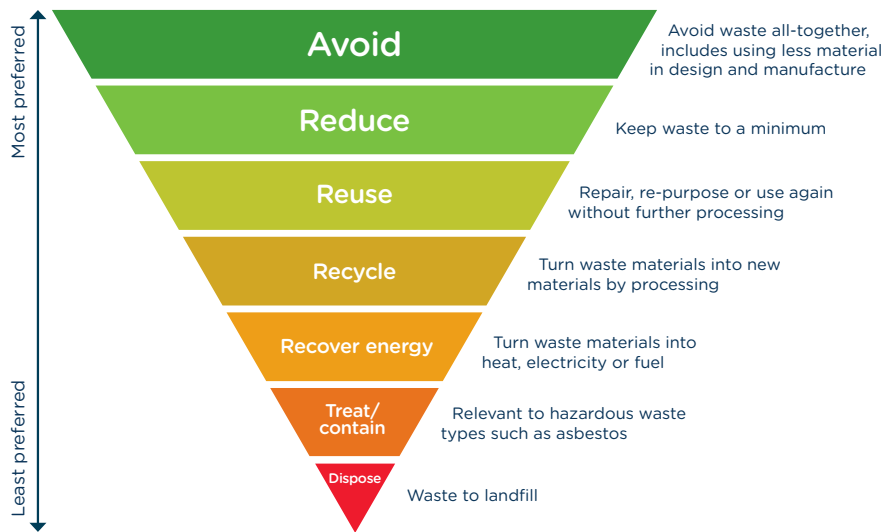
Drivers of change

Guiding principles of waste management

The two main guiding principles in waste management influencing policy and decision making are:

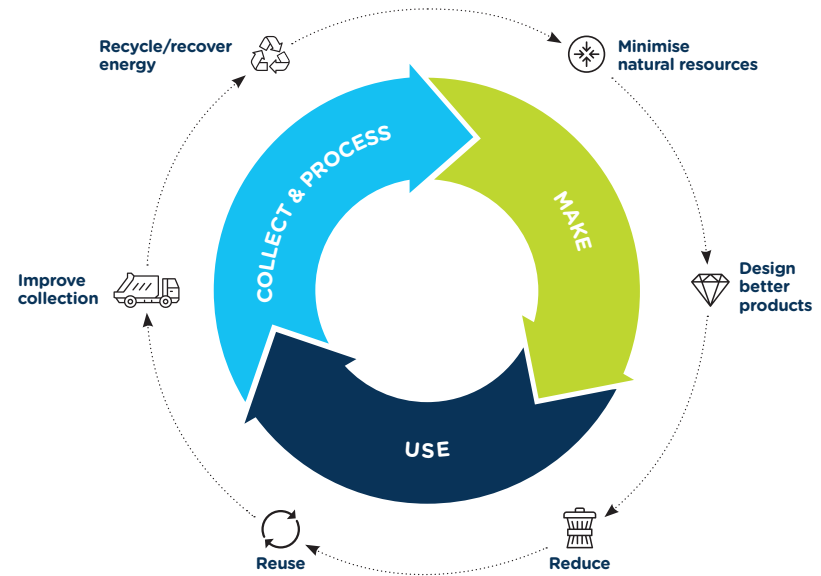
Waste management hierarchy

The key framework underpinning waste management principles in Australia, it ranks the preferred order for managing waste, from the most to least preferred option



Circular economy in waste management

In the circular economy model we avoid waste through good design, and continually reuse, repair, recycle and reprocess materials to keep our resources 'in the loop'. It promotes more efficient business models, enables economic growth, fosters innovation, creates new markets and industries, reduces the depletion of natural resources and reduces our impact on the environment.



Waste legislation and policy

New legislation and policy is driving reform of the waste and resource recovery sector Australia-wide, including in Knox.



The direction of this Strategy aligns with national and state approaches and targets, reflecting and enhancing the vision as set out in the Knox Community Plan and Knox Council Plan.

While the Knox Council Plan is Councils key strategic plan, it is supported by a range of other Council strategies and plans bringing the community vision and key directions to life.



National



National Waste Policy

Outlines five principles underpinning waste management, recycling and resource recovery in moving towards a circular economy.

1. Avoid waste
2. Improve resource recovery
3. Increase use of recycled material and build demand and markets for recycled products
4. Better manage material flows to benefit human health, the environment and the economy
5. Improve information to support innovation, guide investment and enable informed consumer decisions.

National waste export regulations

The *Recycling and Waste Reduction Act 2020* regulates the export of plastic, glass and tyre waste from Australia, including mixed and unsorted paper and cardboard from 1 July 2024.

Product stewardship

Product stewardship schemes support environmentally sound management of the design, manufacture, sale, recovery and disposal of products. The schemes can be mandatory (recycling used oil), co-regulatory (TVs, computers, plastics, packaging) or industry-led (mobile phones, tyres, batteries). The Minister sets a priority list of possible schemes annually; the current list includes photovoltaic systems, clothing textiles, mattresses and end-of-life tyres.

National Food Waste Strategy

Aims to halve Australia’s food waste by 2030 by providing a framework for actions in policy support, business improvements, market development and behaviour change.

National Plastics Plan

The National Plastics Plan 2021 outlines actions to reduce Australia’s plastics problem by reducing plastic waste, increasing recycling rates, finding alternatives to the plastics we don’t need and reducing the amount of plastics impacting on the environment.



State



Environmental Protection Act 2017

The above Act and subordinate legislation focus on preventing waste and pollution impacts. They include significant reforms to waste management and strengthen compliance and enforcement powers.

Circular Economy (Waste Reduction and Recycling) Act 2021

Provides the foundation for Victoria's transition to a circular economy by establishing a legislative framework to implement the circular economy policy – Recycling Victoria: A new economy.*

Recycling Victoria: A new economy

A 10-year policy and action plan which sets ambitious targets to reduce waste, with key actions to:

- transition Council kerbside waste services by standardising bin services, materials accepted, and align bin lid colours to the Australian Standard
- introduce a container deposit scheme by 2023
- increase the levy on waste disposed to landfill
- regulate waste as an essential service, including establishing a new waste authority
- provide investment to drive research, expand the local recycling industry and create more products from recyclable materials. Drive markets to actively purchase and use products containing recycled materials
- support communities and councils to reduce waste
- support businesses to transition to a circular economy by providing funding
- plan for recycling infrastructure over the long term
- encourage appropriate waste to energy investment
- support safe and effective high-risk and hazardous waste management.

Statewide waste and resource recovery infrastructure plans

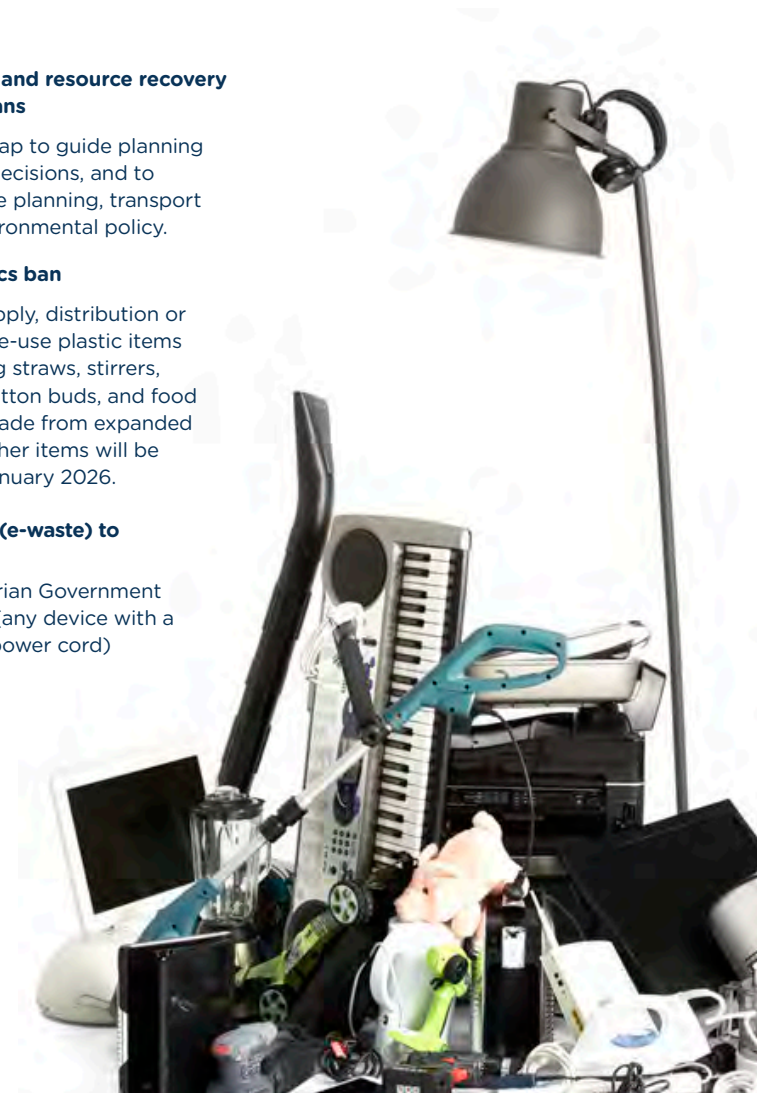
A 30-year roadmap to guide planning and investment decisions, and to influence land use planning, transport and broader environmental policy.

Single-use plastics ban

Bans the sale, supply, distribution or provision of single-use plastic items including drinking straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates, cotton buds, and food ware and cups made from expanded polystyrene. Further items will be banned from 1 January 2026.

Electronic waste (e-waste) to landfill ban

In 2019 the Victorian Government banned e-waste (any device with a plug, battery or power cord) from landfill.



* Referred to in this Strategy as Recycling Victoria policy

Local



Knox Community Plan

Developed with and for our community and stakeholders, the Community Plan 2021-2031 sets out our 10-year community vision.

Knox: where we connect with our people and our environment, ensuring they are safe, supported and have every opportunity to thrive.

It explains how we can achieve this vision through highlighting key directions, aspirations and how the community can make a difference.



Opportunity and innovation

Knox strives to be a city of opportunity, embracing innovation and change, and providing local learning and employment opportunities for all. It's a place where people and business can thrive.



Neighbourhoods, housing and infrastructure

Building on what's great about our city, Knox's housing and infrastructure will meet the changing needs of our community.



Natural environment and sustainability

Knox's natural environment is protected and enhanced to ensure sustainability for future generations.



Connection, resilience and well-being

Knox is a place to call home. Our community is strong, healthy and we support and respect each other.



Civic engagement and integrity

Knox Council is a trusted and respected leader in our community, acting appropriately and ensuring all voices are heard.



The key direction 'Natural environment and sustainability' describes a future aspiration for waste where the community hope is that Knox can become a centre of excellence for energy and materials conservation, creating a circular economy. This means moving away from a cycle of 'make, use, dispose' in favour of reusing and recycling as much as possible. By doing this we can conserve the energy needed to produce goods, reduce waste to landfill and significantly reduce our carbon emissions and the impact on our climate.

Knox Council Plan

This Plan outlines the part Council will play to achieve the community vision. For 'natural environment and sustainability' Council will contribute to success and plan our city in a way that preserves and enhances our natural environment, identify ways to reduce waste and work with our community to respond to the impacts of climate change.

Our shared responsibilities

We all have a shared responsibility when managing waste: from the choices we make which generate waste in the first place, through to how we dispose of our waste.

The solution to avoiding, reducing, reusing and minimising waste must involve all levels of government,

business, industry and community. Although it is a complex and complicated challenge, we all have a role to play and a shared responsibility, and success will only be achieved if we work together.

Our roles, responsibilities and influence are outlined below:



National government

- Set National Waste Policy
- Administer product stewardship legislation and schemes



State government

- Strategic policy direction
- Create legislation and regulate waste management
- Plan statewide infrastructure requirements
- Support investment in the waste and resource recovery sector



Local government

- Plan and deliver waste and recycling collection, processing/ disposal services to households and limited businesses/community groups
- Advocate to state and federal governments on strategy and policies on behalf of the local community, including involvement in advisory and working groups
- Participate in collaborative or joint procurement opportunities
- Engage and educate the local community on waste avoidance, reuse and recycling



Waste and resource recovery industry

- Invest and operate infrastructure and technology associated with waste and resource recovery
- Collect, sort, reprocess, recover, and trade resources, and dispose of waste
- Advocate through industry bodies



Businesses

- Make decisions about using resources, products or services and manage waste generated by their operations
- Advocate through business groups and networks



Community

- Purchase products and make decisions about how and when to use, maintain and dispose of materials

Challenges and opportunities

The waste and resource recovery sector continues to face many complex challenges. Challenges that can provide opportunities to fundamentally change how we have been operating.

Internationally

Globally the sector, including in Australia, has been heavily impacted by restrictions on the import of recyclable material under China's National Sword Policy in 2018. It has affected the commodity prices of recyclables, and local-level changes to how recycling is processed are driving cost increases. Prior to 2018 it was common for councils to receive an income from recycling.

Alternatives to landfill

The one remaining landfill in Melbourne's southeast will have reached capacity within five years, with no further landfills planned. Other landfills are located a long distance from Knox, either on the opposite side of Melbourne or in regional Victoria. Council need to investigate options on how to best manage waste currently going to landfill, which includes finding alternatives.

Advanced waste processing technologies generate heat, electricity and other fuels from waste. The waste management hierarchy preferences the use of this technology over landfilling, and the Victorian Government supports these technologies and recognises the role they have in diverting waste from landfill through the Victorian Waste to Energy Framework.

Council is working with other councils in Melbourne's southeast region, seeking long-term solutions for waste currently sent to landfill. This includes taking part in a process to set up an advanced waste processing facility to service the region.

While acknowledging the importance of finding alternatives to landfill, Council will continue to prioritise avoiding and reducing waste, increasing reuse and recovering our resources as much as possible so that only true waste is discarded.

Advanced waste processing

allows heat, electricity and other fuels to be generated from waste. Waste to energy is the most common form of this technology, with many facilities already using it safely and reliably for many years in the UK, Europe, Asia and North America.



Implementing kerbside reforms in Knox

Across Victoria local councils are tasked with delivering a number of Recycling Victoria policy initiatives around kerbside collections.

Knox Council has one of the most challenging and costly reforms to implement, with a food and garden bin service, changing over all three bin lids, and introducing a new separate glass service.

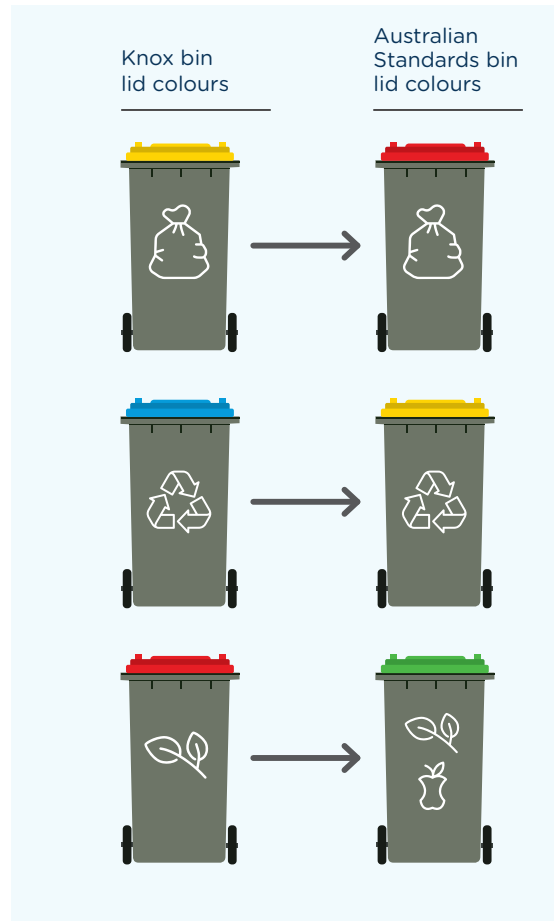
In Knox, bin lids do not match the Australian Standard colours for the respective waste services.

Changing the bin lid colours will be staged over time. This will require a substantial education and behaviour change program in an effort to maintain sustained communications with residents, avoid confusion and help limit contamination.

Council will also be involved in educating the community on changes delivered by the state, including the Container Deposit Scheme and single-use plastics ban.

Container Deposit Scheme (CDS)
a scheme set to start in Victoria in November 2023, refunding 10 cents for every eligible drink container returned to a refund collection point. The returned containers are recycled into new products.

Contamination
material placed into the incorrect bin for collection.



Contamination of resource streams

Contamination presents problems such as the difficulty or inability to properly sort other contents of the bin or load, potential for damage to machinery or harm to operators, and impacts quality of the end product. Some processing contracts, including recycling and food and garden, charge a higher rate if contamination is above an agreed percentage.

Correct separation of material into bins at home is crucial to the quality of the end product and reduction of extra costs to Council.





Financial considerations

Costs associated with waste collection, processing and disposal are increasing.

A levy is charged on all rubbish sent to landfill in order to encourage diversion and recycling, and create strong financial incentives. It is paid in addition to the gate fee, and has increased from \$65.90/tonne in 2019/20 to \$129.27/tonne in 2023/24. It is expected the levy will continue to increase.

Implementing the changes and providing the education required for the Recycling Victoria policy reforms are an extra cost to Council.

Council is committed to maintain financial line of sight over commitments in the strategy and actions in the implementation plan. To balance increasing costs and deliver a best value, efficient, regular and easy to use waste service to meet the needs and priorities of the community, and work towards national and state waste reduction targets.

Multi-unit developments

New developments of six or more dwellings submit a Waste Management Plan to Council for review during the planning application stage.

The Plan outlines waste management considerations for the proposed

development. Where Council cannot service the development, a private waste contractor is engaged.

Typically, in multi-unit developments more waste ends up in landfill, less is recovered and contamination is higher.

Climate change

Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2022, acknowledging the significant threat climate change poses to our environment and community. A 10-year Climate Response Plan has been adopted, identifying actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Emissions from waste management activities including processing, transportation and methane generation from decomposing waste all contribute towards greenhouse gases. As a community we can reduce impact on our climate by:

- adopting the principles of a circular economy by reducing waste, maximising resource recovery and efficiency
- using the food and garden bin service, diverting organic material away from landfill and instead turn it into compost. This process significantly reduces methane emissions, and the compost is used in farms, viticulture and gardens.



Our strategy direction

We are committed to achieving the community vision for waste and resource recovery in Knox outlined in both the Community Plan and Council Plan.

This Strategy further expands on our commitments, at the same time aligning with national and state waste policy directions, legislation and targets. It articulates a vision for waste and resource management to **lead and support our community to move towards a circular economy by avoiding waste, and maximising resource recovery.**

It identifies four main goals, describes aims, sets measurable targets, outlines Council's commitments and indicates what actions the community can take.

A detailed and separate Implementation Plan further expands on each Council commitment identified in this Strategy.

The separate plan allows for flexibility due to factors including changes and challenges in the sector, shifting regulatory requirements, technological

improvements, local challenges, community priorities, and funding opportunities while still working towards our goals, aims and targets.

Each year we will check progress for each of the goals and targets against the Implementation Plan, review and refine the tasks if necessary and report on our progress to the community.

A mid-term review of the Strategy will be completed by December 2027. This review will focus on any changes to legislation or policy not reflected in the strategy.



Goal 1 - Avoid waste



Our aim: Avoid waste where possible and reduce how much waste we generate

To avoid waste altogether is the preferable choice when managing waste. If we cannot avoid it, the next option is to reduce how much we generate. These two approaches are the highest ranked in the waste management hierarchy.

Although it sounds relatively simple, achieving this goal will require substantial effort, a conscious shift in thinking, a significant change in behaviour, and long-term commitments by all levels of government, manufacturers, businesses and the community. Each of us has a role to play and a responsibility to help achieve this goal.

Creating less waste will reduce our reliance on supporting waste infrastructure such as landfills, transfer stations, recycling plants and recovery operations. It reduces our impact on the environment in both the long and short term, and avoids costs associated with the creation, purchase, processing, transportation and disposal of materials.



Our target

Cut total waste generation per capita in Knox by 15% between 2020 and 2030



What Council will do

Promote and support the use of reusable products including nappies, sanitary items and incontinence products

Support the National Plastics Plan 2021 and phase out problematic and unnecessary single-use plastics in Council offices and buildings

Support local businesses, community groups and organisations to avoid and reduce waste

Advocate to national and state governments for a focus on improved waste outcomes for Knox residents

What you can do

Buy only what you need

Avoid disposable and single-use items; instead, purchase reusable products

Repair items where possible

Choose products with less packaging

Share, swap, sell and buy second-hand items



Targets adopted from Recycling Victoria policy



Goal 2 – Recover more from our waste



Our aim: Maximise resource recovery and minimise waste to landfill

Resources and energy embedded in products are lost when we decide they are no longer needed and sent to landfill.

Over the last 10 years in Knox, we have consistently generated the same amount of rubbish and diverted about half of the material collected in our kerbside bins away from landfill. The diverted material is either recycled, mulched or composted. National and state waste policies and targets aim to considerably increase the amount of material diverted from landfill; in order to achieve this in Knox, big changes are needed.

The Recycling Victoria policy aims to consistently change Council kerbside waste collection services across Victoria.

Knox is committed to working with the Victorian Government to deliver on these changes while understanding the needs of our community.

Council remains committed to investigating and implementing options to reduce, reuse and recover material as a priority. Once explored, there will still be waste to be managed which has historically been sent to landfill, the least preferred option in the waste management hierarchy.

Limited landfill space in Melbourne's southeast indicates we must secure

a viable long-term option to sensibly manage this stream going forward.

This includes pursuing proven technologies such as advanced waste processing, or waste to energy, which is used successfully and safely overseas.

This technology will help achieve the targets set out in the Recycling Victoria policy and adopted by Knox.



Our target

Divert 80% of waste collected in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030: interim target of 72% by 2025



By 2030, reduce the volume of organic material going to landfill to 50% of 2020 levels: interim target of 20% reduction by 2025



Every household in Knox has access to a separate food and organics recovery service by 2030



Every household in Knox has access to either new glass bin or service by 2027 (option still to be determined)



What Council will do

Transition Knox kerbside services to align with household recycling reforms in the Recycling Victoria policy

Identify opportunities to maximise the recovery of resources

Build capacity to increase the use of recycled content in goods purchased by Council

Work with other councils and government agencies on purchasing and resource recovery initiatives

Secure long-term options for residual waste collected throughout Knox as an alternative to landfill

Commitment from Council Plan 2021-2025

What you can do

Separate waste correctly – place items in the correct kerbside bin for collection, and drop off other items for recycling/recovery at participating locations (including through the container deposit scheme, batteries, Detox Your Home, printer toners and cartridges). Check our website if you are not sure

Compost at home – Council provides subsidised compost bins and worm farms

Goal 3 - Engage and empower our community



Our aim: Engage and empower our community to make informed decisions about waste and resource recovery.

Our community is more aware than ever of the challenges and shifts in the waste and resource recovery sector. With this renewed interest, it is vital for Council to deliver engaging and accessible community engagement and behaviour change programs. We need to do this in a variety of formats including face-to-face, online and print format, and tailor and target our communications towards key audiences, making it accessible for everyone including residents who use English as a second language.

Council will provide our community with easily accessible and up-to-date waste information and data. To make accurate decisions about avoiding and reducing waste, and properly redirect waste resources to the correct location for materials recovery.

The success of this Strategy relies on everyone making conscious purchasing decisions, and changing our behaviours by seeking to avoid and reduce waste whenever possible, while striving to minimise how much waste we send to landfill.



Our target

Increase the number of recycling bins with no contamination from bin inspection program to 80% by 2030; interim target of 72% by 2025

Increase the number of food and garden bins with no contamination from bin inspection program by 25% from 2023 levels; interim increase of 10% by 2025

What Council will do

Provide our community with easily accessible information and data on waste and resource recovery services

Educate our community, local businesses and staff on waste avoidance, waste reduction and resource recovery with easily accessible and engaging programs

What you can do

Seek to find ways to avoid and reduce generating waste

Keep informed on avoiding and reducing waste where possible, and redirect material properly for resource recovery

Be a local champion - educate and influence friends and family on how to avoid and reduce waste

Support businesses and community groups actively seeking to avoid and reduce waste

Goal 4 – Care for our environment



Our aim: Keep our local environment clean and manage our closed landfills.

The community told us through the Knox Council Plan that caring for the environment, our bushland and nature reserves are the most important aspects of Knox. Including better maintenance of public spaces, and better care for the environment including addressing climate change.

The presence of litter and dumped rubbish impacts on the overall amenity, use and enjoyment of our public spaces.

Litter is a highly visible form of pollution and can be almost any material in small quantities disposed of incorrectly. Dumped rubbish is essentially litter in either a larger size or large quantity of items.

Litter and dumped rubbish can enter and clog waterways, pollute our natural environment, impact ecosystems, attract vermin, cause hazards and pose risks to health. Ultimately it costs the community

money, and utilises resources to clean up and dispose of litter and dumped waste properly.

Everyone has a role to play, and Council will take steps to reduce litter and illegally dumped rubbish in our public spaces, reserves and bushland areas to enhance the enjoyment of these spaces, and keep our natural environment clean.

Council operated three landfill sites in Knox, which closed a number of years ago. They provide some publicly accessible open spaces, important bushland and nature reserves for the community. While they provide important spaces for the community closed landfill sites require careful long term management to minimise impacts to the public and pollution to the surrounding environment.

Council continues to actively manage and monitor these sites in line with obligations under the *Environment Protection Act 2017*.



Our target

By 2030 reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and litter complaints by 20%

Annually complete all required monitoring and reporting at closed landfill sites

What Council will do

Take steps to reduce litter and illegally dumped rubbish

Manage our closed landfill sites

What you can do

Use public place litter and recycling bins. If they are not available, take your rubbish home with you

Report instances of dumped rubbish to Council or EPA Victoria

If you are moving or have cleaned up around the house, book a hard waste collection (for all eligible items)



Monitoring our performance

We will monitor and evaluate performance against this Strategy using information from the following sources and targets:

#	TARGET	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE	2025 TARGET	2030 TARGET
1	Cut total waste generation per capita in Knox by 15% between 2020 and 2030	Rubbish, organics, recycling, and hard waste contractor	443 kg/person (2020 baseline)	421 kg/person	377 kg/person
2	Divert 80% of waste collected in kerbside bins from landfill by 2030; interim target of 72% by 2025	Waste, recycling and recovery contractor	45% diversion (2021/22 baseline)	72% diversion	80% diversion
	By 2030 reduce the volume of organic material going to landfill to 50% of 2020 levels; interim target of 20% reduction by 2025	Bin audit reports	54% organic material (2020 baseline)	34% organic material	27% organic material
	Every household in Knox has access to a separate food and organics recovery service by 2030	Rates data	0 (2021/22 baseline)		Every household with access
	Every household in Knox has access to either new glass bin or service by 2027 (option still to be determined)	TBD	0 (2021/22 baseline)		Every household with access
3	Increase the number of recycling bins with no contamination from bin inspection program to 80% by 2030; interim target of 72% by 2025	Bin inspection program data	59% (2021/22 baseline)	72%	80%
	Increase the number of food and garden bins with no contamination from bin inspection program by 25% from 2023 levels; interim increase of 10% by 2025	Bin inspection program data	To be established	2023 levels +10%	2023 levels +25%
4	By 2030 reduce the reported number of dumped rubbish and litter complaints by 20%	Complaints lodged in Councils customer reporting system database	1,682 complaints litter/dumped rubbish (2021/22 baseline)	10% reduction	20% reduction
	Annually complete all required monitoring and reporting at closed landfill sites	Annual environmental reports	100% complete	100% complete	100% complete

Strategy delivery

This draft Strategy will be released for public consultation and feedback. Changes to the draft will be made based on feedback received during the consultation period. Council will consider the final draft and once endorsed by Council, the Strategy will be implemented.

Strategy implementation

The Strategy includes goals, aims, targets and high-level commitments for both Council and the community to drive the future direction of waste and resource recovery across Knox to 2030.

The Implementation Plan further details the specific actions Council will undertake for each of the goals identified in the Strategy. This will allow for flexibility should there be changes and challenges in the sector, shifting regulatory requirements, technological improvements, local challenges, community priorities, and funding opportunities while still working towards our goals, aims and targets.

Strategy funding

Funding to implement the actions outlined in the Strategy and Implementation Plan is subject to the normal Council budget process. Funding will be included as part of the five-year long-term operational and capital works forecasting and planning, and incorporated into annual budget cycles.

The residential waste charge is a full cost recovery for waste services in Knox, and in future will include cost of implementing actions from the Strategy. Council is committed to the delivery of financial and environmentally sustainable waste services.

Council will continue to apply for funding opportunities to improve waste and resource recovery services, communications and infrastructure throughout Knox in line with the goals and key directions as set out in this Strategy.

Strategy progress reporting

Reporting on the implementation of the Strategy to the community, including status of action items, review of actions in the Implementation Plan and monitoring performance against targets, will occur annually.

A mid-term review of the Strategy will be completed by December 2027. This review will focus on any changes to legislation or policy not reflected in the strategy.



Waste as a Resource: Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023-2030 Implementation Plan

Our Waste and Resource Strategy 2023-2030 (Strategy) outlines a future vision in Knox to

Lead and support our community to move towards a circular economy by avoiding waste and maximising resource recovery.

To help achieve this vision within Knox, our Strategy sets out four goals, identifies our aims, documents Council's commitments, provides actions the community can take and sets targets.

The targets are measurable, allowing us to evaluate our progress, with most targets adopted from either state or national waste policies.

This separate Implementation Plan further details the specific actions Council will take for each goal identified in the Strategy and each Council commitment. It includes estimated timelines for implementation, resources required and delivery partners.

A separate implementation plan allows for flexibility to quickly adapt to changes in the sector, if needed, while still aiming to achieve our stated goals, maintain our commitments and meet our targets.

A review of the progress against the Implementation Plan will be undertaken annually, and revised as needed. We will report our progress to the community annually.

ACTION	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS		
									Internal	External	
GOAL 1 - LESS WASTE											
1.1 Reusable products											
1.1.1	Reduce disposable nappies, sanitary products and incontinence products sent to landfill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review feasibility study finding, and implement method best suited for Knox community work in conjunction with other councils to support and promote the uptake of these reusable items 	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Waste Management, Communications	Partner councils Sustainability Victoria
1.2 Phase out single-use items											
1.2.1	Support the avoidance of single-use items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> promote the Victorian Government single-use plastic ban introduced in 2023 explore options to eliminate single-use products in Council buildings and facilities 	•	•	•					\$	Waste Management, Communications, City Futures, Economic Development, Strategic Procurement, Facilities, Leisure	Victorian Government
1.2.2	Identify opportunities to avoid waste at Council-run events, including promotion of reusable items	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$	Arts and Cultural Services, Waste Management	Community
1.3 Support local businesses and community											
1.3.1	Promote community groups encouraging waste avoidance or waste reduction practices including share libraries (toys/tools/ equipment), community repair cafes, bulk food purchasing, second-hand stores, swap and sell networks	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Communications Waste Management, City Futures, Economic Development	Community groups, local businesses
1.3.2	Promote Council's community grants programs to attract and support waste reduction and minimisation projects in the local community	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Community Partnerships, Communications	Community groups

ACTION	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS	
									Internal	External
<p>1.3.3 Identify opportunities to engage and encourage local businesses to implement practices to avoid, reduce and recover waste, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use the Knoxbiz communications channels for regular business-specific waste information and updates • tailor some waste education materials and workshops specifically for local businesses to ensure they are relevant and engaging • use the Knoxbiz communications channels to promote business-specific waste education workshops and events 	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Economic Development, Waste Management, City Futures	Local businesses
1.4 Advocacy										
<p>1.4.1 Advocate at a state or national level to improve opportunities to avoid or reduce waste, maximise resource recovery, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expand national product stewardship schemes (problematic waste to consider: mattresses, soft plastics, e-waste including solar panels) • reduce consumer packaging • expand eligible containers included in Victorian container deposit scheme • flexibility of waste collections at a local government level, including delivery options for mandated separate glass service • standardise bin contents lists • further funding support through sustainability fund for local government implementation of Recycling Victoria kerbside reforms • invest in waste and resource recovery technologies and infrastructure through the sustainability fund • state and local support for Council's collaborative procurement activities in waste management 	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Waste Management	Local government Municipal Association of Victoria Victorian Government Australian Government
<p>1.4.2 Seek funding opportunities and grants through Sustainability Victoria, Recycling Victoria, DEECA</p>	•	• •	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Waste Management, City Futures	Sustainability Victoria, DEECA, Recycling Victoria
GOAL 2 - RECOVER MORE										
2.1 Recycling Victoria kerbside reforms										
<p>2.1.1 Change bin lid colours to meet the Australian Standard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food and green waste bin lid from red to lime-green • recycling bin lid from blue to yellow • rubbish bin lid from yellow to red 	•	• •						\$\$\$	Waste Management	Contractor, Knox community



	ACTION	23/ 24	24/ 25	25/ 26	26/ 27	27/ 28	28/ 29	29/ 30	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS	
										Internal	External
2.1.2	Introduce universal food and garden bin service: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 1 residential single dwellings Phase 2 residential multi-unit developments 	•							\$\$\$	Waste Management	Contractor, Knox community
2.1.3	Review Council's business waste and recycling service offering, for inclusion of food and garden bin service		•						TBC	Waste Management	Collection contractor, businesses
2.1.4	Consider Council land for container deposit scheme (CDS) vending machine locations to support access for the community. Communicate CDS introduction and implementation	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	Nil	Waste Management, Communications, Property	Recycling Victoria, Knox community
2.1.5	Support and implement the standardised bin contents list: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> align recycling and food and garden processing contracts to match the standard bin content lists update and enhance waste education materials, communicate and engage with residents 	•							EO	Waste Management, Strategic Procurement, Communications	Recycling Victoria, contractors, Knox community
2.1.6	Introduce separate glass service by 2027: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigate glass service delivery options develop plan for service and implement communicate and engage with community 	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	\$\$\$	Waste Management, Strategic Procurement, Communications	Recycling Victoria, Collection contractor, Knox community
2.2	Maximise recovery of resources										
2.2.1	Opportunities to divert food waste from landfill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> collect food waste weekly (via food and garden bin) subsidise residents' purchase of compost bins, worm farms, bokashi bins and expand the range as required 	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Waste Management,	Contractor, Knox community
2.2.2	Identify and explore opportunities for viable long-term recovery of difficult to recycle materials currently collected in Council's rubbish service and sent to landfill (example, soft plastics, polystyrene)	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Waste Management,	Contractor, Partner councils

	ACTION	23/	24/	25/	26/	27/	28/	29/	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS	
		24	25	26	27	28	29	30		Internal	External
2.2.3	Review and update <i>Eligibility for use of waste collection services provided by Knox Council policy</i> , for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inclusion of food and garden bin service consideration of inclusion of schools to use limited service services offered across user groups in Council-owned facilities (sporting groups and community clubs etc) 		●						EO	Waste Management, Leisure Services, Property, Rates	Contractors
2.2.4	Improve resource recovery in Council-owned buildings (including those leased out to third parties) and offices, where Council performs waste collection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review existing waste services gradually roll out infrastructure, services, collateral and education for separate recycling and food and garden bins collect data and monitor waste services 	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management, Property Management, Facilities, Leisure Services	Contractor, user groups,
2.2.5	Review and update waste collection conditions in lease arrangements for Council-owned facilities for consistency with eligibility policy		●	●					EO	Property, Waste Management, Facilities, Leisure Services	Knox community
2.2.6	Consider waste management in the design phase of major project redevelopments at Council facilities through provision of a waste management plan		●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Major Initiatives, Waste Management	Contractor
2.2.7	Improve resource recovery from multi-unit developments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> update waste policy considerations for new developments to reflect Recycling Victoria reforms investigate service options available for multi-unit developments to improve waste services 	●	●						EO	Waste Management, Planning	Property managers, developers, Knox community
2.2.8	Improve resource recovery at Knox-run events: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop waste management plans in the planning phase of Council-run events provide food and garden bins provide consistent waste and resource recovery signage 	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Arts and Cultural services, Waste Management	Contractors, Knox community
2.2.9	Provide disposal alternatives for unwanted hazardous household items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue to host annual Detox Your Home event in Knox in association with Sustainability Victoria promote Detox Your Home events hosted by Knox and in neighbouring councils 	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management, Operations, Communications	Sustainability Victoria, Knox community

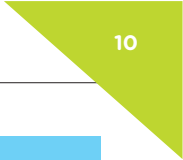
ACTION	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS	
									Internal	External
<p>2.2.10 Conduct service reviews of waste contracts to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in areas of financial and environmental sustainability, service efficiency, value for money, technological advancements, risk management, avoiding waste and diverting resources from landfill. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conduct a review of bundled branch/own container service following implementation of food and garden bin service to identify service efficiencies and value for money review hard waste service offering, particularly in comparison to other Victorian councils 			•					EO	Waste Management, Strategic Procurement	Contractors
<p>2.2.11 Undertake strategic review prior to end of contract term for the future operations of the Knox Transfer Station</p>		•						EO	Waste Management	
<p>2.2.12 Support circular economy opportunities for local businesses including continued partnering with ASPIRE (online tool for material resource exchange)</p>	•	•						\$	Waste Management, City Futures	Businesses
2.3 Increase use of recycled content										
<p>2.3.1 Review and update Council procurement procedures to include consideration for the purchase of recycled content or recycled products where possible</p>		•						EO	Strategic Procurement, Waste Management	
<p>2.3.2 Review and update Council procurement systems and process to enable the capture of, and establish baseline data around, the value and quantity of recycled content purchased by Council</p>			•					TBC		
<p>2.3.3 Provide staff with the resources, information and or training to make informed decisions about procuring products with recycled content</p>			•					\$		
2.4 Collaborate										
<p>2.4.1 Collaborate with other councils and government agencies on purchasing and resource recovery initiatives</p>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Waste Management, Strategic Procurement	Local government, State Government/ agencies
<p>2.4.2 Collaborate with other councils, government agencies, relevant networks, business and industry on relevant waste management topics, waste issues and planning transition to new waste services</p>	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	EO	Waste Management	Local government State Government/ agencies, industry, businesses

ACTION	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS	
									Internal	External
2.5 Landfill alternatives										
2.5.1 Secure long-term solutions for the treatment and disposal of residual waste streams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigate alternative waste technology options for the management of residual waste partner with government agencies, other councils and industry to explore opportunities for landfill alternatives participate in South East Melbourne Advanced Waste Processing project (SEMAWP) (once options identified, further actions will be explored and detailed) 	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	\$\$\$	Waste Management, Strategic Procurement	Partner councils, SEMAWP, industry, Recycling Victoria
GOAL 3 - ENGAGE AND EMPOWER OUR COMMUNITY										
3.1 Provide information and data										
3.1.1 Provide regular waste and resource recovery data to the community through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> website updates continued reporting through the local government reporting framework and Recycling Victoria report on progress of actions as set out in this Plan 	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management, Communications, Digital Experience	Recycling Victoria, State Government
3.1.2 Implement biannual waste audits of rubbish, recycling and food and garden bins to provide relevant up-to-date data to aid in tailoring targeted education campaigns	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management	Contractor, community
3.1.3 Regular review and update of waste and resource recovery content on Council's website, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A-Z Guide to Waste and Recycling all waste and resource recovery-related pages waste events 	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management	
3.1.4 Investigate new tools to provide easily accessible online information about Council waste services: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> online look-up function for each property waste collection service days look up function for A-Z waste guide to advise of appropriate disposal, reuse or recovery options inclusion of imagery in waste education pages (to assist in providing this information to CALD communities) advanced bookings for hard waste collections online forms 	●	●						\$	Waste Management, Digital Experience, Communications, Community Wellbeing	

ACTION	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS	
									Internal	External
<p>3.1.5 Distribute annual waste guide and calendar to all residents in print format (via Knox News lift out), to reach residents without access to information online, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> opportunities to provide to renters through local real estate agents provide as needed throughout year as requested or required 	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management	Knox Community, local real estate agents
<p>3.1.6 Develop template signage, posters, stickers and education materials, tailored for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> multi-unit developments Council-owned buildings including those leased out to third parties, with Council collection community clubs Knox-run community events households local businesses schools 	●							EO	Waste Management, Communications Facilities, Leisure, Arts and Cultural Services	Knox community, user groups, body corporate agencies
3.2 Engage and educate										
<p>3.2.1 Develop and implement ongoing community engagement and behaviour change programs, and communications for waste and resource recovery in a variety of formats, including face-to-face workshops, pop-ups, Council and community events, social media campaigns and video, for the community and local businesses with a focus on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> avoid and reduce waste (including use of reusable products) reduce contamination in food and garden and recycling bins maximise resource recovery, including sorting waste into the right bin, or drop-off locations Recycling Victoria's kerbside transition program littering and illegal dumping topics identified in community feedback including Detox Your Home, composting and hard to recycle items <p>Tailor some engagement to key audiences including those we don't typically reach, and ensure it is accessible for residents with English as a second language</p>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management, Communications, Community Wellbeing	Knox community
<p>3.2.2 Develop education resources tailored for secondary schools, primary schools, early learning centres and kindergartens on waste and resource recovery</p>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management	Schools, early learning centres, kindergartens

ACTION	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS	
									Internal	External
3.2.3 Provide targeted and property specific tailored waste education communication to residents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> through Council's bin inspection program to properties identified as presenting bins kerbside for collection with contamination 	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management	Contractors
3.2.4 Promote success in local resource recovery, and waste avoidance via social media, online or print	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Communications, Economic Development	
3.2.5 Investigate developing a waste-specific newsletter	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management, Communications	Knox community
3.2.6 Continue Council's internal 'Waste Warriors' group to champion and lead waste avoidance, reduction and resource recovery actions within Council	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management,	
3.2.7 Provide education and capacity building for Council staff around circular economy principles		●						\$	Waste Management,	Sustainability Victoria
GOAL 4 - CARE FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT										
4.1 Litter and waste dumping										
4.1.1 Review of Eligibility for the placement, relocation or removal of a public litter or recycling bin policy to consider placement and coverage of litter bins across Knox with opportunities to reduce litter, maximise resource recovery and reduce contamination. Consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> criteria for the location of bins for ease of use by public, and ease of collection by contractor consistency of bin placement across Knox service efficiency and value for money limited public place food and garden bin service signage requirements 	●	●						EO	Waste Management, Open Spaces	Contractor, Knox community
4.1.2 Investigate reporting options for overflowing public bins. Including smart bin reporting systems, scanning of QR code.				●				EO	Waste Management, IT	Contractor





	ACTION	23/24	24/25	25/26	26/27	27/28	28/29	29/30	\$	DELIVERY PARTNERS	
										Internal	External
4.1.3	Promote anti-litter campaigns such as Clean Up Australia day to support operational services such as street sweeping	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Communications, Waste Management	
4.1.4	Review Use of Waste collection services policy (linked to the Amenity Local Law), for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inclusion of food and garden bin service potential future glass service 		●						EO	Waste Management, Local Laws	
4.1.5	Develop an internal Litter and Dumped Waste Working Group to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review processes, and identify areas for improvement, efficiency and consistency around the reporting, education, collection and enforcement of litter and dumped rubbish investigate opportunities to improve data collection and reporting around illegal waste dumping and littering (volumes, hotspots, resources etc) to provide data-driven responses and decision making 		●						EO	Waste Management, Operations, Parks, Customer service, Biodiversity, Local Laws	
4.2	Landfill										
4.2.1	Continue to implement routine monitoring and reporting at the frequency outlined in environmental monitoring plans for Cathies Lane and Llewellyn Park landfills	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management	Consultants
4.2.2	Implement Environmental Auditor recommendations for Cathies Lane and Llewellyn Park landfills	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management	Consultants
4.2.3	Complete requirements of Environmental Action Notice for Wantirna Reserve	●							EO	Waste Management	Consultants
4.2.4	Set aside adequate funds for the ongoing management of closed landfill sites in Knox	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	EO	Waste Management, Finance	

\$ = <\$75,000
\$\$ = \$75-\$200,000
\$\$\$ >\$200,000
EO = Existing operational budget

Indicates the estimated costs to implement actions outlined in this plan to 2030. Some of these actions are already underway, some are mandatory, some are an existing operational cost, and some required additional budget.

8.2 Proposed Sale of Council Owned Land - 566R Boronia Rd Wantirna

SUMMARY: Coordinator Property Management, Paige Kennett

The Council owned property of reserves 3, 4 and 5 on Plan of Subdivision 095895, which forms part of the land in certificate of title volume 09121 folio 341 – known as 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna - is on the long-term financial plan for disposal in the 2023-2024 financial year.

Following officer assessment against the disposal principles, the site has been confirmed as surplus. This report highlights the findings of officers in relation to this parcel for consideration by Council and recommends the commencement of community consultation in accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020* to divest the land.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Note an initial assessment indicates that 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna, identified as reserves 3, 4 and 5 on Plan of Subdivision 095895, forming part of the land in certificate of title volume 09121 folio 341 is not required to be retained and consequently resolve:
 - a. To commence the statutory process, as required under Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, to advise of Council's intent to sell the subject land through a public process, for no less than market value (plus GST) as determined by an independent valuer;
 - b. Pursuant to Section 114 of the Local Government Act 2020, to give public notice of the proposed sale of the subject land on the Council internet site;
 - c. Undertake Community Consultation in accordance with Section 114 (2)(b) of the Local Government Act 2020.
2. Note a further report will be presented to a Council meeting to enable consideration of any submissions and the final determination of the matter.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Council owned property located at 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna, is a 1,000sqm parcel of land zoned RGZ1 (Residential Growth Zone 1); being reserves 3, 4 and 5 on Plan of Subdivision 095895, and is part of the land in certificate of title volume 09121 folio 341.

The land is described as a tree reserve and is not subject to any overlays.

The land falls within the definition of 'public open space' (Reserves) as set out in Section 3 of the *Subdivision Act 1988*. The Act defines 'public open space' as 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; or
- c) For similar purposes.

The land has been identified for divestment as part of the Long-Term Financial Forecast (LTFF). This report proposes to commence community consultation in accordance with Section 114(2)(b) of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

At the conclusion of the community consultation a report will be provided to Council for a final determination on whether the property should be progressed to sale.

2. DISCUSSION

The sale or transfer of any Council land must be made carefully, considering current and future needs of the municipality, and maximising public value (both financial and non-financial). Council officers assess land within the municipality to ensure it is still delivering the best value to our City.

The subject site has a Reserve status and is L-shaped with sewerage easements on the south and eastern boundaries. The site is zoned RGZ1 (Residential Growth Zone 1) and abuts a petrol station to the West side (570 Boronia Road, Wantirna), two residential properties to the East (562,564 Boronia Road) and one to the south (3 Albany Ct). Refer images 1 & 2, below.

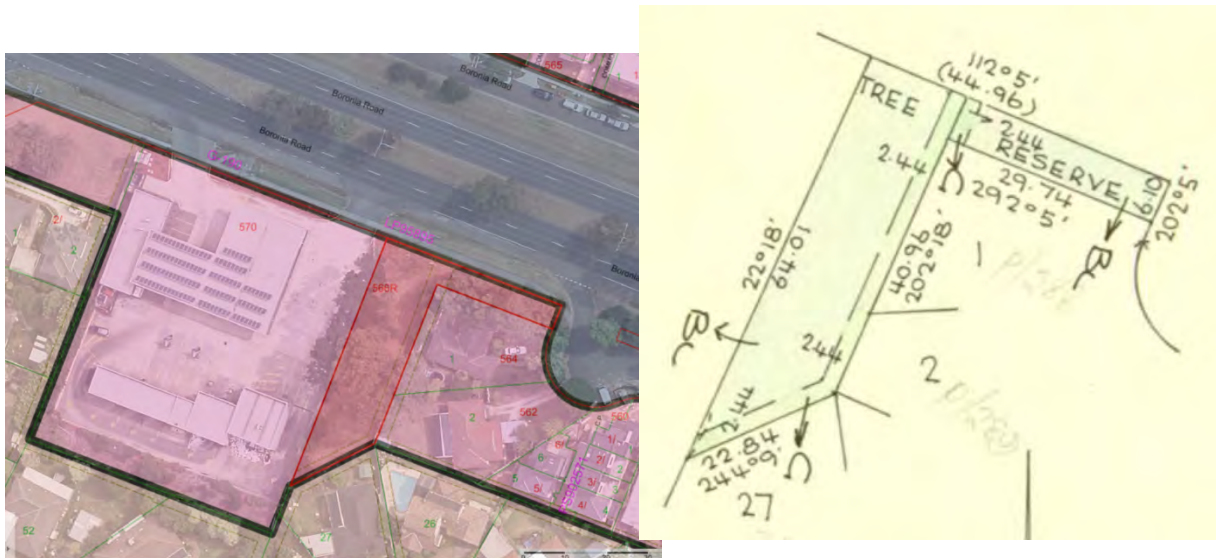


Image 1 & 2: Aerial and title image of 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna

This report discusses the assessment of this parcel against the Sale of Council Land and Building Policy principles and explores the complexities of selling land that is a reserve: the replacement of the open space as required by the *Subdivision Act 1988*; the use of the proceeds from the sale; the environmental and amenity value; the subdivision of the block into a tree reserve and main parcel, and accessibility.

2.1 Public Open Space

Restrictions apply to the sale of public open space (Reserves).

According to the title, the subject land is an open space contribution from 1975. Divestment of an Open Space Contribution is subject to the conditions in Section 20(4) of the *Subdivision Act 1988* which requires Council to:

- 1) Allocate the proceeds from the sale of the open space to purchase replacement open space or improve land already set aside for open space; and
- 2) Provide for replacement public open space.

Allocation of proceeds from the sale of Open Space

566R Boronia Road, Wantirna is defined 'public open space' under the *Subdivision Act 1988*, pursuant to section 20(2) of the Act. Council must therefore apply the proceeds from the sale of the Reserves to acquiring or improving public open space.

Should Council proceed with the divestment of this land, the proceeds of sale would be allocated to Council's Open Space Reserve. The Open Space Reserve fund is exclusively used for the purpose of improving Council's Open Space areas, which supports either acquisition of land for open space, or Council's capital program in the improvement of existing open space.

Replacement Open Space

Council must not sell 'public open space' unless Council has provided replacement public open space, in accordance with Section 20(4) of the *Subdivision Act 1988*.

In September 2021, Council resolved to purchase two parcels of land, known as 1155 Burwood Highway, Upper Ferntree Gully (Site 1: Lot 37 TP622705D, Volume 11842 Folio 776 (1,298m²)) and 1183 Burwood Highway, Upper Ferntree Gully (Site 2: Lot 38 TP422542V Volume 02039 Folio 718 (2,001m²)).

These two parcels total 3073sqm (1127sqm & 1946sqm respectively), far exceeding the area of 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna, which is 1000sqm.

Despite the replacement land being significantly larger than the site proposed for sale, consideration to other assessment measures of the land value has also been undertaken.

Further detail is captured in the attachments as follows:

- Attachment 1: Sale of Council Land and Buildings Policy principles;
- Attachment 2: Sale of Council Tree Reserves Policy principles;
- Attachment 3: NatureKit Assessment (a State Government mapping tool for biodiversity data and decision support);
- Attachment 4: Arboricultural Report for 566R Boronia Rd; and Biological Significance Study for the Upper Ferntree Gully sites for vegetation assessment.

2.2 Environmental Considerations

Biodiversity

An assessment of the land and location, including connecting land for a potential habitat corridor, have been considered by officers, in conjunction with applicable planning policies.

Council has a 30% tree canopy target by 2050. Currently 47 percent of tree canopy is within private land.

As the municipality continues to infill with housing development to cater for future housing needs, there will be incremental loss of tree canopy from private land, with limited replacement options. Small pockets of land like this provide an opportunity for tree canopy retention and future revegetation, as well as provide localised urban cooling and habitat refuge for local wildlife.

The Green Spaces team manages a roadside reserve site abutting this site (Refer Image 3 Map 1 – area shown filled in green).



Image 3: Map 1 – 566R Boronia Rd – Roadside area managed by Biodiversity

The Victorian State Government site, NatureKit, was utilised in determining Biodiversity values applicable to the sites ([NatureKit Victoria \(biodiversity.vic.gov.au\)](https://biodiversity.vic.gov.au)).

The assessment demonstrates the biodiversity value of the Upper Ferntree Gully sites exceeds that of the Wantirna site. The full assessment is provided in Attachment 4.

The NatureKit fauna assessment for the Upper Ferntree Gully site lists sightings of 46 different species, including 1 endangered species, whilst the Wantirna site returned sightings of 23 species, none endangered. This Fauna assessment further demonstrates the importance of the Upper Ferntree Gully sites when compared to the Wantirna site. Map 2 (Image 4) below, provides a visual of where the Boronia Rd Wantirna site sits in comparison to other sites of biological significance.

The trees on the land in Wantirna are not protected under the planning scheme.



Image 4: Map 2 566R Boronia Rd – Nearby areas of biodiversity significance

Arboricultural Assessment

An arboricultural assessment completed in July 2023 identified a total of 27 trees on the subject land and tree reserve (Attachment 3 – Arboricultural Report for 566R Boronia Rd).

The trees, ranging in age, health and structure, are assessed with retention values summarised as:

- 3 high retention;
- 5 medium retention; and
- 19 low retention trees.

The trees determined as high retention value are large in size, fair to good health and have a high amenity value.

Subdivision of the land is contemplated later in this report. If the land is subdivided into 2 lots (tree reserve and main parcel) the proposed tree reserve area contains 1 high retention tree, 4 medium retention trees and 4 low retention trees. The proposed subdivided tree reserve would be retained by Council.

Current Planning Scheme provisions do not require a permit for the removal of trees.

2.2 Planning Considerations and Future Use Opportunities

Officers have assessed the current usage of the site and observed it is mostly unused by the public. When compared with other active or passive open space, its layout, size, position and location are likely to impact its accessibility and functionality. Retaining public open space such as this does not provide good active space and recreational outcomes for the community.

Officers recommend that the land is subdivided into two areas – a main parcel, comprising 819 sqm, and a tree reserve, comprising 181 sqm as demonstrated in images 6 and 7:

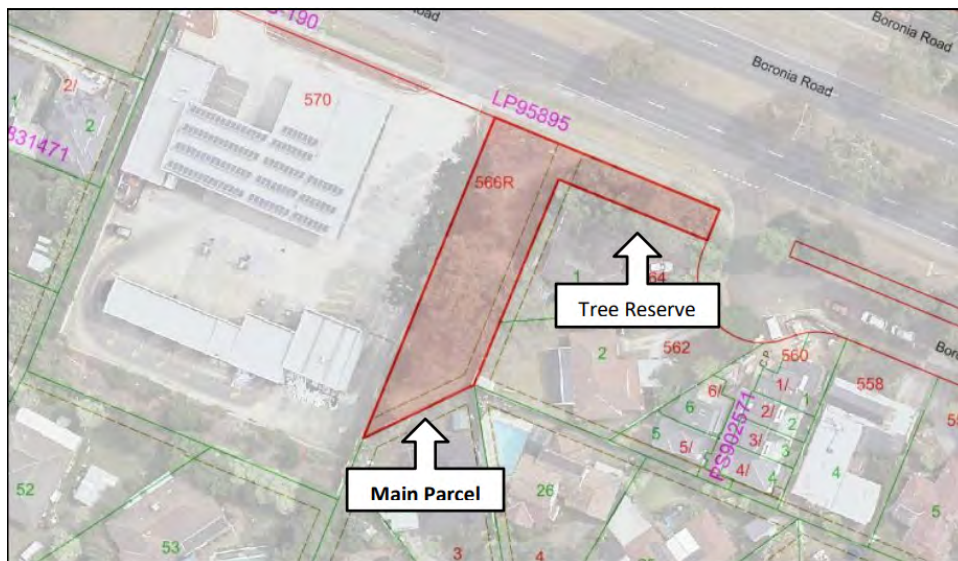


Image 6: Proposed subdivision of 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna



Image 7: Proposed Tree Reserve of 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna

The tree reserve is recommended to be subdivided from the subject property for the following reasons:

1. One high retention value tree would be preserved in the proposed tree reserve, as well as 4 medium retention trees and 4 low retention trees;
2. Subdivision of the tree reserve provides for a continued tree reserve along Boronia Rd, maintaining canopy coverage along the street and pedestrian pathway;
3. Subdivision of the tree reserve also provides council officers with the opportunity to continue utilising these tree reserves for future beautification and tree planting;

4. It provides no additional benefit to the potential buyer as the tree reserve is undevelopable, given its size and position; and
5. Not subdividing the tree reserve adds no benefit to the potential buyer from a size and developable perspective (the land can be developed based on its zoning regardless of the decision to divest or subdivide and retain the tree reserve).

A valuation of the land has been provided, including the proposed subdivision (refer Confidential Attachment 5). Subdividing the tree reserve from the subject land is anticipated to reduce the property value by approximately 3-4%.

Irrespective of Council's decision to endorse the subdivision of the tree reserve, an assessment against the policy to dispose of the tree reserve has been completed and is provided at Attachment 2.

Reserve Status

The subject property currently has a reserve status on title, which must be removed for the sale of the land to progress.

The process to remove the reserve status from the land requires council to:

1. Prepare and register a plan of subdivision pursuant to Section 24A of the Act;
2. Obtain a planning permit authorising the removal of the reserve status for the main parcel proposed for sale. (the proposed tree reserve of approximately 181sqm will remain as Reserve status).

Once the land is unencumbered (reserve status removed), Council can then proceed to sale.

2.4 Accessibility

There is currently no street access for 566R Boronia Rd, Wantirna. Officers advise there are two options for street access:

1. Title to boundary (Road Reserve); or
2. Carriageway easement.

Title to the road reserve is recommended (as shown below) as it provides the future owner with certainty of legal road access. Legal access is less certain with a carriageway easement and while it may provide more control to Council (which could be argued as being negligible) it provides less certainty to any future owner which could affect a future sale for little return. Any build form restrictions that may be required adjacent to the tree reserve can be managed on a Plan of Subdivision.

Officers would need to consult with VicRoads to gain approval for road access. It is assumed that street access would be most appropriate from the far-left side of the subject land facing Boronia Rd which allows the tree reserve to be retained and maintained, and the power pole to not disrupt access, however this can be tested with VicRoads during consultation.



Image 8: Potential Access 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna

2.5 Proposed Divestment Process

Officers recommend this property to be sold via a public process, such as an auction, given its position, size, location and zoning. Public processes provide the greatest level of transparency and public accountability.

Property best practice principles state:

“Sales should be conducted through a public process (i.e. public auction, public tender or by registration of expressions of interest) unless circumstances exist that justify an alternative method of sale, for example the sale or exchange of land by private treaty.

A council should explain to its community the circumstances which led to its decision to use an alternative method of sale in the interests of probity, public accountability and transparency.”

Alternative methods of sale, such as private treaty would only be considered when, for example, the allotment is inappropriate for subdivision, size restricts the developable opportunities or when Council has been directly approached by a buyer that has an interest in the land. In this case, prospective purchasers may include owners of adjacent properties or developers. If a private treaty sale was to be considered, council must consider the nature and value of the land to justify this method of sale to the community.

2.6 Next Steps

Following community consultation and Council's final endorsement to proceed to sale, council officers will commence with the following:

- Survey and subdivide the Tree Reserve from the parcel to ensure the tree reserve remains in Council ownership, subject to Councillor endorsement;
- Remove the reservation status from the main parcel (this action requires a planning permit); and
- Receive approval from VicRoads for vehicle access to the site.

Preparations for these actions are pending Council's decision to progress the sale of the property.

3. CONSULTATION

Property officers have consulted internally with officers from across Council, including Planning, Asset Management, Biodiversity, City Futures, Connected Communities, Finance, Active and Creative Communities, Operations, Traffic and Transport, Sustainable Futures and Major Initiatives.

If Council endorses this site as surplus, officers will commence community consultation in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and the requirements of the *Local Government Act 2020*.

Consultation would include a Have Your Say Page, letter box flyer drops and mail out to nearby properties. Residents would also have the option of calling or visiting officers at the Civic Centre, writing or emailing. A draft surveyed plan will be provided in the consultation which demonstrates proposed subdivision for consideration.

Council will then receive a further report with the outcomes of the consultation process.

If the divestment process is endorsed by Council, community consultation is anticipated to be commenced toward the end of January 2024.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

In considering the sale of this parcel of land, the outcomes for the land are most likely development, which would result in the removal of vegetation onsite. The vegetation has been assessed by an independent arborist and is available at Attachment 3.

If the vegetation on site was removed, there would be a negative impact on Council's exposure to climate risk, however the canopy cover impact is difficult to quantify and the extent relative to this site potentially negligible. It is noted that pocket sites such as 566R Boronia Rd can provide an important contribution to Council's target of reaching 30% canopy cover, all which support:

- urban cooling,
- local amenity
- carbon sequestration,
- filtering of particulates emitted from vehicles,
- supporting hydrology and soil structure and
- habitat creation for our local fauna.

The proposed subdivision for establishing a main parcel and tree reserve will preserve some vegetation. No permit is required for the removal of vegetation within the proposed main parcel. As part of any future development, a future owner may be required to plant new vegetation.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

Environmental and amenity issues with the proposed sale of 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna, have been considered under the Assessment against policy principles for Sale of Land and Buildings. Environmental impacts considered and explored throughout this report include, but are not limited to, biodiversity of the site, tree assessments, fauna, carbon impacts and public utilisation.

Council officers have considered the community open space requirements and the impact of the sale of the site. Best practice guidelines suggest that residents should have access to open space within 500 meters of their home. Image 8 below, shows the open space available to the area. The proposed sale of this site does not compromise this amenity.

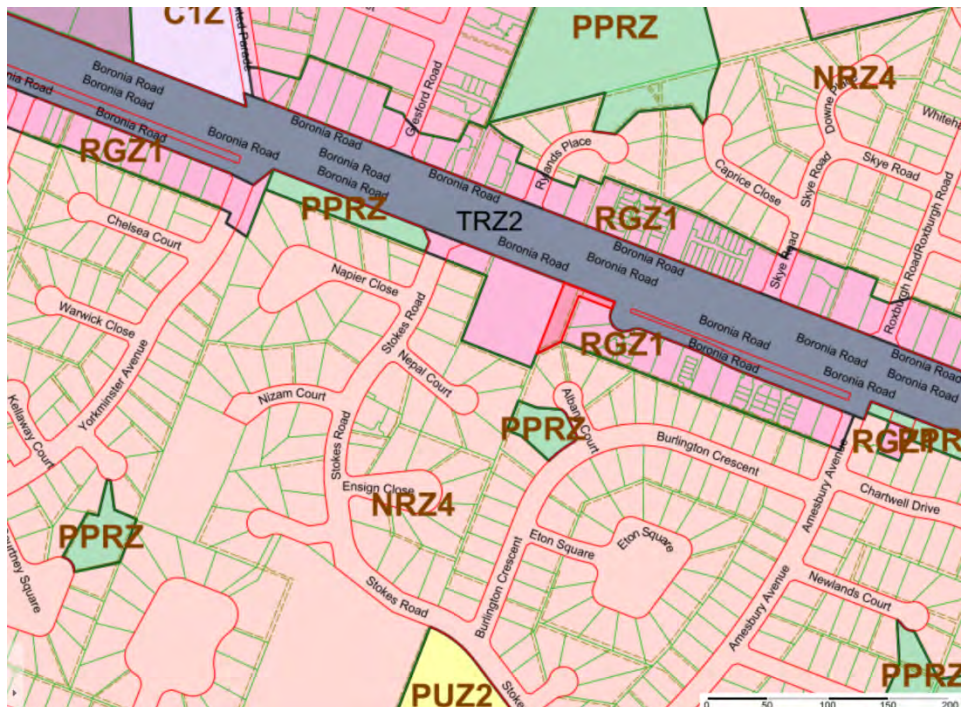


Image 8: Map of Public space near 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The property of 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna, is identified on the Council Long Term Financial Plan, with proceeds of the sale anticipated in the 2023/2024 financial year.

Public Open Space

As the land is considered Public Open Space, the process of selling the land requires that replacement public open space. Replacement land may be identified prior to the sale of any Public Open Space land. This has been discussed in detail in the Discussion section of this paper.

Net proceeds from the sale of Public Open Space land are subject to the requirements of the *Subdivision Act 1988* and must be held in Council's Open Space Reserve fund.

The Open Space Reserve funds can be used for:

- Purchase of land for use as public open space;
- Enhancement of soft and hard landscaping of open space;
- Carrying out any work on the land, including using or placing materials/constructing fixtures on the open space, which increases amenity, conservation or open space value;
- Carrying out any work to the open space, including earthworks or drainage works (excluding maintenance or renewal works); and
- Improving existing capital works on the open space or other aspects of public open space, upgrading existing facilities and provision of new facilities.

Capital budget otherwise allocated to these activities could therefore be allocated from the Open Space Reserve fund to the value achieved through the proposed sale of the land at 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna.

Valuation

A current valuation of the site, undertaken by an independent valuer, is provided at Confidential Attachment 5. The valuation addresses the whole site value, as well as the value of the proposed subdivision.

The proposed subdivision of the land into two lots, comprising a 'main parcel' - totalling approximately 819sqm, and a tree reserve, totalling approximately 181sqm, reduces the revenue to Council by an estimated 3-4%. The final subdivision position and lot sizes would be determined through survey, however the proposed subdivision included in this report would be expected.

Windfall Gains Tax

Introduced in the 2021-22 Victorian State Budget, the *Windfall Gains Tax Act 2021* establishes a new tax on the uplift in land value resulting from a planning scheme amendment which changes the zoning of land on or after 1 July 2023. The WGT is triggered where the taxable value uplift of the subject land is more than \$100,000 and is calculated based on valuations on the pre-zoning value and the post zoning value of the subject land, with the difference between the two representing the uplift of the land (if any).

The Boronia Rd Wantirna site is already zoned RGZ1, therefore Windfall Gains Tax does not apply in this instance.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Social implications were considered in the assessment as available at Attachment 1 (Policy Principles).

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Natural Environment & Sustainability

Strategy 3.1 - Preserve our biodiversity and waterways, and enhance our urban landscape.

Civic Engagement & Integrity

Strategy 5.1 - Provide opportunities for all people in Knox to have their say.

Strategy 5.3 - Ensure our processes are transparent and decisions are accountable.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

The Chief Financial Officer has declared a conflict of interest in relation to this matter in accordance with their obligations under Section 130 of the *Local Government Act 2020* and Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules. Appropriate measures have been put in place to manage the conflict, including transferring Executive responsibility for this matter to the Director City Liveability.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Attachment 5 is included in the confidential agenda, as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to:

Council business information, that will prejudice Council's position when negotiating a future auction reserve and settlement if prematurely released.

Report Prepared By: Coordinator Property Management, Paige Kennett
Report Authorised By: Director, City Liveability, Matt Kelleher

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Sale of Council Land and Building Policy Principles Assessment [8.2.1 - 2 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - Sale of Council Tree Reserves Policy Assessment [8.2.2 - 2 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Preliminary Arboriculture Report - 566 R Boronia Road Wantirna - 2023-07-10 [8.2.3 - 24 pages]
4. Attachment 4 - NatureKit Assessment of 566R Boronia Rd and 1155 Burwood Highway [8.2.4 - 17 pages]

Attachment A – Sale of Council Land and Building Policy Assessment
Site Assessed: 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna

Principle	Council considerations against principle
Economic - Council evaluation of surplus property will consider the value of the land as well as the cost of retaining the land; utilities and any foregone revenue; as well as any potential return available from sale for alternative purposes.	The land is currently being maintained by Council's Operations team. Maintenance includes mowing and tree maintenance at an estimated cost of \$936 per annum which includes 13 visits per annum for mowing, brush cutting, spray blowing, rubbish and small limb collection.
Change in Service Delivery Needs - Does not or will not support, facilitate or contribute to current or future service delivery outcomes as identified in the Council Plan.	Not applicable (vacant land).
Building Condition - Council will consider the current building asset condition, maintenance, renewal and upgrade considerations.	Not applicable (vacant land).
Environment - Council will consider the sale of surplus land where retention will not enhance or protect its environmental value.	<p>The site is not covered by any vegetation protection overlays and there are limited planning mechanisms in place to prevent the removal of existing vegetation on site.</p> <p>Considering configuration of the site, if developed under RGZ1 it is likely that the vegetation will be removed to achieve a viable development design.</p> <p>A third-party arboriculture report is available at Attachment 4, which shows three high retention trees, and five medium retention trees.</p> <p>The existing tree reserve which runs parallel to Boronia Rd and currently forms part of the parcel under consideration, is recommended to be subdivided from the parcel and retained, to retain the tree reserve, which includes one high retention tree and four medium retention trees.</p> <p>No trees onsite require a permit for their removal.</p>
Physical Works - Council will consider the sale of surplus land where it has not been identified in the Council Plan for the development of new assets or the improvements of existing assets.	This parcel of land has not been considered in the Council Plan for development of new assets or improvement of existing assets.
Recreation - Council will consider the sale of surplus land where it is not required by the Council Plan for recreational purposes.	There is no specific recreational use for this parcel of land.
Land Use Planning - Council will consider the sale of surplus land where there are no compelling land use planning grounds for retention.	There are no land use planning grounds requiring this parcel to be retained. The land is already zoned for residential purposes (RGZ1) and is within an Activity Area under the Housing Strategy where increased densities are expected.

Principle	Council considerations against principle
Social - Council will consider the sale of surplus land where alternative social uses have not been identified.	No other social uses from Council service delivery have been identified. The land however offers an opportunity for it to be considered for social housing due to its location as it takes advantage of the principle public transport route (901 smart bus) and the current zoning (RGZ1). However, this would likely have an impact on the sale price.
Intergenerational needs (future needs) - Council will consider social, environmental and economic future needs of the asset (10-year and 20-year impacts) by considering how the land sale today benefits current and future generations in the municipality.	The land has not been identified for any future Council plans.
Heritage and Cultural Value - Council will consider the assets heritage and cultural values to the community.	There are no heritage or cultural values associated with this site.
Risk - Identify and assess risks associated with holding or disposing of the asset.	There are no identified risks in holding or disposing of this parcel of land.

Attachment 2 – Sale of Council Tree Reserves Policy Assessment
Site Assessed: 566R Boronia Road, Wantirna

Criteria	Officer response to criteria
Public safety and security issues – e.g. will it result in the creation of ‘blind areas’ not visible to the public? Will it sever a shared pathway? Will it result in increased natural surveillance?	No, the parcel of land is not in a position where it will create blind areas or safety concerns. There will be no shared paths affected, as the tree reserve which runs parallel to Boronia Rd will be removed from the title to remain in Council ownership.
Traffic management – e.g. do VicRoads object to access? Will it create traffic safety issues? Is the reserve required for future road widening? Will it result in additional crossovers? Consider access issues it could introduce.	A desktop evaluation suggests the sale of this tree reserve will not cause any traffic safety issues; however, VicRoads would be consulted during any future consultation phase.
Neighbourhood Character – Would it allow development that supports the preferred neighbourhood or ‘bush boulevard’ streetscape character?	The tree reserve that runs parallel to Boronia Rd and is currently incorporated into the parcel’s title would be subdivided from this parcel and retained by Council. This would allow the Council to maintain the streetscape character. The built character in the area is higher density being in a growth zone, so any future development is likely to suit the neighbourhood character.
Open space – e.g. what is the current role or potential of the land to contribute towards a public open space network?	The current role is of passive open space. Due to its location, being bordered on three sides by fencing and private land, being a small space and no current assets or paths that encourage its use, such as street furniture; its public use is low. This parcel is considered to contribute to habitat steppingstones along Boronia Rd, however it has not been able to be objectively substantiated.
Street trees – What is the significance of any street trees located within the reserve? Are there native vegetation or net gain/offset issues?	There are three high retention trees on the property. A preliminary tree assessment is included in the report attachments. Some trees, including one high retention tree can be retained as part of the tree reserve.
Existing infrastructure – e.g. will it result in additional infrastructure (footpaths, drains) or maintenance costs for the Council?	Footpath connection already exists along this section.
Potential or proposed future infrastructure – e.g. How does it support or hinder potential or proposed future infrastructure such as shared pathways, drainage, landscaping etc? Does it	The area is zoned RGZ1 and is a well-established, developed area. At this stage of the assessment, there are no unforeseen impacts to future infrastructure.

Criteria	Officer response to criteria
impact on infrastructure that runs through the reserve, below ground or above?	
Flora and fauna – e.g. does it involve the potential loss of significant vegetation and/or fauna habitat?	If the parcel of land were to be sold, the parcel is likely to lose vegetation on site (excluding the tree reserve at the front of the property). There are no protections over any of the vegetation on this site, and any vegetation removal would not require a permit. A preliminary vegetation assessment is included at Attachment 3 of this report.
Council strategies, policies and plans – e.g. is it consistent with and assist in the implementation of relevant Council policies and plans, including any structure plan, zone or overlay, and all Related Documents in Section 6 (as relevant)?	The area is zoned RGZ1 and fits within the Activity Area designation of the Housing Strategy, so the proposed use of the site is consistent with the character of the area, and Council's intention for the RGZ1, that runs along Boronia Road.
Existing access – e.g. is the current level of road access to the site to benefit from the proposed purchase of the tree reserve already adequate?	The reserve has street access to Boronia Rd. A crossover would need to be created - either by the Council, or the future owner.

**Attachment 3 - Preliminary Arboriculture
Report - 566R Boronia Road Wantirna**

Preliminary Arboricultural Assessment

Site Address:
566R Boronia Road, Wantirna

Prepared for:
Knox City Council

Prepared by:
Matthew P James
Melbourne Tree Care

MUrbanHort (studying)

GradCertArb

DipArb

Submitted: 10/07/2023



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Introduction

Melbourne Tree Care was contracted by Knox City Council to undertake a preliminary arboricultural assessment for trees located within the boundaries of 556R Boronia Road, Wantirna.

Aim of report

The intention of this report is to:

- Assess trees located within the subject site.
- State the permit requirements for tree removal.
- State the retention value for each tree.
- State the Tree Protection Zones (TPZ) and Structural Root Zones (SRZ) of all trees.

Methodology

- Matthew P James of Melbourne Tree Care attended site on the 3rd of July, 2023.
- Data acquired is based on a Visual Tree Inspection (VTA) from the ground (Mattheck and Breloer, 1994).
- Trees within the subject site with a mature height greater than five metres were assessed.
- Data collected for each tree was their current size (DBH, DaB, crown spread, height), condition (health and structure), ULE (useful life expectancy), retention value, TPZ, and SRZ.
- DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) was measured at 1.4 metres using a diameter tape.
- DaB (Diameter at Base) was measure above the root flare using a diameter tape.
- Tree height and canopy spread were estimated.
- Tree locations are estimates.
- Data was recorded using Tree Plotter.
- TPZ's and SRZ's were calculated in accordance with Australian Standard 4970-2009 Protection of trees on development sites.



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Planning Controls

The subject site is located in Knox City Council Residential Growth Zone – Schedule 1 (RGZ1). No planning overlays are present.

Table 1. Tree Permit Status

Tree Id	Botanical Name	Retention Value	Permit Required
1	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i>	Low	No
2	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	High	No
3	<i>Corymbia sp.</i>	Medium	No
4	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Medium	No
5	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Medium	No
6	<i>Kunzea sp.</i>	Low	No
7	<i>Kunzea sp.</i>	Low	No
8	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Low	No
9	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Medium	No
10	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Low	No
11	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i>	Low	No
12	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	Medium	No
13	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	High	No
14	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Low	No
15	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	High	No
16	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Low	No
17	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Low	No
18	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Low	No
19	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Low	No
20	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Low	No
21	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Low	No
22	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Low	No
23	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Low	No
24	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Low	No
25	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Low	No
26	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Low	No
27	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Low	No



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Observations

A total of 27 individual trees were assessed for this report (Figure 1) See **Appendix A** for tree locations. Detailed observations for individual trees are listed in **Appendix B**, and see **Appendix C** for glossary of terms.



Figure 1. Site overview and tree locations

Tree Population Overview

The trees assessed are mature (63% of the tree population), semi mature (33%), and one tree is juvenile in age. The trees are a mix of exotic (41%), Australian native (33%), and Victorian native species (26%). The population is comprised of 14 different species, with *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine) the most extensively planted species. Two species could only be identified to a genus level due to a lack of identifiable features (leaves, flowers, fruit). See **Appendix A** for individual tree locations and **Appendix B** for individual tree data.



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Health

The health of the trees is assessed as fair (81%), good (11%), and poor (8%). Most trees are presenting with good leaf size and colour, crown density, and branch elongation; all of which are indicators of good vigour and vitality.

Structure

The structure of the trees is assessed as fair (74%), and poor (26%). Most trees present with strong branch and stem attachments and are generally free of any above-ground defects.

Tree Retention Value

Three trees were found to have a high retention value due to their large size, good to fair health, and high amenity value. Five trees have a medium retention value, and the remaining 19 trees have a low retention value. See **Table 2** below.

Table 2. Tree Retention Values

Retention Value	Tree Id
High	2, 13, 15
Medium	3, 4, 5, 9, 12
Low	1, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16-27

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Tree Protection Zones

A Tree Protection Zone (TPZ), as stated by the Australian Standard AS4970: 2009, Protection of trees on development sites, is the principal means of protection of trees on development site. The TPZ is a combination of the root area and crown area requiring protection. It is an area isolated from construction disturbance, so that the tree remains viable.

The Australian Standard AS4970: 2009 is being used in assessing the protection areas for each tree as it describes the best practices for the planning and protection of trees on development sites.

Table 3. Individual TPZ's and SRZ's

Tree Id	DBH (cm)	TPZ Radius (m)	DaB (cm)	SRZ Radius (m)
1	61	7.32	72	2.88
2	79	9.48	98	3.28
3	26	3.12	35	2.13
4	50	6	58	2.63
5	32	3.84	37	2.18
6	12	2	18	1.61
7	11	2	23	1.79
8	15	2	20	1.68
9	43	5.1	58	2.63
10	35	4.2	47	2.41
11	36	4.27	49	2.45
12	20	2.4	28	1.94
13	42	5.04	52	2.51
14	25	3	34	2.1
15	107	12.84	134	3.74
16	5	2	7	1.5
17	5	2	8	1.5
18	24	2.88	24	1.82
19	12	2	16	1.53
20	6	2	8	1.5
21	63	7.56	74	2.92
22	63	7.56	70	2.85
23	69	8.23	77	2.97
24	40	4.8	48	2.43
25	56	6.72	60	2.67
26	56	6.72	64	2.74
27	64	7.68	71	2.87

DBH – Diameter at Breast Height; DaB – Diameter At Base; Cm – Centimetre; M – Metre



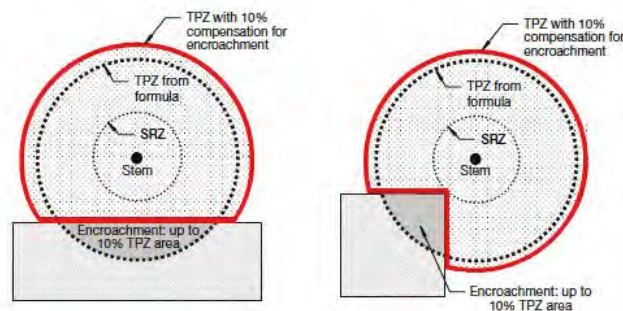
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In calculating the radius for the Tree Protection Zones (TPZ), the DBH, measured at 1.4m from the ground, is multiplied by 12. The TPZ requirements are as follows:

- If the TPZ is encroached by less than 10%, the Australian Standard AS4970: 2009 states: *detailed root investigations should not be required.*
- If the TPZ is encroached by more than 10%, the Australian Standard AS4970: 2009 states: *the project Arborist must demonstrate that the tree(s) would remain viable. The area lost to this encroachment should be compensated for elsewhere and contiguous with the TPZ.*



The Structural Root Zone (SRZ) is the area around the base of the tree required for stability in the ground. These roots are fundamental for the trees structure and health. The standard states:

“The area around the base of a tree required for the tree’s stability in the ground. The woody root growth and soil cohesion in this area are necessary to hold the tree upright. The SRZ is nominally circular with the trunk at its centre and is expressed by its radius in metres. This zone considers a tree’s structural stability only, not the root zone required for a tree’s vigour and long-term viability, which will usually be a much larger area.” (AS4970)

To calculate the SRZ, the equation is $(D \times 50)^{0.42} \times 0.64$, where D is the Diameter at Base (DAB).

The effects of root loss or damage by any means could include:

- Loss of stability if structural woody roots or even lower order woody roots are cut
- Reduction in water and nutrient uptake
- An eventual loss of leaves, reduced photosynthesis and thus sugar production
- Decay as a result of wounding
- Predisposition to soil borne pathogens



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Conclusion

A total of 27 individual trees were assessed for this report. The main findings of the assessment were:

- The trees are generally present with fair to good health and structure.
- Three trees were assessed as having a high retention value.
- Five trees have been assessed as having a medium retention value.
- No trees onsite require a permit for their removal.

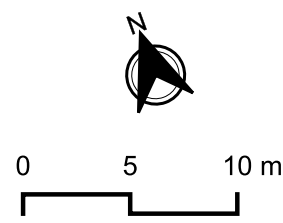




Coordinate Reference System (CRS)
 EPSG: 38355 GDA94/MGA Zone 55
 Tree locations are approximate

**Melbourne Tree Care
 Preliminary Arboricultural
 Assessment**

566R Boronia Rd, Wantirna
Appendix A: Tree Locations



Legend

- Cadastre
- Road

Retention Value

- High
- Medium
- Low



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Appendix B: Individual Tree Data

Tree ID	1	Origin	Aus. Native		
Botanical Name	<i>Eucalyptus pellita</i>	Age	Mature		
Common Name	Large-fruited Red Mahogany	DBH (cm)	61		
Tree Height (m)	10	Canopy Spread (m)	8		
Health	Fair	Structure	Poor		
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite		
Observations	Previous failures. Acute codominant stems. Epicormics. Borer				
Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	7.32		
Tree ID	2	Origin	Vic. Native		
Botanical Name	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Age	Mature		
Common Name	River Red Gum	DBH (cm)	79		
Tree Height (m)	16	Canopy Spread (m)	12		
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair		
ULE	Medium	Location	Onsite		
Observations	Previous failures. Pruned for power line clearance.				
Retention Value	High	TPZ (m)	9.48		
Tree ID	3	Origin	Aus. Native		
Botanical Name	<i>Corymbia sp.</i>	Age	Semi mature		
Common Name	Bloodwood	DBH (cm)	26		
Tree Height (m)	12	Canopy Spread (m)	2		
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair		
ULE	Medium	Location	Onsite		
Observations	Pruned for power line clearance				
Retention Value	Medium	TPZ (m)	3.12		



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Tree ID	4	Origin	Aus. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Age	Semi mature
Common Name	Swamp Mahogany	DBH (cm)	50
Tree Height (m)	9	Canopy Spread (m)	8
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Medium	Location	Onsite
Observations	Wounds		



Retention Value	Medium	TPZ (m)	6
Tree ID	5	Origin	Aus. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Age	Semi mature
Common Name	Swamp Mahogany	DBH (cm)	32
Tree Height (m)	9	Canopy Spread (m)	4
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Medium	Location	Onsite
Observations	Pruned for power line clearance		



Retention Value	Medium	TPZ (m)	3.84
Tree ID	6	Origin	Aus. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Kunzea sp.</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Burgan	DBH (cm)	12
Tree Height (m)	5	Canopy Spread (m)	3
Health	Fair	Structure	Poor
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline. Included codominant stems		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	2
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Tree ID	7	Origin	Aus. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Kunzea sp.</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Burgan	DBH (cm)	11
Tree Height (m)	5	Canopy Spread (m)	3
Health	Fair	Structure	Poor
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline. Previous failures. Decay.		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	2
------------------------	-----	----------------	---

Tree ID	8	Origin	Aus. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Eucalyptus robusta</i>	Age	Semi mature
Common Name	Swamp Mahogany	DBH (cm)	15
Tree Height (m)	6	Canopy Spread (m)	4
Health	Fair	Structure	Poor
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	Regrowth on old stump		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	2
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Tree ID	9	Origin	Aus. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Queensland Brush Box	DBH (cm)	43
Tree Height (m)	9	Canopy Spread (m)	6
Health	Good	Structure	Fair
ULE	Medium	Location	Onsite
Observations			



Retention Value	Medium	TPZ (m)	5.1
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Tree ID	10	Origin	Vic. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Corymbia maculata</i>	Age	Semi mature
Common Name	Spotted Gum	DBH (cm)	35
Tree Height (m)	12	Canopy Spread (m)	8
Health	Poor	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline. Dieback. Sooty mould		
Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	4.2
Tree ID	11	Origin	Vic. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Melaleuca armillaris</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Giant Honey Myrtle	DBH (cm)	36
Tree Height (m)	8	Canopy Spread (m)	8
Health	Fair	Structure	Poor
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline. Previous codominant stem failure. Included codominant stems.		
Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	4.27
Tree ID	12	Origin	Aus. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Casuarina cunninghamiana</i>	Age	Semi mature
Common Name	River She-oak	DBH (cm)	20
Tree Height (m)	8	Canopy Spread (m)	4
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Medium	Location	Onsite
Observations			
Retention Value	Medium	TPZ (m)	2.4





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Tree ID	13	Origin	Vic. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	River Red Gum	DBH (cm)	42
Tree Height (m)	14	Canopy Spread (m)	8
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Medium	Location	Onsite
Observations			



Retention Value	High	TPZ (m)	5.04
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Tree ID	14	Origin	Vic. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Sweet Pittosporum	DBH (cm)	25
Tree Height (m)	6	Canopy Spread (m)	8
Health	Poor	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	Weed species		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	3
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Tree ID	15	Origin	Vic. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	River Red Gum	DBH (cm)	107
Tree Height (m)	18	Canopy Spread (m)	25
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Medium	Location	Onsite
Observations			



Retention Value	High	TPZ (m)	12.84
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Tree ID	16	Origin	Vic. Native
Botanical Name	<i>Pittosporum undulatum</i>	Age	Juvenile
Common Name	Sweet Pittosporum	DBH (cm)	5
Tree Height (m)	2	Canopy Spread (m)	1
Health	Good	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	Weed species		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	2
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Tree ID	17	Origin	Exotic
Botanical Name	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Age	Semi mature
Common Name	Cherry Plum	DBH (cm)	5
Tree Height (m)	3	Canopy Spread (m)	3
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	Weed species		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	2
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Tree ID	18	Origin	Exotic
Botanical Name	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Cherry Plum	DBH (cm)	24
Tree Height (m)	5	Canopy Spread (m)	6
Health	Fair	Structure	Poor
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	Weed species		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	2.88
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Tree ID	19	Origin	Exotic		
Botanical Name	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Age	Semi mature		
Common Name	Common Fig	DBH (cm)	12		
Tree Height (m)	4	Canopy Spread (m)	7		
Health	Fair	Structure	Poor		
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite		
Observations	Poor location				
Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	2		
Tree ID	20	Origin	Exotic		
Botanical Name	<i>Solanum mauritianum</i>	Age	Semi mature		
Common Name	Tree Tobacco	DBH (cm)	6		
Tree Height (m)	3	Canopy Spread (m)	3		
Health	Good	Structure	Fair		
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite		
Observations	Weed species				
Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	2		
Tree ID	21	Origin	Exotic		
Botanical Name	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Age	Mature		
Common Name	Monterey Pine	DBH (cm)	63		
Tree Height (m)	14	Canopy Spread (m)	7		
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair		
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite		
Observations	In decline				
Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	7.56		



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Tree ID	22	Origin	Exotic
Botanical Name	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Monterey Pine	DBH (cm)	63
Tree Height (m)	13	Canopy Spread (m)	7
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline		



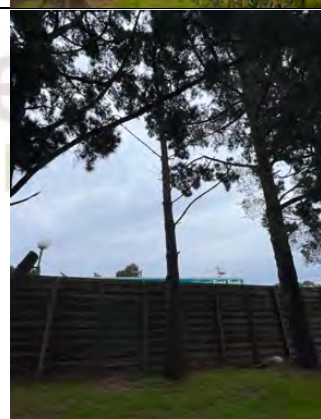
Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	7.56
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Tree ID	23	Origin	Exotic
Botanical Name	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Monterey Pine	DBH (cm)	69
Tree Height (m)	12	Canopy Spread (m)	10
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	8.23
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Tree ID	24	Origin	Exotic
Botanical Name	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Monterey Pine	DBH (cm)	40
Tree Height (m)	12	Canopy Spread (m)	4
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	4.8
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Tree ID	25	Origin	Exotic
Botanical Name	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Monterey Pine	DBH (cm)	56
Tree Height (m)	14	Canopy Spread (m)	12
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	6.72
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Tree ID	26	Origin	Exotic
Botanical Name	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Monterey Pine	DBH (cm)	56
Tree Height (m)	15	Canopy Spread (m)	6
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	6.72
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Tree ID	27	Origin	Exotic
Botanical Name	<i>Pinus radiata</i>	Age	Mature
Common Name	Monterey Pine	DBH (cm)	64
Tree Height (m)	15	Canopy Spread (m)	9
Health	Fair	Structure	Fair
ULE	Short	Location	Onsite
Observations	In decline		



Retention Value	Low	TPZ (m)	7.68
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Appendix C: Glossary of Terms

AGE

Juvenile	Juvenile or recently planted approximately 1-7 years.
Semi Mature	Tree actively growing.
Mature	Tree has reached expected size in situation.
Senescent	Tree is over mature and has started to decline.

USEFUL LIFE EXPECTANCY - ULE

The useful life of a tree is an estimate of how long a tree is likely to remain in the landscape based on health, amenity and risk.

Long ULE Trees that appear to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for more than 40 years.

1. Structurally sound trees located in positions that can accommodate future growth.
2. Storm damaged or defective trees that could be made suitable for retention in the long term by remedial tree surgery.
3. Trees of special significance for historical, commemorative or rarity reasons that would warrant extraordinary efforts to secure their long-term retention.

Medium ULE Trees that appear to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for 15 to 40 years.

1. Trees that may only live between 15 and 40 years.
2. Trees that may live for more than 40 years but would be removed to allow the safe development of more suitable individuals.
3. Trees that may live for more than 40 years but would be removed during the course of normal management for safety and nuisance reasons.
4. Storm damage or defective trees that can be made suitable for retention in the medium term by remedial work.

Short ULE Trees that appear to be retainable with an acceptable level of risk for 5 to 15 years.

1. Trees that may live for 5 to 15 years.
2. Trees that may live for more than 15 years but would be removed to allow the safe development of more suitable individuals.
3. Trees that may live for more than 15 years but would be removed during the course of normal management for safety and nuisance reasons.



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4. Storm damaged or defective trees that require substantial remedial work to make safe and are only suitable for retention in the short term.

Remove

Trees with a high level of risk that would need removal within the next 5 years.

1. Dead trees.
2. Dying or suppressed and declining trees through disease or inhospitable conditions.
3. Dangerous trees through instability or recent loss of adjacent trees.
4. Dangerous trees through structural defects including cavities, decay, included bark, wounds or poor form.
5. Damaged trees that are considered unsafe to retain.
6. Trees that will become dangerous after removal of other trees for the above reasons.

CONDITION

This is a combined indicator of 'health' and 'structure' based on the following descriptors:

HEALTH

Good	Foliage of tree is entire, with good colour, very little sign of pathogens and of good density. Growth indicators are good ie. Extension growth of twigs and wound wood development. Minimal or no canopy die back (deadwood).
Fair	Tree is showing one or more of the following symptoms; < 25% dead wood, minor canopy die back, foliage generally with good colour though some imperfections may be present. Minor pathogen damage present, with growth indicators such as leaf size, canopy density and twig extension growth typical for the species in this location.
Poor	Tree is showing one or more of the following symptoms of tree decline; > 25% deadwood, canopy die back is observable, discoloured or distorted leaves. Pathogens present, stress symptoms are observable as reduced leaf size, extension growth and canopy density.
Dead or dying	Tree is in severe decline; > 55% deadwood, very little foliage, possibly epicormic shoots, minimal extension growth.



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STRUCTURE

Good	Trunk and scaffold branches show good taper and attachment with minor or no structural defects. Tree is a good example of the species with a well-developed form showing no obvious root problems or pests and diseases.
Fair	Tree shows some minor structural defects or minor damage to trunk eg. bark missing, there could be cavities present. Minimal damage to structural roots. Tree could be seen as typical for this species.
Poor	There are major structural defects, damage to trunk or bark missing. Co-dominant stems could be present or poor structure with likely points of failure. Girdling or damaged roots obvious. Tree is structurally problematic.

Retention Value

- High
 - A tree that is in good-fair health and structure with a long ULE
 - A tree that has cultural, botanical, or landscape significance
 - A tree that is not located within the subject site i.e. nature strip, adjoining properties.
- Medium
 - A tree that is in fair health and structure with a medium ULE
- Low
 - A tree that is in poor health and structure with a short ULE.
 - Weed species.
- Third Party
 - A tree that is located on adjoining properties
 - A tree that is located on a nature strip



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Appendix D: References

- Mattheck, C. and Breleor, H., 1994, *The body language of trees*, The Stationery Office, London, UK.
- Standards Australia 2009 SAI Global - *AS4970 Protection of Trees on Development Sites*

Appendix E: Qualifications and Experience

Matthew P James has the following qualifications and experience:

Master of Urban Horticulture (studying)

Graduate Certificate in Arboriculture

Diploma of Arboriculture

QTRA (Quantified Risk Assessment) registered user

Arboriculture Australia National Conference: 2016

Tree Anatomy Workshop (Mark Hartley) 2016

Cert Nutrition Farming 2015

15+ Years industry experience



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TREE CARE



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Appendix F: Report Limitations and Constraints

- The report is limited to the time of inspection.
- The report reflects the trees as found on the days of inspection. Any changes to site conditions or surroundings, such as construction works or landscape works may alter the findings of the report subject to conditions and recommendations as set out within the report.
- The report is based on the inspection and the material available at the time of inspection or that information further to the inspection found within the report.
- No soil samples were taken for laboratory analysis.
- Tree roots were not inspected below ground except where previously exposed and/or where otherwise stated within the report.
- Measurements may be approximates only and generally not to scale.
- All images supplied are interpretations only and should not be taken as true at time of inspection or indicative of tree condition or status at time of inspection or time of report release, inclusive of Google images if applicable

Appendix G: Disclaimer

Although MELBOURNE TREE CARE P.L. uses all due care and skill in providing you the information made available in this report, to the extent permitted by law MELBOURNE TREE CARE P.L. otherwise excludes all warranties of any kind, either expressed or implied. To the extent permitted by law, you agree that MELBOURNE TREE CARE P.L. is not liable to you or any other person or entity for any loss or damage caused or alleged to have been caused (including loss or damage resulting from negligence), either directly or indirectly, by your use of the information (including by way of example, Arboricultural advice) made available to you in this report. Without limiting this disclaimer, in no event will MELBOURNE TREE CARE P.L. be liable to you for any lost revenue or profits, or for special, indirect, consequential or incidental damage (however caused and regardless of the theory of liability) arising out of or related to your use of that information, even if MELBOURNE TREE CARE P.L. has been advised of the possibility of such loss or damage.

Attachment 4 – NatureKit Assessment of 566R Boronia Rd and 1155 Burwood Highway

NatureKit Assessment of 566R Boronia Rd Wantirna and 1155 Burwood Highway Upper Ferntree Gully – assessment date 14/09/2023

Value	566R Boronia Rd	1155 Burwood Highway
Ecological Vegetation Classes	None	Swampy Woodland
Strategic Biodiversity Values <i>Higher values indicate areas that have greater biodiversity value, and lower values indicate the opposite.</i> Scale 1 (low) to 100 (high)	Rank Value of 16	Rank Value of 21 and 19
Biodiversity Rank <i>The layer was developed from DELWP’s Strategic Management Prospects revegetation benefit model that considers biodiversity benefits from revegetation using the benefits to 4,200 species while preferencing connectivity across the Victorian landscape</i>	0 Existing Vegetation	2-3 Low to Moderate
Benefit Revegetation Scale 1 (low) to 100 (high)	Rank Value of 2	Rank Value of 12 and 26
Mean Cost Effectiveness Rating <i>a higher ranking means the more cost-effective actions that can be implemented to deliver biodiversity benefits relative to other actions across the State</i> Scale of 1 (low) to 100 (high)	0 (has no rank)	42
Landcover 2015-2019 <i>assesses the current landcover of the area</i>	Assumed Urban Area, non-native vegetation	Treed Native Vegetation
Carbon Value Rank <i>The carbon value rank was developed from the carbon sequestration and storage potential of different vegetation types. Within a rank, revegetation will deliver a greater carbon benefit than assisted regeneration or supplementary planting to restore degraded native vegetation</i>	4 High Value	2 Low Value
Target Landscapes <i>potential to deliver biodiversity and carbon benefits</i>	Very Low	Moderate

Vegetation Classes

566R – None

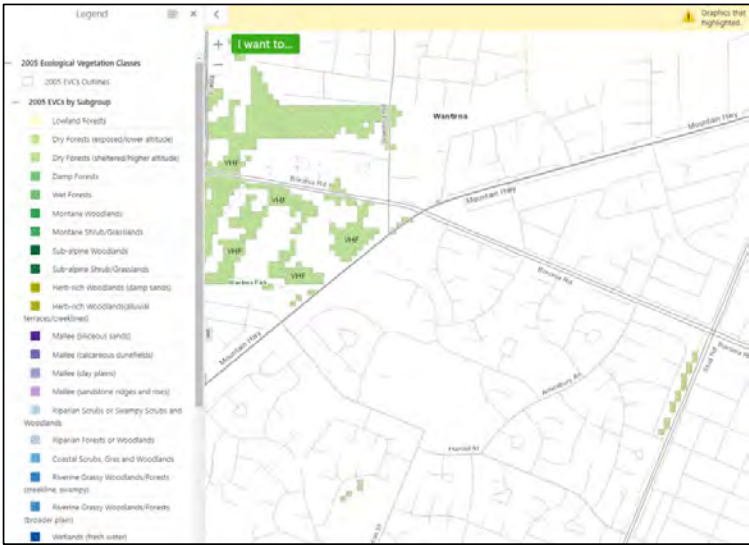


Figure 1: NatureKit Assessment - Vegetation Class – 566R Boronia Rd

1155 Burwood Highway, Upper Ferntree Gully – swampy woodland



Figure 2: NatureKit Assessment - Vegetation Class - 1155 Burwood Highway

Strategic Biodiversity Values - Higher values indicate areas that have greater biodiversity value, and lower values indicate the opposite.

566R Boronia Rd – rank 16

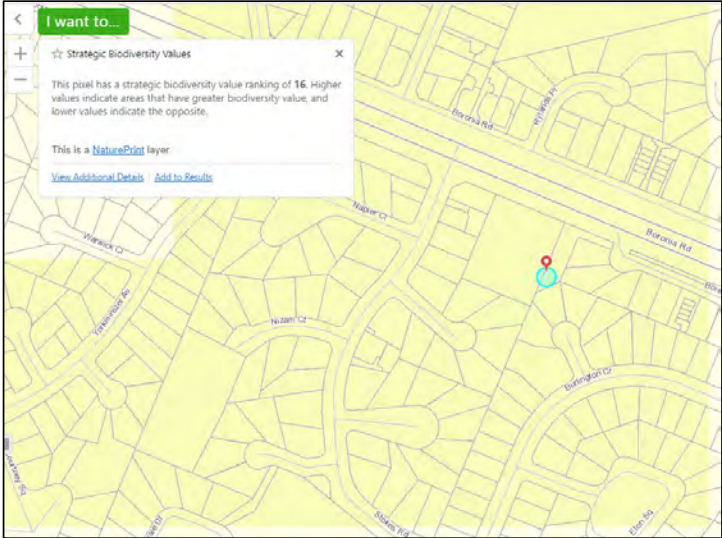


Figure 3: NatureKit Assessment - Strategic Biodiversity Values - 566R Boronia Rd

1155 Burwood Highway – rank 21

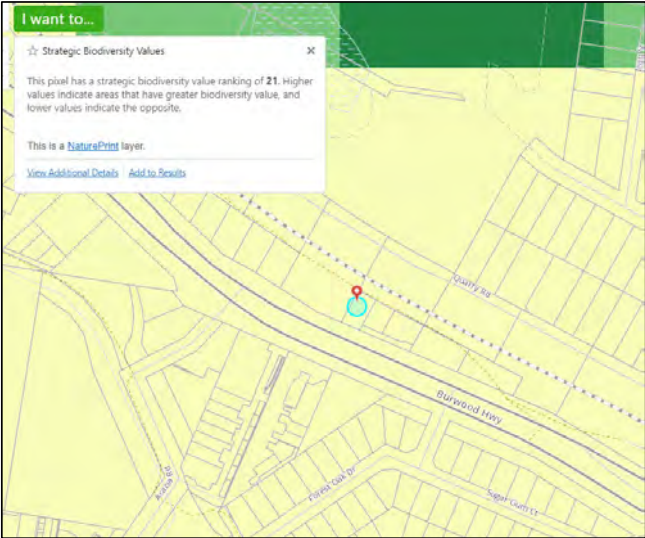


Figure 4: NatureKit Assessment - Strategic Biodiversity Values - 1155 Burwood Highway

Biodiversity Rank

The layer was developed from DELWP’s Strategic Management Prospects Revegetation Benefit model that considers biodiversity benefits from revegetation using the benefits to 4,200 species while referencing connectivity across the Victorian landscape.

Key:
5 - Very high value
4 - High value
3 - Moderate value
2 - Low value
1 - Very low value
0 - Existing native vegetation

566R Boronia Rd – Rank 0

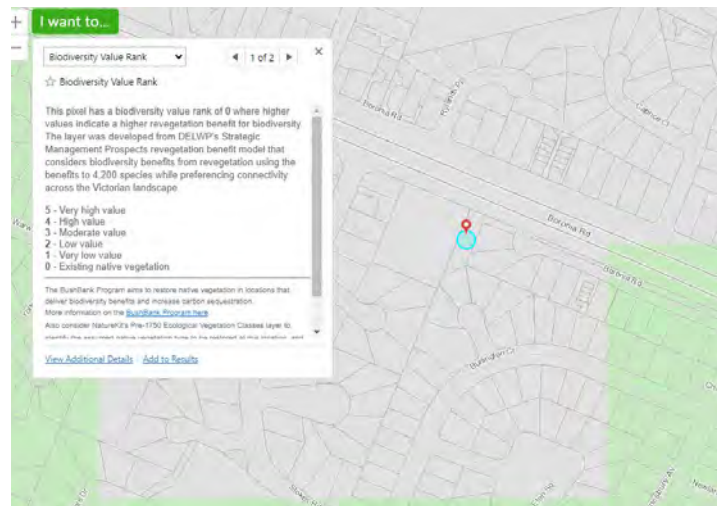


Figure 5: NatureKit Assessment - Biodiversity Rank - 566R Boronia Rd

1155 Burwood Highway – Rank 2-3

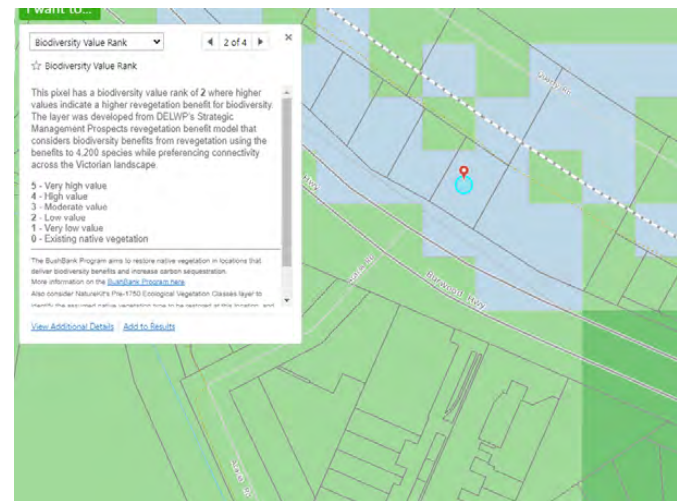


Figure 6: NatureKit Assessment - Biodiversity Rank - 1155 Burwood Highway

Benefit Revegetation

Benefit considered for the specific location, relative to all actions across all locations

Scale of 1 (low) to 100 (high).

566R Boronia – rank 2

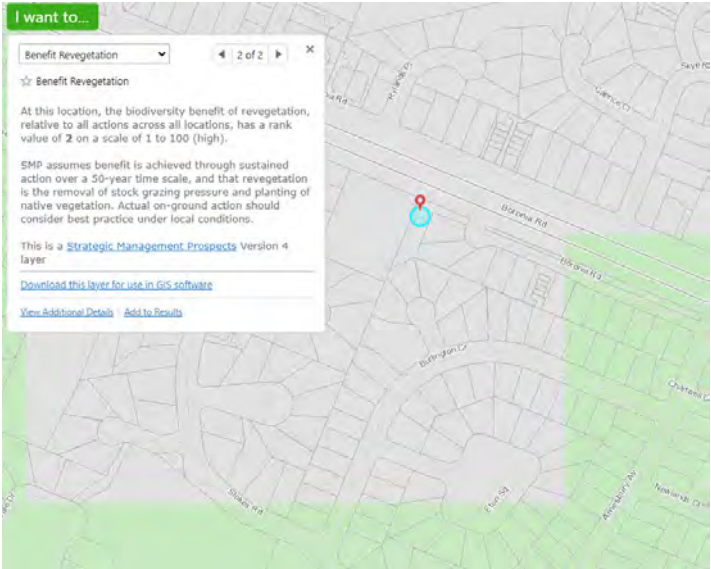


Figure 7: NatureKit Assessment - Benefit Revegetation - 566R Boronia Rd

1155 Burwood Highway – rank 36

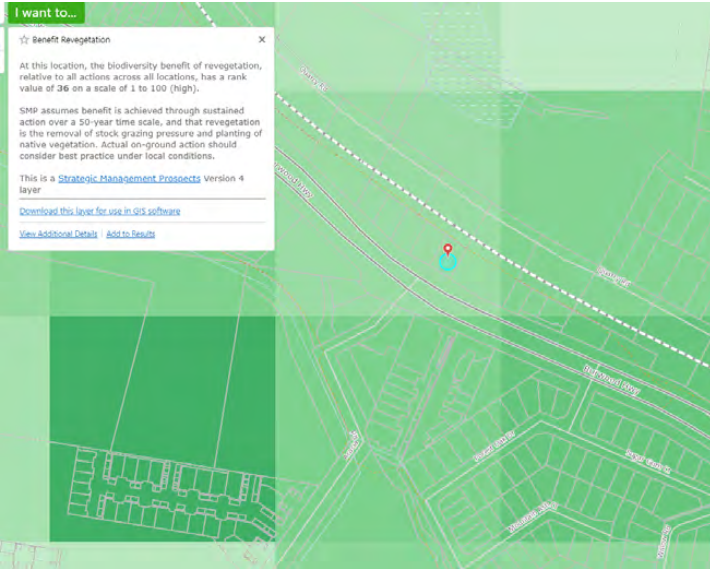


Figure 8: NatureKit Assessment - Benefit Revegetation - 1155 Burwood Highway

Mean Cost Effectiveness Rating

Locations with the highest mean cost-effectiveness ranks generally have multiple actions that achieve cost-effective biodiversity benefits, relative to other actions across the state. Some locations with moderate mean cost-effectiveness ranks may still have individual actions that are highly cost-effective. Use the Benefit-cost layers to see the cost-effectiveness ranks for individual actions at this location, and the Results Table link in the Summary Areas Layer to see which actions are most cost-effective in the surrounding area.

Scale of 1 (low) to 100 (high), where 100 is the top 1% of cost-effective actions in Victoria.

566R – No ranking



Figure 9: NatureKit Assessment - Mean Cost Effectiveness Rating - 566R Boronia Rd

1155 Burwood Highway – ranking of 42

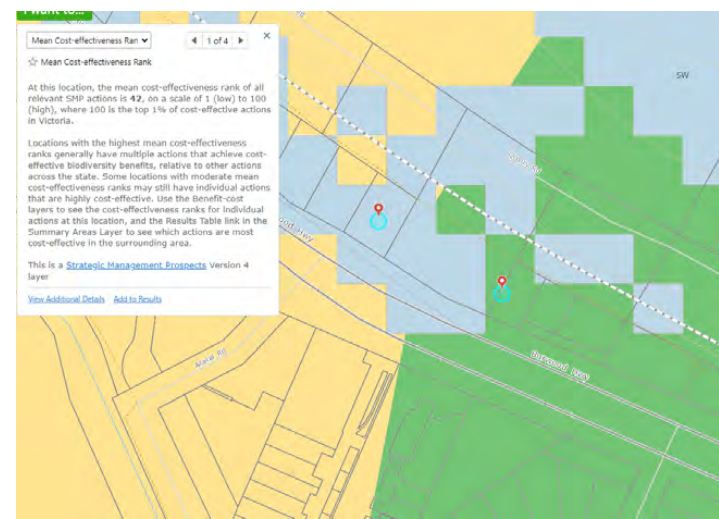


Figure 10: NatureKit Assessment - Mean Cost Effectiveness Rating - 1155 Burwood Hwy

Land Cover 2015-2019

566R Boronia Rd – Urban Area

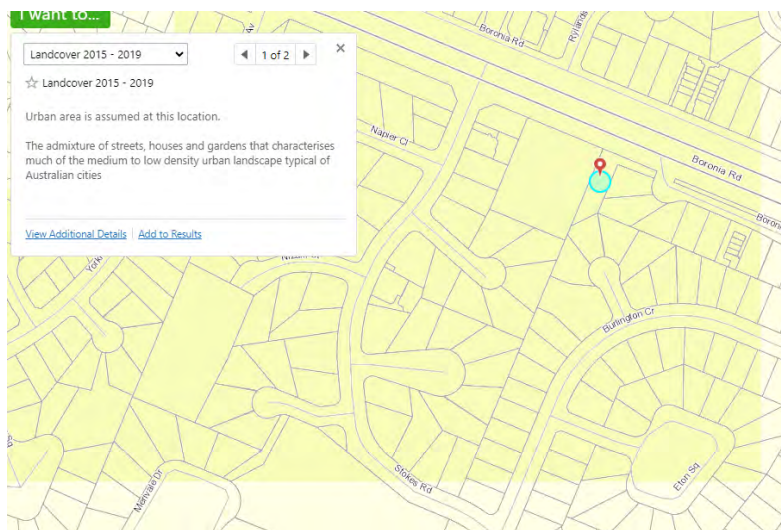


Figure 11: NautreKit Assessment - Land Cover 2015-2019 - 566R Boronia Rd

1155 Burwood Highway – Treed Native Vegetation

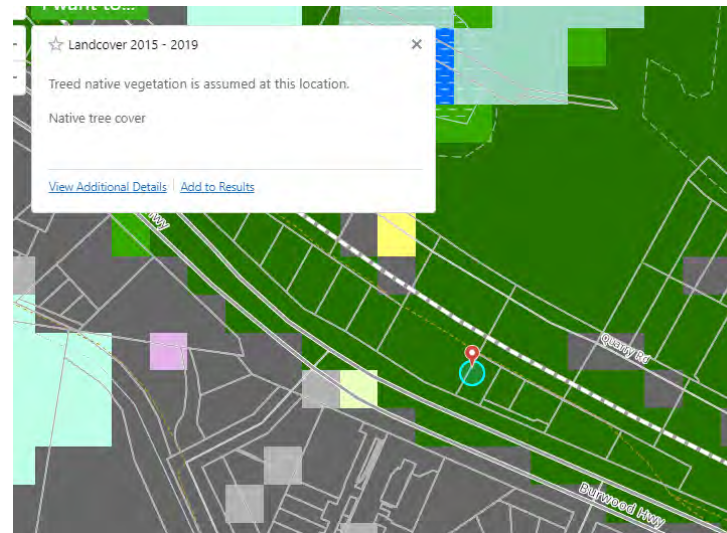


Figure 12: NatureKit Assessment - Land Cover 2015-2019 - 1155 Burwood Highway

Carbon Value Rank - The carbon value rank was developed from the carbon sequestration and storage potential of different vegetation types. Within a rank, revegetation will deliver a greater carbon benefit than assisted regeneration or supplementary planting to restore degraded native vegetation.

Key:
5 - Very high value
4 - High value
3 - Moderate value
2 - Low value
1 - Very low value
0 - Negligible value

566R Boronia – rank 4

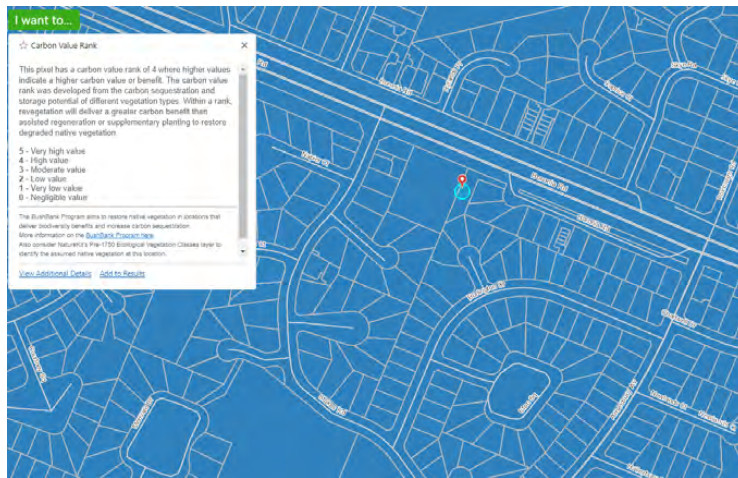


Figure 13: NatureKit Assessment - Carbon Value Rank - 566R Boronia Rd

1155 Burwood Highway – rank 2

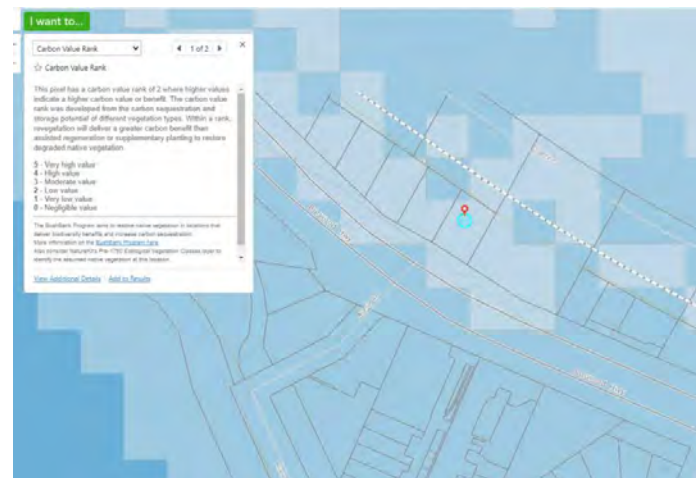


Figure 14: NatureKit Assessment - Carbon Value Rank - 1155 Burwood Highway

Target Landscapes

Cleared private land in Victoria is ranked according to its potential to concurrently deliver biodiversity and carbon benefits. A very high rank means that revegetation in that location will deliver very high benefits for carbon and very high benefits for biodiversity. Revegetation in a moderate rank location will deliver at least moderate benefits for carbon and biodiversity but may deliver higher benefits for one or the other and this should be considered when selecting sites within a project. This ranking was developed from the BushBank Carbon Value Rank and Biodiversity Value Rank maps.

566R Boronia Rd – Very Low

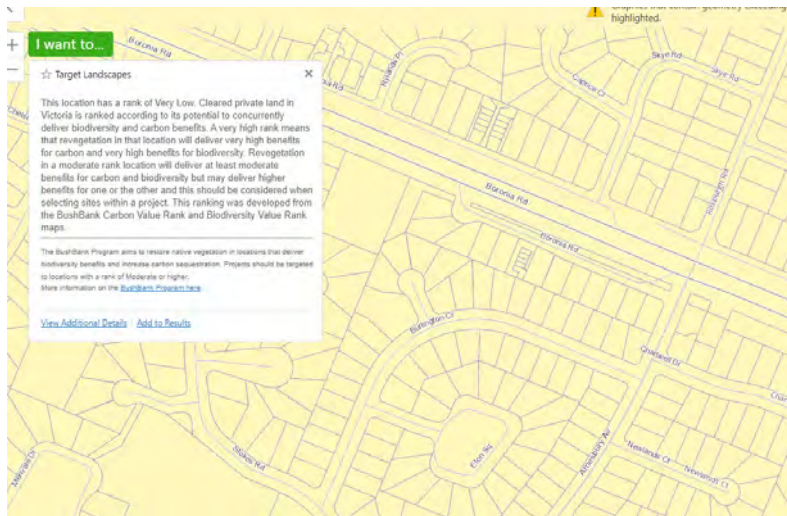


Figure 15: NatureKit Assessment - Target Landscapes - 566R Boronia Rd

1155 Burwood Highway - Moderate

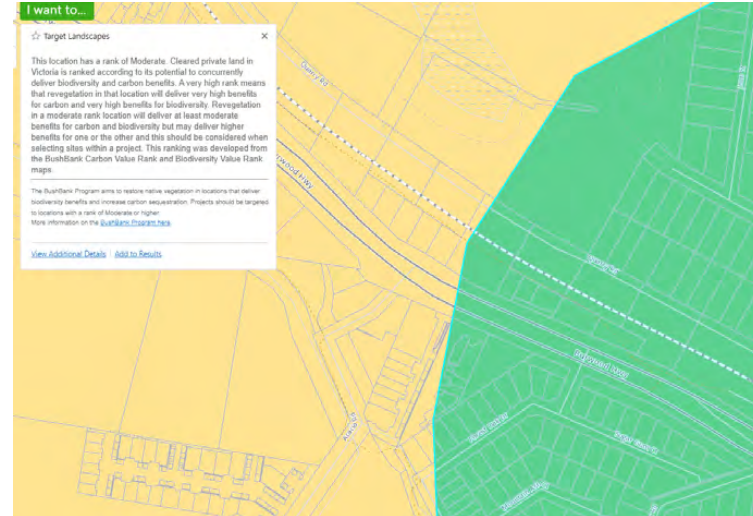


Figure 16: NatureKit Assessment - Target Landscapes - 1155 Burwood Highway

Fauna Assessments – The Victorian Biodiversity Atlas (VBA) is a dataset for species occurrence observations, which includes a snapshot recording a presence or abundance of the species identified and have been vetted by species specialists. Due to the large number of observations, the list only includes threatened sensitive and non-sensitive observations.

Fauna Assessment – 566R Boronia Rd, Wantirna – Total 23 species observations since 1998

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin
1	Corvus mellori	Little Raven	Birds Australia incidental search		SCHULTZ RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Wantirna	
2	Anthochaera carunculata	Red Wattlebird	Incidental		Centre about Wantirna VIC Melbourne VIC, Australia	
3	Anthochaera carunculata	Red Wattlebird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	
4	Spilopelia chinensis	Spotted Dove	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	Introduced
5	Sturnus vulgaris	Common Starling	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	Introduced
6	Manorina melanophrys	Bell Miner	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	
7	Acridotheres tristis	Common Myna	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	Introduced
8	Manorina melanocephala	Noisy Miner	Birds Australia incidental search		SCHULTZ RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Wantirna	
9	Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian Magpie	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	
10	Acridotheres tristis	Common Myna	Birds Australia incidental search		SCHULTZ RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Wantirna	Introduced
11	Hirundo neoxena	Welcome Swallow	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	
12	Turdus merula	Common Blackbird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	Introduced

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin
13	Columba livia	Domestic Pigeon	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	Introduced
14	Wallabia bicolor	Black-tailed Wallaby	Incidental		Victoria, AU Victoria, AU	
15	Sericornis frontalis	White-browed Scrubwren	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	
16	Eolophus roseicapilla	Galah	Birds Australia incidental search		SCHULTZ RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Wantirna	
17	Platycercus elegans	Crimson Rosella	Birds Australia incidental search		SCHULTZ RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Wantirna	
18	Cacatua galerita	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Birds Australia incidental search		SCHULTZ RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Wantirna	
19	Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian Magpie	Birds Australia incidental search	Breeding	SCHULTZ RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Wantirna	
20	Corvus coronoides	Australian Raven	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	
21	Trichoglossus molucannus	Rainbow Lorikeet	Birds Australia incidental search		SCHULTZ RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Wantirna	
22	Grallina cyanoleuca	Magpie-lark	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	
23	Rhipidura leucophrys	Willie Wagtail	Birds Australia 500m area search		Cnr Boronia Road and Mountain Hwy	

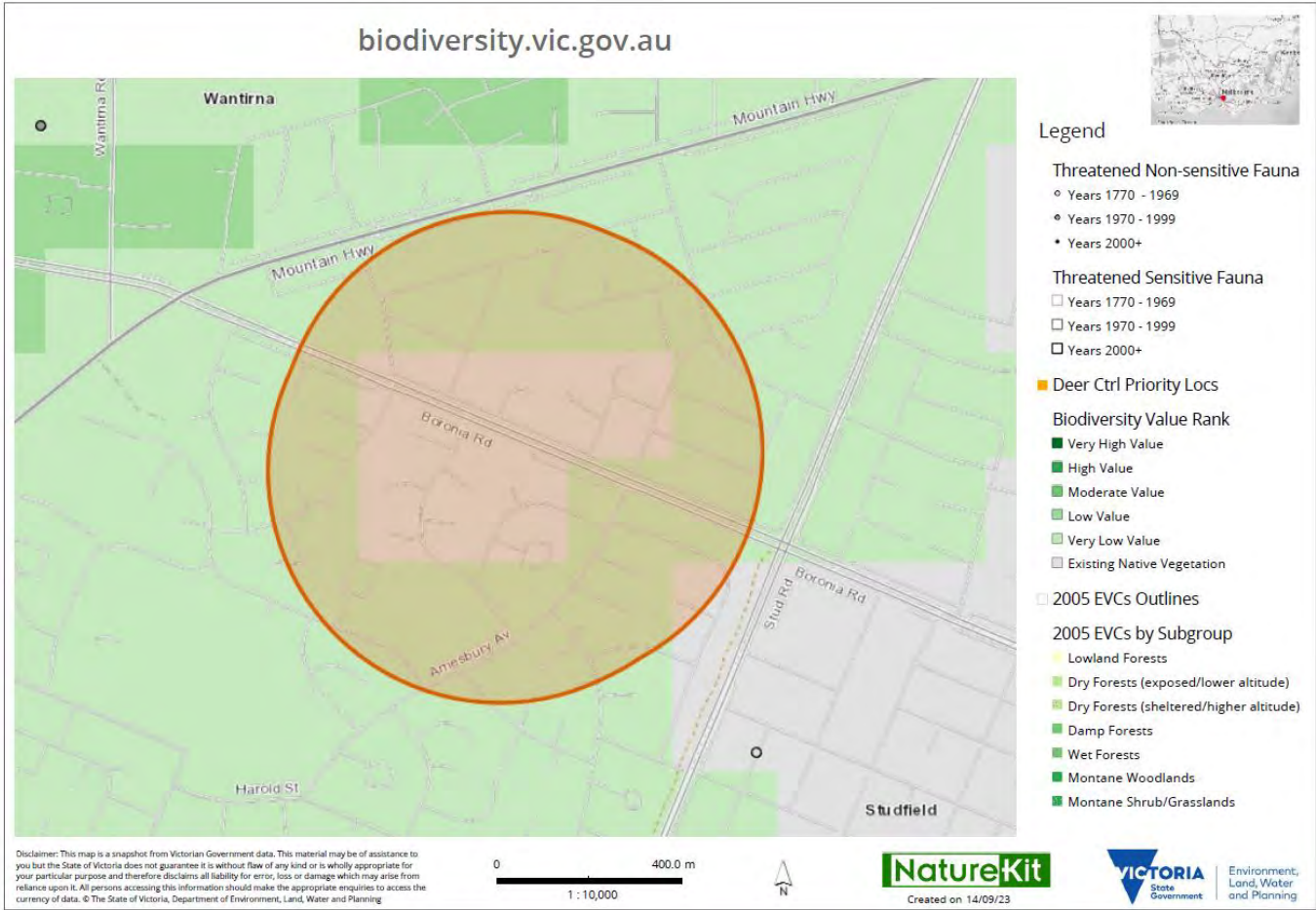


Figure 17: NatureKit - Fauna Assessment Map - 566R Boronia Rd

Fauna Assessment – 1155 Burwood Highway Upper Ferntree Gully – Total 46 observations since 2000

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin
1	Dacelo novaeguineae	Laughing Kookaburra	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
2	Menura novaehollandiae	Superb Lyrebird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
3	Cormobates leucophaea	White-throated Treecreeper	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
4	Rhipidura albiscapa	Grey Fantail	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
5	Anthochaera carunculata	Red Wattlebird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
6	Tyto tenebricosa	Sooty Owl	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	Endangered
7	Aegotheles cristatus	Australian Owlet-nightjar	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
8	Platycercus elegans	Crimson Rosella	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
9	Phylidonyris pyrrhopterus	Crescent Honeyeater	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
10	Eopsaltria australis	Eastern Yellow Robin	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
11	Cacatua galerita	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
12	Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris	Eastern Spinebill	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin
13	Psophodes olivaceus	Eastern Whipbird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
14	Acanthiza pusilla	Brown Thornbill	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
15	Sericornis frontalis	White-browed Scrubwren	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
16	Ninox boobook	Southern Boobook	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
17	Turdus merula	Common Blackbird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
18	Strepera versicolor	Grey Currawong	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
19	Strepera graculina	Pied Currawong	Birds Australia 500m area search		Ferntree Gully Forest: Dandenong Ranges NP 1km N of Ferntree Gully	
20	Falco peregrinus	Peregrine Falcon	General observations	Breeding	Quarry Road: Ferntree Gully Vic	
21	Spilopelia chinensis	Spotted Dove	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
22	Turdus merula	Common Blackbird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
23	Parvipsitta pusilla	Little Lorikeet	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
24	Alisterus scapularis	Australian King-Parrot	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
25	Rhipidura leucophrys	Willie Wagtail	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
26	Acanthiza lineata	Striated Thornbill	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin
27	Dacelo novaeguineae	Laughing Kookaburra	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
28	Psophodes olivaceus	Eastern Whipbird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
29	Acridotheres tristis	Common Myna	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
30	Acanthiza chrysorrhoa	Yellow-rumped Thornbill	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
31	Eolophus roseicapilla	Galah	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
32	Manorina melanocephala	Noisy Miner	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
33	Anthochaera carunculata	Red Wattlebird	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
34	Grallina cyanoleuca	Magpie-lark	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
35	Rhipidura albiscapa	Grey Fantail	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
36	Cormobates leucophaea	White-throated Treecreeper	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
37	Cacatua galerita	Sulphur-crested Cockatoo	Birds Australia 500m area search		Upper Ferntree Gully Upper Ferntree Gully	
38	Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian Magpie	Incidental		Victoria, AU Victoria, AU	
39	Vanellus miles	Masked Lapwing	Incidental		Victoria, AU Victoria, AU	
40	Anas superciliosa	Pacific Black Duck	Incidental		Victoria, AU Victoria, AU	
No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin
41	Anas superciliosa	Pacific Black Duck	Incidental		Centre about Ferntree Gully VIC Ferntree Gully VIC 3156, Australia	

No.	Scientific Name	Common Name	Survey Type	Extra Information	Location Description	Origin
42	Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian Magpie	Incidental		Centre about Upper Ferntree Gully VIC (1km) Upper Ferntree Gully VIC 3156, Australia	
43	Fulica atra	Eurasian Coot	Incidental		Centre about Ferntree Gully VIC (1km) Ferntree Gully VIC 3156, Australia	
44	Platycercus eximius	Eastern Rosella	Birds Australia incidental search		QUARRY RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Ferntree Gully	
45	Gymnorhina tibicen	Australian Magpie	Birds Australia incidental search		QUARRY RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Ferntree Gully	
46	Platycercus elegans	Crimson Rosella	Birds Australia incidental search		QUARRY RESERVE Auto generated from coordinates: Ferntree Gully	

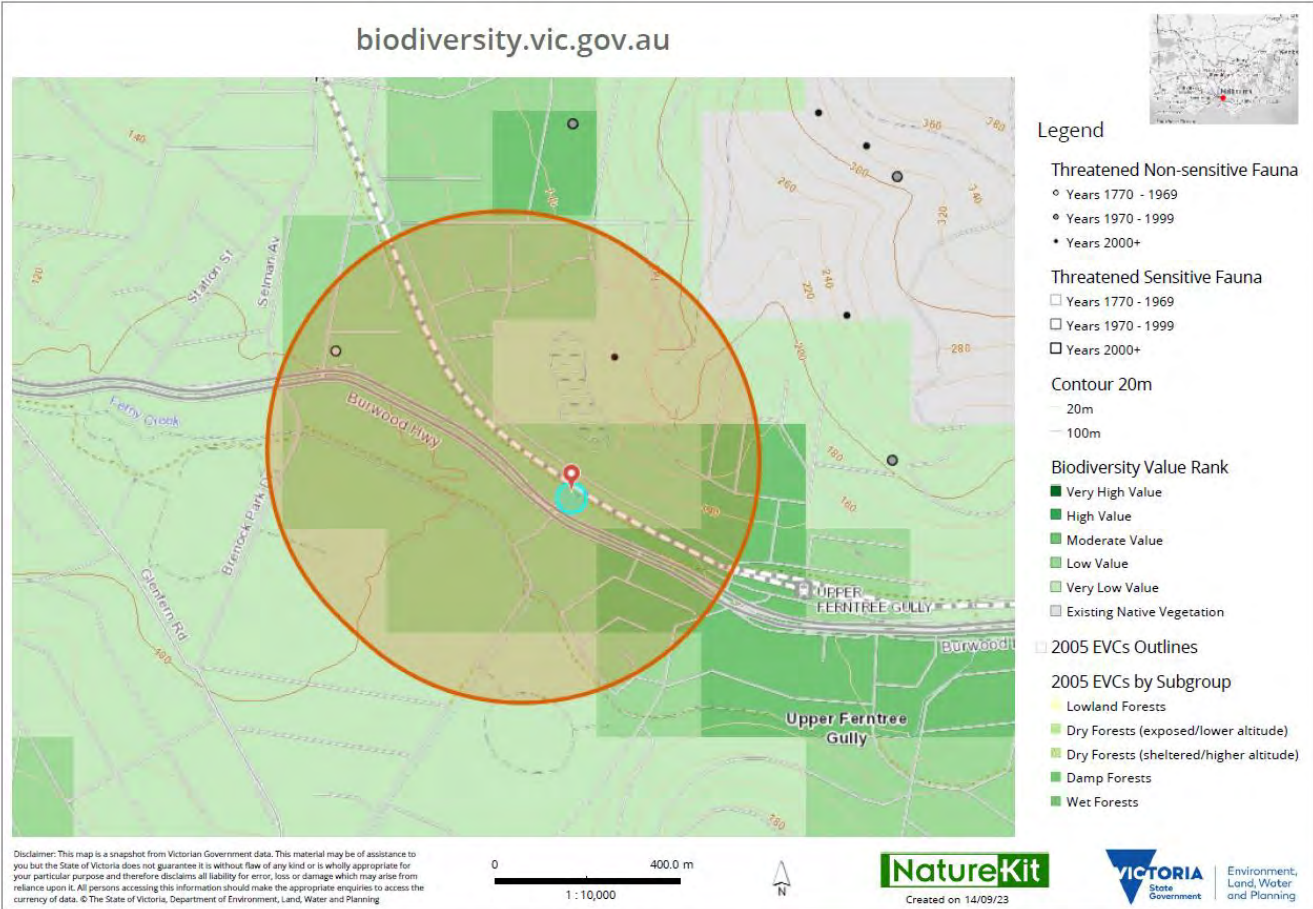


Figure 18: NatureKit - Fauna Assessment Map - 1155 Burwood Highway

8.3 Award of Contract 3179 - Knox Park Athletics Track Redevelopment

SUMMARY: Project Manager Sportfield's and Reserves, James Backhouse
Contract 3179 is for the renewal of the synthetic surface, the natural turf infield and lighting at the Knox Park Athletics Track.

In recent years, the Leisure and Parks teams have identified Knox Park Athletics as the highest priority venue for renewal in 2022/23 in the 1008 and 4000 Capital Programs. The track is the home venue for the Knox Little Athletics, Knox Senior Athletics, and Triathlon Club which have raised concerns in the past in relation to the suitability of the playing surface

Renewal activities on the turf infield will include installing a new irrigation system including a pump and tank, restoring the field levels, and planting warm season grass (Santa Ana Couch). Renewal activities on the running track will include the removal of the existing synthetic surface, the removal of the existing outer track edge, removing the existing concrete spoon drain, removing the old lighting and the old chain-mesh fence, and replacing them with new.

The benefits of the proposed works include an evenly contoured and improved natural turf infield with irrigation, and consistent grass coverage, providing improved facilities that will foster participation growth and further skill development. Once complete, the new facility will also achieve a Class 2 World Athletics Certification.

A public tender process was originally undertaken by Council in December 2022. The two responses received were well over the allocated budget and could not be evaluated. A redesigned public tender for the project, with a reduced scope aligned with the allocated budget, was subsequently released on 14 October 2023, in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and the approved Procurement Plan. Two (2) submissions were received during this second tender and assessed in line with Councils Procurement Policy with a preferred candidate identified in Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd. An alternative option for delivery of the works, offering increased value and improved compliance outcomes, was provided by the preferred candidate and assessed to offer the best value to Council and the community.

The overall cost of the contract is \$4,779,460.46 (incl. GST) or \$4,344.964.05 (ex GST). Which aligns with Councils allocated budget for the project.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Accepts the tender submitted by Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd (Alternate Bid) for the lump sum price of \$4,344,964.04 ex GST (\$4,779,460.46 inc. GST) for Contract 3179 – Knox Park Athletics Track Redevelopment.**
- 2. Allocates a contingency for this project as set out in Confidential Attachment 1, and authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or such person the Chief Executive Officer selects) to expend this contingency at their discretion; and**
- 3. Authorises the Chief Executive Officer (or such other person as the Chief Executive officer selects) to negotiate and execute a contract with Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd.**

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the Leisure and Parks teams have identified Knox Park Athletics as the highest priority venue for renewal in 2022/23 in the 1008 and 4000 Capital Programs. The track, turf infield, lighting, and shade structures are considered a priority as it is heavily utilised by the Knox Little Athletics, Knox Senior Athletics school community, and local Triathlon Club, who have raised concerns in relation to the condition of the playing surface. The turf infield does not have irrigation and drainage systems resulting in excessive ground hardness during the warmer months and becoming wet during cooler months.

With severe drought conditions experienced between 1997-2009, grass surfaces within Knox showed signs of decline and player safety became a concern due to the hardness of the ground. As a result, Council decided to convert sports fields to a more sustainable warm season grass surface (i.e. a grass species less reliant on water).

The benefits of the proposed works include an evenly contoured and improved natural turf infield with irrigation, and consistent grass coverage, providing improved facilities that will foster participation growth and further skill development.

The current Knox Athletics Facility is a Class 2 World Athletics Certified track. Once complete, the new facility will also achieve a Class 2 World Athletics Certification.

The tenant clubs have been consulted and the scope and timelines confirmed. The club understands Council's procurement timeframes and completion of the new surface is expected to take 12-months to complete.

2. DISCUSSION

A public tender process for these works was originally undertaken by Council in December 2022. The two responses received were well over the allocated budget and could not be evaluated. A redesigned public tender for the project, with a reduced scope aligned with the allocated budget, was subsequently released on 14 October 2023, in accordance with Council's Procurement Policy and the approved Procurement Plan. Upon closing on 28 November 2023, two submissions were received as follows:

1. Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd
2. Turf One Pty Ltd

All tenders received were deemed compliant and both contractors are known to be experienced practitioners in the provision of the required works within Victoria.

The submission from Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd also submitted an alternate bid for the project which offered a cost saving to Council and guaranteed Class 2 World Athletics Certification could be achieved.

A signed evaluation report has been included in Confidential Attachment 1 to this report and outlines in detail;

- the background/context to the contract prepared;
- the evaluation methodology employed for this contract;
- the scoring matrix assessment of all tenderers; and
- supplementary information to support the basis for the decision on the preferred tenderer.

Upon review, both conforming tenders offered a strong response, passing all mandatory criteria and displaying extensive experience in similar contracts, comprehensive management systems, sound resource capacity and consideration of local and environmental elements.

After a comprehensive review of the two submissions the Tender Panel shortlisted Polytan as preferred tenderer.

Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd provided a high-quality submission indicating that their organisation:

- Is highly experienced in the field and has a strong track record of having constructed numerous athletic tracks, synthetic fields and natural turf fields across Victoria and Internationally.
- Has a very experienced and stable management and administration team;
- Maintains well-resourced plant and equipment;
- Proposes a strong methodology;
- Displays good local, social, and environmental considerations;

Pricing was evaluated separately to the qualitative criteria and assessed in line with Council's Procurement Policy. The pricing indicated by both Tenderers was within the scope of Council's allocated budget with the submission from Polytan offering better value to Council.

Referees provided by Polytan confirmed their ability to be able to deliver on their tendered submission

The pricing, comparative scoring and mandatory criteria all confirmed Polytan as preferred supplier and offering the highest value to Council for delivery of contract 3179 – Knox Athletics Track Redevelopment.

Polytan Option 2 (Alternate Bid)

Noting that Polytan were shortlisted and recommended as preferred tenderer the Panel then also sort to examine the alternative bid provided in their submission as Option 2.

In summary the alternative submission proposes alteration to the camber of the running track, alternate products for the drainage and for the track surface and adjustments to the discus and hammer cages.

The alternate submission was discussed in accordance with the Conditions of Tender clause 3.3 (Principal not Bound to Accept Tender) from a desktop evaluation this offered Council savings, Class 2 World Athletics Certification, reduction of waste and enhanced accessibility ensuring DDA compliance. Council officers and engineers, 2MH (Designer) and Polytan met onsite on Monday 4 December to further discuss the alternative bid.

Both Council's Engineers and designer 2MH recommend this option as it exceeds expectations. Notably, this proposal optimizes material use by reusing the existing subbase for track camber adjustments, leading to a more cost-effective and efficient site re-grading process. Additionally, it offers improved drainage solutions, enhancing the site's long-term sustainability and weather resilience. The design is inclusive, adhering to DDA compliance, ensuring accessibility for all community members.

Representatives from Council's Leisure team consulted with the Knox Athletics Club Board on Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd's alternate submission and the Knox Athletics Club Board feel that this option exceeds their expectations, however expressed concern about moving the hammer throw into the centre of the ground. On further clarification, Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd confirmed they could deliver the hammer throw outside the centre of the track and meet Class 2 World Athletics Certification. This will be incorporated into the finalised design.

In considering the above the Panel is confident in recommending that the alternate bid (Option 2) by Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd but approved for tender 3179.

3. CONSULTATION

The tender evaluation process was conducted during November 2023, in accordance with Council's Strategic Procurement Framework. A procurement plan was prepared for this contract prior to seeking submissions (D23-288163). The tender evaluation process was conducted in accordance with the procurement plan.

Prior to advertising this tender the specification and scope of works for contract 3179 was reviewed and updated to align with required outcomes and the approved budget.

The tender was publicly advertised on 14 October 2023 and, after a request for extension from the tenderers, was eventually closed on the 28 of November 2023 (in all a 6-week period). The procurement process also included at site inspection with the shortlisted tenderer to seek key clarifications on tenders submitted.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has been considered in the context of climate change and its relevance to the Knox Climate Response Plan 2021 – 2031.

Implementation of the recommendation is considered to have no direct implications or has no direct impacts/change upon Council's Net Zero 2030 target, the Community Net Zero 2040, exposure to climate risks or climate change adaptation.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

The preferred tenderer, Polytan Asia Pacific Pty Ltd, has outlined several environmentally conscious elements. Central to this is the Rekortan M 'Sandwich' Track System, which incorporates a sealer layer and a textured surface wearing layer, utilizing materials like SBR rubber and EPDM granules known for their environmental compatibility. This synthetic track surfacing approach is further enhanced by a three-layered structure: a base mat made from recycled SBR rubber bonded with polyurethane and a top layer of durable, eco-friendly EPDM granules. Additionally, the proposal places significant emphasis on sustainable water management, evidenced by the installation of subsoil drainage systems and efficient irrigation mechanisms. These elements collectively demonstrate Polytan Asia Pacific's commitment to integrating sustainability and environmental responsibility into the project's core design and execution.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Following the re-scoping of the works after the prior tender proved unsuccessful, an amended budget of \$5,196,080 ex GST was adopted by Council at the October 2023 Council meeting.

The tendered price of \$4,344,964.05 (ex GST) aligns with the above allocation and is considered to provide best value to council for this project

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The track and infield are considered a priority for Knox as it is heavily utilised by Knox Little Athletics, Knox Senior Athletics and Triathlon Club who have raised concerns in the past in relation to the suitability of the surface.

Benefits of the works include an evenly contoured and improved playing surface providing improved facilities that will foster participation growth and further skill development. Once complete, the new facility will meet Council's, Athletics Victoria's best-practice guidelines and Class 2 World Athletics Certification which will further increase the value of the facility to the community.

Improved DDA compliance of the site will ensure it is an inclusive venue available to a broad range of community groups and users.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Natural Environment & Sustainability

Strategy 3.3 - Lead by example and encourage our community to reduce waste.

Neighbourhoods, Housing & Infrastructure

Strategy 2.2 - Create, enhance and maintain places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect

Civic Engagement & Integrity

Strategy 5.3 - Ensure our processes are transparent and decisions are accountable

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Attachment 1 is included in the confidential agenda, as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to:

- Private commercial information that if released, would unreasonably expose all tenderers to disadvantage because it would release financial information about the businesses that is not generally available to their competitors.

Report Prepared By: Project Manager, Sportfields and Reserves, James Backhouse

Report Authorised By: Director, Infrastructure, Grant Thorne

Attachments

Nil

8.4 2023-24 Minor Grants and Individual Excellence Grants Programs Report - December 2023

SUMMARY: Community Partnerships Officer, Jade Mainwaring
Personal Assistant to Mayor and Councillors, Eleonore Smith

This report summarises the grant applications recommended for approval in December for the 2023-24 Minor Grants Program. All applications have been assessed against the criteria set out in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

Applications under the Minor Grants Procedure are limited to a maximum of \$3,000.00 within the current financial year.

This report also summarises the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in the 2022-23 financial year, and the first quarter of the 2023-24 financial year. Under the Excellence Grants for Individuals Policy, applicants who are selected to represent either Victoria or Australia in a competitive endeavour or an elite performance may receive a funding assistance of \$150 for events within Victoria, \$250 for interstate events and \$400 for international events.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Approve six applications for a total of \$12,335.50 as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended
Knox Ramblers Walking Group	New uniforms for the Group	\$1,295.50	\$1,295.50
Wantirna South Football Club Inc.	Replacement of table covers	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
The Salvation Army	The Pantry	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Recare	New stove	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Orana Neighbourhood House Inc.	Connecting and bridging the digital divide	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Life Activities Club Knox Inc.	Cleaning of chairs and garden maintenance	\$2,040.00	\$1,040.00
Total		\$13,335.50	\$12,335.50

2. Defer one application requesting a total of \$3,000.00, as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested
Ferntree Gully Eagles Football Netball Club	Canteen upgrade	\$3,000.00
Total		\$3,000.00

3. Refuse one application requesting a total of \$3,000.00 as detailed below:

Applicant Name	Project Title	Amount Requested	Reason for ineligibility
Mr Perfect Inc.	Mr Perfect Inc. BBQ	\$3,000.00	This project is considered ineligible under clause 6.14 of the Minor Grant Procedure. The applicant has not satisfactorily demonstrated a benefit to Knox residents.
Total		\$3,000.00	

4. Note that should the recommended grants be approved by Council, the remaining Minor Grants Program budget for 2023-24 will be \$55,705.12 before GST adjustments.
5. Note that one previous application, deferred at the November 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council for The Basin Cricket Club has been withdrawn by the applicant.
6. Note the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in the 2022-23 financial year as set out in Attachment 2 with a total value of \$9,300.
7. Note the Excellence Grants for Individuals awarded in Quarter 1 of the 2023-24 financial year as set out in Attachment 3, with a total value of \$3,850.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Minor Grants Program is administered by the Community Wellbeing Department and provides a pool of grant funding that can respond on a monthly basis to requests for small amounts of funding to assist with short term, one-off projects or initiatives that are relatively minor in nature.

The objective of the Minor Grants Program is to be an accessible and responsive funding source to assist a wide range of community led activities across the municipality and support volunteer effort and civic participation.

It operates under the principles of other Knox Council grants programs to ensure:

- Funded projects will provide benefit to the Knox community and help meet Council objectives;
- Co-operation and collaboration between groups will be encouraged;
- The grant process will be consistent, equitable and transparent; and
- The grant process will support and strengthen community groups in developing local solutions to local needs.

Applications are assessed against criteria specified in the Minor Grants Program Procedure (approved in November 2022), to determine the eligibility of the applicant organisation and the eligibility of the grant application.

The Procedure and Council's Grant Framework Policy set out an open and transparent grant program that meets the principles of good governance and is compliant with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

In accordance with the Procedure, applications for funding have been assessed by the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, for Council's approval.

The Excellence Grants for Individuals program is administered by the Governance and Risk Department and has an allocation of \$10,000 per financial year which provides funding to eligible Knox residents to assist with the costs of competing or performing at a State, National or International level in the following areas:

- Sports and recreation;
- Education;
- Arts and culture; and
- Environmental and/or humanitarian initiatives.

Applications are assessed against the eligibility and exclusion criteria in accordance with the Excellence Grants for Individuals Policy to determine their eligibility. The Policy, together with Council's Grant Framework Policy sets out an open and transparent grant program that meets the principles of good governance and is compliant with the requirements of the Local Government Act 2020.

In accordance with the Policy, applications for funding are determined by the Chief Executive Officer or their delegate.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Minor Grants

This report presents to Council the recommendations for recent Minor Grant applications in accordance with the Procedure.

2.1.1 Applications Recommended for Approval

Nine applications have been assessed this month, requesting grants totaling \$22,335.50.

Of these, six are recommended for approval. A summary of the projects recommended is as follows:

- The Knox Ramblers Walking Group are seeking a grant to supply them with Heart Foundation t-shirts and jackets for their walking group so they are easily recognisable. The Knox Ramblers are a registered walking group with the Heart Foundation;
- Orana Neighbourhood House Inc. are seeking a grant to contribute to the implementation of two programs offered free of charge to the community. Connecting Through Craft is a program established to provide social connection combined with learning craft; and Digital Literacy will provide assistance and digital training to those feeling the digital divide;
- Recare offer functions for carers and care receivers, providing lunch for people living with long term illness and dementia and are seeking a grant to assist with the replacement of an oven. The existing oven is old and no longer safe to use;
- The Salvation Army is seeking a grant to contribute to the cost of a freezer and display racks to store and display food in their pantry that supports people in need with access to food relief;
- Wantirna South Football Club Inc. are seeking a grant to replace eight worn plastic table covers with laminated tabletops in their clubrooms; and

- Life Activities Club Knox Inc. has requested a grant to assist with the costs associated with cleaning 80 chairs that have been kindly donated to them, and for general garden maintenance. A partial funding amount is recommended to support the costs associated with the cleaning of the chairs. The garden maintenance is considered an operational cost and ineligible under Clause 6.21 of the Minor Grant Program Procedure.

A recent addition to the Minor Grants application form asks applicants to confirm that they are aware of the Child Safe Standards that came into effect on 1 July 2022, and that their organisation meets all of their requirements under the standards. Officers will be confirming that applicants who provide services, facilities or activities for children under 18 years are complying with their Child Safe obligations prior to payment of the recommended funding.

Application details are provided in Attachment 1.

2.1.2 Applications Recommended for Deferral

Of the three applications deferred at the November 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council:

- Knox Ramblers Walking Group have provided all of the requested information and the application is now recommended for approval this month;
- Ferntree Gully Eagles is recommended for deferral to the January 2024 Ordinary Meeting of Council as we await further information regarding their canteen upgrade; and
- The Basin Cricket Club has withdrawn their application.

2.1.3 Applications Recommended for Refusal

One application is recommended for refusal:

- Mr Perfect Inc. are seeking a grant to cover the costs associated with marketing expenses for a BBQ for men to be held in Knox. Officers are concerned that the applicant is from New South Wales, and the proposal does not demonstrate a clear benefit to Knox residents. There is a lack of evidence of partnership or consultation with other groups in Knox and is therefore recommended for refusal.

2.2 Excellence Grants for Individuals

This report also presents to Council for noting, expenditure under the Excellence Grants for Individuals Policy for the 2022-23 financial year, and for Quarter 1 of 2023-24.

For financial year 2022-23 there were 29 successful applications for a total value of \$9,300. Excellence grants were awarded for two events in Victoria, 12 interstate events and 15 international events. A summary of the grants is included at Attachment 2. All grants awarded in 2022-23 have been paid and acquitted in accordance with Council's policy.

For Quarter 1, 2023-2024, there have been 13 successful applications for a total value of \$3,850. Excellence grants were awarded for nine interstate events and four international events. A summary of the grants is included at Attachment 3.

3. CONSULTATION

Consultation is undertaken with organisations in relation to their Minor Grant applications whenever possible and if necessary, to clarify details regarding their applications prior to Council's consideration.

Advice or information may be sought from Officers across Council in relation to either the applying organisation or the proposed project, or both, if considered necessary.

The Minor Grants Program Procedure specifies assessment can occur by the Chief Executive Officer, or delegate, and make recommendation for Council's determination.

Similarly, consultation will occur with Excellence Grant applicants if necessary, to clarify details regarding their applications prior to the delegate's decision.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the recommendation is considered to have no direct implications or has no direct impacts upon Council's Net Zero 2030 target, the Community Net Zero 2040, exposure to climate risks or climate change adaptation.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no environmental or amenity issues associated with this report.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The approval of Minor Grants is managed within Council's adopted budget. The 2023-24 budget provides \$153,617.00 for the Minor Grants Program.

Funding commitments to date are summarised below:

Month	Amount Committed at Date of Council Meeting	Amount Committed and Paid after GST Adjustments
July 2023	\$18,914.44	\$18,204.40
August 2023	\$25,426.03	\$23,892.21
September 2023	\$13,370.77	\$12,450.86
October 2023	\$22,127.00	\$21,647.00
November 2023	\$9,791.00	\$9,381.91
	\$89,629.24	\$85,576.38

Recommended applications for the December period total \$12,335.50 (prior to GST adjustments).

If approved as recommended, the remaining Minor Grants budget for 2023-24 will total \$55,705.12, before GST adjustments.

The Excellence Grants are managed within Council's adopted budget which provides \$10,000 for grants annually. While grants awarded to 30 September 2023 exceed the year-to-date budget (\$2,500) this reflects a timing difference between the date of application and the date of event for which the grant is sought. (The policy requires funds to be distributed equally across the 12 months of the financial year, and such distribution is done by event date, to ensure greater equity of access to the grant funds.)

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Minor Grants Program allows Council to respond promptly to requests from Knox- based community groups for small amounts of funding to assist a variety of community-based programs, projects or activities. Council's Minor Grants are a simple and streamlined source of funding that can make a significant difference for local community organisations in need of short-term, specific purpose assistance.

The Excellence Grants for Individuals program provides financial support intended to increase individual participation in the community and can assist inclusion and representation of under-represented individuals. The program assists in developing skills and fostering pride for the great achievements of individuals in the Knox community.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Opportunity & Innovation

Strategy 1.2 - Encourage and support opportunities for skills development and lifelong learning for all people in Knox.

Neighbourhoods, Housing & Infrastructure

Strategy 2.2 – Create, enhance and maintain places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.

Natural Environment & Sustainability

Strategy 3.3 – Lead by example and encourage our community to reduce waste.

Resilience & Wellbeing

Strategy 4.1 – Support our community to improve their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.

Strategy 4.2 – Foster inclusivity, equality, belonging and safety within the community.

Civic Engagement & Integrity

Strategy 5.3 – Ensure our processes are transparent and decisions are accountable.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information from the Local Government Act 2020.

Report Prepared By: Community Partnerships Officer, Jade Mainwaring
Personal Assistant to Mayor and Councillors, Eleonore Smith

Report Authorised By: Director Connected Communities, Judy Chalkley
Director Customer and Performance, Greg Curcio

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Minor Grant Applications REDACTED - DECEMBER 2023 [**8.4.1** - 63 pages]
2. Attachment 2 - 2022-23 Individual Excellence Grants [**8.4.2** - 2 pages]
3. Attachment 3 - Q1 2023-24 Individual Excellence Grants [**8.4.3** - 1 page]

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)
Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group
 Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

MINOR GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Information

To be eligible for a Minor Grant, applying organisations must:

- Provide services, projects and programs that directly benefit residents of the City of Knox.
- Be a not-for-profit legal entity that provides services, support or activities to the Knox community (or auspiced by an incorporated body or other not-for-profit legal entity).
- Have an Australian Business Number or complete a Statement by Supplier form.
- Have a Committee of Management or similar governing body that accepts responsibility for the administration of the Grant.
- Hold adequate public liability insurance appropriate to the activity outlined in the application.

Your project start date must be after the Council meeting date where your application is being presented for approval. Projects that are due to begin before the Council meeting date at which they're being presented will not be considered.

Submission deadline Council meeting date

6 October 2023 23 October 2023

10 November 2023 27 November 2023

1 December 2023 18 December 2023

5 January 2024 22 January 2024

9 February 2024 26 February 2024

8 March 2024 25 March 2024

5 April 2024 22 April 2024

10 May 2024 27 May 2024

7 June 2024 24 June 2024

Application Amount	Incorporated or Auspiced?	Assessment & Determination	Acquittal
< \$500	Yes	Assessed and determined by the CEO or delegate.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$501 to \$1,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$1,001 to \$3,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Funding Agreement & Acquittal required.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)
Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group
 Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

Application Category

Application Amount *

< \$500 \$501 to \$1,000 \$1,001 to \$3,000

APPLICANT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Applicant Details

Organisation Name *

Knox Ramblers Walking Group

Organisation Address *

[Redacted]

State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Contact Name

[Redacted]

Address *

[Redacted]

State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Australian phone number.

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

S.

Committee Secretary (Second Contact Person) *

[Redacted]

Mobile Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Must be an email address.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)
Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group
 Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

Please provide your ABN

Information from the Australian Business Register

ABN

Entity name

ABN status

Entity type

Goods & Services Tax (GST)

DGR Endorsed

ATO Charity Type

ACNC Registration No

Tax Concessions

Main business location

Must be an ABN.
 provide ABN of auspice organisation if relevant. If no ABN please complete a Statement by Supplier declaration.

Is your organisation Incorporated? *

Yes No

If no, please confirm if you are a registered not-for-profit legal entity

Committee/Governance Structure

Complete the details of your full committee below:

Committee Member Full Name	Position	Email Address	Phone Number
			Must be a number.

Is your organisation another type of organisation established under an Act passed by the State or Commonwealth (i.e. a registered charity)? *

Yes No

If your organisation isn't incorporated and not registered as a not-for-profit (ie. a registered charity), you will require an auspice who is one or both of these things.

Auspice Details

Auspice Organisation Name *

Orana Neighbourhood House

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)
Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group
 Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

Auspice ABN
 91 514 980 522

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	91 514 980 522
Entity name	ORANA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN status	Active
Entity type	Other Incorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	Yes
DGR Endorsed	No
ATO Charity Type	Charity More information
ACNC Registration	Registered
Tax Concessions	FBT Rebate, GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption
Main business location	3152 VIC

Information retrieved at 1:54am yesterday

Must be an ABN.

Auspice Project Contact *

[REDACTED]

Auspice Position *

[REDACTED]

Auspice Phone Number *

([REDACTED])

an Australian phone number.

Auspice Email *

[REDACTED]

The auspice organisation must complete an [Auspice Declaration Form](#) and attach below

Signature of auspice representative - permission required *

Filename: IMG_0830.png

File size: 2.4 MB

Please upload signed declaration from auspice representative

Child Safety

Knox City Council has a zero tolerance for child abuse. Organisations that provide services or facilities for children are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards to safeguard children.

Obligations are detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website [CCYP | Child Safe Standards](#)

Organisations providing services, facilities or activities for children under 18 must:

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024

Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)

Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group

Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

1. Ensure a representative from your organisation has completed relevant Child Safe Training, and
2. Complete a Statutory Declaration regarding compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards: [Click here to download Knox City Council Statutory Declaration Template](#)

Please confirm that your organisation is aware of its obligations as detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website *

- Yes, we are aware of our obligations regarding the new Child Safe Standards that came into effect 1 July 2022 and can meet the requirements relevant to our organisation. We will attach a Statutory Declaration detailing our commitment to ensuring our organisation and all Council funded programs, services, events and/or activities are compliant with the Child Safe standards.
- Our organisation does not provide any services, facilities or activities for children under 18.

If you have answered yes to the above, please attach your signed Statutory Declaration here

No files have been uploaded

Pre-application contact with Knox City Council

Have you discussed your application with any Knox Council Officer? If so, please provide details below:

Belinda Boord

Community Strengthening e-Bulletin Subscription

To subscribe to our e-Bulletin containing information on community training, grants and more, please follow the link below:

[Subscribe here](#)

PROJECT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Request Details

Project Title *

new uniforms for Knox Ramblers Walkng Group

Project Start Date *

19/12/2023

Must be a date after the Council meeting at which your application is being presented. See dates at beginning of this application for guidance.

Project End Date *

30/01/2023

Must be a date.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)
Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group
 Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

(a) Briefly describe details of the request: *

To purchase T Shirts from Heart Foundation with our group name on the back, and some hoodies.

(b) What community benefit is gained from this project / activity? *

Makes us more visible & easily identifiable. Helps with cohesion within the group.

How many people who identify as volunteers (including committee members) are currently involved in keeping your group / organisation active? *

3

Must be a number

How many people will directly benefit from or participate in your project / activity? *

20

Must be a number

How many of the above are Knox residents? *

20

Must be a number

BUDGET

*** indicates a required field**

(c) What is the total cost of the project / activity? *

\$1,295.50

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

(d) What amount is being requested? *

\$1,295.50

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Budget

Income = grant/s requested, contribution from your organisation, ticket sales etc

NOTE: total income must match total expenditure

Income	Income Amount	Expenditure	Expenditure Amount
Please describe income item (ie: council grant, your organisations cash contribution, ticket sales etc)	\$AUD	Please describe expenditure item ie: venue hire	\$ AUD
Council Grant	\$1,295.50	New Uniforms	\$1,295.50

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)
Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group
 Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$

Budget Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$1,295.50	\$1,295.50	\$0.00
<small>This number/amount is calculated.</small>	<small>This number/amount is calculated.</small>	<small>This number/amount is calculated. Must total \$0.00</small>

If your income is only the Minor Grant requested, the below will show \$0 and you will be directed to the following page

If your only income is only the Minor Grant requested, the total below will be \$0
 \$0.00
This number/amount is calculated.

Quotes For Planned Expenses

Attach quotes for expenses here. *

Filename: Order Forms Walking.pdf
 File size: 1.1 MB
A minimum of 1 file must be attached.
 Quotes must support all expenditure items listed in table above

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*** indicates a required field**

Evidence of Public Liability

Evidence of current Public Liability Insurance must be supplied *

Filename: Indemnity Insurance.pdf
 File size: 331.1 kB
A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Public Liability Expiry Date *

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)
Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group
 Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

30/11/2023

If the expiry date is prior to project completion date, you may be requested to supply an updated certificate upon renewal

Please attach any other relevant supporting documentation. This can include:

- **A project plan**
- **Letters of support**
- **Any other relevant information you feel is necessary to support your application**

Attach relevant documentation:

No files have been uploaded

DECLARATION

*** indicates a required field**

Conflict of Interest

Do you or member of your organisation have a relationship with a Council staff member or Councillor? *

Yes No

A relationship can include a direct relative, member or the household, neighbour, or friend. If you have any queries regarding this, please call Council's Community Partnerships Team on 9298 8000 to discuss.

Does your organisation have any members who are Council staff members or Councillor? *

Yes
 No

I declare that all information within this application is true and correct.

If successful the organisation commits to provide an acquittal of all grant funds to Council as outlined in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

Organisation Name *

Knox Ramblers Walking Group

Position (eg: President, Treasurer) *

Declaration Date *

09/11/2023

Must be a date.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 3 of 3)
Application No. 2324-MGP-75 From Knox Ramblers Walking Group
Form Submitted 4 Dec 2023, 5:54PM AEDT

Privacy Statement

The personal information requested in this application form is for the purposes of administering the Minor Grants Program and will only be used by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. Whilst information relating to groups and the specific request/project details will be published, personal information in regards to individuals will not be disclosed except as required by law.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

MINOR GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Information

To be eligible for a Minor Grant, applying organisations must:

- Provide services, projects and programs that directly benefit residents of the City of Knox.
- Be a not-for-profit legal entity that provides services, support or activities to the Knox community (or auspiced by an incorporated body or other not-for-profit legal entity).
- Have an Australian Business Number or complete a Statement by Supplier form.
- Have a Committee of Management or similar governing body that accepts responsibility for the administration of the Grant.
- Hold adequate public liability insurance appropriate to the activity outlined in the application.

Your project start date must be after the Council meeting date where your application is being presented for approval. Projects that are due to begin before the Council meeting date at which they're being presented will not be considered.

Submission deadline Council meeting date

6 October 2023 23 October 2023

10 November 2023 27 November 2023

1 December 2023 18 December 2023

5 January 2024 22 January 2024

9 February 2024 26 February 2024

8 March 2024 25 March 2024

5 April 2024 22 April 2024

10 May 2024 27 May 2024

7 June 2024 24 June 2024

Application Amount	Incorporated or Auspiced?	Assessment & Determination	Acquittal
< \$500	Yes	Assessed and determined by the CEO or delegate.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$501 to \$1,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$1,001 to \$3,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Funding Agreement & Acquittal required.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

Application Category

Application Amount *

< \$500 \$501 to \$1,000 \$1,001 to \$3,000

APPLICANT DETAILS

* indicates a required field

Applicant Details

Organisation Name *

Orana Neighbourhood House

Organisation Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Contact Name

[Redacted]

Contact Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Australian phone number.

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Committee Secretary (Second Contact Person) *

[Redacted]

Mobile Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Must be an email address.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

Please provide your ABN
 91 514 980 522

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	91 514 980 522
Entity name	ORANA NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE INC
ABN status	Active
Entity type	Other Incorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	Yes
DGR Endorsed	No
ATO Charity Type	Charity More information
ACNC Registration	Registered
Tax Concessions	FBT Rebate, GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption
Main business location	3152 VIC
<i>Information retrieved at 1:54am yesterday</i>	

Must be an ABN.
 provide ABN of auspice organisation if relevant. If no ABN please complete a Statement by Supplier declaration.

Is your organisation Incorporated? *

Yes No

If no, please confirm if you are a registered not-for-profit legal entity

Committee/Governance Structure

Complete the details of your full committee below:

Committee Member Full Name	Position	Email Address	Phone Number
			Must be a number.

Incorporation Details

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024

Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024

Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

Please provide your Incorporated number

A0019215F

This can be found on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website

Child Safety

Knox City Council has a zero tolerance for child abuse. Organisations that provide services or facilities for children are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards to safeguard children.

Obligations are detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website [CCYP | Child Safe Standards](#)

Organisations providing services, facilities or activities for children under 18 must:

1. Ensure a representative from your organisation has completed relevant Child Safe Training, and
2. Complete a Statutory Declaration regarding compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards: [Click here to download Knox City Council Statutory Declaration Template](#)

Please confirm that your organisation is aware of its obligations as detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website *

Yes, we are aware of our obligations regarding the new Child Safe Standards that came into effect 1 July 2022 and can meet the requirements relevant to our organisation. We will attach a Statutory Declaration detailing our commitment to ensuring our organisation and all Council funded programs, services, events and/or activities are compliant with the Child Safe standards.

Our organisation does not provide any services, facilities or activities for children under 18.

If you have answered yes to the above, please attach your signed Statutory Declaration here

No files have been uploaded

Pre-application contact with Knox City Council

Have you discussed your application with any Knox Council Officer? If so, please provide details below:

Community Strengthening e-Bulletin Subscription

To subscribe to our e-Bulletin containing information on community training, grants and more, please follow the link below:

[Subscribe here](#)

PROJECT DETAILS

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

Request Details

Project Title *

Connecting and bridging the digital divide

Project Start Date *

05/02/2024

Must be a date after the Council meeting at which your application is being presented. See dates at beginning of this application for guidance.

Project End Date *

28/06/2024

Must be a date.

(a) Briefly describe details of the request: *

Orana Neighbourhood House is a place of connection and development for the local community in Knox. We offer a variety of different programs, activities and support groups to assist the local community to develop skills and to improve their health and wellbeing. We have piloted 2 programs in Term 4 this year that we are seeking funding to be able to continue in 2024.

The first program is our Connecting through Craft group. This group was established as we had identified a need within the community to be able to offer opportunities for people to connect with others, as social isolation was impacting mental and physical health. In response, we offered a crafting afternoon facilitated by our incredible trainer "Magical Anne". Anne has thorough knowledge of all things crafty, but she also has a very special way to engage and support people. As social anxiety and isolation is impacting our community members, this crafting afternoon is being offered so that people can come and share their crafting project with others. Having a craft project that people bring themselves enables them to work on their own personal projects and goals, with Anne able to assist with technical sides of craft projects. One participant from this pilot in Term 4 had been unable to leave her house because of her sever anxiety. With the help of her support worker, and with very gentle and ongoing encouragement from Anne and the staff at Orana, this woman has come to every craft session even when her anxiety is bad, as she feels supported and connected to the crafting group as well as to Orana.

Our other pilot program was a digital drop in session. We know how badly impacted people can be if they lack digital skills in this day and age. The digital divide can make everyday living, including accessing things like MyGov and internet banking, impossible for people. We also know that some people require something more bespoke and intensive than a classroom situation to develop confidence and skills that are essential for them to be able to actively engage with technology and enter more mainstream classes. One participant of our pilot has said that he felt so isolated by not being able to send emails or use his computer which was a present from his son. He has stated that he would never have been able to keep up in a classroom situation, and has valued his one on one assistance from our amazing trainer Karen.

From running these programs as pilots in Term 4, we know that both are providing vital connections and skills needed. However, as we would like to offer both of these programs at no cost to the community, we are seeking funding to assist us to cover the costs of the trainers to facilitate the sessions.

(b) What community benefit is gained from this project / activity? *

Both of these programs will provide vital support to our community and they align with the Knox Council vision "where we connect with our people and our environment, ensuring they

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

are safe, supported and have every opportunity to thrive.” Combating social isolation and improving digital access are both important programs to help Knox residents thrive.

These programs strive to meet the identified Knox Community Direction as outlined in the 2021-2031 Community Plan or opportunity and innovation. At Orana NH, we align with the aspirations of this plan and are attempting to support Knox Councils objective to be a city of opportunity, embracing innovation and change, and providing local learning and employment opportunities for all. We want Knox residents to thrive. These programs will also improve opportunities for Connection, resilience and wellbeing. We want our community members to feel that Knox is a place to call home, and both programs will enable the community to be strong, healthy, supported and respected.

We want them to be available to residents at no cost, as the cost of living pressures are impacting everyone. At Orana NH, we will contribute our own funding but are seeking funding from the Minor grants to help us cover the staffing costs associated with delivery of these vital programs.

How many people who identify as volunteers (including committee members) are currently involved in keeping your group / organisation active? *

14

Must be a number

How many people will directly benefit from or participate in your project / activity? *

30

Must be a number

How many of the above are Knox residents? *

30

Must be a number

BUDGET

*** indicates a required field**

(c) What is the total cost of the project / activity? *

\$4,200.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

(d) What amount is being requested? *

\$3,000.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Budget

Income = grant/s requested, contribution from your organisation, ticket sales etc

NOTE: total income must match total expenditure

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

Income	Income Amount	Expenditure	Expenditure Amount
Please describe income item (ie: council grant, your organisations cash contribution, ticket sales etc)	\$AUD	Please describe expenditure item ie: venue hire	\$ AUD
Council minor grant	\$3,000.00	Wages - 2 staff at 2 hours a week each for 20 weeks @ \$50 per hour	\$4,000.00
Orana NH	\$1,300.00	Art supplies for craft group	\$300.00
Volunteers - 2 X 2 hours at \$40 for 20 weeks (In kind)	\$3,200.00	Volunteers - 2 X 2 hours at \$40 for 20 weeks (In kind)	\$3,200.00
	\$		
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$

Budget Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00
This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated. Must total \$0.00

If your income is only the Minor Grant requested, the below will show \$0 and you will be directed to the following page

If your only income is only the Minor Grant requested, the total below will be \$0 -\$4,500.00
 This number/amount is calculated.

Budget - What will you use your Minor Grant request for?

Quotes/evidence of calculations are required to be attached for each item of expenditure.

Quotes may be attached next to each line of expenditure, or alternatively, a quote for all items may be attached in the section below.

Quotes may be a formal quotation or a screenshot of items from retailers websites.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

Expenditure	Amount	Quotes
Please describe expenditure item	\$ AUD	You can attach quotes here for individual items, or you can attach in bulk below
Wages - 2 staff at 2 hours a week each for 20 weeks @ \$50 per hour = \$4000 but asking for \$3000 contribution from Knox Council	\$3,000.00	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>

Quotes For Planned Expenses

Attach quotes for expenses here. *

Filename: Orana NH Budget for Minor grant Dec 2023.xlsx

File size: 9.0 kB

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Quotes must support all expenditure items listed in table above

Expenditure Amount from requested grant

\$0.00

If this doesn't total \$0, please adjust your expenditure table to match the grant amount requested.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*** indicates a required field**

Evidence of Public Liability

Evidence of current Public Liability Insurance must be supplied *

Filename: VMIA General renewal 1 Jul 2023-30 Jun 2024.pdf

File size: 899.1 kB

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Public Liability Expiry Date *

30/06/2024

If the expiry date is prior to project completion date, you may be requested to supply an updated certificate upon renewal

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

Please attach any other relevant supporting documentation. This can include:

- **A project plan**
- **Letters of support**
- **Any other relevant information you feel is necessary to support your application**

Attach relevant documentation:

No files have been uploaded

DECLARATION

*** indicates a required field**

Conflict of Interest

Do you or member of your organisation have a relationship with a Council staff member or Councillor? *

Yes No

A relationship can include a direct relative, member or the household, neighbour, or friend. If you have any queries regarding this, please call Council's Community Partnerships Team on 9298 8000 to discuss.

Does your organisation have any members who are Council staff members or Councillor? *

Yes
 No

I declare that all information within this application is true and correct.

If successful the organisation commits to provide an acquittal of all grant funds to Council as outlined in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

Name *

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name *

Orana Neighbourhood House

Position (eg: President, Treasurer) *

[REDACTED]

Declaration Date *

01/12/2023

Must be a date.

Privacy Statement

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-77 From Orana Neighbourhood House
Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 5:24PM AEDT

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Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-87 From Wantirna South Football Club
 Form Submitted 15 Nov 2023, 1:49PM AEDT

MINOR GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Information

To be eligible for a Minor Grant, applying organisations must:

- Provide services, projects and programs that directly benefit residents of the City of Knox.
- Be a not-for-profit legal entity that provides services, support or activities to the Knox community (or auspiced by an incorporated body or other not-for-profit legal entity).
- Have an Australian Business Number or complete a Statement by Supplier form.
- Have a Committee of Management or similar governing body that accepts responsibility for the administration of the Grant.
- Hold adequate public liability insurance appropriate to the activity outlined in the application.

Your project start date must be after the Council meeting date where your application is being presented for approval. Projects that are due to begin before the Council meeting date at which they're being presented will not be considered.

Submission deadline Council meeting date

6 October 2023 23 October 2023

10 November 2023 27 November 2023

1 December 2023 18 December 2023

5 January 2024 22 January 2024

9 February 2024 26 February 2024

8 March 2024 25 March 2024

5 April 2024 22 April 2024

10 May 2024 27 May 2024

7 June 2024 24 June 2024

Application Amount	Incorporated or Auspiced?	Assessment & Determination	Acquittal
< \$500	Yes	Assessed and determined by the CEO or delegate.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$501 to \$1,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$1,001 to \$3,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Funding Agreement & Acquittal required.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-87 From Wantirna South Football Club
 Form Submitted 15 Nov 2023, 1:49PM AEDT

Application Category

Application Amount *

< \$500 \$501 to \$1,000 \$1,001 to \$3,000

APPLICANT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Applicant Details

Organisation Name *

Wantirna South Football Club

Organisation Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Contact Name

[Redacted]

Contact Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Australian phone number.

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Committee Secretary (Second Contact Person) *

[Redacted]

Mobile Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Must be an email address.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
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Please provide your ABN
 23 519 026 744

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	23 519 026 744
Entity name	WANTIRNA SOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB INC.
ABN status	Active
Entity type	Other Incorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	Yes
DGR Endorsed	No
ATO Charity Type	Not endorsed More information
ACNC Registration	No
Tax Concessions	No tax concessions
Main business location	3152 VIC
<i>Information retrieved at 4:20am today</i>	

Must be an ABN.
 provide ABN of auspice organisation if relevant. If no ABN please complete a Statement by Supplier declaration.

Is your organisation Incorporated? *

Yes No

If no, please confirm if you are a registered not-for-profit legal entity

Committee/Governance Structure

Complete the details of your full committee below:

Committee Member Full Name	Position	Email Address	Phone Number
			Must be a number.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
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Form Submitted 15 Nov 2023, 1:49PM AEDT

Incorporation Details

Please provide your Incorporated number

A0004875H

This can be found on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website

Child Safety

Knox City Council has a zero tolerance for child abuse. Organisations that provide services or facilities for children are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards to safeguard children.

Obligations are detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website [CCYP | Child Safe Standards](#)

Organisations providing services, facilities or activities for children under 18 must:

1. Ensure a representative from your organisation has completed relevant Child Safe Training, and
2. Complete a Statutory Declaration regarding compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards: [Click here to download Knox City Council Statutory Declaration Template](#)

Please confirm that your organisation is aware of its obligations as detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website *

Yes, we are aware of our obligations regarding the new Child Safe Standards that came into effect 1 July 2022 and can meet the requirements relevant to our organisation. We will attach a Statutory Declaration detailing our commitment to ensuring our organisation and all Council funded programs, services, events and/or activities are compliant with the Child Safe standards.

Our organisation does not provide any services, facilities or activities for children under 18.

If you have answered yes to the above, please attach your signed Statutory Declaration here

No files have been uploaded

Pre-application contact with Knox City Council

Have you discussed your application with any Knox Council Officer? If so, please provide details below:

Community Strengthening e-Bulletin Subscription

To subscribe to our e-Bulletin containing information on community training, grants and more, please follow the link below:

[Subscribe here](#)

PROJECT DETAILS

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
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 Form Submitted 15 Nov 2023, 1:49PM AEDT

*** indicates a required field**

Request Details

Project Title *

Replacement of Table Covers

Project Start Date *

15/01/2024

Must be a date after the Council meeting at which your application is being presented. See dates at beginning of this application for guidance.

Project End Date *

04/03/2024

Must be a date.

(a) Briefly describe details of the request: *

The current tables in the social rooms have a plastic cover over the chipboard top. These covers have holes and tears and have become stained.

The funding will enable us to replace all 8 table tops with laminated tops.

(b) What community benefit is gained from this project / activity? *

Apart from the aesthetics, it will enable us to clean the tables and ensure health requirements are met, particularly as the tables are used for meals and social events.

How many people who identify as volunteers (including committee members) are currently involved in keeping your group / organisation active? *

15

Must be a number

How many people will directly benefit from or participate in your project / activity? *

90

Must be a number

How many of the above are Knox residents? *

80

Must be a number

BUDGET

*** indicates a required field**

(c) What is the total cost of the project / activity? *

\$1,196.80

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

(d) What amount is being requested? *

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 Form Submitted 15 Nov 2023, 1:49PM AEDT

\$1,000.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Budget

Income = grant/s requested, contribution from your organisation, ticket sales etc

NOTE: total income must match total expenditure

Income	Income Amount	Expenditure	Expenditure Amount
Please describe income item (ie: council grant, your organisations cash contribution, ticket sales etc	\$AUD	Please describe expenditure item ie: venue hire	\$ AUD
Council Grant	\$1,000.00	replacement table tops	\$1,000.00
Club Contribution	\$196.80	replacement table tops	\$196.80
	\$		\$

Budget Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$1,196.80	\$1,196.80	\$0.00
This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated. Must total \$0.00

If your income is only the Minor Grant requested, the below will show \$0 and you will be directed to the following page

If your only income is only the Minor Grant requested, the total below will be \$0-\$196.80

This number/amount is calculated.

Budget - What will you use your Minor Grant request for?

Quotes/evidence of calculations are required to be attached for each item of expenditure.

Quotes may be attached next to each line of expenditure, or alternatively, a quote for all items may be attached in the section below.

Quotes may be a formal quotation or a screenshot of items from retailers websites.

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Expenditure	Amount	Quotes
Please describe expenditure item	\$ AUD	You can attach quotes here for individual items, or you can attach in bulk below
replacment of table tops	\$1,000.00	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>
	\$	<i>No files have been uploaded</i>

Quotes For Planned Expenses

Attach quotes for expenses here. *

Filename: Quote QU3221.pdf

File size: 72.1 kB

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Quotes must support all expenditure items listed in table above

Expenditure Amount from requested grant

\$0.00

If this doesn't total \$0, please adjust your expenditure table to match the grant amount requested.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*** indicates a required field**

Evidence of Public Liability

Evidence of current Public Liability Insurance must be supplied *

Filename: EFL-2023-Season-COC-Wantirna-South-Football-Club-Inc.pdf

File size: 97.3 kB

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Public Liability Expiry Date *

31/03/2024

If the expiry date is prior to project completion date, you may be requested to supply an updated certificate upon renewal

Please attach any other relevant supporting documentation. This can include:

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- **A project plan**
- **Letters of support**
- **Any other relevant information you feel is necessary to support your application**

Attach relevant documentation:

No files have been uploaded

DECLARATION

*** indicates a required field**

Conflict of Interest

Do you or member of your organisation have a relationship with a Council staff member or Councillor? *

Yes No

A relationship can include a direct relative, member or the household, neighbour, or friend. If you have any queries regarding this, please call Council's Community Partnerships Team on 9298 8000 to discuss.

Does your organisation have any members who are Council staff members or Councillor? *

Yes
 No

I declare that all information within this application is true and correct.

If successful the organisation commits to provide an acquittal of all grant funds to Council as outlined in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

Organisation Name *

Wantirna South Football Club

Position (eg: President, Treasurer) *

Declaration Date *

15/11/2023

Must be a date.

Privacy Statement

The personal information requested in this application form is for the purposes of administering the Minor Grants Program and will only be used by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. Whilst information relating to groups and the specific

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
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Form Submitted 15 Nov 2023, 1:49PM AEDT

request/project details will be published, personal information in regards to individuals will not be disclosed except as required by law.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-89 From Life Activities Club Knox Inc.
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 4:18PM AEDT

MINOR GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Information

To be eligible for a Minor Grant, applying organisations must:

- Provide services, projects and programs that directly benefit residents of the City of Knox.
- Be a not-for-profit legal entity that provides services, support or activities to the Knox community (or auspiced by an incorporated body or other not-for-profit legal entity).
- Have an Australian Business Number or complete a Statement by Supplier form.
- Have a Committee of Management or similar governing body that accepts responsibility for the administration of the Grant.
- Hold adequate public liability insurance appropriate to the activity outlined in the application.

Your project start date must be after the Council meeting date where your application is being presented for approval. Projects that are due to begin before the Council meeting date at which they're being presented will not be considered.

Submission deadline Council meeting date

6 October 2023 23 October 2023

10 November 2023 27 November 2023

1 December 2023 18 December 2023

5 January 2024 22 January 2024

9 February 2024 26 February 2024

8 March 2024 25 March 2024

5 April 2024 22 April 2024

10 May 2024 27 May 2024

7 June 2024 24 June 2024

Application Amount	Incorporated or Auspiced?	Assessment & Determination	Acquittal
< \$500	Yes	Assessed and determined by the CEO or delegate.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$501 to \$1,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$1,001 to \$2000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Funding Agreement & Acquittal required.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
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 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 4:18PM AEDT

Application Category

Application Amount *

< \$500 \$501 to \$1,000 \$1,001 to \$3,000

APPLICANT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Applicant Details

Organisation Name *

Life Activities Club Knox Inc.

Organisation Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Contact Name

[Redacted]

Address *

[Redacted]

Province/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Number *

[Redacted]

an phone number.

er

[Redacted]

alian phone number.

[Redacted]

Committee Secretary (Second Contact Person) *

[Redacted] ell

le Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Must be an email address.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-89 From Life Activities Club Knox Inc.
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 4:18PM AEDT

Please provide your ABN
 85 104 164 408

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	85 104 164 408
Entity name	Life Activities Clubs Victoria Inc
ABN status	Active
Entity type	Other Incorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	No
DGR Endorsed	No
ATO Charity Type	Not endorsed More information
ACNC Registration	No
Tax Concessions	No tax concessions
Main business location	3000 VIC

Information retrieved at 1:40am yesterday

Must be an ABN.
 provide ABN of auspice organisation if relevant. If no ABN please complete a Statement by Supplier declaration.

Is your organisation Incorporated? *

Yes No

If no, please confirm if you are a registered not-for-profit legal entity

Committee/Governance Structure

Complete the details of your full committee below:

Committee Member Full Name	Position	Email Address	Phone Number
			Must be a number.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-89 From Life Activities Club Knox Inc.
 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 4:18PM AEDT

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Incorporation Details

Please provide your Incorporated number

A0115291C

This can be found on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website

Child Safety

Knox City Council has a zero tolerance for child abuse. Organisations that provide services or facilities for children are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards to safeguard children.

Obligations are detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website [CCYP | Child Safe Standards](#)

Organisations providing services, facilities or activities for children under 18 must:

1. Ensure a representative from your organisation has completed relevant Child Safe Training, and
2. Complete a Statutory Declaration regarding compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards: [Click here to download Knox City Council Statutory Declaration Template](#)

Please confirm that your organisation is aware of its obligations as detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website *

Yes, we are aware of our obligations regarding the new Child Safe Standards that came into effect 1 July 2022 and can meet the requirements relevant to our organisation. We will attach a Statutory Declaration detailing our commitment to ensuring our organisation and all Council funded programs, services, events and/or activities are compliant with the Child Safe standards.

Our organisation does not provide any services, facilities or activities for children under 18.

If you have answered yes to the above, please attach your signed Statutory Declaration here

No files have been uploaded

Pre-application contact with Knox City Council

Have you discussed your application with any Knox Council Officer? If so, please provide details below:

Sheridan Stone, Program Lead, Social Connections

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
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Community Strengthening e-Bulletin Subscription

To subscribe to our e-Bulletin containing information on community training, grants and more, please follow the link below:

[Subscribe here](#)

PROJECT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Request Details

Project Title *

Wattle Hall cleaning of Chairs and upgrading of garden area at premises

Project Start Date *

15/01/2024

Must be a date after the Council meeting at which your application is being presented. See dates at beginning of this application for guidance.

Project End Date *

17/02/2024

Must be a date.

(a) Briefly describe details of the request: *

CLEANING OF CHAIRS

Our club inherited the furnishings previously property of the Ferntree Gully Seniors Citizens Club.

There are roughly 80 upholstered chairs which require cleaning. From a hygiene point of view and with COVID 19 still in the community they require cleaning and sanitation. It will be best to do this in the period between Christmas 2023 and the end of January 2024 when the hall is reduced in usage and the cleaners do their deep clean. We would like to use this provider as we have used the services of the cleaner previously for cleaning and repair of the blinds in the hall and were very happy with his service.

GARDEN UPGRADE

We have been attempting to keep the garden area tidy as per our license agreement requirements, but due to our membership age group it is proving quite difficult to keep it tidy. We would like to have the garden cleaned up, mulch distributed and edging to contain the mulch, to beautify our hall surrounds. We would need to employ a gardener to complete the work and maybe able to have ongoing maintenance. I am awaiting 3 quotes for this work. Unfortunately I could not get them in the time frame.

(b) What community benefit is gained from this project / activity? *

The hall will provide patrons with clean chairs when in use. Lessen the risk of COVID 19 transmission.

The garden area would be well maintained on a regular basis and the Council premises would look more attractive.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
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 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 4:18PM AEDT

How many people who identify as volunteers (including committee members) are currently involved in keeping your group / organisation active? *

200

Must be a number

How many people will directly benefit from or participate in your project / activity? *

200 - 300

Must be a number

How many of the above are Knox residents? *

180

Must be a number

BUDGET

*** indicates a required field**

(c) What is the total cost of the project / activity? *

\$2,040.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

(d) What amount is being requested? *

\$2,040.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Budget

Income = grant/s requested, contribution from your organisation, ticket sales etc

NOTE: total income must match total expenditure

Income	Income Amount	Expenditure	Expenditure Amount
Please describe income item (ie: council grant, your organisations cash contribution, ticket sales etc)	\$AUD	Please describe expenditure item ie: venue hire	\$ AUD
Council grant	\$1,040.00	Cleaning chairs	\$1,040.00
Council grant	\$1,000.00	Garden works	\$1,000.00
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
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 Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 4:18PM AEDT

	\$		\$
--	----	--	----

Budget Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$2,040.00	\$2,040.00	\$0.00
<small>This number/amount is calculated.</small>	<small>This number/amount is calculated.</small>	<small>This number/amount is calculated. Must total \$0.00</small>

If your income is only the Minor Grant requested, the below will show \$0 and you will be directed to the following page

If your only income is only the Minor Grant requested, the total below will be \$0
 \$0.00
This number/amount is calculated.

Quotes For Planned Expenses

Attach quotes for expenses here. *

Filename: Scan of Quote for chair cleaning 2023.pdf
 File size: 797.5 kB
A minimum of 1 file must be attached.
 Quotes must support all expenditure items listed in table above

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*** indicates a required field**

Evidence of Public Liability

Evidence of current Public Liability Insurance must be supplied *

Filename: Life Activities Club Knox Inc VMIA Certificate of currency 2023-24[23874].pdf
 File size: 174.9 kB
A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Public Liability Expiry Date *

30/06/2024
If the expiry date is prior to project completion date, you may be requested to supply an updated certificate upon renewal

Please attach any other relevant supporting documentation. This can include:

- A project plan
- Letters of support

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-89 From Life Activities Club Knox Inc.
Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 4:18PM AEDT

- **Any other relevant information you feel is necessary to support your application**

Attach relevant documentation:
No files have been uploaded

DECLARATION

*** indicates a required field**

Conflict of Interest

Do you or member of your organisation have a relationship with a Council staff member or Councillor? *

Yes No

A relationship can include a direct relative, member or the household, neighbour, or friend. If you have any queries regarding this, please call Council's Community Partnerships Team on 9298 8000 to discuss.

Does your organisation have any members who are Council staff members or Councillor? *

Yes
 No

I declare that all information within this application is true and correct.

If successful the organisation commits to provide an acquittal of all grant funds to Council as outlined in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

Name *

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name *

Life Activities Club Knox Inc.

Position (eg: President, Treasurer) *

[REDACTED]

Declaration Date *

01/12/2023

Must be a date.

Privacy Statement

The personal information requested in this application form is for the purposes of administering the Minor Grants Program and will only be used by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. Whilst information relating to groups and the specific request/project details will be published, personal information in regards to individuals will not be disclosed except as required by law.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-89 From Life Activities Club Knox Inc.
Form Submitted 1 Dec 2023, 4:18PM AEDT

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 2 of 2)
Application No. 2324-MGP-90 From The Salvation Army
 Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 11:54AM AEDT

MINOR GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Information

To be eligible for a Minor Grant, applying organisations must:

- Provide services, projects and programs that directly benefit residents of the City of Knox.
- Be a not-for-profit legal entity that provides services, support or activities to the Knox community (or auspiced by an incorporated body or other not-for-profit legal entity).
- Have an Australian Business Number or complete a Statement by Supplier form.
- Have a Committee of Management or similar governing body that accepts responsibility for the administration of the Grant.
- Hold adequate public liability insurance appropriate to the activity outlined in the application.

Your project start date must be after the Council meeting date where your application is being presented for approval. Projects that are due to begin before the Council meeting date at which they're being presented will not be considered.

Submission deadline Council meeting date

6 October 2023 23 October 2023

10 November 2023 27 November 2023

1 December 2023 18 December 2023

5 January 2024 22 January 2024

9 February 2024 26 February 2024

8 March 2024 25 March 2024

5 April 2024 22 April 2024

10 May 2024 27 May 2024

7 June 2024 24 June 2024

Application Amount	Incorporated or Auspiced?	Assessment & Determination	Acquittal
< \$500	Yes	Assessed and determined by the CEO or delegate.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$501 to \$1,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$1,001 to \$3,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Funding Agreement & Acquittal required.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 2 of 2)
Application No. 2324-MGP-90 From The Salvation Army
 Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 11:54AM AEDT

Application Category

Application Amount *

< \$500 \$501 to \$1,000 \$1,001 to \$3,000

APPLICANT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Applicant Details

Organisation Name *

The Salvation Army

Organisation Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Contact Name

[Redacted]

Contact Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Contact Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Australian phone number.

Mobile Number *

[Redacted]

Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Committee Secretary (Second Contact Person) *

[Redacted]

Mobile Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Must be an email address.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 2 of 2)
Application No. 2324-MGP-90 From The Salvation Army
 Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 11:54AM AEDT

Please provide your ABN
 64 472 238 844

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	64 472 238 844
Entity name	The Trustee for THE SALVATION ARMY (VICTORIA) PROPERTY TRUST
ABN status	Active
Entity type	Other trust
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	Yes
DGR Endorsed	No
ATO Charity Type	Charity More information
ACNC Registration	Registered
Tax Concessions	FBT Rebate, GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption
Main business location	3130 VIC
<i>Information retrieved at 11:21am today</i>	

Must be an ABN.
 provide ABN of auspice organisation if relevant. If no ABN please complete a Statement by Supplier declaration.

Is your organisation Incorporated? *

Yes No

If no, please confirm if you are a registered not-for-profit legal entity

Committee/Governance Structure

Complete the details of your full committee below:

Committee Member Full Name	Position	Email Address	Phone Number
			Must be a number.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024

Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 2 of 2)

Application No. 2324-MGP-90 From The Salvation Army

Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 11:54AM AEDT

Is your organisation another type of organisation established under an Act passed by the State or Commonwealth (i.e. a registered charity)? *

Yes No

If your organisation isn't incorporated and not registered as a not-for-profit (ie. a registered charity), you will require an auspice who is one or both of these things.

Child Safety

Knox City Council has a zero tolerance for child abuse. Organisations that provide services or facilities for children are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards to safeguard children.

Obligations are detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website [CCYP | Child Safe Standards](#)

Organisations providing services, facilities or activities for children under 18 must:

1. Ensure a representative from your organisation has completed relevant Child Safe Training, and
2. Complete a Statutory Declaration regarding compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards: [Click here to download Knox City Council Statutory Declaration Template](#)

Please confirm that your organisation is aware of its obligations as detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website *

Yes, we are aware of our obligations regarding the new Child Safe Standards that came into effect 1 July 2022 and can meet the requirements relevant to our organisation. We will attach a Statutory Declaration detailing our commitment to ensuring our organisation and all Council funded programs, services, events and/or activities are compliant with the Child Safe standards.

Our organisation does not provide any services, facilities or activities for children under 18.

If you have answered yes to the above, please attach your signed Statutory Declaration here

No files have been uploaded

Pre-application contact with Knox City Council

Have you discussed your application with any Knox Council Officer? If so, please provide details below:

Yes - Camille Bowles

Community Strengthening e-Bulletin Subscription

To subscribe to our e-Bulletin containing information on community training, grants and more, please follow the link below:

[Subscribe here](#)

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Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024 (Version 2 of 2)
Application No. 2324-MGP-90 From The Salvation Army
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PROJECT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Request Details

Project Title *

The Pantry

Project Start Date *

07/02/2024

Must be a date after the Council meeting at which your application is being presented. See dates at beginning of this application for guidance.

Project End Date *

31/05/2024

Must be a date.

(a) Briefly describe details of the request: *

We have been providing emergency relief and food for residents of Knox for several years. We need to refit our premises in order to properly store and display the groceries that are available. In order to do this we need to purchase three display racks and shelving at a cost of approximately \$300 each, and a double door freezer costs range approximately \$2417. Total Cost \$3.305.00 - the council grant of \$3000.00 will enable us to purchase these items and member donations will cover the rest of the total cost

(b) What community benefit is gained from this project / activity? *

This will assist in providing food security for those people in Knox who are in crisis and need assistance in accessing essential groceries to feed their families.

Community members will be invited to select the groceries they need following a brief assessment to determine how best to support these families.

How many people who identify as volunteers (including committee members) are currently involved in keeping your group / organisation active? *

Approximately 60

Must be a number

How many people will directly benefit from or participate in your project / activity? *

500

Must be a number

How many of the above are Knox residents? *

500

Must be a number

BUDGET

*** indicates a required field**

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
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(c) What is the total cost of the project / activity? *

\$12,000.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

(d) What amount is being requested? *

\$3,000.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Budget

Income = grant/s requested, contribution from your organisation, ticket sales etc

NOTE: total income must match total expenditure

Income	Income Amount	Expenditure	Expenditure Amount
Please describe income item (ie: council grant, your organisations cash contribution, ticket sales etc	\$AUD	Please describe expenditure item ie: venue hire	\$ AUD
Red Shield Appeal	\$6,000.00	groceries	\$6,000.00
Members contribution	\$2,000.00	fruit & veg	\$2,000.00
Premises costs	\$1,000.00	rent & utilities	\$1,000.00
Council grant	\$3,000.00	shelving & Freezer	\$3,000.00
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$

Budget Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated.	This number/amount is calculated. Must total \$0.00

If your income is only the Minor Grant requested, the below will show \$0 and you will be directed to the following page

If your only income is only the Minor Grant requested, the total below will be \$0

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-\$9,000.00

This number/amount is calculated.

Budget - What will you use your Minor Grant request for?

Quotes/evidence of calculations are required to be attached for each item of expenditure.

Quotes may be attached next to each line of expenditure, or alternatively, a quote for all items may be attached in the section below.

Quotes may be a formal quotation or a screenshot of items from retailers websites.

Expenditure	Amount	Quotes
Please describe expenditure item	\$ AUD	You can attach quotes here for individual items, or you can attach in bulk below
Shelving	\$888.30	Filename: Pinnacle Hardware.docx File size: 160.2 kB
Display Freezer	\$2,111.70	Filename: Quote_display freezer.png File size: 716.2 kB
	\$	No files have been uploaded
	\$	No files have been uploaded
	\$	No files have been uploaded
	\$	No files have been uploaded
	\$	No files have been uploaded
	\$	No files have been uploaded

Quotes For Planned Expenses

Attach quotes for expenses here. *

Filename: Pinnacle Hardware.docx
File size: 160.2 kB

Filename: Quote_display freezer.png
File size: 716.2 kB

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.
Quotes must support all expenditure items listed in table above

Expenditure Amount from requested grant

\$0.00

If this doesn't total \$0, please adjust your expenditure table to match the grant amount requested.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
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Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 11:54AM AEDT

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*** indicates a required field**

Evidence of Public Liability

Evidence of current Public Liability Insurance must be supplied *

Filename: TSA_\$20m_Public Liability_COC_2023-24.pdf

File size: 109.6 kB

A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Public Liability Expiry Date *

01/07/2024

If the expiry date is prior to project completion date, you may be requested to supply an updated certificate upon renewal

Please attach any other relevant supporting documentation. This can include:

- **A project plan**
- **Letters of support**
- **Any other relevant information you feel is necessary to support your application**

Attach relevant documentation:

Filename: Project Plan.docx

File size: 26.6 kB

DECLARATION

*** indicates a required field**

Conflict of Interest

Do you or member of your organisation have a relationship with a Council staff member or Councillor? *

Yes No

A relationship can include a direct relative, member or the household, neighbour, or friend. If you have any queries regarding this, please call Council's Community Partnerships Team on 9298 8000 to discuss.

Does your organisation have any members who are Council staff members or Councillor? *

Yes
 No

I declare that all information within this application is true and correct.

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If successful the organisation commits to provide an acquittal of all grant funds to Council as outlined in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name *

The Salvation Army

Position (eg: President, Treasurer) *

[REDACTED]

Declaration Date *

28/11/2023

Must be a date.

Privacy Statement

The personal information requested in this application form is for the purposes of administering the Minor Grants Program and will only be used by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. Whilst information relating to groups and the specific request/project details will be published, personal information in regards to individuals will not be disclosed except as required by law.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-94 From recare
 Form Submitted 30 Nov 2023, 5:38PM AEDT

MINOR GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Information

To be eligible for a Minor Grant, applying organisations must:

- Provide services, projects and programs that directly benefit residents of the City of Knox.
- Be a not-for-profit legal entity that provides services, support or activities to the Knox community (or auspiced by an incorporated body or other not-for-profit legal entity).
- Have an Australian Business Number or complete a Statement by Supplier form.
- Have a Committee of Management or similar governing body that accepts responsibility for the administration of the Grant.
- Hold adequate public liability insurance appropriate to the activity outlined in the application.

Your project start date must be after the Council meeting date where your application is being presented for approval. Projects that are due to begin before the Council meeting date at which they're being presented will not be considered.

Submission deadline Council meeting date

6 October 2023 23 October 2023

10 November 2023 27 November 2023

1 December 2023 18 December 2023

5 January 2024 22 January 2024

9 February 2024 26 February 2024

8 March 2024 25 March 2024

5 April 2024 22 April 2024

10 May 2024 27 May 2024

7 June 2024 24 June 2024

Application Amount	Incorporated or Auspiced?	Assessment & Determination	Acquittal
< \$500	Yes	Assessed and determined by the CEO or delegate.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$501 to \$1,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$1,001 to \$3,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Funding Agreement & Acquittal required.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
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Application Category

Application Amount *

< \$500 \$501 to \$1,000 \$1,001 to \$3,000

APPLICANT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Applicant Details

Organisation Name *

recare

Organisation Address *

[Redacted]

State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Contact Name

[Redacted]

Contact Address *

[Redacted]

Australia

State/Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Australian phone number.

Phone Number

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Committee Secretary (Second Contact Person) *

[Redacted]

Mobile Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Must be an email address.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
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 Form Submitted 30 Nov 2023, 5:38PM AEDT

Please provide your ABN
 38 538 737 125

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	38 538 737 125
Entity name	Recare
ABN status	Active
Entity type	Other Unincorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	No
DGR Endorsed	No
ATO Charity Type	Not endorsed More information
ACNC Registration	No
Tax Concessions	No tax concessions
Main business location	3156 VIC
<i>Information retrieved at 1:22am today</i>	

Must be an ABN.
 provide ABN of auspice organisation if relevant. If no ABN please complete a Statement by Supplier declaration.

Is your organisation Incorporated? *

Yes No

If no, please confirm if you are a registered not-for-profit legal entity

Committee/Governance Structure

Complete the details of your full committee below:

Committee Member Full Name	Position	Email Address	Phone Number
			Must be a number.

Is your organisation another type of organisation established under an Act passed by the State or Commonwealth (i.e. a registered charity)? *

Yes No

If your organisation isn't incorporated and not registered as a not-for-profit (ie. a registered charity), you will require an auspice who is one or both of these things.

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Child Safety

Knox City Council has a zero tolerance for child abuse. Organisations that provide services or facilities for children are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards to safeguard children.

Obligations are detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website [CCYP | Child Safe Standards](#)

Organisations providing services, facilities or activities for children under 18 must:

1. Ensure a representative from your organisation has completed relevant Child Safe Training, and
2. Complete a Statutory Declaration regarding compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards: [Click here to download Knox City Council Statutory Declaration Template](#)

Please confirm that your organisation is aware of its obligations as detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website *

Yes, we are aware of our obligations regarding the new Child Safe Standards that came into effect 1 July 2022 and can meet the requirements relevant to our organisation. We will attach a Statutory Declaration detailing our commitment to ensuring our organisation and all Council funded programs, services, events and/or activities are compliant with the Child Safe standards.

Our organisation does not provide any services, facilities or activities for children under 18.

If you have answered yes to the above, please attach your signed Statutory Declaration here

No files have been uploaded

Pre-application contact with Knox City Council

Have you discussed your application with any Knox Council Officer? If so, please provide details below:

yes with Belinda

Community Strengthening e-Bulletin Subscription

To subscribe to our e-Bulletin containing information on community training, grants and more, please follow the link below:

[Subscribe here](#)

PROJECT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Request Details

Project Title *

New stove at Recare

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-94 From recare
 Form Submitted 30 Nov 2023, 5:38PM AEDT

Project Start Date *

01/01/2024

Must be a date after the Council meeting at which your application is being presented. See dates at beginning of this application for guidance.

Project End Date *

31/12/2029

Must be a date.

(a) Briefly describe details of the request: *

To replace oven at the venue where our meetings are held as this is used for community purposes. We also know that we can use this for as long as we can. The oven is old and I believe its had its life span. We have a long term agreement with St Simon's parish where the meetings are held in their parish meeting hall.

(b) What community benefit is gained from this project / activity? *

Recare holds a function for carers and care receivers for people living with long term illness and dementia, where they can come in safely and speak to other people in the same situation. Also we supply morning tea and a 2 course lunch with a 6 piece band where they can dance and sing along. We do not charge for anything.

How many people who identify as volunteers (including committee members) are currently involved in keeping your group / organisation active? *

14

Must be a number

How many people will directly benefit from or participate in your project / activity? *

65 to 80

Must be a number

How many of the above are Knox residents? *

100 per cent

Must be a number

BUDGET

*** indicates a required field**

(c) What is the total cost of the project / activity? *

\$3,200.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

(d) What amount is being requested? *

\$3,000.00

Must be a dollar amount.

What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Budget

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
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Income = grant/s requested, contribution from your organisation, ticket sales etc
NOTE: total income must match total expenditure

Income	Income Amount	Expenditure	Expenditure Amount
Please describe income item (ie: council grant, your organisations cash contribution, ticket sales etc)	\$AUD	Please describe expenditure item ie: venue hire	\$ AUD
3000	\$3,000.00	oven	\$3,000.00

Budget Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$3,000.00 <small>This number/amount is calculated.</small>	\$3,000.00 <small>This number/amount is calculated.</small>	\$0.00 <small>This number/amount is calculated. Must total \$0.00</small>

If your income is only the Minor Grant requested, the below will show \$0 and you will be directed to the following page

If your only income is only the Minor Grant requested, the total below will be \$0
 \$0.00
This number/amount is calculated.

Quotes For Planned Expenses

Attach quotes for expenses here. *

Filename: westinghouse WFE9546SD oven.png
 File size: 191.5 kB
A minimum of 1 file must be attached.
 Quotes must support all expenditure items listed in table above

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*** indicates a required field**

Evidence of Public Liability

Evidence of current Public Liability Insurance must be supplied *

Filename: CertificateOfCurrency.pdf
 File size: 33.1 kB
A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
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Application No. 2324-MGP-94 From recare
 Form Submitted 30 Nov 2023, 5:38PM AEDT

Public Liability Expiry Date *

29/06/2024

If the expiry date is prior to project completion date, you may be requested to supply an updated certificate upon renewal

Please attach any other relevant supporting documentation. This can include:

- **A project plan**
- **Letters of support**
- **Any other relevant information you feel is necessary to support your application**

Attach relevant documentation:

No files have been uploaded

DECLARATION

*** indicates a required field**

Conflict of Interest**Do you or member of your organisation have a relationship with a Council staff member or Councillor? ***

Yes No

A relationship can include a direct relative, member or the household, neighbour, or friend. If you have any queries regarding this, please call Council's Community Partnerships Team on 9298 8000 to discuss.

Does your organisation have any members who are Council staff members or Councillor? *

Yes
 No

I declare that all information within this application is true and correct.

If successful the organisation commits to provide an acquittal of all grant funds to Council as outlined in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

██████████

Organisation Name *

Recare

Position (eg: President, Treasurer) *

██████████

Declaration Date *

30/11/2023

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
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Must be a date.

Privacy Statement

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Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-92 From Mr Perfect Incorporated
 Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 8:56AM AEDT

MINOR GRANTS PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Information

To be eligible for a Minor Grant, applying organisations must:

- Provide services, projects and programs that directly benefit residents of the City of Knox.
- Be a not-for-profit legal entity that provides services, support or activities to the Knox community (or auspiced by an incorporated body or other not-for-profit legal entity).
- Have an Australian Business Number or complete a Statement by Supplier form.
- Have a Committee of Management or similar governing body that accepts responsibility for the administration of the Grant.
- Hold adequate public liability insurance appropriate to the activity outlined in the application.

Your project start date must be after the Council meeting date where your application is being presented for approval. Projects that are due to begin before the Council meeting date at which they're being presented will not be considered.

Submission deadline Council meeting date

6 October 2023 23 October 2023

10 November 2023 27 November 2023

1 December 2023 18 December 2023

5 January 2024 22 January 2024

9 February 2024 26 February 2024

8 March 2024 25 March 2024

5 April 2024 22 April 2024

10 May 2024 27 May 2024

7 June 2024 24 June 2024

Application Amount	Incorporated or Auspiced?	Assessment & Determination	Acquittal
< \$500	Yes	Assessed and determined by the CEO or delegate.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$501 to \$1,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Proof of expenditure / purchase (i.e. receipt).
\$1,001 to \$3,000	Yes	Assessed by the CEO or delegate. Determined by Council at the monthly ordinary meeting of Council.	Funding Agreement & Acquittal required.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-92 From Mr Perfect Incorporated
 Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 8:56AM AEDT

Application Category

Application Amount *

< \$500 \$501 to \$1,000 \$1,001 to \$3,000

APPLICANT DETAILS

*** indicates a required field**

Applicant Details

Organisation Name *

Mr Perfect Incorporated

Organisation Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Contact Name

[Redacted]

Contact Address *

[Redacted]

Province, Postcode, and Country are required.

Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Australian phone number.

Mobile Number

[Redacted]

Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Committee Secretary (Second Contact Person) *

[Redacted]

Mobile Phone Number *

[Redacted]

Must be an Australian phone number.

[Redacted]

Must be an email address.

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-92 From Mr Perfect Incorporated
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Please provide your ABN

91 690 308 488

Information from the Australian Business Register	
ABN	91 690 308 488
Entity name	Mr. Perfect Incorporated
ABN status	Active
Entity type	Other Incorporated Entity
Goods & Services Tax (GST)	Yes
DGR Endorsed	Yes (Item 1)
ATO Charity Type	Health Promotion Charity More information
ACNC Registration	Registered
Tax Concessions	FBT Exemption, GST Concession, Income Tax Exemption
Main business location	2088 NSW

Information retrieved at 2:28am yesterday

Must be an ABN.

provide ABN of auspice organisation if relevant. If no ABN please complete a Statement by Supplier declaration.

Is your organisation Incorporated? *

Yes No

If no, please confirm if you are a registered not-for-profit legal entity

Committee/Governance Structure

Complete the details of your full committee below:

Committee Member Full Name	Position	Email Address	Phone Number
			Must be a number.
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Incorporation Details

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024

Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024

Application No. 2324-MGP-92 From Mr Perfect Incorporated

Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 8:56AM AEDT

Please provide your Incorporated number

INC1600897

This can be found on the Consumer Affairs Victoria website

Child Safety

Knox City Council has a zero tolerance for child abuse. Organisations that provide services or facilities for children are required by law to comply with the Victorian Child Safe Standards to safeguard children.

Obligations are detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website [CCYP | Child Safe Standards](#)

Organisations providing services, facilities or activities for children under 18 must:

1. Ensure a representative from your organisation has completed relevant Child Safe Training, and
2. Complete a Statutory Declaration regarding compliance with the Victorian Child Safe Standards: [Click here to download Knox City Council Statutory Declaration Template](#)

Please confirm that your organisation is aware of its obligations as detailed on the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP) website *

Yes, we are aware of our obligations regarding the new Child Safe Standards that came into effect 1 July 2022 and can meet the requirements relevant to our organisation. We will attach a Statutory Declaration detailing our commitment to ensuring our organisation and all Council funded programs, services, events and/or activities are compliant with the Child Safe standards.

Our organisation does not provide any services, facilities or activities for children under 18.

If you have answered yes to the above, please attach your signed Statutory Declaration here

No files have been uploaded

Pre-application contact with Knox City Council

Have you discussed your application with any Knox Council Officer? If so, please provide details below:

No

Community Strengthening e-Bulletin Subscription

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[Subscribe here](#)

PROJECT DETAILS

* indicates a required field

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-92 From Mr Perfect Incorporated
Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 8:56AM AEDT

Request Details

Project Title *

Mr Perfect Incorporated

Project Start Date *

21/01/2024

Must be a date after the Council meeting at which your application is being presented. See dates at beginning of this application for guidance.

Project End Date *

21/01/2029

Must be a date.

(a) Briefly describe details of the request: *

Mr Perfect holds free community BBQ's once a month from 10.am - 12.00pm on a Sunday morning. Men are encouraged to come along, have a free sausage sandwich, get out in the sunshine, with the main objective being for local men to meet and have a chat and make a connection with other men from the local community.

Mr Perfect operates in over 60 locations all across Australia (including name LGA) for more than 5 years. We have had thousands of men turn up to our local Sunday morning BBQ's, who make connections with other men, creating the opportunity to either give a hand, or possibly get some advice that could be crucial at that time, and offer an alternative to isolation and loneliness.

We offer a unique, non-clinical opportunity for men to meet and connect. Benefits include an increased sense of community felt by men and their families and increased mood which will lead to better mental health outcomes. Simply offering an opportunity for men to meet and chat (zero tolerance alcohol policy, get in the sunshine, have a free bite to eat) meet our amazing volunteers (Hosts) and other local men.

(b) What community benefit is gained from this project / activity? *

We offer a unique, non-clinical opportunity for men to meet and connect. Benefits include an increased sense of community felt by men, increased mood which will lead to better mental health outcomes. Offering the opportunity for men to meet and chat (zero alcohol, get in the sunshine, a free bite to eat) meet our amazing volunteers (Hosts) and other local men. Anyone who attends our BBQ events - whether they be a person who is doing well or someone in a less fortunate state, or anyone who is in need of community, someone to talk to.

By the aforementioned reasons - we have found very profound positive impact on attendees at our BBQ's simply via human connection, sunshine and a free bite to eat. Connections are made, suggestions, advice, introductions are and can be made that may change the tide and offer a lonely or desperate person a ray of hope.

We offer a unique, non-clinical opportunity for men to meet and connect. Benefits include an increased sense of community felt by men, increased mood which will lead to better mental health outcomes. Offering the opportunity for men to meet and chat (zero alcohol, get in the sunshine, a free bite to eat) meet our amazing volunteers (Hosts) and other local men.

Anyone who attends our BBQ events - whether they be a person who is doing well or someone in a less fortunate state, or anyone who is in need of community, someone to talk to.

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How many people who identify as volunteers (including committee members) are currently involved in keeping your group / organisation active? *

60
 Must be a number

How many people will directly benefit from or participate in your project / activity? *

100
 Must be a number

How many of the above are Knox residents? *

100
 Must be a number

BUDGET

*** indicates a required field**

(c) What is the total cost of the project / activity? *

\$3,000.00
 Must be a dollar amount.
 What is the total budgeted cost (dollars) of your project?

(d) What amount is being requested? *

\$3,000.00
 Must be a dollar amount.
 What is the total financial support you are requesting in this application?

Budget

Income = grant/s requested, contribution from your organisation, ticket sales etc

NOTE: total income must match total expenditure

Income	Income Amount	Expenditure	Expenditure Amount
Please describe income item (ie: council grant, your organisations cash contribution, ticket sales etc)	\$AUD	Please describe expenditure item ie: venue hire	\$ AUD
LGA Grant	\$3,000.00	Operations	\$3,000.00
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$
	\$		\$

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-92 From Mr Perfect Incorporated
 Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 8:56AM AEDT

	\$		\$
	\$		\$

Budget Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$0.00
<small>This number/amount is calculated.</small>	<small>This number/amount is calculated.</small>	<small>This number/amount is calculated. Must total \$0.00</small>

If your income is only the Minor Grant requested, the below will show \$0 and you will be directed to the following page

If your only income is only the Minor Grant requested, the total below will be \$0
 \$0.00
This number/amount is calculated.

Quotes For Planned Expenses

Attach quotes for expenses here. *

Filename: OPERATIONAL COSTS for Mr Perfect Incorporated.docx
 File size: 23.4 kB
A minimum of 1 file must be attached.
 Quotes must support all expenditure items listed in table above

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING INFORMATION

*** indicates a required field**

Evidence of Public Liability

Evidence of current Public Liability Insurance must be supplied *

Filename: Mr Perfect Certificate of Insurance - 2023-04-27T161528.471-PORT SORREL ADDED AS LISTED PARTY.pdf
 File size: 225.9 kB
A minimum of 1 file must be attached.

Public Liability Expiry Date *

01/09/2024
If the expiry date is prior to project completion date, you may be requested to supply an updated certificate upon renewal

Please attach any other relevant supporting documentation. This can include:

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-92 From Mr Perfect Incorporated
 Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 8:56AM AEDT

- **A project plan**
- **Letters of support**
- **Any other relevant information you feel is necessary to support your application**

Attach relevant documentation:

Filename: Mr Perfect Incorporated Bank Statement.pdf

File size: 7.0 kB

Filename: MR. P_CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AS AN ASSOCIATION.pdf

File size: 219.9 kB

DECLARATION

*** indicates a required field**

Conflict of Interest

Do you or member of your organisation have a relationship with a Council staff member or Councillor? *

Yes No

A relationship can include a direct relative, member of the household, neighbour, or friend. If you have any queries regarding this, please call Council's Community Partnerships Team on 9298 8000 to discuss.

Does your organisation have any members who are Council staff members or Councillor? *

Yes
 No

I declare that all information within this application is true and correct.

If successful the organisation commits to provide an acquittal of all grant funds to Council as outlined in the Minor Grants Program Procedure.

██████████

Organisation Name *

Mr Perfect Incorporated

Position (eg: President, Treasurer) *

██████

Declaration Date *

28/11/2023

Must be a date.

Privacy Statement

Minor Grants Program - 2023-2024
Minor Grant Program Application Form 2023-2024
Application No. 2324-MGP-92 From Mr Perfect Incorporated
Form Submitted 28 Nov 2023, 8:56AM AEDT

The personal information requested in this application form is for the purposes of administering the Minor Grants Program and will only be used by Council for that primary purpose or directly related purposes. Whilst information relating to groups and the specific request/project details will be published, personal information in regards to individuals will not be disclosed except as required by law.

2022-2023 Individual Excellence Grants			
Application Date	Applicant	Request details	Grant
2022-07-16	Rowville resident	To compete in artistic skating at the World Skate Games in Argentina in October-November 2022.	\$400
2022-08-06	Rowville resident	To represent Australia in artistic skating at the Oceania Championships in Whanganui, New Zealand in May 2023.	\$400
2022-08-07	Rowville resident	Daughter to compete in the FJ15 Junior Division at the Australian Disc Golf Championships in Queensland in November 2022.	\$250
2022-08-07	Rowville resident	Son to compete in the MJ12 Junior Division at the Australian Disc Golf Championships in Queensland in November 2022.	\$250
2022-09-20	Knoxfield resident	To participate in the Gryphon Cup International Hockey Tournament in Perth in November 2022.	\$250
2022-10-08	Lysterfield resident	Daughter selected to compete at the Australian Schools Volleyball Championship on the Gold Coast in December 2022.	\$250
2022-10-08	Lysterfield resident	Son selected to compete in the Australian Schools Volleyball Championships on the Gold Coast in December 2022.	\$250
2022-10-16	Wantirna South resident	To compete as part of the Pacific Elite Junior Pom Dance Team at the Cheerleading Summit in Orlando, USA in April 2023.	\$400
2022-10-23	Bayswater resident	To compete in the Victoria Years 10 to 12 Track and Field Team at the School Sport Australia Championships in Brisbane in November 2022.	\$250
2022-11-15	Boronia resident	Selected to play in the 18 and Under Victoria State Indigenous Netball Team at the Budgies National Indigenous Championships being held on the Gold Coast in January 2023.	\$250
2022-11-16	Ferntree Gully resident	To represent Australia at the 2022 FINA World Junior Diving Championships in Montreal, Canada in November-December 2022.	\$400
2022-12-22	Boronia resident	To compete at the World University Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida, USA in January 2023 as part of the Monash University Cheerleading and Dance team.	\$400
2022-12-23	Knoxfield resident	To compete in the Monash University Cheerleading and Dance Team at the World University Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida, USA in January 2023.	\$400
2023-01-17	Rowville resident	To represent Australia at the Over 50's Cricket World Cup being held in South Africa in March 2023.	\$400
2023-01-27	Scoresby resident	To compete in the UNAA World Series being held in Florida, USA, in July 2023 as part of the Australian Ninja World Team.	\$400

2023-02-07	Ferntree Gully resident	To compete at the World Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Florida, USA in April 2023.	\$400
2023-03-01	Ferntree Gully resident	Representing Victoria in the Australian Athletics Championships being held in Brisbane for the Men's Open Javelin from March-April 2023.	\$250
2023-03-14	Rowville resident	To represent Australia as part of the Australian National Hip Hop Team and also the Open Jazz and Open Lyrical Division at The Dance Worlds in Lake Buena Vista, Florida, USA in April 2023.	\$400
2023-03-28	The Basin resident	To compete as part of the U13 (ALAC) squad at the 2023 Australian Little Athletics Championships in April at the Lakeside Stadium, Melbourne.	\$150
2023-03-31	Knoxfield resident	Selected to represent Australia as part of the men's Boomerang Basketball Team at the Virtus Global Games being held in Vichy, France in June 2023.	\$400
2023-04-04	Wantirna resident	To represent Team Australia in the Freestyle Pom Division at the International Cheer Union World Championship, USA, in April 2023.	\$400
2023-04-12	Rowville resident	Selected to represent Victoria in the State Calisthenics Juniors Team at the National Calisthenics competition in Brisbane in July 2023.	\$250
2023-04-18	Ferntree Gully resident	To represent Australia with The Pearls Basketball Team competing in France in June 2023.	\$400
2023-04-30	Bayswater resident	To represent Victoria at the Australian Artistic Rollerskating National Championships being held in Bunbury, Western Australia, in July 2023.	\$250
2023-05-03	Wantirna resident	Selected to play at the Australian Junior Baseball Championships in Mildura, Victoria in May 2023.	\$150
2023-05-10	Bayswater resident	Selected to represent Victoria in the U18 squad in the Youth Ultimate Championships (AYUC) being held at Beenleigh, Queensland, in June 2023.	\$250
2023-05-17	Ferntree Gully resident	To compete in the Australia Masters Weightlifting Championship being held in Sydney in June 2023.	\$250
2023-05-30	Ferntree Gully resident	Represent Australia at World Mountain Bike Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, in August 2023 racing in the Juniors (Under 19) category in Cross Country Olympic.	\$400
2023-06-22	Boronia resident	To attend the Aotearoa Leadership Tour in New Zealand which brings together 16 young Australians in Years 10 – 12 to explore indigenous rights, culture and reconciliation from September-October 2023.	\$400
	Total		\$9,300

Q1 2023-2024 Individual Excellence Grants			
Application Date	Applicant	Request details	Grant
2023-08-03	Boronia resident	Daughter to compete in School Sports Victoria U16 Basketball team in Perth in August 2023	\$250
2023-08-08	The Basin resident	Daughter to represent Team Vic in the School Sports Australia U11 Cross Country Championship in Canberra in August 2023	\$250
2023-08-15	Rowville resident	Daughter to compete at Indoor Netball Junior Nationals in Brisbane from November to December 2023	\$250
2023-08-16	Rowville resident	Son to compete in MJ15 competition at the Junior National Disc Golf Championship in Hobart in November	\$250
2023-08-29	Rowville resident	Son to represent Australia in the U18 Baseball World Cup in Taiwan from August to September 2023	\$400
2023-09-02	Rowville resident	Daughter to represent Victoria in U13 Hockey Nationals in Newcastle in September 2023	\$250
2023-09-07	Wantirna resident	Daughter to compete in Queensland National Volleyball Championships in December 2023	\$250
2023-09-12	Lysterfield resident	Daughter to compete in Baseball Victoria team in 2023 Barclay Cup Tournament in Western Australia in October 2023	\$250
2023-09-12	Rowville resident	Son to represent Victoria at the Australian Volleyball Schools Cup in Queensland in December 2023	\$250
2023-09-17	Ferntree Gully resident	Daughter to represent Australia in the Melbourne Cheer Academy Mystics International team competing in London in July 2024	\$400
2023-09-17	Ferntree Gully resident	Daughter to represent Australia in the Melbourne Cheer Academy Titana International team competing in London in July 2024	\$400
2023-10-18	Rowville resident	To represent Australia at the CrossFit Masters League Games in New Zealand in October 2023	\$400
2023-09-25	Ferntree Gully resident	Son to compete with the School Sports Victoria Team Track and Fields 10-12 age group team at the Nationals in Tasmania in November 2023	\$250
	Total		\$3850

8.5 Recruitment/Annual Report Youth Advisory Committee

SUMMARY: Team Leader Youth Participation and Counselling, Katie Scott

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) is an advisory committee to Council with the purpose of providing an opportunity for young people to have a voice and to assist Council with its community engagement processes.

This report presents recommendations for the appointment of 15 new members to the Youth Advisory Committee for 2024, as well as providing an overview of the YAC achievements for 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

1. Appoint the following 15 applicants to the Youth Advisory Committee 2024, and return of ten current members as presented in Confidential Attachment 1:

Name	Category
1	12-17 years
2	18-25 years
3	Community Rep

2. Approve a temporary variation to the Youth Advisory Committee Terms of Reference relating to membership categories – allowing additional members in the 12-17 years range to join the Committee for 2024.
3. Note the achievements of the Youth Advisory Committee 2023.
4. Thank the outgoing members of the Youth Advisory Committee for their valuable contributions.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) provides advice to Council concerning issues that affect the lives and wellbeing of young people in Knox.

The aim of the YAC is to:

- Provide the opportunity for young people to give their ideas and opinions relating to the development of Council's strategic plans and policies;
- Engage in discussion regarding issues that affect young people. These issues will be determined by Council in cooperation with the Committee;
- Participate in the consideration of strategic Council documents, plans and activities;
- Provide input into Council's processes relating to young people where requested (i.e., provide feedback regarding projects to be considered by Council that have an impact on young people); and
- Provide opportunities to develop leadership skills and experience for young people.

This year, nine meetings have been held covering a wide range of topics (two had to be cancelled due to staff illness). All meetings have a hybrid option for attendance, but participation has been predominately in-person. Attendance by YAC members have been good and engagement by members has been outstanding. Feedback received throughout 2023 has been extremely positive

and members have provided incredibly valuable feedback to Council officers on the inclusion of youth voice into a range of plans, activities and programs.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Membership Selection Process for 2024

In October and November 2023, an extensive recruitment campaign was undertaken to call for applications for vacant positions on the YAC in 2024. Advertising was delivered through social media, including utilising the creation of Reels involving 2023 YAC members. Applications were also promoted through attendees at the Youth Summit, through local schools and alternative education settings, as well as through the Youth Service Providers Network, Youth Services Newsletters and Council's Knox News platform. Applications were submitted online via the Better Impact platform. In total, 16 applications were received in the following categories:

- Young people 12-18 years – 13 applications.
- Young people 18-25 years – two applications.
- Community representatives (any age) – one application

As per the Committee's Terms of Reference, members in their second year of membership in 2023 were required to re-apply for membership if they wished to continue. Their applications have been assessed alongside new applications and all recommended applicants have been included in Confidential Attachment 1. Applications are assessed based upon the applicant's interest, knowledge and expertise relating to youth and community issues. One application was received well after the closing date and has been deemed ineligible for the 2024 Committee to maintain equity.

2.2 YAC Membership Recommendations for 2024

The Panel met on 29 November 2023 to finalise its recommendations. The Panel is comprised of Councillor Allred, Councillor Timmers-Leitch, a current youth member of the YAC, and two Council officers. The above recommendations have been reviewed and approved by the Panel. It is proposed that 15 applicants be appointed to the YAC for the 2024 calendar year (see Confidential Attachment 1 for applicant details). Note all recommended applicants over the age of 18 must complete a successful Police Check and Working with Children Check before they can commence their volunteering role as per Council's Volunteer Policy. All applicants involved in YAC are required to complete information and permission forms through Better Impact – and anyone under 18 requires parental permission.

As per the Committee's current Terms of Reference (due to be reviewed in 2024), membership can be made up of a maximum ten members aged 12-17 years, ten members aged 18-25 years and five Community Representatives of any age. This year we have overwhelmingly received applications from the 12-17 years of age category, with only three applications across the other two categories. It is proposed that, rather than leave vacant positions on the YAC for 2024, that we seek permission to fill those vacancies with young people from the 12-17 years of age category.

2.3 YAC Highlights and Achievements for 2023

2.3.1 Meeting Highlights and Achievements

In 2023, the YAC met for eight formal meetings and two informal meeting, once per month excluding January, April, and October, and during these meetings engaged with numerous consultations.

These consultations focused on the following topics:

- Development of the Youth Summit – two separate consultations (Youth Services).
- Mental Health (as part of the Youth Services Counselling Review).
- Council’s Awards Program Review (Governance).
- Youth Programs at the Knox Express Library/ Youth Hive (Youth Services and Your Library).
- Community Alcohol Profile (Community Wellbeing).
- Youth Summit – consolidating and refining actions (Youth Services).

In addition to the eight formal meetings, two informal meetings were held. One in April and one in December. These meetings focused on providing opportunities for social connection and interaction for the YAC members.

2.3.2 Feedback from the 2023 Committee Members

This year feedback was sought from the YAC members formally through an online survey. Overall, the YAC members were extremely positive about their experience on the YAC during 2023. Some of the feedback received included:

- “I really loved when our discussion got super involved and everyone was really passionate contributing heaps!”
- “It was nice to participate in the subcommittee for the Youth Summit, getting to focus in on a topic a bit further than the usual sessions was good.”
- “Learning about how the local councils run has definitely had the biggest impact on me”
- I love the way young people are involved in the YAC and have the opportunity to chair the meetings and facilitate icebreakers/activities. Love your work and always look forward to coming to the YAC!

Some suggestions on how to improve the meetings in 2023, was to consider lengthening the time for meetings (from 1.5 hours to 2 hours), giving young people more responsibility during meetings, e.g., creating agendas and taking minutes, more variety in catering, and to continue to close the loop on consultation topics so young people could see the outcomes of their consultations.

2.3.3 Plans for 2023

Upon considering the feedback received by the 2023 YAC members, some improvements will be made in 2024. These include:

- Provide the opportunity for young people to contribute to the development of the agenda and to take minutes (in addition to having a young person chair the meetings).
- Continue to encourage Council officers to return to the YAC post-consultation to provide an update and allow YAC members to see the outcomes of their consultations.
- Provide fidget toys at each meeting.
- Explore options to catering to provide variety, while considering budget allocations.

3. CONSULTATION

The recruitment and promotion process were developed in consultation with young people and Councillors as part of the consultation process undertaken to review the Terms of Reference in 2021.

The topics discussed throughout 2023 were identified through a combination of youth consultation, Councillor Advisory Committee members and Council officer identified priorities.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has been considered in the context of climate change and its relevance to the Knox Climate Response Plan 2021-2031.

Implementation of the recommendation will positively impact on Council's Net zero 2030 target by:

- Eliminating the use of single use plastics at its meetings.
- Ensuring, where practicable, that meeting locations are accessible by public transport.
- Agendas and minutes will be distributed electronically unless a hardcopy is required to ensure accessibility for members or to support the young people's chairing duties.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no environmental/amenity issues directly associated with this report.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The annual direct cost of the YAC for 2023 was approximately \$3,000. The primary costs are catering and materials. Officer time to provide administrative support for the YAC is calculated at about 0.3 EFT, a combined total for two officers involved in preparing and delivering YAC meetings. All resources are funded within Council's Youth Services operational budget.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Council recognises the importance of effective engagement with young people and supporting young people's own leadership and skills development.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Civic Engagement & Integrity

Strategy 5.1 - Provide opportunities for all people in Knox to have their say.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Attachment 1 is included in the confidential agenda, as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to personal information being the names and details of prospective committee members which would be unreasonable to disclose publicly, or to disclosure before they are appointed.

Report Prepared By: Team Leader Youth Participation and Counselling, Katie Scott
Report Authorised By: Director Connected Communities, Judy Chalkley

Attachments
Nil

8.6 Proposed Sublease of Knox Library, Bayswater Library and Rowville Library

SUMMARY: Property Officer, Emma Hayton

This report recommends the signing of sublease agreements between Council and Your Library Ltd for the premises at Westfield Knox (Knox Library), Mountain High Shopping Centre (Bayswater Library) and Stud Park Shopping Centre (Rowville Library).

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Enter into sublease agreements with Your Library Ltd for three premises at:
 - a. Knox Library, Shop MM301, Westfield Knox, 425 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South;**
 - b. Bayswater Library, Tenancy 26, Mountain High Shopping Centre, 7-13 High Street, Bayswater; and**
 - c. Rowville Library, Stud Park Shopping Centre, Stud Road, Rowville.****
- 2. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Bayswater Library for a maximum term of 2 years.**
- 3. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Knox Library for a maximum of 20 years.**
- 4. Authorise the Chief Executive Officer to sign all documentation required to execute the sublease for the Rowville Library for a maximum term of 40 years.**

1. INTRODUCTION

Knox City Council leases premises at Westfield Knox (Wantirna South), Mountain High Shopping Centre (Bayswater) and Stud Park Shopping Centre (Rowville). The premises are for branch library services and are occupied by Your Library Ltd (formerly Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation), which provides library services in accordance with the Regional Libraries Agreement (RLA).

Council officers are proposing to enter into sublease agreements with Your Library for these three premises to formalise the existing occupancy arrangements. The subleases will not change or interrupt the management or services provided at the libraries and there will be no impact to the community as a result of the subleases.

2. DISCUSSION

Knox City Council, along with Maroondah City Council and the Shire of Yarra Ranges, are parties to the Regional Libraries Agreement (RLA) which sets out the obligations of each party with respect to the delivery of library services by Your Library Ltd (formerly Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation).

Under the terms of the RLA, Council is required to provide premises for the operation of the branch libraries within Knox. Knox currently has five branch libraries – Knox, Bayswater, Rowville, Ferntree Gully and Boronia. Ferntree Gully and Boronia Libraries are located in Council-owned facilities, while Knox, Bayswater and Rowville Libraries are located in leased premises within shopping centres. Council is the tenant and pays rental fees and outgoings for these premises and Your Library is the occupant. Knox Library is currently located in temporary premises during the construction and fit out of the new Knox Library. An agreement for lease has been signed for the new Knox Library premises.

There is currently no agreement in place that sets out the terms and conditions for the occupancy of the library premises by Your Library. Your Library has day to day operational responsibility for the libraries and Council provides maintenance and cleaning services. The lack of an occupancy agreement between Council and Your Library exposes Council to risk. Council is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the lease agreement and is not indemnified for any costs, claims, damages or loss that occurs as a result of Your Library and the public's use of the premises. As the lessee but not the occupant, Council is currently taking on risk which it is not able to control. The sublease includes provisions which state that insurance and indemnity issues will be determined having regard to common law principles of liability as drafted by Council's solicitors.

The term of the sublease agreements will be in line with the lease agreements between the landlords and Council for each premise. Table 1 below sets out the expiry dates of the sublease agreements.

Table 1 – Term of Leases and Subleases

Library	Lease Expiry	Sublease Expiry
Knox Library	TBC 2044	TBC 2044
Bayswater Library	30 June 2025	29 June 2025
Rowville Library	30 June 2064	29 June 2064

The sublease for Knox Library is for the new premises within Westfield Knox. The commencement date is unknown at this time and is dependent upon completion of construction and fit out. The lease for the temporary premises will be surrendered 30 days after the commencement date for the new Knox Library premises, in accordance with the terms of the agreement for lease.

The following terms will apply to all three sublease agreements:

- Rental fee payable by Your Library will be \$1 on demand;
- Council will retain responsibility for Head Lease rental fees and outgoings associated with the Head Lease;
- Appropriate insurance will be maintained by both parties;
- Your Library will comply with all requirements of the Head Lease and not do anything that increases Council's costs in complying with the Head Lease or that may result in a breach or termination of the Head Lease;
- Council will comply with its obligations under the Head Lease;
- If the Head Lease is terminated, the sublease will also terminate;
- Your Library must comply with Child Safe requirements; and
- A maintenance schedule will set out Council and Your Library responsibilities with respect to maintenance and servicing.

Council has complied with the Local Government Action 2020 in relation to Section 114 and undertaken community engagement. This now enables the subleases for the three library premises to be finalised.

3. CONSULTATION

Engagement was undertaken to inform the community of Council's intention to enter into subleases for the three libraries in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy and under delegation (s114 (2)(b)). An overview of the project was provided on Council's Have Your Say page which asked respondents to share their thoughts on the subleases. The engagement period ran from 30 October to 13 November 2023. Twelve submissions were made via Council's Have Your Say page (see Attachment 1 for full feedback).

Half the comments were supportive of the subleases with a number also referencing the importance of the library to the community. Four comments provided feedback on library services but did not address the proposed subleases and a further comment requested more information to understand the need for the subleases. One comment was unsupportive, stating that the subleases should not be longer than 10 years as per Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989. It should be noted that leases are now legislated through Section 115 of the LGA 2020, which permits leases of up to 50 years.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the recommendation is considered to have no direct implications or has no direct impacts upon Council's Net Zero 2030 target, the Community Net Zero 2040, exposure to climate risks or climate change adaptation.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no environmental or amenity considerations.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial or economic implications. Council's obligation under the RLA are unchanged and costs associated with the lease of the library premises and contribution to Your Library operating costs are included within existing budgets.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no social implications. Library services will continue to be operated and managed by Your Library.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Opportunity & Innovation

Strategy 1.2 - Encourage and support opportunities for skills development and lifelong learning for all people in Knox.

Neighbourhoods, Housing & Infrastructure

Strategy 2.2 - Create, enhance and maintain places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.

Connection, Resilience & Wellbeing

Strategy 4.1 - Support our community to improve their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.

Civic Engagement & Integrity

Strategy 5.3 - Ensure our processes are transparent and decisions are accountable.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information from the Local Government Act 2020.

Report Prepared By: Property Officer, Emma Hayton
Report Authorised By: Chief Financial Officer, Navec Lorkin

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Community Feedback Subleases for Knox Bayswater and Rowville Libraries
[8.6.1 - 3 pages]

ATTACHMENT 1: PROPOSED SUBLEASE OF KNOX, BAYSWATER AND ROWVILLE LIBRARIES**COMMUNITY FEEDBACK****Summary**

No	Forum	Date	Comment
1	Have Your Say	30/10/2023	<p>Hello,</p> <p>"Your Library" provides good service. However, I would like the renewed leases to include:</p> <p>a. Providing ebook for Kindle. With Kindle and other readers getting popular, it is dis-heartening to not to get library eBooks on Kindle.</p> <p>b. Reduce incidents of people taking books without checkouts or being stopped when they have actually check-out the books. Have clear SLAs on these.</p> <p>c. Keep the library inventory up to date as sometimes it takes more than few months to even get a book.</p>
2	Have Your Say	30/10/2023	I believe these subleases should go ahead to enable these libraries to flourish and continue providing the community with books and activities. I totally support the proposal.
3	Have Your Say	30/10/2023	<p>This is OK - as long as it doesn't involve privatisation or a diminishment of current services.</p> <p>I truly value our libraries and the services they provide and look with considerable dismay at the trend towards privatising government services!</p> <p>Thanks</p>
4	Have Your Say	30/10/2023	Keep things as they are
5	Have Your Say	30/10/2023	Absolutely essential.
6	Have Your Say	30/10/2023	<p>With knox libraries, is there potential for upgrades to be included as part of renegotiating lease for boronia library?</p> <p>For eg the lights could be upgraded to more energy efficient lights.</p>
7	Have Your Say	31/10/2023	I have used the Bayswater Library ever since it opened. Although it is not a large collection the services are very useful and staff very helpful.

			The availability of IT staff to help with hacking questions was extremely important in combatting the issue. Please keep us informed.
8	Have Your Say	1/11/2023	The leases are far to long and council can not predict community needs 40 years out. Lease should not be greater than 10 years as limit through section 223 of the former LGA.
9	Have Your Say	2/11/2023	I support the new subleases for Bayswater, Rowville and Knox and for them to continue to provide the same quality services. I use Bayswater sometimes but not Rowville (too far) or Knox (too busy and not personal - also accessibility is now not convenient at Knox for me.) I also hope Boronia library which I use every week - the staff are excellent, friendly, helpful and welcoming) will also continue and also Miller Park which has also become a great part of the Knox community.
10	Have Your Say	2/11/2023	Yes please, excellent facilities and well run.
11	Have Your Say	5/11/2023	<p>Hello</p> <p>Thank you for giving the community the opportunity to comment on the proposed subleases for libraries within Knox.</p> <p>I live in and use the Bayswater Library. I purchased a property here 2 years ago. Previously resided in Whitehorse and Borondara and am still a member of those libraries.</p> <p>Although Bayswater library is serving a small geographical area I feel that it is under sized and under resourced for the communities needs.</p> <p>Owing to the location of the Bayswater library, I note the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the holdings are relatively limited and most items I reserve or would like to borrow are mostly at another location. Particularly Croydon and are frequently requested/reserved . * there are no quiet study zones for students. * there are no separate "community" rooms. i.e. if the there are multiple activities held noise is an issue. Just room overall really. I note the front counter has recently been moved forward as staff are struggling to accommodate patrons needs and their work zones are cramped. * I was hopeful the library was going to expand its premises when the " Mountain High" Complex was recently expanded/ renovated, alas no. A childcare centre (vital) and retail tenancies, which are mostly vacant. <p>I think we could be doing a better job of the service that is presently on offer.</p>

12		10/11/2023	<p>I don't understand why subleases required to provide public libraries services to public. What does this for? Money? The council could have the regulations and rules already for the same services provided for the community, why subleases required? What is it going to make the difference for community if council has subleases? I actually need to know the reasons in more details, thanks</p>
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8.7 Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP) Annual Report

SUMMARY: Manager City Futures, Shiranthi Widan

At its meeting on 19 December 2022, Council considered and endorsed the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy prepared on behalf of Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges councils, to guide the longer-term development of the Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP). As part of the 2022 reporting, Council was advised of the implementation actions arising from the Strategy, with officer advice to continue the partnership with Maroondah and Yarra Ranges with a focus on developing a spatial plan for the precinct (Priority Action 10 of the Transformation Strategy).

In adopting the Transformation Strategy, Council also resolved for a report to be presented on the progress of its implementation within 12 months of the strategy's adoption, which is provided by this report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the progress on the implementation of the Bayswater Business Precinct Transformation Strategy as outlined in the Officers' report.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP) is a well-established, regionally significant employment and manufacturing centre in Melbourne's east, covering approximately 730 hectares of primarily industrial zoned land across the three municipalities and accommodates in the order of 5,000 businesses, employing more than 33,000 people. Despite the Precinct's impressive economic profile, the Precinct has historically failed to attract sustainable levels of new investment required to grow high value employment opportunities and to maintain and grow the region's economic prosperity into the future.

Since 2014, Council has partnered with Maroondah and Yarra Ranges councils to establish the Bayswater Business Precinct (BBP) Program, culminating in the establishment of a joint BBP Program Manager role and development of the BBP Transformation Strategy.

2. DISCUSSION

In briefing Council on the Transformation Strategy in December 2022, officers advised it would be prudent for Council to undertake a staged approach to implementing the twenty recommended actions of the Strategy. Council was advised that following the establishment of a 'Governance Framework', the focus would be on developing a 'Spatial Plan' (Action 10 of the Transformation Strategy) for the BBP.

The balance of this report reports on the Spatial Planning work undertaken over the past 12 months.

Spatial Plan

A Strategic Planning Project Working Group (PWG) has been established with membership across the three councils. Membership consists of strategic planners and an urban designer, including the equivalent Strategic Planning Coordinators across all three Councils. The PWG meets every 3-4 weeks as required, to advance the development of a precinct wide spatial plan.

The PWG has agreed to progress the spatial planning project over several phases. The first phase comprises the preparation of a Brief to engage a consultant with expertise in understanding specific industry and employment trends (including emerging business models, infrastructure needs, building design & amenity requirements), addressing land fragmentation and constrained expansion opportunities, leveraging employment and education opportunities from the surrounding residential catchment, and articulating a competitive advantage for the BBP. The findings of this piece of work will inform the later phases of the project – i.e. the planning mechanisms most appropriate and effective to implement.

The PWG has finalised a brief for review and approval by the Project Control Group (PCG), which consists of Strategic Planning and Economic Development managers from across the three councils. It is anticipated the brief will go to market and a consultant appointed in the first quarter of 2024.

Later phases of the project will include undertaking specialist Background Reports (e.g. Transport and Movement Requirements, Urban Design & Landscaping etc.), the development of an 'Issues and Opportunities' Paper and Draft Plan (as it relates to the spatial plan objectives), Planning Scheme Amendment Documentation and stakeholder engagement. Components of these phases are anticipated to commence in the latter half of 2024.

3. CONSULTATION

Extensive consultation has been undertaken between the Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges councils and State Government agencies over time and throughout the development of the BBP Transformation Strategy. The Governance Framework developed for the three councils also relies on tripartite consultation to progress Actions of the Transformation Strategy.

The spatial planning project has likewise implemented a tripartite working group from across the three councils to advance this project. Later phases of the spatial planning project will involve stakeholder consultation to discuss potential planning-based ideas, understand stakeholder perspectives and concerns, and incorporate these, as possible.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the recommendation is considered to have no direct implications or has no direct impacts upon Council's Net Zero 2030 target, the Community Net Zero 2040, exposure to climate risks or climate change adaptation. It is expected however that should Council pursue the implementation actions of the Transformation Strategy, particularly those related to urban greening and circular economy, it will assist Council and the community (including local businesses) achieve its Net Zero targets as identified in the Climate Response Plan.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the recommendations across the Transformation Strategy is expected to result in improved environmental and amenity considerations. Regarding the Spatial Planning brief, improved quality of place/amenity is a key consideration to be achieved by the plan, and this must be underpinned by Background Reporting regarding infrastructure needs, and landscaping and urban design opportunities.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The BBP Transformation Strategy identifies a raft of Actions, each of which are intended to improve, i.e. 'transform' the productivity and economic output of the BBP. In turn, this will improve the economic standing of each partner Council and the eastern Melbourne region.

A collaborative tripartite Council approach to implementing the recommendations is the most appropriate method to undertake this task. Should each partner Council determine to undertake the recommendations independently, it would cost each Council more, and only result in poorly or half-implemented outcomes. This would be to the detriment, not the benefit, of the broader BBP.

Council was also advised at the December Meeting of a \$50,000 financial contribution (paid across 2 years), from each partner Council to fund the spatial planning project.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The development of a Spatial Plan for the BBP is anticipated to have long-term positive social impacts, including improved amenities and appearance and enhanced employment opportunities. Implementation of the Transformation Strategy more widely will have positive social impacts, as part of the following Actions:

- Facilitate business-to-business relationship-building via regular events and a dedicated enterprise hub.
- Understand business requirement to remain, grow and invest in the precinct by fostering relationships between key businesses, industry representatives and institutions.
- Identify additional shared opportunities for businesses, including skill development and recruitment.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Opportunity & Innovation

Strategy 1.1 - Maximise the local economy by supporting existing businesses and attracting new investment.

Neighbourhoods, Housing & Infrastructure

Strategy 2.2 - Create, enhance and maintain places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information from the Local Government Act 2020.

Report Prepared By: Strategic Project Manager, Jodie Saisanas
Report Authorised By: Director, City Liveability, Matt Kelleher

Attachments

Nil

8.8 Knox Food Relief Taskforce - First Year Outcomes Update

**SUMMARY: Social Policy and Projects Officer, Camille Bowles and
Coordinator Community Partnerships, Kylie Wilmot**

This report provides an update on the outcomes from the first year of the Knox Food Relief Taskforce. The Taskforce was established following an Emergency Relief Audit undertaken in June 2022, which identified the demand for food relief in Knox was continuing to grow following the COVID-19 Pandemic.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the achievements of the Knox Food Relief Taskforce in its first year of operation as set out in the Officers' report.

1. INTRODUCTION

Knox City Council provided additional grant funding during the COVID-19 Pandemic to support the provision of hot meals and other forms of emergency food relief for vulnerable community members. Upon review of these programs, a need was identified to better understand the ongoing challenges experienced by food relief providers, particularly given the emerging pressure on household budgets associated with increased cost of living, inflation pressures and interest rate rises.

An audit of food relief providers in Knox was undertaken in June 2022 and identified significant challenges facing local agencies, as well as growing demand for community support in Knox. A series of recommendations arising from the Audit were presented in a report to the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 24 October 2022. Amongst those recommendations was a suggestion that Council establish and facilitate a Taskforce with emergency relief providers to focus on improved collaboration, partnerships and sharing of resources to strengthen the sustainability of the food relief system in Knox.

At that meeting Council resolved to:

1. Note the findings of Knox Emergency Food Relief Audit report provided as Attachment 1.
2. Receive a progress update by November 2023 to report on the outcomes of the Knox Emergency Food Relief Taskforce in its first year.

This report provides the update requested in Point 2 of the Resolution.

The Knox Food Relief Taskforce first met in January 2023 and agreed upon a Terms of Reference (refer to Attachment 1) and prioritised projects for the first year. The Taskforce meets on a quarterly basis and has established an additional Working Group to guide awareness raising and advocacy activities.

Council Officers have continued to identify food relief providers throughout the year and have now recorded a total of 35 providers. Of these, 22 have engaged with the Taskforce during the year. Where enquiries are received from groups interested in starting their own food relief service or pantry, Officers encourage them to support one of the existing providers.

In addition, 22 schools in Knox are registered with the Foodbank Victoria Breakfast Program (funded by State Government).

Food relief providers estimate that demand has increased a further 30-40% over the past year, and report that a growing number of people are needing to access support for the first time. Amidst this continual growth in demand, providers are still confronted with challenges including a shortage of paid staff and volunteers, insufficient and low-quality produce, falling donations from the community, and rising transport and utility costs.

Foodbank Victoria have identified Knox as one of only two “red zones” (indicating the widest gap between supply and demand) in the Eastern Region, which stretches from Boroondara to Mallacoota. They estimate that Knox is experiencing a 167,138kg grocery deficit (each year).

Despite these evolving challenges, the Knox Food Relief Taskforce has progressed significant work in the past year. The discussion below provides updates on key projects and achievements for 2023, and outlines some of the anticipated priorities for the Taskforce in 2024.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Outer East Foodshare Hub

The limitations of local storage and distribution networks was highlighted as the most important priority for the Taskforce to address from the outset. While Knox has a multitude of service providers, all are limited by their capacity to source food, sort and store it appropriately (including limited freezer and refrigeration capacity).

A 12-month pilot of a food distribution hub has been established in partnership with Outer East Foodshare Inc. entering into a license agreement to utilise the temporarily vacant Templeton Orchards Family and Children’s Centre. Foodbank Victoria are anticipated to deliver directly to the Hub on a weekly basis, commencing in November. This will provide services in Knox and Yarra Ranges with direct access to Foodbank Victoria stock, as well as saving both volunteer time and petrol in travelling to the current warehouse locations.

The site will also be able to receive donations of rescue food, “ugly” farm produce and other items that may otherwise end up as waste. Council Officers have met with food distribution charities SecondBite, FareShare, and OzHarvest. Each agency will work with Outer East Foodshare to consider deliveries to the site once it is established. While the initial operations will focus on supporting around six to eight local food relief partners, this will scale up once the model is tested and any glitches are resolved.

Residents living within a 500-metre radius of the site were invited to attend an open morning at the facility on 23 September 2023. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with residents indicating that they were pleased to see the building being used and recognising the benefit to the Knox community.

Of the estimated 60 community members who attended, 15 submitted an Expression of Interest to volunteer with Outer East Foodshare.

In line with Council’s decision not to offer standalone sessional kinder services from 1 January 2025, the Templeton site will be made available to other kindergarten service providers through

an Expression of Interest process. Should there be another kindergarten provider wanting to use the site, Council will support Outer East Foodshare to evaluate the trial and may support them in relocating to another facility. No changes are being made to the building so it will be ready to re-open as a kindergarten if required in 2025.

2.2 Advocacy

With a large number of providers offering services in Knox, the Food Relief Audit identified a significant opportunity for coordinated advocacy to State Government. Providers are aware that Council is not in a financial position to continue the same level of food relief support provided at the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic. An advocacy campaign provides the opportunity for the Taskforce to amplify awareness and influence with the Victorian Government by bringing all Taskforce members together in a coordinated call for more food relief in Knox. Collectively, Taskforce members can reiterate the urgency of the challenges facing Knox residents.

CPR Communications and Public Relations were engaged to develop an advocacy strategy for the Taskforce. Providers were consulted about their needs and ideas at the May 2023 Taskforce meeting, with the final strategy presented and endorsed by the Group at the July 2023 meeting. To progress this work, an Advocacy Working Group has been developed with representatives from key agencies to develop campaign materials and act as spokespeople.

Following consultation with Taskforce members, CPR Communications identified three key 'asks' to underpin the campaign:

- Help identify and convert an appropriate building or site to become an Eastern Region Food Hub - a game-changing initiative that would allow organisations like Foodbank to deliver much larger quantities of fresh and chilled food for distribution;
- Work with the Taskforce to address transport challenges that are hampering the distribution of food relief, for example by funding refrigerated vans or providing petrol vouchers for volunteers; and
- Support the food relief sector to build a bigger workforce to meet rising demand, ensuring there are enough paid staff to recruit, train and coordinate volunteers, and to build rapport, conduct assessments and make appropriate referrals for clients with complex health and housing needs.

Whilst a food distribution hub has been established as a pilot project, further support will be needed should the current site not be available after 2024. Alternatively, should the trial prove successful and the location available and suitable for longer-term use as a hub, there is significant opportunity to expand capacity with further investment.

The Advocacy Strategy identifies the importance of providers speaking with one voice through the provision of shared language and messaging to describe food insecurity in Knox. It advises commencing with a broad campaign to educate and inform both the public and key decision-makers; defining and articulating the problem, sharing information and insights, and providing evidence and examples.

The Advocacy Working Group will guide the development of a coordinated campaign look and feel, as well as collateral to be used by the larger Taskforce group.

2.3 Lived Experience Survey

The Audit undertaken in 2022 provided a strong understanding of the availability of services and the challenges facing providers, however a gap existed around understanding how community members access support and their experiences in doing so. This gap was also identified by CPR in developing the Advocacy Strategy.

Together with Taskforce members, Council Officers developed and administered a survey to better understand the lived experience and profile of community members accessing food relief, their patterns of help-seeking and areas of concern. Eleven agencies assisted with surveying their service users and Council Officers also attended six programs in-person to directly support people in completing the survey. In total, 235 surveys responses were collected.

The Survey affirmed anecdotal reporting from food relief providers, indicating that of all survey respondents, 44% had started using food relief this year. This includes 9% of total respondents who were accessing food relief for the first time on the day of completing the survey.

A diversity of community members was captured in the survey:

- 4% identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander; a further 9% identified as being from a culturally and linguistically diverse group;
- 25% of respondents had a disability, and 21% were caring for someone with a disability; and
- 34% were living in private rental housing, while 18% lived in a home with a mortgage.

The Survey has provided insight into the level of need confronting community members. Most of those surveyed indicated they were running out of money to buy food (69%) and were cutting back on quality and variety of food due to cost (71%). Fifty-six percent told us that their Centrelink payments do not cover cost of living, with an additional 33% reporting that their wages also don't cover the cost of living.

The impact of this is significant, with 44% of respondents sharing that they had skipped meals. Twenty-three percent reported having gone without food for a day or longer (in the past 12 months). Seventy percent told us they have needed to cut back on the quality or variety of what they eat.

Frequent access to support is required to meet this demand: 41% reported accessing food relief once a week, with an additional 20% accessing food relief several times a week. Of significant concern, 56% expected to access food relief indefinitely. Only 3% identified that their need is due to a temporary circumstance and expect to have no need for support after one to two months.

Service users also identified the important role food relief programs have in early intervention and in promoting social and service connections, for example:

- “Without this breakfast program, you wouldn't know about many services, like housing support, EACH financial counselling, Centrelink, Police”;
- “These programs stop people from slipping through the cracks”;
- “Meals from Knox Infolink and Foothills fill a huge problem. They are a safe and comfortable environment.”

The full Survey findings will be shared with the Taskforce at the November 2023 meeting and will be used to inform both future advocacy and partnership opportunities. In addition to further quantifying the need for food relief, the Survey has also identified how people find out about services and what items they find difficult to source. These include pet food, fresh fruit, meat and dairy products.

2.4 Training for Volunteers

During the Food Relief Audit in 2022, Knox providers identified support with volunteers as crucial to sustainable service delivery. Taskforce members agreed that equipping volunteers through training on key topics would be important in retention. Through a voting process, members prioritised the following training topics:

1. Managing difficult interactions/complaints, vicarious trauma and self-care;
2. Safe food handling; and
3. Volunteer recruitment and retention.

The first of these topics was addressed in a workshop delivered by Not-for-Profit Training in October 2023. Twenty food relief volunteers from eight agencies attended. All participants either agreed or strongly agreed that the training supported their ability to handle difficult interactions and provided practical tools.

Further training is planned for 2024 focussing on volunteer recruitment and program planning. Taskforce members are also encouraged to access Council's broader Community Training calendar.

2.5 Outcomes of Council's Food Relief Funding

The need for the Knox Food Relief Taskforce emerged following the provision of COVID-19 Support Packages with additional funding streams made available for food relief. The Community Partnerships Team has now evaluated the delivery of the final round of this funding. The Pandemic Recovery: Food and Emergency Relief Grant opened in April 2022 with the aim of supporting local service providers to distribute food parcels, hot meals and other related emergency relief items to Knox residents as the community recovered from the effects of the Pandemic.

A total of \$79,000 was allocated by Council for this funding stream through the COVID-19 Community and Business Support Package. This funding was offered as a one-off allocation and eligible organisations were able to apply for grants of up to \$10,000.

Twelve organisations were successful in their applications and were granted funds totaling \$78,991.00. Grant acquittals for this Program demonstrate that almost 27,000 meals were provided, and more than 1,400 hampers or food parcels were distributed. Collectively, it is estimated that 7,000 Knox residents benefited from the funding.

Feedback from funded agencies highlighted the ability to expand the type and variety of food offered with the additional funding. In addition, they reported the ancillary benefits of social connection and support pathways offered (where appropriate) as part of these services.

In addition to the COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Fund, a temporary change was introduced to the Minor Grants Procedure for the 2022/23 financial year. This change allowed for the surplus minor grant funds carried forward from the Pandemic years to be utilised by food relief providers. A short-term second category was introduced for food relief, increasing the maximum grant to \$5,000. Funds accessed under this category did not impact eligibility for a food relief provider to access general minor grants funds, and are not included towards their funding cap of \$5,000 over three financial years.

This category sought to bridge the gap between the additional COVID-19 Pandemic funding provided by Council, and the development of the Taskforce which takes a longer-term view to building a sustainable food relief system in Knox. Between November 2022 and June 2023, a total of 13 food relief minor grants were awarded, totaling \$52,072.68. Applicants have 12 months to expend and acquit their grants, with the first acquittals due later this year.

Food relief providers are aware that Council will not be providing further dedicated funding for food relief. Applications must now be made through the standard Minor Grants and Community Development Fund programs, in line with the eligibility criteria for those grant rounds. Applicants seeking funding for food relief will be competing with the full breadth of community applications received, and not considered separately.

2.6 Regional Work

In recognition of the widespread demand for food relief, Knox Council hosted staff from both Yarra Ranges and Maroondah Councils for a regional discussion. The group met for the first time in October 2022, with representatives from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) also present to hear of the shared regional concerns and challenges around food relief.

The three municipalities identified key priorities around finding suitable buildings/facilities for relief providers, as well as building more collaborative relationships between agencies. Across the Region, there are an estimated 100 food relief providers, some of whom work across Local Government boundaries. Further work to map these providers has been flagged as a priority for 2024.

Key discussion points from this first meeting also included:

- The shared need for volunteers to support existing food relief services;
- How to support volunteer safety, especially with the prevalence of “pop up” groups that may not yet have established processes and procedures;
- Service models that are working well, and which promote choice and dignity for community members in need; and
- Opportunities to engage with local businesses around food rescue.

It is anticipated that the group will continue to meet on 3-4 occasions per year to continue sharing learnings, ideas and opportunities for collective work across the outer-east. Sustainability Victoria staff have also expressed interest in this forum, given their focus on reducing food waste.

2.7 Foodbank Victoria ‘Farms to Families Market’ at Knox Civic Centre Carpark

At the time of writing this report, Council is partnering with Foodbank Victoria to provide a ‘Farms to Families’ Market in the Knox Civic Centre carpark on Sunday 10 December. This event will provide free fresh food and Christmas hampers to Knox community members needing extra support with food. The event is promoted through Knox food relief agencies and is expected to support 350 families.

2.8 Further Collaboration

In addition to the key projects outlined above, the Taskforce has resulted in improved partnerships and collaborations between agencies. Highlights include:

- Foodbank Victoria collaborating with local services including CityLife, Champion, Foothills and Feed One Feed All to deliver market programs with a focus on supplying fresh produce to people experiencing hardship;
- Brokering a connection between the Salvation Army Ferntree Gully and Champion who both offer pantry hampers. The services are looking at how they can share a consistent model and eligibility criteria so that community members know what to expect, regardless of which service they access;
- A donation of Christmas items from the Salvation Army Ferntree Gully to Knox Infolink, to ensure gifts reach children most in need;
- Supporting Ben’s Place to move from operating at a residential address to a more central community facility at The Basin Senior Citizens Hall; and
- With the establishment of the Hub, Outer East Foodshare have commenced ordering from Foodbank Victoria for smaller food relief agencies who would not otherwise meet the minimum quantities (or those who may otherwise be ineligible due to operating from a private residence). This process has resulted in significant savings, allowing vital funding to reach further. One service provider reported that what would cost her \$450 to purchase retail was now being sourced via Outer East Foodshare and Foodbank Victoria for \$50.

2.9 Priorities for Year Two

As outlined in the Terms of Reference, the Knox Food Relief Taskforce has been established for an initial two years, with a decision to be made on the future need at the end of 2024 in consultation with providers.

It is anticipated that the focus areas for the second year will include:

- St Vincent de Paul soup van trial – assisting the group to find a suitable location to trial a soup van one night a week in Knox from early 2024;
- Advocacy and awareness raising – progressing the implementation of the advocacy strategy developed this year;
- Volunteering - planning is underway to support volunteer recruitment through training, and a coordinated recruitment campaign;
- Business engagement – with advocacy materials finalised, Officers will support Taskforce members in building partnerships with local businesses for food and financial donations;

- Sustainability of the Outer East Foodshare Hub – as operations become established, Officers will support Outer East Foodshare in measuring and reporting on the impact and reach of the hub model. This evidence will support new and existing partnerships with food distribution charities. Officers will also support Outer East Foodshare with long-term planning regarding a facility;
- Addressing service gaps – utilising the findings of the service user engagement, to identify what additional supports are required and how services can best meet community needs; and
- Continuing regional work – regular meetings will continue between Knox, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges Councils, DFFH, Sustainability Victoria and Foodbank Victoria.

3. CONSULTATION

The Knox Food Relief Taskforce provides an ongoing mechanism for Council to consult with food relief providers, maintaining current knowledge of the trends, level of need, challenges and opportunities facing agencies. The work of this Group is based on the priorities identified by Taskforce members and a collective consensus on what would help support their important role in the community.

Council Officers and Taskforce members recognised a gap in understanding the lived experience of community members accessing food relief services. The survey undertaken across August - October 2023 captured 235 responses providing this important perspective. The outcomes of this consultation will support future advocacy and planning for the Taskforce.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

The subject of this report has been considered in the context of climate change and its relevance to the Knox Climate Response Plan 2021-2031.

In seeking to reduce food waste, the implementation of the Knox Food Relief Taskforce may create opportunities for Council and/or the community to adapt to climate change.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

There are no environmental or amenity considerations associated with this report.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The Food Relief Taskforce and associated projects are being funded with the existing Community Wellbeing operational budget and staff resources.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As indicated, the need for food relief in Knox has continued to rapidly increase from 2020 to the present day. Whilst initially this was driven by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic, in recent times cost of living pressures have impacted a growing number of Knox residents. Rising costs associated with housing (mortgage or rental), fuel, groceries and utilities have seen a growing number of residents turning to services for support. At the same time, consultation with both service providers and service users identifies the ongoing stigma of accessing help that still results in people with genuine need missing out.

The Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan (included in the Knox Council Plan 2021-25) identifies healthy eating and food security as one of six health priorities. Food is a necessity of life; everyone deserves access to healthy and secure food sources. Where this is not available, the impacts on other aspects of health and wellbeing (both physical and mental) are profound.

For the first time, the service user survey has captured the breadth of this problem. Forty-four percent of respondents had skipped meals and 23% reported having gone without food for a day or longer (in the past 12 months). Seventy percent told us they have needed to cut back on the quality or variety of what they ate. These are significant challenges that need to be considered both in the future activities of the Taskforce, and in the development of the next four-year Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Natural Environment & Sustainability

Strategy 3.3 - Lead by example and encourage our community to reduce waste.

Connection, Resilience & Wellbeing

Strategy 4.1 - Support our community to improve their physical, mental and social health and wellbeing.

Strategy 4.4 - Support the community to identify and lead community strengthening initiatives.

Civic Engagement & Integrity

Strategy 5.1 - Provide opportunities for all people in Knox to have their say.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The Officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information from the Local Government Act 2020.

Report Prepared By: Camille Bowles, Social Policy and Project Officer and
Kylie Wilmot, Coordinator Community Partnerships
Report Authorised By: Director Connected Communities, Judy Chalkley

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Terms of Reference - Knox Food Relief Taskforce [**8.8.1** - 3 pages]



Knox Food Relief Taskforce

Directorate: Connected Communities

Approval by: Taskforce members Responsible Officer: Social Policy and Projects Lead

Approval Date: 31 January 2023 Version Number: 1

Review Date: January 2024

1. Purpose

The Knox Food Relief Taskforce was identified as a short-term response to support local food relief providers in addressing heightened community needs over 2022, due to both the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with increasing inflation and cost of living pressures.

For the purpose of this Taskforce, the term 'food relief' is defined as meals or grocery supplies provided to Knox residents who are experiencing financial hardship.

The Taskforce will focus on developing partnerships, improving collaboration and the sharing of resources, and advocating with one voice for investment from State and Federal Governments to address growing community need.

An agreed work plan will be developed at the start of each year, outlining key priorities and projects for the following 12-month period.

2. Objectives

- Develop and drive a collective advocacy approach, focused on increasing the sustainability of the food relief system;
- To identify good practice models for the provision of food relief in Knox, that maximise available resources and ensure Knox residents can access the supports they need (including wrap-around services such as financial counselling, mental health, housing, etc);
- Leverage Council's relationships with local businesses and wholesalers to redirect potential food waste to food relief services where it can support residents in need;
- Identify community training opportunities that support organisations to recruit and retain volunteers where needed;
- Deliver awareness campaigns to challenge the stigma associated with accessing food relief and promote access to services for community members in need.



Terms of Reference

Knox Food Relief Taskforce

3. Membership, Period of Membership and Method of Appointment

Membership is open to any community organisation who provides food relief to residents in Knox. No set term will be applied to membership and new members are encouraged to join at any time.

The Knox Food Relief Taskforce shall be convened by Knox City Council.

Other relevant stakeholders may be invited to attend meetings as guests or, by agreement of Taskforce members, to formally join the Taskforce as a member. Relevant stakeholders may include State Government, relief charities (i.e. Foodbank), related community support or welfare service providers and/or philanthropic organisations.

The Knox Food Relief Taskforce is initially established for a period of two years, commencing January 2023 and subject to review in December 2024.

4. Delegated Authority and Decision Making

Decision making by the Taskforce will be through consensus.

5. Meeting Procedures

The Taskforce will meet on a quarterly basis and an annual schedule of meetings will be agreed upon at the first meeting in each year. The Taskforce is not required to give public notice of meetings and meetings are not open to the public.

Knox City Council officers will convene, chair and note-take the Taskforce meetings.

Meetings will follow standard meeting procedure protocols, which in summary include:

- Commence on time and conclude by the stated completion time;
- Be scheduled and confirmed in advance with an agenda and any other relevant information distributed to each member;
- Encourage fair and reasonable discussion, participation and respect for each other's views;
- Focus on the relevant issues at hand; and
- Provide advice to Council as far as possible on a consensus basis.

6. Agendas and Minutes

Agendas and meeting notes will be prepared by Council for each meeting, and distributed to all members. Meeting notes should be treated as confidential.

7. Conflict and Interest Provisions

Taskforce representatives will be expected to:

- Act with integrity;
- Impartially exercise responsibilities in the interests of the local community;
- Not improperly seek to confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person;



Terms of Reference

Knox Food Relief Taskforce

- Treat all persons with respect and have due regard to the opinions, beliefs, rights and responsibilities of other persons;
- Commit to regular attendance at meetings; and
- Not make improper use of information acquired because of their role with the Taskforce.

8. Reporting

A progress report will be prepared by November 2023 to review the Taskforce work plan and achievements to date. This will be followed by a formal report by December 2024 to review the need and status of the Taskforce.

9. Contact with the Media

Contact with the Media on business specifically attributed to the Taskforce should be conducted in accordance with Knox City Council guidelines.

8.9 Your Library Annual Report 2022-2023

SUMMARY: Interim Manager Community Wellbeing, John Devereaux

Libraries are more than just books; they contribute to community and provide a place for social connection and cohesion.

Your Library, formerly Eastern Regional Library Corporation, provides valuable services to a wide range of Knox community members, at all ages and stages of their life. From storytime for babies and their caregivers, to homework clubs for teenagers, job search services for adults and delivery services to older residents in aged care.

Your Library delivers library services to the Knox community on the Council's behalf. This report presents the Your Library (Eastern Regional Libraries) Annual Report 2022-2023, which includes the Year in Review, Corporate Matters, and the Financial Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council note the key statistics and highlights of the services delivered to the Knox community by Your Library during 2022-2023 (refer to Attachment 1).

1. INTRODUCTION

The Your Library Annual Report 2022-2023 details library services and initiatives delivered for the Eastern Region and the Knox municipality. The report notes the key statistics and highlights for the 2022-2023 financial year and provides financial statements. Your Library provides library services for the Eastern Regional Area comprising of Knox City Council, Maroondah City Council and Yarra Ranges Council.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Background

Local Government is the recognised provider of public library services across Victoria. Knox City Council provides premises for five library branches and is the service's principal funder. These Branches are at Bayswater, Boronia, Ferntree Gully, Rowville and Wantirna South with an additional Reading Room located at Millers Homestead.

Your Library delivers library services to the Knox community on the Council's behalf. The service provides resources and programs and a variety of media for education, information, leisure, and personal development. The library service provides a welcoming environment available to all the community and supports the development of a well-connected community. Libraries also focus on physical and social health, challenge social isolation and support physical and mental health through opportunities for learning, connection, and participation. Libraries contribute to improved individual and community health and wellbeing outcomes through supporting and complementing initiatives through partnerships.

2.2 Performance of Service

This year, the Annual Report for 2022-23, prepared by Your Library and approved by the Your Library Board, specifically focuses on each Council area and Knox Council features on Pages 29-33.

The report provides the following information:

- Reflections of the year;
- Governance;
- Connections with the community, including adults, children, and families;
- Regional Service statistics (e.g., membership/borrowings and wi-fi sessions);
- Business and technology;
- Operations;
- Marketing and promotions; and
- Financial Statements.

2.3 Council's Board Representatives

2.3.1 Knox City Council Board Representatives

The Knox Councillors sitting on the Board during the 2022-2023 were Councillor Marcia Timmers-Leitch and Councillor Susan Laukens.

2.3.2 Council Board Membership Changes in 2022–2023

Changes of membership during the 2022-2023 year included:

- Knox City Council – Councillor Allred resigned from the Board and Councillor Laukens joined the Board.
- Maroondah Council – Councillor Damante resigned from the Board and Councillor Hancock joined the Board.
- Yarra Ranges Council - Councillor Cox and Councillor McAllister resigned from the Board and Councillor Child and Councillor Fullagar joined the Board.

2.4 Key Service Highlights

Library visits were up 90% this year and on track to return to pre-pandemic visitor levels.

Memberships rose by 52%, checkouts increased by 27% and PC sessions were up 120%. There was a drop of 2.5% in reservations, which indicates that members are returning to their local branch to browse the collection in person and engage with staff and each other.

2.5 Key Knox Highlights

Key highlights for Knox detailed in the Annual Report (refer to Attachment 1, pages 29-33) include:

- First year at Miller's Homestead:
 - Cat Rabbit's Soft Library;
 - Summer music series;
 - Cultural Diversity Week; and
 - Uplifting Voices and Words Aloud.
- Beautification projects:
 - Murals, at Boronia; and
 - Courtyard, Rowville.
- Christmas crochet.
- Virtual Reality for Seniors.
- Knox Festival.
- Bilingual Storytimes.

3. CONSULTATION

Your Library presented the 2022-2023 Annual Report to the Board for feedback and comment. Quotes from Knox Library users are included throughout the Annual Report.

4. CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

Implementation of the recommendation is considered to have no direct implications or has no direct impacts upon Council's Net Zero 2030 target, the Community Net Zero 2040, exposure to climate risks or climate change adaptation.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL/AMENITY CONSIDERATIONS

Your Library is committed to a Green Procurement approach by supporting the principles of sustainable procurement within the context of purchasing on a value for money basis.

The first books covered in "Bioguard 80" arrived in September 2022. Approximately 20,000 books have now been covered in this compostable material.

6. FINANCIAL & ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The economic value of libraries is made up of both direct and indirect benefits to the community. Libraries provide direct benefits to marginalised and disadvantaged groups by providing them with access to government websites, advice, and help. Indirect benefits include improved literacy skills, digital skills, and improved career development outcomes. Libraries are also essential for providing access to internet and online services. Research has shown that the free Wi-Fi provided by libraries leads to tangible developments in job opportunities, which are felt by the wider community through business development and increased cash generation.

The Annual Financial Report commences on page 34 of the Annual Report.

7. SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While local libraries maintain their traditional focus on literacy and learning, they also embrace their role as a crucial part of the social infrastructure for community wellbeing in a much more sophisticated and open way. Libraries support the overall learning, literacy, and wellbeing landscape. They also support the health and wellbeing of the community through our collections, programs, information services, places and spaces, and partnerships.

Our local libraries are safe spaces that provide community connections, access to resources and expertise in information provision.

8. RELEVANCE TO KNOX COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025

Opportunity & Innovation

Strategy 1.2 - Encourage and support opportunities for skills development and lifelong learning for all people in Knox.

Neighbourhoods, Housing & Infrastructure

Strategy 2.2 - Create, enhance, and maintain places and spaces for people to live, work, play and connect.

Connection, Resilience & Wellbeing

Strategy 4.1 - Support our community to improve their physical, mental, and social health and wellbeing.

Strategy 4.2 - Foster inclusivity, equality, belonging and safety within the community.

Strategy 4.3 - Honour and integrate First Nations Culture into actions and environments.

Strategy 4.4 - Support the community to identify and lead community strengthening initiatives.

9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The officers contributing to and responsible for this report have no conflicts of interest requiring disclosure under Chapter 5 of the Governance Rules of Knox City Council.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

There is no content in this report that meets the definition of confidential information in the Local Government Act 2020.

Report Prepared By: Interim Manager Community Wellbeing, John Devereaux
Report Authorised By: Director Connected Communities, Judy Chalkley

Attachments

1. Attachment 1 - Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation Annual Report 2022-23 - Final [**8.9.1** - 72 pages]

Attachment 1

YOUR LIBRARY



ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023



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Your Library (Eastern Regional Libraries) acknowledges the Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout our region, and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past, present and emerging.



Anne (Children's Services Officer)
with Storytime Ted at Realm Library

PART 1 YEAR IN REVIEW

Year in review



JULY '22

- Reader Pens launched



AUGUST '22

- First books covered with Bioguard 80
- Kinley visit for National Family History Month



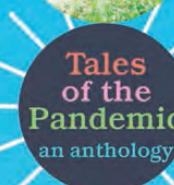
SEPTEMBER '22

- Leap into Literacy launched
- Adult Learners Week



OCTOBER '22

- Composting workshop
- Halloween - Yarra Junction



NOVEMBER '22

- Miller's Homestead tenancy extended
- Tales from the Pandemic launched



DECEMBER '22

- Bayswater Crochet + Christmas Tree



JANUARY '23

- Yarra Ranges Flexi van back on the road
- Summer music series (Miller's Homestead)



FEBRUARY '23

- Children's newsletter launched
- Reader's Choice winners announced



MARCH '23

- Harmony Week (postcards)
- Cultural Diversity Week (events at Miller's)



APRIL '23

- Global Astronomy Month (blow-up planetarium)
- Hakha Chin Storytimes commence



MAY '23

- Croydon opening hours extended to 8pm, Mon-Thu



JUNE '23

- Warm Winter Read launched

REFLECTIONS

Message from the Chair - Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch



On behalf of the Board, I am delighted to present the 2022-23 Your Library Annual Report.

The theme of this year's National Library and Information Week was 'Rewrite, Renew, Reimagine' and the Board is proud that *Your Library's* activities and achievements in 2022-23 helped our members and our staff do exactly that in many varied and innovative ways.

We have embraced the new world of digital access through our *Your Library* App. It's simple, free and allows you to manage your account, browse the extensive catalogue, check out items straight from your device or place a hold on coveted titles. We already have 6,000 regular users, and the community is growing.

Our online space also offers free, age-appropriate, educational and entertaining material for children. Libby for Kids, Story Box Library and Kanopy Kids let your little ones to discover a world of knowledge – as well as giving you a chance to recharge without any guilt or hassle.

We reimaged book coverings this year with approximately 20,000 of our books now wrapped in Bioguard 80, the world's first fully biodegradable and truly compostable covering. It has no toxic microplastics and can even be eaten by worms!

Library visits were up 90% this year, and the Board is confident that we are on track to return to pre-pandemic visitor levels soon. Memberships rose by 52%, checkouts increased by 27% and PC sessions were up 120%. We did see a drop of 2.5% in reservations, but this tells us that our members are returning to their local branch to browse the collection in person and engage with our staff and each other.

The Board has been hard at work refining our internal processes and improving our governance. Significant work has been achieved by our Member Councils, Board and Management to facilitate the transition from Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation to *Your Library* Limited, a company limited by guarantee. The board used this opportunity to revisit the Constitution and Regional Library Agreement, formerly established in 1996.

By becoming a company limited by guarantee, *Your Library* are now also a registered charity which opens up new opportunities including philanthropic funding.

The Board, with the assistance of its Corporate Management Team, has adopted 'Convvene', a specific software designed to enable access to all relevant board documents electronically, making meetings more efficient and reducing the need for paper copies – another small step on the way to meeting our sustainability goals.

I am confident that we have established a sustainable governance, financial and environmental foundation that will continue to deliver excellent library services in the future.

Congratulations to the *Your Library* team!

From the Branches to the Administration and Corporate Management Team, to our volunteers and partners, as well as to our Member Councils and to my fellow Board Members, your commitment and hard work have made all these achievements possible, and enriched and strengthened the communities we work in.

Message from the CEO - Joseph Cullen



Celebrated author Neil Gaiman wrote 'Libraries are about freedom. Freedom to read, freedom of ideas, freedom of communication. They are about education... about entertainment, about making safe spaces, and about access to information.'

At *Your Library*, we couldn't agree more.

We have formalised these ideas in the seven key directions identified in the Library Plan 2021-2025, each of which relate directly to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In this Annual Report, our progress in these key directions is discussed in detail. We describe what we have achieved this year and explain the steps we are taking so we can do even better in the future.

But to borrow Neil Gaiman's far more poetic description of the role of libraries, and celebrate a year in which all our branches were open and our in-person events and programs ran without restrictions, I'd like to acknowledge some of our 2022-23 activities and achievements through the lens of freedom and access.

The return of our innovative Conversation Café and the launch of the new Leap into Literacy program exemplify our commitment to providing a space for people to form genuine connections and learn with and from each other. We embraced new technology, such as scanning pens to help overcome literacy barriers, and introduced our older members to the wonders of virtual reality – in the process, providing one of them with a profoundly moving experience.

We embraced the idea of 'reading for fun' through our Big Summer Read, which encouraged children to discover the joy of reading during the downtime of the summer holidays, and Reader's Choice, where we asked our members what books they enjoyed reading this year.

Our Storytime program was as popular as ever, this year reaching 68,000 young people and their carers. We realised that some children find regular Storytime sessions very overwhelming, so we created a quieter version for them. We also offered bilingual Storytimes that were attended by Chinese and non-Chinese speaking families, helping to forge new connections and relationships and understanding.

Adults weren't forgotten – 30,000 of them took part in 7,500 activities on topics as varied as local history, sharing a community meal or visiting a library made from felt. And alongside our regular program of author talks, where we celebrate the authors we admire and introduce them and their work to our members, we flipped the switch and published our first anthology of writing from our own community, *Tales from the Pandemic*.

Some of our community members are unable to visit a branch, so our Home Library Service delivers library materials to their doorstep. And, for all our members, the *Your Library* App is a simple and free way to explore the library and manage your account from your own mobile device.

Our library spaces were enhanced by the addition of a wonderful mural at Boronia, a vibrant revamp of the courtyard at Rowville, and a Christmas tree at Bayswater that embraced the spirit of community giving in a very unexpected and practical way. The plans for the Croydon Community Wellbeing Precinct, which will include a new library, are taking shape after extensive community consultation. In the virtual space, we made great progress in safeguarding our information and data, prioritising the digital privacy of all our members.

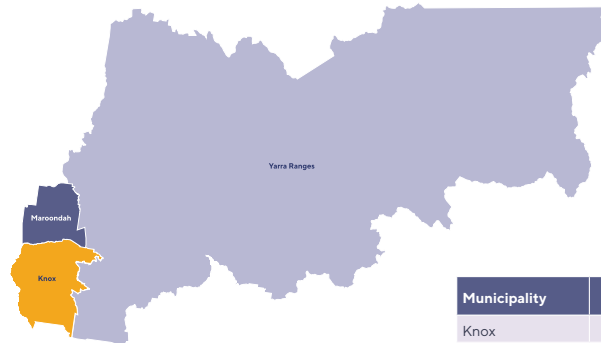
Your Library is committed to providing everyone in our community with opportunities to access education, entertainment and information in safe and supportive spaces. This year has been filled with innovation, collaboration and unwavering commitment from our wonderful staff, supporters, partners, volunteers and community members. I am profoundly grateful to them all. Together, we achieve so much for our community.

GOVERNANCE

Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation

Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation (ERLC), known as Your Library, provides library services to Knox City Council, Maroondah City Council and Yarra Ranges Council.

Together, the three municipalities cover a large geographic area in the outer metropolitan area of Melbourne, on the land of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation.



Municipality	Population	Area (km ²)
Knox	159,404	114
Maroondah	115,645	61
Yarra Ranges	157,339	2,500
Total	432,388	2,675

There is a diverse range of communities with a combined population of 432 388, according to the ABS 2022 Estimated Residential Population.

The Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation was established in 1996 by the Member Councils in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989, section 196. The Board governs the Corporation in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Local Government Act, the Regional Library Agreement and other adopted policies and procedures.

The day-to-day management of the Corporation is the responsibility of the Chief Executive, supported by the Corporate Management Team and Council officers with responsibility for library services.

Statutory compliance

Summary

This section provides details of Eastern Regional Libraries' (ERL) compliance with its statutory and fiduciary requirements and responsibilities.

Status & Risk Summary

Commentary is provided together with Traffic Lights to show compliance and risks.

Compliance		Risk	
Traffic light	Definition	Traffic light	Definition
●	Complies	●	Low Risk Rating
●	The issue has an unresolved matter but action is being taken to resolve this	●	Medium Risk Rating
●	Issue requires remedial action	●	High Risk Rating

Legislation	Compliance	Compliance	Risk
Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Vic)	ERL did not receive any FOI requests for the year.	●	●
Freedom of Information 1982 (Cth)	ERL did not receive any FOI requests for the year.	●	●
Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014 (Vic)	ERL did not receive any privacy and data protection requests for the year.	●	●
Gender Equality Act 2022 (Vic)	<i>Your Library</i> will still pursue the objectives of the Act, although we do not have to report formally on our outcomes to the Victorian Government. We will report on our actions and outcomes on gender equality through our quarterly reports and annual report to the Board.	●	●
Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)	ERL did not receive any privacy requests for the year.	●	●
Health Records Act 2001 (Vic)	ERL did not receive any health records requests for the year.	●	●
Protected Disclosure Act 2012	ERL has not received any disclosures directly nor has it received any referrals from the Ombudsman or IBAC for the year.	●	●
Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005	ERLC has not had to respond to, or report, any allegations of child abuse in the year.	●	●
Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006	No complaints received in the year.	●	●
Workplace Injury Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2013	1 WorkCover Claim.	●	●
Equal Opportunity Act 2010	No complaints received in the year date.	●	●
Audit Act 1994 (Vic)	Working with HLB Mann Judd and VAGO Auditor (BDO).	●	●
ACNC Act 2012	First report due 31 December 2024.	●	●
Corporations Act 2001	Company registered and Directors appointed. First accounts are due 30 June 2024.	●	●

Your Library Board

ERLC is very fortunate to have a highly skilled and supportive Board at the helm. The Board is committed to environmental, social and governance (ESG) and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and uses these to set *Your Library's* Corporate Plan and strategies.

Board members

The Board is made up of two nominated Councillors from each of the Member Councils.



Cr Susan Laukens
Knox City Council



Cr Linda Hancock
Maroondah City Council



Cr Jim Child, Mayor
Yarra Ranges Council



**Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch,
Mayor (Chair)**
Knox City Council



Cr Kylie Spears
Maroondah City Council



**Cr Andrew Fullagar
(Deputy Chair)**
Yarra Ranges Council

Council	Board membership changes in 2022-23
Knox	Cr Laukens joined the Board Cr Allred resigned from the Board
Maroondah	Cr Hancock joined the Board Cr Damante resigned from the Board
Yarra Ranges	Cr Cox resigned from the Board Cr McAllister resigned from the Board Cr Child joined the Board Cr Fullagar joined the Board

Board meetings

The Board met six times during 2022-23, and with the assistance of its Corporate Management Team met all of its statutory deadlines.

Council	Councillor	Number of meetings	Number of meetings attended
Knox	Cr Laukens	4	4
	Cr Timmers-Leitch	6	6
Maroondah	Cr Hancock	4	4
	Cr Spears	6	5
Yarra Ranges	Cr Child	4	3
	Cr Fullagar	4	3

Board achievements

The Board has achieved the following:

Regional Library Agreement & Statutory Requirements (Local Government Act 2019)	Quarterly meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August 2022 • October 2022 • February 2023 • April 2023 • May 2023 Special Meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2023
Reports	Adopted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Financial Report 2021-22 • Annual Report 2021-22 • Budget 2023-24
Policies and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resolved to review all Board policies • Prioritised policies for review; Child Safe policy assigned first priority • Adopted Omnibus policy
Board actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Your Library Ltd</i> Constitution adopted by Member Councils • <i>Your Library Agreement</i> adopted by Member Councils • <i>Your Library Ltd</i> registered and Directors appointed; first accounts due 30 June 2024 • <i>Your Library Ltd</i> registered as a charity; first report due 31 December 2024 • Board planner/calendar adopted • Board portal initiated online

Audit and Risk Advisory Committee

The Audit & Risk Advisory Committee (ARAC) is an independent committee that assists the Board in fulfilling its corporate governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to corporate reporting processes, including the financial reporting process, risk management and internal control, external audit, internal audit and compliance. ARAC has been instrumental to managing the transition of the Regional Library Corporation to a Beneficial Enterprise limited by guarantee. ARAC is made up of one Board member from each Council and one second level Council employee from one of the Member Councils.

Council	ARAC Membership 2022-2023
Knox	Cr Laukens
Maroondah	Cr Spears - Chair Marianne Di Giallonardo (Director People and Places)
Yarra Ranges	Cr Child

About Your Library

The role of libraries

Libraries are more than books. They contribute to social cohesion and connections within our communities.

Your Library has a huge front door, both physically and virtually. We provide valuable services to the wide range of our community members, at all ages and stages of their life. From storytime for babies and their caregivers to homework clubs for teenagers, job search services for adults and delivery services to older residents in aged care, we cater to everyone.

Our vision

Literacy and access for all – no one left behind!

Our mission

To provide something indispensable or enriching every day – for free – to everyone in the community.

Our partners

Your Library achieves our vision, mission and key directions by working in partnership with our Member Councils, other levels of governments, businesses, educators, charities, neighbourhood houses, learning centres and other not-for-profit organisations to progress our shared interest in achieving a better future for our communities.

Collaborations and partnerships are important enablers. They are a means to an end not an end in themselves.

Our values

Our plans, decisions and actions are informed and guided by our values:

Fairness and equity: We are committed to advancing fairness and equity for all.

Social responsibility: We contribute to our community and demonstrate corporate and social responsibility.

Diversity and inclusion: We respect and celebrate the diversity of our communities. Acceptance and inclusion are at the core of what we do.

Sustainability: We build the four pillars of sustainability into everything we do.

Agility and innovation: We are agile and responsive to changing community needs. We provide opportunities for people to be innovative through our services, spaces and collections.

Library Plan 2021–2025

The *Library Plan 2021–2025* is the key component in *Your Library's* strategic planning framework. It outlines the key directions that the library undertakes each year and determines the aims and objectives of every aspect of the library service.

It is made up of seven key directions, each of which relate to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

- **Key Direction 1:** Literacy for all, reading for pleasure
- **Key Direction 2:** Connecting people to knowledge and each other
- **Key Direction 3:** Creative learning – a rehearsal for life
- **Key Direction 4:** All for one and one for all, working with our partners
- **Key Direction 5:** Practice sustainability and protect our environment
- **Key Direction 6:** Measure the impact and continually improve
- **Key Direction 7:** Recruiting and retaining highly motivated staff

Sustainable Development Goals

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are at the core of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are an urgent call for action to end poverty, improve health and education, reduce inequality and foster economic growth. They also highlight the importance of addressing climate change and protecting the environment.

Your Library uses the SDGs to guide the planning of our services, programs, collections, collaborations and partnerships. We address each goal directly and practically through our actions, and also provide our users with the information and resources they need to act themselves.

Throughout this report, the SDGs relevant to each business activity are indicated using the following key:





Healeville Library's very successful 'Hot soup kitchen' initiative

CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

"Our libraries are way more than just books. They are a place where strong community connections are nurtured."

- Cr Susan Laukens

Highlights

We continued to deliver resources, programs and services that support our key strategic directions.



- Our Reader's Choice activity uncovered the book that our members enjoyed the most: *Ten Steps to Nanette* by Hannah Gadsby.

KEY DIRECTION 1
Literacy for all, reading for pleasure



- Conversation Café returned and five new Conversation Circles introduced.

KEY DIRECTION 2
Connecting people to knowledge and each other



- 2,600 Storytimes were attended by 68,000 children and their parents or teachers, and 7,500 activities for adults were attended by 30,000 people.

KEY DIRECTION 3
Creative learning – a rehearsal for life



- Our anthology, *Tales from the Pandemic*, was launched with the support of IngramSpark.

KEY DIRECTION 4
All for one and one for all, working with our partners



- The first books covered in Bioguard 80 arrived in September 2022. Approximately 20,000 books have now been covered in covered in this compostable material.

KEY DIRECTION 5
Practice sustainability and protect our environment



- Checkouts up 27% and new memberships up 52%
- We launched Convene and Explorer, cloud based solutions to streamline document management for the Board and our staff.

KEY DIRECTION 6
Measure the impact and continually improve



- A new role focussed on digital literacy for seniors was created in response to a Victorian Government initiative, and 13 staff gained experience by acting in temporary roles.
- Connecting with adults.

KEY DIRECTION 7
Recruiting and retaining highly motivated staff

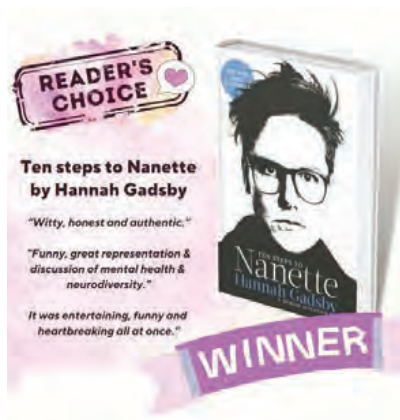
Reader's Choice

We collect a lot of information about the books you borrowed the most, but that doesn't tell us which ones you enjoyed the most. Reader's Choice was designed to find out what our members enjoyed reading from the long list of books published in 2022.

We collected responses over summer and announced the winner on Library Lover's Day - 14 February 2023. A wide range of titles captured people's imaginations, sparked their curiosity or otherwise satisfied their reading itch - 160 readers nominated 104 books.

The clear winner was Hannah Gadsby's *Ten Steps to Nanette*, followed by the worldwide bestseller *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus. It was great to see an Australian author (and a non-fiction book) take out top place.

Readers' Choice will be an annual event.



Jess Brown (Boronia Team Leader) with her Reader's Choice, *The Blood Traitor* by Lynette Noni.



Chelsea Sanders (Knox Express Children's Librarian) with her Reader's Choice, *Bitter-Sweet* by Susan Cain.

"On a personal level, I have learned so much of the inside workings of the Eastern Regional Libraries association. It is indeed a Community and Council success story, run by a wonderful team of committed staff and volunteers. I thank my fellow Board members and ERL Management for their patience and guidance, and now look forward to the next exciting chapter. I encourage all members of our communities to visit, enjoy and make valuable use of these popular community assets."

- Cr Andrew Fullagar

CONNECTING WITH ADULTS

"We talked about interesting things in previous week, then we discussed some idiom, such as 'method to my madness', 'pass the buck', 'over my dead body' and 'drive someone up to the wall' - very funny. Different country with different language but the meaning is the same."

- Conversation Café participant

Adult literacy

Conversation Café and Conversation Circles

Conversation Café ran at Realm for many years before the COVID-19 pandemic. Thanks to the efforts of Realm team member Candice Zaviska and our Literacy Coordinator, Lizzie James, it is back and more popular than ever.

Conversation Café is a program for adults who have English as a second language. They often have high levels of written English and a good understanding of grammar and vocabulary, which they have learned in their home country, but they may lack confidence speaking aloud and are not familiar with Australian colloquialisms or common conversational topics. The group meets weekly for a lively chat, which must be in English!

This year our conversational English program has expanded significantly, and we now have six English conversation groups meeting each week. While the Conversation Café is facilitated by volunteers, we have also introduced new English conversation practice sessions called Conversation Circles. The Conversation Circles at Knox, Mooroolbark and Lilydale are run by *Your Library* staff members with coordination from our Literacy Coordinator, Lizzie. At Bayswater and Rowville they are run in partnership with Mountain District Learning Centre.

Participants enjoy the casual opportunity to practise their English speaking and listening skills with the guidance of a facilitator who can provide gentle corrections, explanations or alternatives to the language being used. These are light-hearted sessions that are guided by the interest of the participants, who all have different skill levels and cultural backgrounds. They enjoy learning about Australian culture and customs, and there is often a lot of laughter when trying to explain idioms. Facilitators and participants always love discussing their favourite food, which often leads to great restaurant recommendations!

Leap into Literacy

Nearly half (44%) of Australian adults do not have enough reading and writing skills to cope with everyday life. There are many reasons for this, but there is also a lot of shame and stigma surrounding those who struggle with literacy. People often hide it from their friends, family and colleagues, and there are limited options for help.

Many adults in this situation have experienced trauma at school, so classroom-based learning is not going to help. The best support is one-on-one tutoring. After extensive research on adult literacy tutoring initiatives worldwide, we developed our own program, Leap into Literacy, in partnership with Mountain District Learning Centre.

Our first step was to ensure we had a high-quality pool of volunteers ready to match to our potential students. This involved a careful recruitment and training process. We are also registered with the Reading Writing Hotline, which refers potential students and volunteers.

We were excited to be approached by a literacy expert who was developing an adult literacy tutor training program especially for libraries and neighbourhood houses. Our first group of five volunteers were trained using her pilot program. Volunteers learn about adult learning, reading, writing, numeracy, digital literacy, goals-based learning, learning differences and trauma. Once they are trained, they are matched with a student based on interests and availability. They arrange to meet weekly, for one hour at a time, at a mutually convenient public location. We highly recommend they use one of our libraries.



We currently have eight students working with a volunteer tutor. Most of our matches began early in 2023 and so far, they have clocked up just over 70 hours of teaching and learning. We receive a quarterly progress report from each tutor and student.

The backgrounds and experiences of our students vary. For some, English is not their first language, while others have learning difficulties, interrupted schooling, neurodiversity or traumatic experiences that made literacy learning significantly challenging.

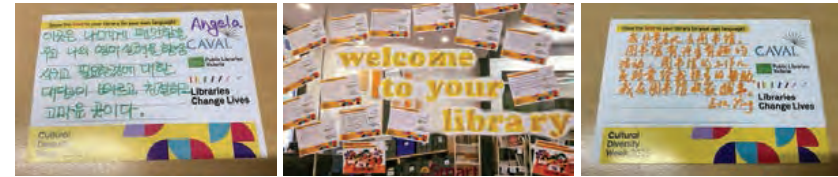
Our students have different goals, including reading a menu, recognising punctuation, getting a job or a volunteer role and improving their spelling or handwriting.

"I am enjoying it and now I have applied for a job."

- Leap into Literacy participant

"Using a GPS is easier - I can spell the names of places, makes it easier."

- Leap into Literacy participant



Love your library

In celebration of Harmony Week, Public Libraries Victoria encouraged all speakers of a language other than English to create a postcard saying why they loved their library.

"My English has improved, the staff are kind and helpful and they answer any questions I have. It's a very comfortable place."

-Angela (Korean) Pictured above left

"I like to go to the local library, there are many interesting events at the local library. The staff are really helpful and I improve my skills at the library."

- Eve (Mandarin) Pictured above right



Our first Leap into Literacy tutors with Barb Buxton (Mountain District Learning Centre).

Adult Learners Week

The first week of September each year is Adult Learners Week – a week to celebrate lifelong learning. In 2022, we ran 34 Adult Learners Week events, showcasing the wide range of learning opportunities that are available in our community, from circus skills and woodwork to Auslan and cooking. We received a grant that allowed us to distribute showbags, which included a few goodies along with flyers to promote the incredible learning providers in our communities.

We also used some of the grant money to randomly award three participants a \$100 voucher for a course at their local Community House. These were much appreciated by both the winners and the community houses, who gained some extra enrolments.

Pictured right: Lizzie James (Literacy Officer) with our Adults Learners Week showbags.

The week was an overwhelming success, with many 5-star reviews.

"Great class."

"Thank you for providing opportunities for adult learning."

"Very interacting and teacher was great."

"Absolutely loved it."

"What a joy this was."



Pictured left to right: Sarah Hopkins, Lizzie James (Literacy Officer), David Campbell (Scanner Pens), Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch, Cr Andrew Fullagar, Joseph Cullen (Your Library CEO) and Premal Niranjani at the ReaderPen launch.

Try before you buy

What can you do when you are faced with a slab of text you are unable to read? A scanning pen like the ReaderPen can help. You simply run it over the words and it reads them out to you in your chosen accent. This adaptive device is suitable for people with reading difficulties, language processing issues or any of the many other causes of low literacy. It can also be used by people who are learning English.

Your Library has purchased several ReaderPens so that our members can try them out before deciding to purchase. The ReaderPen has won a number of awards in the education and disability sectors, including, most recently, the 2023 Edtech Cool Tool award. All our Tech Support Officers have had detailed training on how to use these scanning pens and they have been well-received by the community.

**Our first book:
Tales from the Pandemic**

In November 2022 we published our first book! *Tales from the Pandemic* is an anthology collated from more than 280 entries to our 2021-22 writing competition. The book contains 45 stories, including ten that were shortlisted for final judging. The stories are a mixture of fiction, non-fiction, auto-fiction, poetry and reportage. All the published authors were invited to the launch and many of the prize winners were able to attend. Our sponsor, IngramSpark, helped to make the evening a success and our authors and their families took time to mingle and enjoy seeing their names in print.



Pictured left to right: Prize winners and highly commended authors Zoe Clark, Laura Jayne, Mandy Mancuri, Jessica Pritchard and Maria Joseph at the Tales from the Pandemic launch.

Good Reading magazine recently reviewed the book, with Jennifer Somerville concluding 'There is plenty of introspection in this collection, and celebration of small things. But take it in small doses or, like the pandemic, this anthology could be overwhelming.'

Since the launch, Yarra Valley FM and Radio Eastern have recorded five of the stories that were written and read by local authors. These are now available via podcast from Yarra Valley FM 99.1. *Tales from the Pandemic* is available from IngramSpark in both print and ebook format. It can be purchased through book shops, ebook retailers and direct from the library. course, you can always borrow it from your local library!

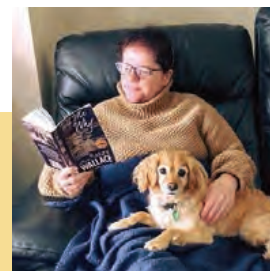
"A big thank you to the Eastern Regional Library network and IngramSpark for creating an authentic opportunity for creative writers. It's so interesting to dip in and out of the resulting anthology. The breadth and diversity of pandemic experience captured makes it a really interesting artefact. Thanks for supporting local writing!" - Kelly Simpson, author



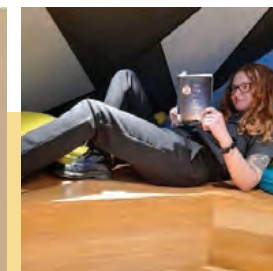
Warm Winter Read

Warm Winter Read is a statewide program coordinated by Public Libraries Victoria's Reader Development group. Reader development programs are designed to encourage people to read more, to read more widely and to feel they are part of a supportive community of readers. Warm Winter Read uses software that allows participants to record their reading, review the books they liked or disliked, and share other fun, reading-related observations, such as their favourite place to read.

Your Library members have responded enthusiastically - we have more Warm Winter Read participants than any library in Victoria.



Ajne (Ferntree Gully Team Leader (with Meadow) enjoys a gripping read by local author Sandi Wallace.



Staff member Cath reading in the 'Cave' at Realm Library.

Author highlights

Chris Hammer, Croydon

Thanks to Allen & Unwin, we hosted Australian crime writer Chris Hammer to promote his fifth book, *The Tilt*, at Croydon. With a crowd of over 70, the event space at Croydon was straining, but people just kept booking. This was our biggest event since the COVID-19 pandemic and people were clearly ready to get out and meet in person again. Croydon manager, Sue Pitt, kept Chris on his toes with her extensive knowledge of his back list, and the lively conversation between them was enjoyed by an appreciative audience. Croydon Collins did a booming trade in book sales and Chris was kept busing signing for over an hour after his talk had finished.

A heartfelt message from his publisher showed that our members are not the only ones who relish getting out and about to talk about books again.



"We have just wrapped on 40 days of touring and can finally take a breath! Sending the BIGGEST thank you from Chris Hammer and, to the entire team there who helped make it all possible. Thank you for hosting Chris and making him feel so welcomed. Thank you for all the effort you went to - the set-up, the promotion and championing his book, 'The Tilt', to your community. The whole tour felt really special and we couldn't have done it without your support and enthusiasm."

- Allen & Unwin

"Great turn up. Chris gave such a good intro/teaser to his book, I bought three of them!"



Sue Pitt (Croydon Manager) with author Chris Hammer

Kylie Moore-Gilbert, Belgrave

Sometimes an opportunity arises that you just have to grab. When our Belgrave Team Leader learned that Kylie Moore-Gilbert, the Australian academic who was imprisoned in Iran for nearly three years, lived locally and was writing a book about her ordeal, she had to invite her to visit the library. The talk booked out quickly after just one Facebook post and word of mouth in the branch. The audience were mesmerised by Kylie's story, as told in *The Uncaged Sky: My 804 Days in an Iranian Prison*, and an in-depth question and answer session followed. We are very grateful that Kylie managed to spend some time with us between producing her first book and her first baby.

"Excellent speaker with an enthralling story to tell. High calibre event!"



Pictured left to right: Noah (Belgrave staff member) with Federica Mastrangelo (Team Leader) and Dr Moore-Gilbert.



Kylie Moore-Gilbert

Will Kostakis, Rowville and Bayswater

When we found out that young adult author Will Kostakis would be visiting from Sydney during the school holidays, two of our libraries banded together to offer his fans and budding writers in the area opportunities to engage with him. In the morning, Will delivered an author talk at Rowville and in the afternoon he ran a writing workshop at Bayswater. This was a welcome success in our ongoing quest to get teenagers to visit the library.



Pictured right: Will Kostakis with Meghan Calf, who runs the young adult book club at Bayswater



Bringing local history to life...

Sometimes history may seem a little dry, but our local and family history librarians have come up with ways to make it come alive.



Kinley visit

Not all our history events happen in a library. As part of National Family History Month, we organised a 'behind the scenes' visit to the Kinley site to see the lime kilns, cheese factory, bacon factory and other buildings that made up David Mitchell's amazing empire in Lilydale. Delivered in partnership with the Kinley developers, the first tour quickly booked out and another was hurriedly arranged. Over 60 people toured the site, and many more were disappointed not to secure a place. The visitors experienced a slice of Lilydale history that few get to see. The entire area is officially a building site, so it was hard hats, closed shoes and high-vis all around.



Healesville's famous guest houses

A packed-out crowd enjoyed local historian Bryn Jones talking about the booming guest house scene in Healesville during the 1920s and beyond. This event was held in partnership with the Healesville Historical Society and, among the many enthusiastic comments, were cries for more history talks at Healesville.

"Absolutely enthralled with the stories that Bryn shared plus the added bonus of some participants sharing snippets of their personal involvement with the guest houses. Thanks so much for this event."

Croydon: then and now

To celebrate Local History Month in October, Croydon hosted an exhibition of old and current photos of local landmarks, streets and houses. From scrubby bushland to bustling modern suburbia, the buildings, roads and parks that have come, gone, significantly changed or stayed the same provided a talking point for the many visitors to the library. Incorporating over 700 photographs and associated information that showcased the changes to Croydon from the time it was settled in 1868 through to today, the exhibition drew large numbers of visitors, including ex-Croydon residents who travelled all the way from Western Australia! Many people commented on how wonderful it was that the photos instigated so much discussion and reminiscing.



Safeway Croydon 1967

Civic Square 2023



Local Big Summer Read prize-winner Isla with her mum at Mooroolbark Library

CONNECTING WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES



Big Summer Read

How to keep children reading across the summer holidays is a question faced by parents and teachers at the end of each school year. Victorian public libraries have tackled the problem by banding together to offer the Big Summer Read. This year, over 11,500 children from libraries across the state participated to set a new summer reading record. Every child who read 10 books could enter our local prize pool. There were 281 entrants from *Your Library* and they read a whopping 2,412 books, making *Your Library* the seventh busiest Big Summer Read participant across the state.

"My daughter is loving this and has read over 40 books since the end of December."

Picture This!

The Picture This! comic book competition started during the summer school holidays and continued until the end of the first term of school. The children who came to the workshops run by artists Dean Rankine and our own Sabina Wills got a chance to finish their stories and schools were encouraged to enter. Finally, it was time to draw the competition to a close.

After ...

- 17 comic book workshops at 14 libraries (most booked out with waiting lists)
- 400 children participating
- 92 amazing entries
- shortlisting by Your Library judges – such a difficult job!
- judging by five external judges, including comic book artists, editors and library specialists





Winners and Highly Commended participants with their certificates at Belgrave Library.

The winners and highly commended entrants received their prizes and certificates at a celebratory party. They also had another opportunity to work with Dean on a wet afternoon at the Belgrave Library. One of our motivations behind Picture This! was to promote our graphic novel collection. Many children enjoy reading graphic novels, which tell stories through text, images, dialogue and background information. However, many parents do not regard reading graphic novels as 'real reading'.

By bringing attention to the work required to convey a story in comic book form, the fun children can have engaging with graphic novels, and the high-quality storytelling that is being published in graphic form, we wanted to highlight the legitimacy of graphic novels as a literary form and an important milestone on children's reading journey.

We were very pleased to see an increase in the percentage of junior graphic novels on loan between January and March, while the competition was under way. The impact was reflected in a passing comment from the Croydon children's librarian in February: 'Our junior graphic novel shelves continue to be quite empty.'



Cr Andrew Fullagar, Cr Johanna Skelton, James Baker (convener, ALIA Graphic Novels and Comics special interest group), Sabina Wills (Team Leader, Healesville), Dean Rankine (comic book artist) and Joseph Cullen (Your Library CEO) hand out the Picture This! prizes.



It was absolute pleasure to read a Book Week book at storytime - it was on my bucket list! Thank you Boronia Library for the opportunity and amazing experience."

- Cr Susan Laukens

Chinese adventures

We continue to expand our Chinese language children's programming through our work with A Little Chinese Adventure.

Lunar New Year, Croydon

To celebrate the launch of the collection of Chinese language books and DVDs collection at Croydon, we held a Lunar New Year event as part of the summer school holiday program. Despite poor weather, a number of families turned up to hear English and Chinese stories and songs and work together to decorate a long zodiac colouring sheet. Many people didn't realise there were now a Chinese language collection at Croydon. There are over 7,000 items in the Chinese collection which moves between the Bayswater, Croydon, Knox, Realm and Rowville libraries.

"We love the space at Croydon. It perfectly fits our long zodiac colouring sheet."

- Jingjing, A Little Chinese Adventure



Kathleen and Jingjing from A Little Chinese Adventure.

Bilingual Storytimes

- Bayswater, Knox, Rowville and Realm

We have been running Chinese language Storytimes at all the branches that have a Chinese collection for many years. This year we extended the program by offering bilingual Storytimes as a regular school holiday activity, which were attended by both Chinese speaking and non-Chinese speaking families.

Children's librarians Chelsea from Knox (below left), Michelle from Rowville (above left) and Sarah from Realm (below) presenting *Where is the green sheep?* and *Rosie's walk* in English and Mandarin with Jenny, Sylvia and Jingjing from A Little Chinese adventure



Gently, Gently

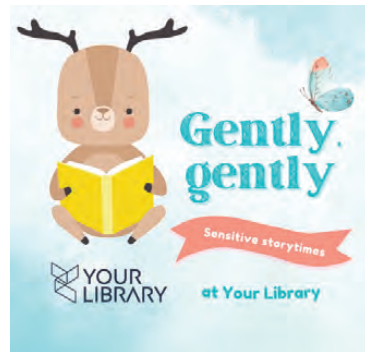
We have been experimenting with a 'Gently, Gently' quiet Storytime for a number of years. Many children find the usual Storytime experience very overwhelming or distracting. It has become clear, however, from attempts to run a short-term program at multiple locations and feedback from parents who want a more subdued Storytime experience for their child, that it needs to run each week. Regularity is the key to getting families to commit to attending each session.

This year we tried again, using one of the new community rooms at Belgrave. Having a room with a door means that we can control noise and distractions and give the children an opportunity to find their way into the Storytime experience. We set a maximum limit of 12 participants – six children and six adults. After a slow start, we quickly reached capacity and there are no longer any issues with commitment.

We have a few very shy children and one quite boisterous boy and they are all benefiting from the smaller group! The visual schedule is working well, with the children being able to easily predict what is coming next. We've had two groups coming regularly since the start of the year and I can really see the two shy little girls in particular starting to come out of their shells and participate. One of the adults has commented to me on several occasions that her granddaughter loves coming to the session and always talks about it.

From my perspective, I think it's working really well. Because the group is so small, and the same children are coming pretty consistently, they are really getting to know each other and are very happy to play together for a long time after the formal part of the session is over. The same could be said for the adults, with a lot of conversation and connections happening! Even though it is by far my smallest session, it always goes for longer than the others because the children and parents are enjoying it so much that they don't want to leave!

- Christine Nugent, Belgrave Children's Librarian



Zine workshops with Cora Zon

Local zine expert Cora Zon has been running regular workshops at Healesville Library for both adults and children. During the summer holidays, Cora used a community grant from Yarra Ranges Council to run workshops in all the libraries across Yarra Ranges.

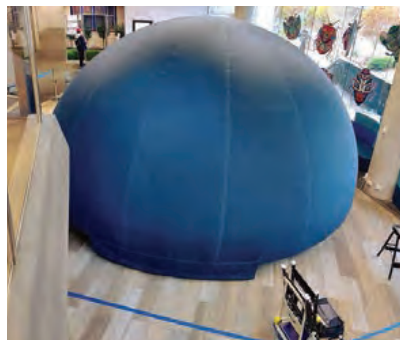
Everyone had fun making tiny magazines that told their own special stories. The old-fashioned typewriter was a hit and people got creative with images, text, prose and illustrations.



Healesville Library's spooktacular Halloween Party!

Planetarium, Realm

It looked like an alien had landed on the ground floor of Realm, but no, it was a blow-up planetarium! As part of Global Astronomy Month, the Realm team brought the stars to earth during the school holiday program in a partnership event with Maroondah Council (those stars don't come cheap). The queue extended to the door as families walking past wanted to come in and see what was going on in that big grey dome. After a hectic day of crowd management, the attraction was packed down and bundled away in less than 15 minutes, leaving the exhausted Realm team thanking their lucky stars that their very successful day was all over.



What is in there? Shani, Candice, Deb, Mel and James from Realm want to find out.

“My three girls and I absolutely loved this event. They loved the dome and the show. The guy running the show was very knowledgeable and we learnt a lot. The duration was perfect. I hope you run more events like these in the future, maybe even some adults only ones.”

“Fantastic event. Great to have an event that caters for teens. Session was really interesting. Great content and presented in an amazing way.”

KNOX CITY COUNCIL

First year at Miller’s Homestead

This year saw the end of our trial tenancy at Miller’s Homestead. *Your Library* was awarded a four-year licence to continue to deliver programming with an arts and history flavour to the community. There were many highlights during the last year, as we easily sailed past our visits and activations.



Summer music series

The beautiful gardens at Miller’s Homestead are a delightful setting for outdoor musical performances. Three events were scheduled in January, and the weather was perfect for each one! People were invited to bring a picnic, do a drawing or just relax and listen in the shade. There were African beats from Super Mande Percussion, classical flute from Ensemble 451 and Vinod Prassana on an Indian bansuri (classical flute). The response was so encouraging we scheduled a winter program.



Cat Rabbit’s soft Library

Can you imagine a library made of felt? Staffed by life-sized bears, or ‘libearians’ surrounded by felt books, felt portraits of famous authors, felt date-due stamps and a selection of titles ‘recently translated into felt’, this soft library was a wonderful immersive experience. And it looked right at home in the charming atmosphere of Miller’s, which has its own note of nostalgia and whimsy. Children decorated the walls of the scullery with drawings of the writers they admired – as bears! The library continued to grow for the duration of the exhibition.

Cat returned to Miller’s to run a brooch making workshop during the school holidays, where children made their brooches from felt.



“It was brilliant. Michelle’s manner in set-up and liaising with attendees ensured a relaxed, friendly ambience where our needs were catered for. Musicians excellent with the gift for offering something wonderful to different ages present in audience. Setting is fabulous. I loved this event and will certainly return to Miller’s. Next week if possible...and then, often!”



Cultural Diversity Week joy at Miller's Homestead

Cultural Diversity Week

In 2022, Cultural Diversity Week marked our first nervous steps into running events at Miller's Homestead. One year later, we were again working with Knox Council to offer another vibrant program celebrating Cultural Diversity Week and the rich offerings in our community. No longer nervous, we drew on the amazing community contacts we had developed over the preceding year to present the 2023 program, which included dance, music, performance, art, yoga, calligraphy, food and First Nations conversations on offer all over the homestead.



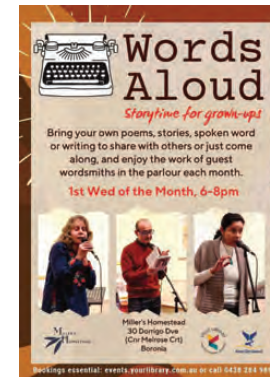
Uplifting Voices and Words Aloud

Two new programs have really found their audience at Millers: Uplifting Voices and Words Aloud. The parlour is the perfect setting for both events.

Uplifting Voices, a community singing group lead by local music teacher Barb Shearer-Jones, combines the opportunity for a creative outlet with the benefits to wellbeing that come from singing in a group.

Words Aloud is an open-mic session for poets, spoken word artists and short story writers. It begins with an invited guest poet and is followed by writers and performers of all descriptions. It is a great place for sharing stories and gives beginner performers a chance to try out their material to a respectful and inclusive audience.

"As a first-time [Words Aloud] attendee, I was impressed by the inclusivity of this event which allowed participants to share their work in an environment which was non-threatening and supportive."



Beautification projects

Murals, Boronia

As part of the ‘Beautify Boronia’ project grant, artist Carla McCrae was selected to decorate the exterior of Boronia Library. Carla is an established muralist with iconic work all over Australia and beyond. She created colourful, contemporary and relatable images for the library that celebrate community and nature. The murals (pictured right) will improve the library’s discoverability, visibility, connection to place and safety perceptions and contribute to its overall beauty. They have certainly made the library stand out in the landscape.



Courtyard, Rowville

Street artist Ghostpatrol brightened up the courtyard at Rowville with his vibrant design that included elements suggested by library staff. The work was facilitated by Knox Council’s Arts and Culture team and we look forward to extending some of the design motifs to the interior of the library next year.

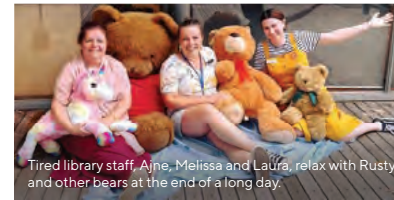
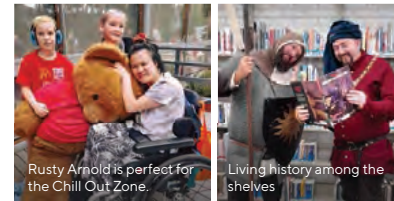
Christmas crochet

The clever crafters at Bayswater spent all year crocheting squares to make into blankets for people in need. By Christmas, more than 3,000 squares had been made. They made eye-catching decorations for an over-sized Christmas tree at the entrance to the library. More than 70 people contributed ‘granny squares’, which local charity Champion then distributed as blankets. The tree was a not just a symbol of community giving in Bayswater, it also drew people into the library. One visitor said that he didn’t know the library existed until the Christmas tree drew him in, despite having lived in Bayswater for ten years!



The tree even got its own opening with Knox Mayor Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch.

Pictured above: Martina Eaton (Champion), Jane Ward (Bayswater Team Leader), Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch and crafter extraordinaire Kay Hanley (Bayswater staff member).



VR for seniors

Our virtual reality (VR) headsets are very popular with kids and teens, but lately we have been introducing our older members to the VR experience. A session delivered at Knox Express had some unexpected benefits.

“Knox Express held a VR for Seniors event as part of Knox Council’s Senior Month in October 2022. We targeted our marketing specifically for people over 55 and advertised it on the Senior’s Month promotional platforms. Nine brave seniors turned up and each spent 15 minutes experiencing the world through a VR headset.

The event went well, and feedback from the participants was very positive. However, the most dramatic success concerned a regular library patron who wasn’t even booked into the session.

Rob, a regular at the library, suffered a heart attack a number of years ago. While he has recovered physically, some brain damage has affected his memory. He can recall highlights of his prestigious career as a computer programmer, including meeting Bill Gates and working on projects in the US, but forgets the names of his grandchildren, to his visible frustration.

Rob participated industriously in the library’s weekly brain training sessions as part of his recovery, and was very curious about the VR event he was observing from the sidelines. When he asked to give it a go, staff were happy to oblige, and he had a chance to wander the Scottish Highlands via YouTube VR. While other participants enjoyed trying something new, this particular experience was profound for Rob. It unlocked a forgotten memory of a family holiday many years ago. He was astounded and astonished and the moment was clearly joyous to him.

The purpose of the VR event was for people to try something new. But for Rob it was something much more. The impact of his experience is hard for us to measure, and it won’t show up in our statistics, but for Rob, VR for Seniors led to a moment of profound happiness. - Alan Sewell, Knox Manager

Knox Festival

The staff at Ferntree Gully library provided free activities for visitors to the ever-popular Knox Festival. Despite the number of rides and stalls outside, there were plenty of visitors to the library. It was a very busy and successful day.

Knox Festival was both a huge success and a huge day of fun! The weather was sunny and hot. We enjoyed and utilised both the indoor and outdoor spaces at the library. We had lots of activities on offer throughout the day, as well as a space set up for rest and relaxation inside the air-conditioned comfort. There was a dreamcatcher crafting station outside on the deck and another one (run by our Tech Support Officer, Laura) inside for creating kites. There were also ‘help-yourself’ stations with colouring sheets, crosswords and dot to-dot activities. Our Digital Literacy Officers Jack and Tanisha demonstrated basic coding and kids had lots of fun operating the Blue-Bots across mats covered with road maps.

“Paul the Music Man put on two performances on the outside deck, which saw families dancing, singing and creating music along with him. Even our famous lovable Rusty Arnold was there with all his Beary pals, enjoying cuddles and dancing with the children and adults. In the afternoon it was time to slow down the pace a little with a yoga fun Storytime outside. Throughout the day, families were relaxing and recharging with our books, while some were just chilling on a couch!” - Ferntree Gully Children’s Officer, Melissa Bilston

MAROONDAH CITY COUNCIL



Maroondah Children's Week

The weather was not promising, but Emma from Croydon and Tanisha from the Digital Literacy team stepped into Maroondah's first outdoor Children's Week event since 2019 with enthusiasm, flexibility and a few robots...

Tanisha and I ran a stall at the Maroondah Children's Week event in the park. Unfortunately, the morning was initially very wet, and we began the day standing in a large puddle in our tent. This meant we needed to adjust our original plans and abandon Storytimes but we were still able to offer colouring and playing with the Ozobot robots. Just after the event began, the rain stopped, and we were kept busy with a constant stream of children waiting patiently for a turn with the Ozobots. We had lots of Storytime regulars visit us and we were able to chat with new families about Storytimes and other services the library provides.

- Emma Covey, Croydon Children's Librarian

Harry Potter month at Realm

August was Harry Potter month at Realm. Children, youth and adults donned their wizarding robes for a month of Potter-themed events. Participants made magical potions and incantations, created wands that revealed their Patronus, explored the wizarding world in virtual reality, were treated to a reading of the first chapter of the Harry Potter series and battled it out for the Triwizard Cup in the inaugural Harry Potter trivia night.

Throughout the month, enthusiasts also rolled up their sleeves and sharpened their quills, submitting numerous entries into an online fan fiction competition. For those with a culinary disposition, there was a Harry Potter-inspired cooking competition where young chefs posted a photo of their creations.

With more than 27 000 visitors through the doors, Harry Potter month was pure magic!



Junior Fanfiction winner Anna with Realm staff member, Candice (above left), and Junior Cooking Competition winner, Lucas (above right).

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Running from 13-19 March, Neurodiversity Celebration Week is a global initiative aimed at challenging stereotypes and misconceptions about the neurodivergent community. Croydon Library hosted a series of events to raise awareness about neurodiversity and to provide opportunities for members of the local community to engage with autism support services.

Croydon Library hosted author, academic, and advocate Sandra Thom-Jones to talk about her book *Growing into Autism*. Drawing on her own experiences as well as her academic research, Sandra delivered an enlightening and heart-warming presentation in which she broke down myths and stereotypes about people with autism, and celebrated the many strengths of the neurodiverse community.

We also partnered with Different Journeys, a local charity that celebrates and empowers autistic people to live independent and fulfilling lives by facilitating events and connecting them to support services. Different Journeys ran a number of information sessions throughout the week. Although the attendance at these sessions was low, the impact was significant.

"Emily told us this event was the first time she left the house in three months. She was really nervous, but the small group made her feel safe and gave her room to ask lots of questions."

- Mel Spencer (CEO, Different Journeys)



Above left: Sandra Thom-Jones and Janet Laws (Croydon Acting Manager) with Sandra's book *Growing into Autism*. Above right: Janet Laws and Mel Spencer (CEO, Different Journeys) receive the proceeds of Croydon's book sales as part of Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

Secrets of women's healthy ageing at Realm

Professor Cassandra Szoeké talked about her new book, *Secrets of Women's Healthy Ageing*, in a session presented jointly by the library and Maroondah's Department of Active and Healthy Ageing. It seems there are many women who would like the secrets to be more widely shared.

"If I could give this event more stars I would! The presenter was excellent .. and the venue was great. Can we please have Professor Szoeké come again and talk all things hormones and sleep and life ... absolutely fabulous! Thank you so much."



Richard Joseph (Active and Healthy Ageing), Professor Szoeké and Realm staff member, Anne

"Absolutely wonderful. So informative, so inspiring! Please ask Professor Szoeké again ... apparently, she could give a talk on hormones and other factors affecting women's health. I learned so much. Thank you."



Hakha Chin Storytime

We began hosting regular bilingual Storytimes in late April 2023. The sessions are co-presented by Croydon's Children's Services Librarian, Emma, and Maroondah City Council's Supported Playgroup worker, Zing Tha Thluai. Songs and books are shared in both English and Hakha Chin, and the sessions finish with a craft activity and the opportunity for families to socialise.

This new program has been established in response to an identified need in the community. More than one-quarter of all Hakha Chin language speakers in Victoria live in the Maroondah area. We have already seen a great uptake for this program, with at least five families from the local Chin community attending each week, as well as groups from Maroondah Occasional Care.



Zing Tha Thluai and Emma (Croydon Children's Services Librarian).

Discover geocaching

Since Realm became home to a geocache hidden in the collection, there has been a steady stream of cache-hunting visitors, most of whom had never been to the library before. In order to spread the word about this fun, free, brain-stimulating activity, we invited Mister Doctor from Geocaching Victoria to give an overview of the world's largest treasure hunt and lead some enthusiastic sleuths to find caches in and around the library. Geocaching is suitable for participants of all ages.



"Really nicely presented, factual and practical. Loved the examples of real caches. Highly recommended to sleuths of all ages, but also to anyone with active and inquisitive young people."

"Just like hunting for treasure, maps, compasses and all!"

"The information was brilliant. Mister Doctor definitely knew what he was talking about. My 10-year-old daughter loved finding the caches around the library. The older children loved getting outside, even with the wind."

Composting

In October 2022 we partnered with Maroondah City Council to deliver a series of workshops on worm farming, composting and digestion composting to an audience of 65 people, all of whom were very happy to learn how they could reduce their waste at home.



"I have decided to commence composting at home after the session."



Realm's pop-up butterfly enclosure during the April school holidays was a big hit!



Healesville Library's youngest volunteer lends a hand in the kitchen before a community meal.

YARRA RANGES COUNCIL

From Hot Soup Kitchen to Dine and Shine – Community meals at Healesville

"Build a longer table, not a higher fence." The commercial kitchen at Healesville Library has been put to good use through a series of programs offering free meals with a side serving of conversation and information. Hot Soup Kitchen started with donations of vegetables, and some enthusiastic volunteers who got together once a month to dish up a bowl of soup and a slice of bread to a dozen participants.



Healesville Library Team Leader, Sabina Wills and staff member Sharni

"Met nice people – new people, we are new here, been here about a year."

"Good to meet a lot of people, been here 20 years (in Yarra Glen) and don't meet many people."



Halloween extravaganza

When Cire Services asked community partners to help them run a town-wide Halloween event in Yarra Junction, we were excited to work with the CFA, the Bowling Club, the Yarra Junction branch of the Red Cross, U3A Upper Yarra, Belgravia Leisure and a number of local retailers. Nobody could have predicted that 31 October 2022 would be plagued with wild weather and unexpected power cuts!



A year later, the program has been renamed Dine and Shine and we need three long tables to accommodate all the diners. A community grant has been used to purchase ingredients and a caterer has been engaged to bring a professional level of efficiency and expertise to our food preparation. Staff energy has been put into organising speakers on relevant topics, including food security with Yarra Ranges Council, legal advice from Eastern Community Legal Service and disaster preparedness with the CFA.

Other regular service providers who visit the library, such as the Jobs Advocates and the NDIS Connection Desk staff, regularly attend Healesville on Dine and Shine' days too. Long-term residents and new arrivals appreciate the opportunity to connect with each other.

Libraries are so much more these days, than places to quietly read and borrow books. They are such important safe spaces, open to anyone in the community to meet, share and enjoy. Activity abounds, with community members enthusiastically connecting, learning new skills, and making friends. – Cr Andrew Fullagar

But the townsfolk of Yarra Junction were not deterred. They came out in their hundreds to parade the streets and visit the library in an impressive array of clever costumes. We hastily gathered a skeleton staff (pun intended) and ran our program as originally planned. From tiny babies to puppy dogs, the library was filled with ghosts and ghouls and scary kids with their equally spooky parents.



Japara Neighbourhood House

Our partnership with Japara Neighbourhood House has given library members the opportunity to try a range of activities while showcasing some of the great classes and workshops run by Japara and giving people an insight into the work of other local community houses.

At Lilydale, adults tried out sessions on mindfulness, tai chi and yoga and how to practice more sustainable living by learning how to compost.



For families, the fun and educational school holiday activity Building an Insect Hotel was an introduction to a program on sustainable gardening, and the Sensory Space event showcased a music and movement class.



Mr Huff

When Yarra Ranges Council asked if we wanted to partner in presenting a theatrical performance of the children's book *Mr Huff* by Anna Walker, we were delighted to participate. The auditorium at Montrose was filled for two sessions and more than 100 people followed the adventures of a young boy dealing with a bad mood that just won't go away.

Most of the audience stayed on to make a beautiful sunshine hat and left with an at-home activity pack on the topic of 'What to do when I am in a huff'.

Vinyl swap meet

Belgrave Library hosted *Your Library's* first vinyl swap meet on Saturday 25 March 2023. Vinyl enthusiasts came from far and wide to hunt for their favourite albums or uncover forgotten treasures. The library was packed, and the most common questions was 'When can you do this again?'



Author highlight: Peter Hodkinson

There was a great turnout for the launch of *Inside the Notebook* by first-time author and Mooroolbark resident Peter Hodkinson. A large and enthusiastic audience came along to hear about Peter's writing journey and listen to the first few chapters of his book. Peter describes *Inside the Notebook* as perfect for kids who are starting to read independently but aren't quite ready for novels like the Harry Potter series. Filled with illustrations, the book is also wonderful for parents to read with younger children.

"Mooroolbark Library is my safe outlet where I always feel welcome and safe as with my PTSD I am very selective where I go. It's become a meeting place where I have met people and formed friendships and I can have a chat, read papers, books and use the wi-fi for learning. A very peaceful place of enjoyment to be at."



Emma Jahn (Mooroolbark Acting Team Leader), Peter Hodkinson and Hanna Condon (Mooroolbark Children's Officer).



Deborah Lee - Senior Manager Content Acquisition & Business Development (IngramSpark) with Sarah Hopkins - Corporate Manager Customer Experience (Your Library) and Joseph Cullen - CEO (Your Library) at the *Tales from the Pandemic* launch

PART 2 CORPORATE MATTERS

REGIONAL STATISTICS

No longer affected by lockdowns, our libraries saw massive recovery from the 2021-22 period. The biggest indicator was library visits, which were up an extraordinary 90%! This year's figure of 1,263,008 visits was almost double last year's. We are well on our way to pre-pandemic visitor levels (1,729,743 visits in 2018-19).

What are our visitors doing?



Checkouts
up **27%**



Our visitors are gradually reverting to the insatiable readers they always were.



New memberships
up **52%**



Our libraries are attracting more and more community members, particularly families with young children who were born during lockdowns making their first visit to the library.



PC sessions
up **120%**



This figure is still lower than pre-pandemic levels, with our PCs being used approximately 20.9% of the time, but the trend is positive.



Wi-fi users
up **249%**



This is a huge jump! It reflects the inestimable value of our free wi-fi services to our community.



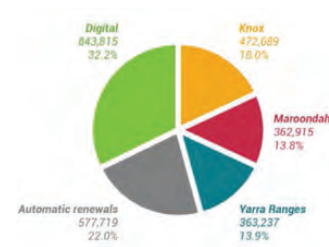
Reservations
down **2.5%**



Our members are choosing to browse for their next read now that they are able to visit the branch at (and for) their leisure.

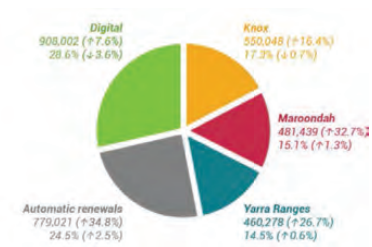
The digital domain remains our single biggest region for checkouts. However, as our branches were open for a full 12-month period, digital's slice of the pie has shrunk.

Checkouts
(Loans + renewals)



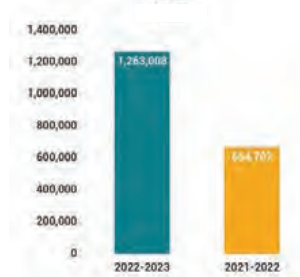
2021-2022

Checkouts
(Loans + renewals)

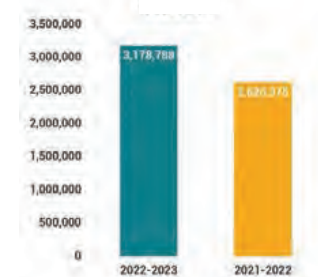


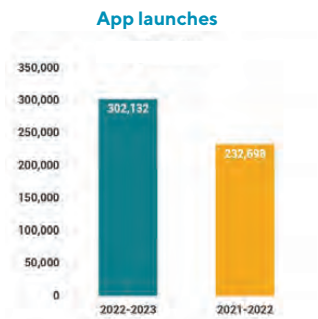
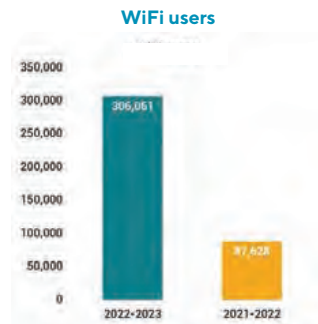
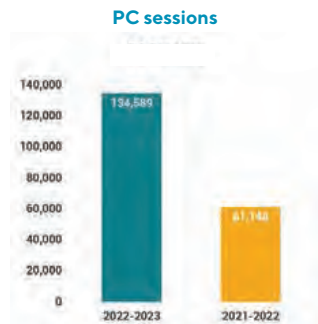
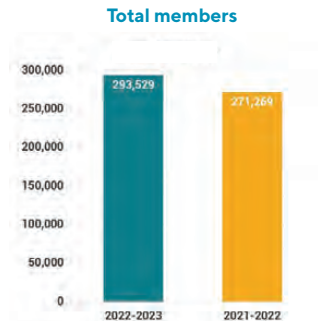
2022-2023

Visits



Checkouts





Staff member Michelle at Croydon Library

Regional Statistical Summary

	Members		Visits		Loans		PC sessions	
	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23	2021-22	2022-23
Bayswater	9,242	10,412	43,791	88,782	58,029	74,599	3,662	4,216
Boronia	13,439	14,481	37,237	63,301	87,072	106,139	3,760	4,680
Ferntree Gully	11,385	12,414	41,979	75,868	92,143	102,736	2,715	3,899
Knox/Knox Express	36,698	39,834	45,055	88,224	118,972	119,241	5,633	5,340
Knox Outreach	1,004	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Miller's Homestead	23	67	-	-	659	3,939	120	239
Rowville	23,999	26,053	60,527	118,110	115,814	143,394	6,525	10,485
Knox total	95,790	103,261	228,589	434,285	472,689	550,048	22,415	28,859
Croydon	33,511	35,811	86,033	157,369	222,095	293,326	6,920	9,625
Realm	62,950	68,521	139,936	320,284	140,820	188,113	17,234	28,205
Maroondah total	96,461	104,332	225,969	477,653	362,915	481,439	20,408	37,830
Belgrave/Belgrave Express	16,165	17,604	56,320	79,474	60,796	89,094	3,176	4,802
Flexi Van	2,386	2,631	-	-	840	3,084	-	-
Healesville	8,405	9,149	33,542	55,605	39,994	47,458	1,933	1,921
Lilydale	18,371	19,629	35,570	69,567	71,145	86,036	3,145	3,594
Monbulk (CCR)	833	976	-	-	6,919	11,190	-	-
Montrose	4,845	5,212	14,980	24,969	27,720	33,077	462	346
Mooroolbark	13,010	14,083	34,153	64,663	85,083	102,913	3,422	4,110
Mount Evelyn (CCR)	2,167	2,340	-	-	8,492	15,911	-	-
Yarra Glen (CCR)	208	517	-	-	2,602	3,316	-	-
Yarra Junction	11,209	11,978	35,579	56,792	59,646	68,199	2,064	2,061
Yarra Ranges total	77,599	84,119	210,144	351,070	363,237	460,278	14,472	16,834
Admin	562	1,559	-	-	1,366	1,165	-	-
Digital Library	-	-	-	-	843,815	908,002	-	-
Web	-	-	-	-	576,353	777,856	-	-
Other total	562	1,559	-	-	1,421,534	1,687,023	-	-
Regional total	270,412	293,271	664,702	1,263,008	2,620,375	3,178,788	57,295	83,523

BUSINESS + TECHNOLOGY

Network and information security

Cybersecurity has been a key focus for *Your Library* over the last year. This section describes our work in network security and innovation.



Australian Cyber Security Centre

Your Library is a registered business partner of the Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC). We also participate in the ACSC Cyber Hygiene Improvement Programs (CHIPs), which aims to provide insights into known vulnerabilities and recommends improvements. CHIPs provides a quarterly report of *Your Library's* performance against the hygiene indicators as assessed by the ACSC.

Essential Eight Maturity Model

Your Library uses the ACSC's Essential Eight Maturity Model as the baseline of our cybersecurity maturity. While no set of mitigation strategies is guaranteed to protect against all cyberthreats, implementing the ACSC's Strategies to Mitigate Cyber Security Incidents makes it much harder for malicious actors to compromise our systems.

The Essential Eight Maturity Model prioritises the implementation of all eight mitigation strategies as a package, due to their complementary nature, and focuses on various cyberthreats. *Your Library* strives to achieve high maturity level across all eight mitigation strategies.

Our commitment to restricting administrative privileges, implementing application control across the domain, utilising the Australian Protected Domain Name Service, firewall upgrades, and other initiatives are all pillars of *Your Library's* cyber defence strategies.

The substantial financial and staff hours investment over the last 12 months reflects our unwavering dedication to safeguarding our digital realm, irrespective of location or scale.

CAPTCHA

Your Library has introduced CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart), an additional security feature to ensure that our online services are being accessed by a human and not a bot. A bot is a software application that is programmed to do specific tasks. Bots are automated, which means they run according to their instructions without a human user needing to manually start them up every time. Bots often imitate or replace a human user's behaviour. Typically, they do repetitive tasks, and they can do them much faster than human users could.

This security feature vastly reduces DDoS attacks and protects our services.



AWS Web Instance upgrade

AWS Web Instances Upgrade was undertaken to upgrade *Your Library's* PHP-powered platforms to the latest version. PHP is a widely used, open source, general-purpose scripting language that is especially suited for web development and can be embedded into HTML.

The upgrade bolsters security and secures support for the next three years. These steps are not mere upgrades; they are building blocks of a digital future that is both robust and user centric.

Spydus Library Management System upgrade

Your Library enhanced our Spydus Library Management System with version V10.9. This upgrade is a nod to the future—a future brimming with new functionalities, fortified privacy and heightened security, leading to a library management system that is attuned to the dynamic needs of a modern library service.



Governance, efficiency and audit

Your Library introduced three cloud-managed systems, each designed to improve its landscape of governance and efficiency.

Convene Board Portal

Your Library's commitment to empowering our Board is reflected in the introduction of the Convene Board Portal. A restricted Board portal provides an intuitive space for the *Your Library* Board to access crucial information, enhancing accessibility and security.

ApprovalMax

With the introduction of ApprovalMax, *Your Library* has embraced a certified approval system that is harmonised with procurement and accounts policies. Compliance and governance were enhanced with a full audit record of approvals that fully integrates with our financial solution, Xero.

Pro-Master

Pro-Master was acquired as *Your Library's* expense management solution. It offers a two-step approval process, coupled with monthly data importation into Xero, streamlined expense claims and credit card reconciliation. These industry-leading solutions not only improved *Your Library's* governance but also resonated with the practices of our Member Councils and leading private entities.

Digital privacy

With every upgrade, every integration, and every stride toward excellence, *Your Library* charts a course toward a digital future that is fortified, agile and resilient. Two projects in particular are designed to protect our patron's privacy.

Patron information

Your Library has determined that once a patron has proved their identity, our system will only retain the following basic information about them:

- first and last name
- year of birth
- email
- borrowing history

In the event of a security attack, there will be little information of value to the malicious actors.

Borrowing history

Patrons will be able to opt to have their borrowing history deidentified. The borrowing history only, without the borrower's details, will be stored for statistical purposes.

My family LOVE the Your Library App! From booking a reservation for a new read, to renewing a title not yet completed or booking an on-site event, it's so convenient and easy to use. The kids and I organise our own books on the App and we pick up using the Click and Collect service. We are all reading so much more and loving how quickly we can get access to our favourite authors and new titles. - Cr Marcia Timmers-Leitch

OPERATIONS

Employees

Employees	2021-22	2022-23
Number of staff members (including CE)	122	126
EFT (Including CE)	87	91
Gender (as disclosed by staff)		
Female	107 (87.8%)	107 (84.9%)
Male	15 (12.3%)	19 (15.1%)
Average length of employment (years)	14.2	11
Longest length of employment (years)	45	42
Average age (years)	44.1	46
Average retirement age (years)	63.5	64.6
Age of oldest staff member (years)	67	69
Age of youngest staff member (years)	19	21
Age 40 to 75	68	85
Age 20 to 39	54	41

Staff movement

Category	Number of staff
Resignations	13 (inc. 7 retirements)
Appointments	23
Secondments	12
Supported pre-retirement arrangements	3
Study leave	6
Long-term leave (6 months)	1
Long-term leave (12 months)	1
Parental leave	1

Years of service recognition

Your Library recognises employees' years of accumulated service each year. Years of service are calculated on continuous years of service.

Congratulations to the 19 staff who reached a service milestone during 2022.

Continuous service	Number of staff
45 years	1
35 years	1
25 years	5
20 years	4
15 years	5
10 years	3

Farewell Christine Smith – Corporate Manager Operations

In January 2023, Your Library said farewell to Christine Smith, Corporate Manager Operations. Christine spent 27 years as a Corporate Manager and she was passionate about her work. She saw the organisation through many changes and supported countless staff throughout their careers.

Staff attended a lovely farewell held at Millers Homestead. Many staff attended to share stories and say goodbye and, most importantly, to thank Christine for her work and support over the years.



Christine Smith

Staff development and training

Internal opportunities have created many opportunities for staff development and learning. Mentoring and buddy programs featuring some of our more experienced staff has been a very productive way to teach new skills.

Staff continue to access training both in person and online to continually improve our standards of service delivery. Your Library recognises the importance of staff development and supports our staff in all aspects of learning.

Each staff member can set specific goals for their development and interests for the coming 12 months that will assist them in their current roles or future ambitions.

Human relations

Our staff continue to provide genuine care, patience and empathy in their service to the community. Their willingness to go the extra mile, to listen without judgement and to offer a helping hand ensures that our community members feel heard, valued and supported. Every interaction, every word of encouragement and every problem solved makes a meaningful difference. We provide a haven, space, advice and community connection to all.

Your Library is an inclusive workplace that is committed to fostering an environment where every individual, regardless of their background, identity or abilities, feels valued, respected and empowered to contribute their unique perspectives and talents.

Twelve casual staff joined Your Library in 2022-23, and about half quickly moved to permanent part-time roles. We are committed to cultivating growth in our teams and giving our staff opportunities to gain experience and skills in areas they are interested in.

The retirement of four people in leadership positions this year created opportunities that were filled by two external staff and the promotion of another two candidates.

Long-term leave by two Branch Managers gave existing staff the opportunity to gain experience and learn new skills in temporary roles. This helps us work towards our staff succession planning goals.

Training type	Title	No. of staff completed
Human relations	VISION Super – defined benefits	12
	Managers and Team Leaders branch action planning sessions (2)	20
	New employees – induction and training	23
	Performance conversation leader training	21
	ASU delegation training	4
	Workplace health and wellbeing	Ongoing (all)
	Bullying and diversity in the workplace	Ongoing (all)
Child safety	Children left unattended in the library	26
		Ongoing (all)
	Child Safety Officer refresher	12
	Introduction to Child Safety Level 1 (provided by Child Safe Australia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introductory module specifically for child-facing roles • suitable for all staff • supports organisation child safety policies, procedures and reporting processes 	All staff
	Child Safety Level 2 (provided by Child Safe Australia) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • roles and responsibilities • why child safety management • screening incident • critical incident response • abuse disclosure • reporting to authorities risk • analysing and evaluating safety risks 	Managers and Team Leaders (25)
Promotional/ Professional	Executive Certificate in Event Management	1
	PLV conference	10
	Whole person librarianship	5
	Emerging minds learning	3
OH&S	Lifting techniques	Ongoing (all)
	Burnout and stress	Ongoing (all)
	5-day HSR OH&S course	16
	First Aid Level 1 (provided by St John)	16
	Manual handling	Ongoing

WorkSafe

There were no visits from WorkSafe in 2022-23.

Policy compliance

Policy	Comments
Gender composition	Female – 107; male – 19
Employee grievances	Two employee grievances were actioned. No further action was required.
Employee education	See staff development and training (above)
Child safety cases actioned	No reports
Employee certification	All employees hold a current Working with Children Check. All police checks are updated.
COVID-19 vaccination	All employees and volunteers have received COVID-19 vaccinations.

OH&S

- 5-day HSR course held at admin with a representative from each service point location
- Workplace inspections – completed January 2023
- Key registers – audit and signed January 2023
- Branch emergency evacuation procedures and fire drills undertaken – January 2023
- Electrical tagging testing – completed April 2023
- Power interruptions and general closures

Date	Location	Reason
28 August 2022	Croydon	AUSNET power upgrade
12 September 2022	Miller’s Homestead	Power upgrade
23 March 2023	Rowville	AUSNET power outage
16 & 17 May 2023	Healesville	New battery installed

Opening hours

Croydon Library has recommenced opening until 8pm Thursday nights (previously 5.30pm). Montrose Library is trialling longer opening hours on one Saturday a month, instead of opening for two hours every Saturday morning.

Location	Previous hours	Current hours
Croydon Library	Monday: 9am–8pm Tuesday: 9am–8pm Wednesday: 9am–8pm Thursday: 9am–5.30pm Friday: 9am–5.30pm Saturday: 10am–5pm Sunday: 12pm–5pm	Monday: 9am–8pm Tuesday: 9am–8pm Wednesday: 9am–8pm Thursday: 9am–8.00pm Friday: 9am–5.30pm Saturday: 10am–5pm Sunday: 12pm–5pm
Montrose Library	Monday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Tuesday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Wednesday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Thursday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Friday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Saturday: 10am–12pm Sunday: Closed	Monday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Tuesday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Wednesday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Thursday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Friday: 9am–1pm & 2pm–5pm Saturday: 10am–1pm (3rd Saturday of each month only) Sunday: Closed

MARKETING + PROMOTIONS



Facebook
10,529 followers (+762)



Instagram
2,921 followers (+290)



TikTok
1059 followers (+413)



Twitter
1,539 followers (0)



eNewsletter
Our eNewsletter is currently delivered to 107,600 subscribers each month (+12,600)



Children's eNewsletter
Our opt-in Children's eNewsletter launched in Term 1 of 2023 with 498 subscribers, increasing to 1,100 by the start of Term 3.

Facebook Highlights

Post impressions: 5.4k
Reach: 5.2k
Engagement: 400



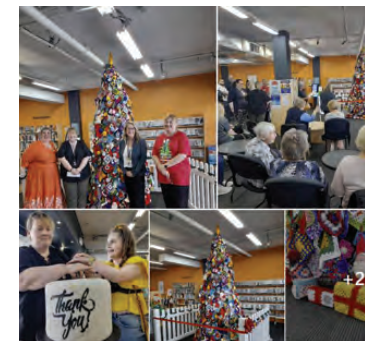
Boronia Library beautification

Post impressions: 7.4k
Reach: 7.4k
Engagement: 300



1000 Books Before School achievement

Community Crochet Project at Bayswater



Post impressions: 8.3k
Reach: 7.2k
Engagement: 1.2k

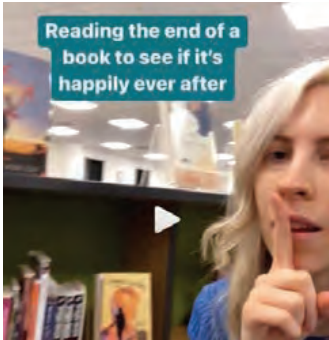
Extended hours announcement at Croydon



Post impressions: 7k
Reach: 6.4k
Engagement: 300

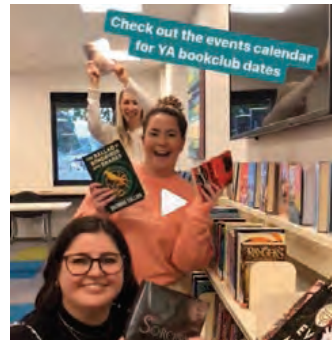
Instagram Reels Highlights

Reach: 10.1k
Plays: 10.3k
Engagement: 1.8%



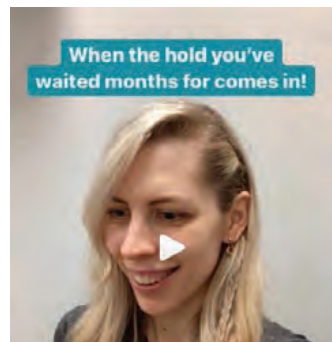
The dark side of reading

YA Bookclub promo



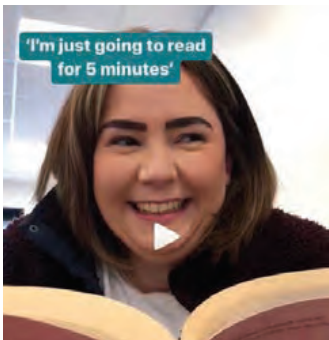
Reach: 2.2k
Plays: 2.3k
Engagement: 3.8%

When your hold finally arrives



Reach: 7k
Plays: 7.3k
Engagement: 1.7%

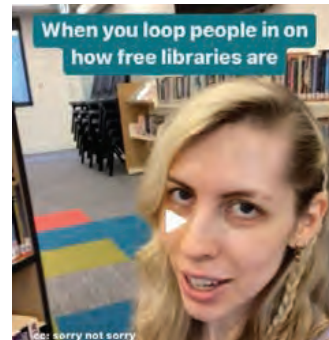
Reach: 13.9k
Plays: 13.9k
Engagement: 2.9%



Just five more minutes...

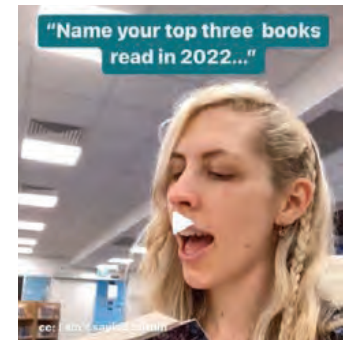
TikTok Highlights

Reach: 479
Plays: 511
Likes: 31



Money saving hack

Amy's favourite reads of 2022



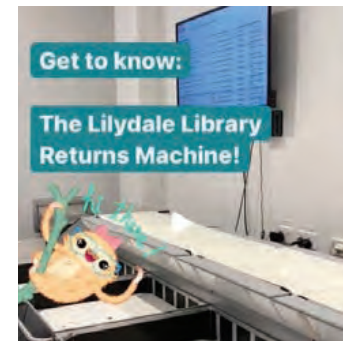
Reach: 1.4k
Plays: 1.4k
Likes: 92

Reach: 453
Plays: 477
Likes: 12



Christmas outtakes

Get to know Lilydale's returns machine

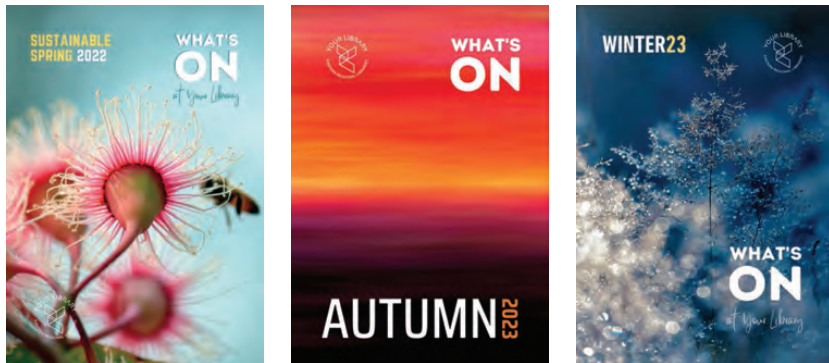


Reach: 541
Plays: 546
Likes: 48

In print

What's On

Our seasonal 'What's On' events guide continues to be enthusiastically received by our community with 7,000 copies of each issue distributed at the branches.



Other publications

We are regular contributors to the 'what's on' sections in the Boronia and Basin Community News, Studfield Wantirna Community News and often featured in Star Mails newspapers throughout the year.

On the airwaves



Tales from the Pandemic on local radio and podcast

Throughout May 2023, listeners of Radio Eastern FM 98.1 & Yarra Valley FM 99.1 could tune in to listen to *Tales from the Pandemic* stories narrated in full by the authors, including:

- Zoe Clark - *2020-2021*
- Olwyn Backhouse - *Against All Odds*
- Laura Jayne - *Isolation*
- Mandy Mercuri - *The Numbers*
- Jessica Pritchard - *COVID Baby*

From June, our *Tales from the Pandemic* narrations became available to listen/download via Yarra Valley FM 99.1's podcast.



Children's Librarian, Sharon and Customer Service Librarian, Deb, get ready for school holiday fun!



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Mountain High Shopp Cntr
7-13 High Street, Bayswater

Boronia Library

Park Crescent, Boronia

Ferntree Gully Library

1010 Burwood Hwy,
Ferntree Gully

Knox Library

Knox City Shopp Cntr
425 Burwood Highway
Wantirna South

Miller's Homestead

Dorrigo Dr & Melrose Ct
Boronia

Rowville Library

Stud Park Shopp Cntr
Stud Road, Rowville

MAROONDAH LIBRARIES

Croydon Library

5 Civic Square,
Croydon

Realm

Ringwood Town Square
179 Maroondah Hwy
Ringwood

YARRA RANGES LIBRARIES

Belgrave Library

Reynolds Lane, Belgrave

Healesville Library

110 River Street, Healesville

Lilydale Library

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Box Hill Institute,
Lilydale Lakeside Campus
Jarlo Drive, Lilydale

Montrose Library

935 Mount Dandenong
Tourist Road, Montrose

Mooroolbark Library

7 Station Street
Mooroolbark

Yarra Junction Library

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Yarra Junction

COMMUNITY READING ROOMS

Mt Evelyn Reading Room

50 Wray Crescent
Mount Evelyn

Monbulk Reading Room

Monbulk Living and
Learning Centre
21 Main Road, Monbulk

Yarra Glen Reading Room

45 Bell Street
Yarra Glen

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Scoresby 3179

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*Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation
2022/23 Annual Financial Report*

EASTERN REGIONAL LIBRARIES CORPORATION

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

for the year ended 30 June 2023

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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*, the Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

DocuSigned by:

BEE2ED921F5641B...
Premal Niranjana
Principal Accounting Officer

Dated: 10/20/2023 | 9:25 AM AEDT
Scoresby

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial transactions of the Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation ("the Corporation" or "ERLC") for the year ended 30 June 2023 and the financial position of the ERLC as at that date.

At the date of signing, we are not aware of any circumstances that would render any particulars in the financial statements to be misleading or inaccurate.

We have been authorised by the Corporation and by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 to certify the financial statements in their final form.

DocuSigned by:

A7BBA1A66501431...
CR Marcia Timmers-Leitch
Councillor

Dated: 10/20/2023 | 9:47 AM AEDT
Scoresby

DocuSigned by:

F3B81D541C91435...
CR Andrew Fullagar
Councillor

Dated: 10/20/2023 | 9:54 AM AEDT
Scoresby

DocuSigned by:

4F03EE52FDFC4D1...
Joseph P Cullen
Chief Executive Officer

Dated: 10/20/2023 | 2:22 PM AEDT
Scoresby



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board members of Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation

Opinion	<p>I have audited the financial report of Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation (the corporation) which comprises the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • balance sheet as at 30 June 2023 • comprehensive income statement for the year then ended • statement of changes in equity for the year then ended • statement of cash flows for the year then ended • statement of capital works • notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies • certification of the financial statements. <p>In my opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the corporation as at 30 June 2023 and their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and applicable Australian Accounting Standards.</p>
Basis for Opinion	<p>I have conducted my audit in accordance with the <i>Audit Act 1994</i> which incorporates the Australian Auditing Standards. I further describe my responsibilities under that Act and those standards in the <i>Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report</i> section of my report.</p> <p>My independence is established by the <i>Constitution Act 1975</i>. My staff and I are independent of the corporation in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 <i>Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants</i> (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Victoria. My staff and I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.</p> <p>I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.</p>
Board members' responsibilities for the financial report	<p>The Board members of the corporation are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the <i>Local Government Act 1989</i>, the <i>Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014</i> and for such internal control as the Board members determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.</p> <p>In preparing the financial report, the Board members are responsible for assessing the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless it is inappropriate to do so.</p>

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

As required by the *Audit Act 1994*, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on the audit. My objectives for the audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the corporation's internal control
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board members
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Board members' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Board members regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



MELBOURNE
31 October 2023

Travis Derricott
as delegate for the Auditor-General of Victoria

Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation
2022/23 Annual Financial Report

Comprehensive Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Income			
User charges, fees, and fines	3.1	63	59
Grants - operating	3.2	3,149	2,970
Contributions - monetary	3.3	11,199	11,033
Net loss on disposal of plant, furniture, equipment, and library materials	3.4	(6)	(99)
Other income	3.5	95	100
Total income		14,500	14,063
Expenses			
Employee costs	4.1	10,024	8,700
Materials and services	4.2	2,046	2,188
Depreciation	4.3	2,129	1,898
Amortisation - intangible assets	4.4	4	4
Amortisation - right of use assets	4.5	147	119
Assets written off	4.6	264	-
Finance costs - leases	4.7	23	3
Other expenses	4.8	43	67
Total expenses		14,680	12,979
Net surplus/(deficit)		(180)	1,084
Total comprehensive result		(180)	1,084

The above comprehensive income statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation
2022/23 Annual Financial Report

Balance Sheet
as at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5.1	2,770	5,281
Trade and other receivables	5.1	113	8
Other assets	5.2	347	-
Assets held for distribution to owners			
Right-of-use assets	5.5	611	61
Intangible assets	5.2	26	30
Plant, furniture, equipment, and library materials	6.1	6,000	6,176
Total current assets		9,867	11,556
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5.3	346	504
Provisions	5.4	2,078	2,049
Lease liabilities	5.5	627	71
Total current liabilities		3,051	2,624
Net assets		6,816	8,932
Equity			
Members' equity based on initial contributions	5.6	3,689	3,689
Accumulated surplus	5.7	3,127	5,243
Total Equity		6,816	8,932

The above balance sheet should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation
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Statement of Change in Equity
for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Members' Equity Total \$'000
2023		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	5.6	8,932	5,242	3,689
Deficit for the year		(180)	(180)	
Distributions to Member Councils	5.7	(1,936)	(1,936)	
Balance at the end of the financial year		6,816	3,126	3,689

		Total \$'000	Accumulated Surplus \$'000	Members' Equity Total \$'000
2022		\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	5.6	13,947	10,258	3,689
Surplus for the year		1,085	1,085	
Distributions to Member Councils	5.7	(6,100)	(6,100)	
Balance at the end of the financial year		8,932	5,243	3,689

The above statement of change in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$'000	2022 \$'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
User charges, fees, and fines	3-1	63	65
Grants - operating	3-2	3,149	2,967
Contributions - monetary	3-3	11,199	12,136
Interest received	3-5	25	21
Other receipts	3-5	64	86
Net GST refund/payment	5-3	(216)	(729)
Employee costs	4-1	(10,024)	(8,700)
Materials and services	4-2	(2,038)	(2,718)
Other payments	4-8	(412)	(23)
Net cash provided by operating activities	9-1	1,810	3,105
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for plant, furniture, equipment, and library materials	6-1	(2,242)	(2,073)
Proceeds from plant, furniture, equipment, and library materials	6-1	21	-
Proceeds from disposal of financial assets		-	4,600
Net cash used in (provided by) investing activities		(2,221)	2,527
Cash flows from financing activities			
Distribution to Member Councils	5-7	(1,936)	(6,100)
Interest paid - lease liability		-	(3)
Repayment of lease liabilities	5-5	(164)	(115)
Net cash used in financing activities		(2,100)	(6,218)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents	5-1	(2,511)	(586)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	5-1	5,281	5,867
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	5-1(a)	2,770	5,281

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Capital Works
for the year ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		\$'000	\$'000
Plant and equipment			
Library materials		1,815	1,728
Furniture and equipment		428	272
Work in progress			74
Total plant and equipment		2,243	2,074
<hr/>			
Total capital works expenditure	6.1	2,243	2,074
<hr/>			
Represented by:			
New asset expenditure		428	346
Asset renewal expenditure		1,815	1,728
Total capital works expenditure	6.1	2,243	2,074

The above statement of capital works should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2023

Note 1 OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation (ERLC) was established by an Order of the Governor in Council on the 14th of June 1996 and is a body corporate.

The Corporation's main office is located at 10 Caribbean Drive, Scoresby, Victoria, 3179. The Corporation moved from its previous headquarters at 1350 Ferntree Gully Roda, Scoresby, 3179, in January 2023.

The purpose of the Corporation is to:

- provide resources and programs aimed at meeting the information, recreation, educational and cultural needs of the diverse communities of Knox, Maroondah, and Yarra Ranges in an equitable, effective, efficient, responsive and forward-looking manner in accordance with the values and objectives of the Library Plan;
- provide or ensure the provision of, subject to any conditions attached to any State government library subsidies and grants to the Regional Library or the Member Councils, a regional library service for the Member Councils' municipal districts as determined by the Board; and
- make Local Laws relating to the Regional Library; perform any other functions which are conferred on the Regional Library under this Agreement or the Act, including defining overall policy objectives, developing strategic policy, letting tenders for the provision of services, monitoring contracts under which services are provided, and approving a corporate plan and an annual service plan.

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 the Australian Accounting Standards (AAS), other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, Local Government Act 1989 (as per the transitional provisions of the Local Government Act 2020), and the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014.

The Corporation is a not-for-profit entity and therefore applies the additional AUS paragraphs applicable to a not-for-profit entity under the Australian Accounting Standards.

Significant accounting policies

1.1 Basis of accounting

(a) Basis of Preparation and Presentation of Financial Statements

The Board members, having regard for their intention to wind up the Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation within twelve months of year end and transition the operations, assets, and liabilities from Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation to a new entity called Your Library Limited (effective 01 July 2023), have prepared the financial statements on a basis other than as a going concern. The financial statements have been prepared by adopting 'wind-up basis' as the net assets will be distributed back to the Member Councils who will gift them to a newly formed company limited by guarantee within twelve months of year end.

Under wind-up basis, all liabilities and commitments have been classified as current, on the basis that the Corporation will be wound up before the end of December 2023, being less than 12 months from the preparation of these financial statements. Non-current assets have been reclassified to held for distribution to owners and carried at the lower of their carrying amount and fair value less costs of disposal. As the carrying value approximates fair value, no adjustments have been made because of the reclassifications or ceasing to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 2020*, ERLC is to be wound up within 10 years from the commencement of the Act. Consequently, the Member Councils have resolved to establish Your Library Limited during the 2022-23 financial year, as a continuation of the existing ERLC business.

On 27 June 2022, Knox City Council, Maroondah City Council and Yarra Ranges Council resolved, pursuant to section 110(1) of the *Local Government Act 2020*, to participate in the formation of, and become a founding member of, Your Library Limited (a public company limited by guarantee) on the terms of the Your Library Limited Constitution. To facilitate the transition to the new corporation, ERLC established a public company limited by guarantee, Your Library Limited, on 3 October 2022.

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The Member Councils have resolved that Your Library will continue to provide library services under the current model, reflected in the Your Library Agreement between the Member Councils. The Your Library Agreement has been adopted by the Member Councils.

The Your Library Agreement reflects the Regional Library Agreement currently in place and deals with the equity to be introduced into the new entity subsequent to the Members' distributions made during the 2022-23 financial year (refer to Note 7.2(a)(ii)), the transfer of assets and liabilities, budgets, contributions and other matters.

The three Member Councils will contribute in the same proportion as before in accordance with the Your Library Agreement and the operations of the library will continue as before with the objective of serving the local community with library and other services.

The Board Members are satisfied that ERLC has sufficient resources to meet the expected costs of the transition and satisfy any liabilities as and when they fall due. ERLC remains in a strong financial position and the transition is not a result of financial concerns, rather the transition being imposed on the Corporation by changes to the *Local Government Act 2020*.

(b) Basis of accounting

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported. Accounting policies applied are disclosed in sections where the related balance or financial statement matter is disclosed.

The accrual basis of accounting has been used in the preparation of these financial statements, except for the cash flow information, 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.

The financial statements are based on the historical cost convention unless a different measurement basis is specifically disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a wind-up basis (as detailed in Note 1.1(a)). The financial statements are in Australian dollars. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise specified.

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 in future periods that are affected by the revision. Judgements and assumptions made by management in the application of AAS's that have significant effects on the financial statements and estimates relate to:

- the determination of depreciation for plant, furniture, equipment, and library materials (refer to Note 6.1)
- the determination of employee provisions (refer to Note 5.4(a))
- the determination, in accordance with AASB 16 Leases, of the lease term, the estimation of the discount rate when not implicit in the lease and whether an arrangement is in substance short-term or low value (refer to Note 5.5)

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.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Income and expenses are recognised net of the amount of associated GST. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included with other receivables or payables in the Balance Sheet.

1.2 Impact of Protected Industrial Action

During the year, the Corporation was subject to Protected Industrial Action. This included the non-collection of photocopying charges and other fees.

Eastern Regional Libraries Corporation
2022/23 Annual Financial Report

Note 2 ANALYSIS OF OUR RESULTS

2.1. Income and expenditure

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Variance	
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	%	Ref
Income					
User charges, fees, and fines	93	63	(30)	-32.26%	1
Grants - operating	2,947	3,149	202	6.85%	2
Contributions - monetary	11,199	11,199	-	-	
Net loss on disposal of property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment	-	(6)	(6)	100.00%	
Other income	68	95	27	39.71%	3
Total income	14,307	14,500	193		
Expenses					
Employee costs	9,420	10,024	(604)	-6.41%	4
Materials and services	2,477	2,046	431	17.36%	5
Depreciation	1,900	2,129	(229)	-12.03%	6
Amortisation - intangible assets	-	4	(4)	100.00%	
Amortisation - right of use assets	-	147	(147)	100.00%	7
Assets written off {shown in Budget (Expenses) as Nett loss on P&E}	250	265	(15)	-6.00%	8
Finance costs - leases	-	23	(23)	100.00%	7
Other expenses	231	43	(189)	81.82%	9
Total expenses	14,278	14,680	(470)		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	29	(180)			

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Budget Variance Ref		
1	User charges, fees, and fines	<p>In 2020/21 ERLC made the decision to stop issuing fines for overdue items, to reduce financial barriers to library access. Patrons were only billed for lost, damaged or stolen items. This continued in 2022/23.</p> <p>During the year, the Corporation was subject to Protected Industrial Action. This included the non-collection of photocopying charges and other fees.</p>
2	Grants - operating	Variance due to State Government Grant increase and Federal Government Grant of \$140,000.
3	Other income	Investment income returns better than anticipated as interest rates improved during the year.
4	Employee costs	<p>Employees costs were impacted by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Filing COVID vacancies to restore customer service levels. • Enterprise Agreement increase of 2%. • Reintroducing weekend opening hours. • Increase in Annual and LSL Leave use.
5	Materials and services	Less than budgeted because of a slower than expected recovery from COVID-19.
6	Depreciation	Increase due to purchase of extra library materials demand post COVID-19 and fit out for new head office.
7	Amortisation - right of use assets Finance cost - leases	The 2022/23 Budget included Other expenses of \$177k for office rental (see Note 9). This expense is captured in 'Amortisation - right of use assets' and 'Finance costs - leases' in the Comprehensive Income Statement
8	Assets written off	A detailed review of the Asset Register disclosed assets that were no longer in the possession of the Corporation. It was resolved to write off these assets to ensure the Asset Register is up to date when the assets are transferred from 1 July 2023. The write off is shown at 'Assets written off' in the Comprehensive Income Statement (see page 5). The 2022/23 Budget included an expense of \$250k as a 'Nett loss on P&E'.
9	Other Expenses	The 2022/23 Budget included Other expenses \$177k for office rental. This expense is captured in 'Amortisation - right of use assets' and 'Finance costs - leases' in the Comprehensive Income Statement

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2022/23 Annual Financial Report*

Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
3.1 User charges, fees, and fines		
Library charges, fees, and fines	63	59
Total user charges, fees, and fines	63	59

User charges, fees, and fines by timing of revenue recognition

User fees recognised at a point in time	63	59
Total user charges, fees, and fines	63	59

User charges, fees and fines are recognised as revenue at a point in time, when (or as) the performance obligation is satisfied. Recognition is based on the underlying contractual terms.

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
3.2 Funding from other levels of government		
Commonwealth funded grants	145	4
State funded grants	3,004	2,966
Total grants received	3,149	2,970

(a) Operating Grants

Recurrent - State Government

Public Libraries Grant Program	2,946	2,903
Premier's Reading Challenge	58	59
Total recurrent operating grants	3,004	2,962

Non-recurrent - Commonwealth Government

Get Online Grant	145	4
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Non-recurrent - State Government

Royal Society Grant	-	4
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Total non-recurrent operating grants	145	8
Total operating grants	3,149	2,970

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000

(b) Unspent grants received on condition that they be spent in a specific manner

Operating

Balance at the start of year	-	4
Received in prior years and spent during the financial year	-	(4)
Balance at the year end	-	-

Grant income is recognised at the point in time when ERLC satisfies its performance obligations as specified in the underlying agreement.

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Note 3 FUNDING FOR THE DELIVERY OF OUR SERVICES (CONT.)

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
3.3 Contributions		
Monetary (refer to Note 7.2(a)(1))	11,199	11,033
Total contributions	11,199	11,033

Monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when ERLC obtains control over the contributed asset.

	\$'000	\$'000
3.4 Net (loss) on disposal of plant, furniture, equipment, and library materials		
Written down value of assets disposed	(6)	(99)
Total (loss) on disposal of plant, furniture, equipment, and library materials	(6)	(99)

The profit or loss on sale of an asset is determined when control of the asset has passed to the buyer.

3.5 Other income

Interest	25	18
Other	70	82
Total other income	95	100

3.6 Interest and other income

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 ERLC gains control over the right to receive the income.

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Note 4 THE COST OF DELIVERING SERVICES

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
4.1 (a) Employee costs		
Wages and salaries	8,090	7,164
WorkCover	37	55
Superannuation	893	758
Fringe benefits tax	34	25
Annual leave	699	666
Long service leave	152	32
Other leave	119	-
Total employee costs	10,024	8,700

4.1 (b) Superannuation

ERLC made contributions to the following funds:

Defined benefit fund

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	112	126
	112	126
Employer contributions payable at the reporting date.	22	-

Accumulation funds

Employer contributions to Local Authorities Superannuation Fund (Vision Super)	528	501
Employer contributions - other funds	250	131
	778	632
Employer contributions payable at the reporting date.	-	52

Refer to Note 9.2 for further information relating to ERLC's superannuation obligations.

4.2 Materials and services

Office administration	703	689
Information technology	557	638
Library consumables	418	533
Contract payments	201	173
Insurance	79	52
Repairs and maintenance	14	74
Consultants	66	19
Utilities	8	10
Total materials and services	2,046	2,188

Expenses are recognised as they are incurred and reported in the financial year to which they relate.

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	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
4.3 Depreciation		
Library materials	1,800	1,604
Furniture and equipment	320	287
Plant	9	7
Total depreciation	2,129	1,898

Refer to Note 5.2(b), 5.5 and 6.1 for a more detailed breakdown of depreciation and amortisation charges and the accounting policy.

4.4 Amortisation - Intangible assets

Software	4	4
Total Amortisation - Intangible assets	4	4

4.5 Amortisation - Right of use assets

Property	147	119
Total Amortisation - Right of use assets	147	119

4.6 Assets written off

Refer to Note 2.1, Budget Variations (9) for a more detailed explanation of Assets written off. The write off is shown at 'Assets written off' in the Comprehensive Income Statement (see page 5).

	264	-
Total write off	264	-

4.7 Finance Costs - Leases

Interest - Lease Liabilities	23	3
Total finance costs	23	3

4.8 Other expenses

Auditors' remuneration - VAGO - audit of the financial statements	47	15
Lease outgoing/(adjustments)	(4)	52
Total other expenses	43	67

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Note 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION	2023	2022
5.1 Financial assets	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank	2,770	5,281
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,770	5,281

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits at call, and other highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

	2023	2022
(b) Trade and other receivables	\$'000	\$'000
Current		
<i>Statutory receivables</i>		
Net GST receivable	105	-
<i>Non statutory receivables</i>		
Security deposit	8	8
Total current trade and other receivables	113	8

Short term receivables are carried at the 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 the amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

No provision has been made for doubtful debts.

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Note 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (CONT.)

5.2 Non-financial assets

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Other assets		
Prepayments	347	-
Total other assets	347	-

(b) Intangible assets

Corporate software	26	30
Total intangible assets	26	30

Corporate Software

	\$'000
Gross carrying amount	
Balance as at 1 July 2022	62
Additions from internal developments	-
Corporate software write off	(25)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	37

Accumulated amortisation and impairment

Balance as at 1 July 2022	32
Amortisation expense	4
Adjustments	(26)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	10

Net book value as at 30 June 2022 **30**

Net book value as at 30 June 2023 **27**

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.

5.3 Payables

	\$'000	\$'000
Trade and other payables		
<i>Non-statutory payables</i>		
Trade payables	98	6
Accrued expenses	7	121
Salary accruals	219	267
Superannuation payable - defined benefits	22	-
<i>Statutory payables</i>		
Net GST payable	-	111
Total current trade and other payables	346	505

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Note 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (CONT.)

5.4 Provisions

	Annual Leave	Long Service Leave	Total
2023	\$ '000	\$ '000	\$ '000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	763	1,286	2,049
Additional provisions	673	259	932
Amounts used	(668)	(134)	(802)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(2)	(99)	(101)
Balance at the end of the financial year	766	1,312	2,078
2022			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	739	1,364	2,103
Additional provisions	98	227	325
Amounts used	(52)	(114)	(166)
Change in the discounted amount arising because of time and the effect of any change in the discount rate	(22)	(191)	(213)
Balance at the end of the financial year	763	1,286	2,049

(a) Employee provisions

Current provisions expected to be wholly settled within 12 months

	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current provisions expected to be wholly settled after 12 months		
Annual leave	401	343
Long service leave	146	101
	547	444
Annual leave	365	420
Long service leave	1,166	1,185
	1,531	1,605
Total current employee provisions	2,078	2,049

Aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions:

Current	2,078	2,049
Total aggregate carrying amount of employee provisions	2,078	2,049

Note 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (CONT.)

5.4 Provisions (cont.)

Annual leave

A liability for annual leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits as a current liability because ERLC does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability. Liabilities for annual leave are measured at:

- nominal value if ERLC expects to wholly settle the liability within 12 months.
- present value if ERLC does not expect to wholly settle within 12 months.

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 the 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.

Long service leave

Liability for long service leave (LSL) is recognised in the provision for employee benefits. Unconditional LSL is disclosed as a current liability as ERLC does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement. Unconditional LSL is measured at nominal value if expected to be settled within 12 months or at present value if not expected to be settled within 12 months.

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 and measured at present value.

Key assumptions - Annual leave:

- Weighted average discount rate	2.07%	1.39%
- Weighted average index rate	2.49%	2.41%

Key assumptions - Long service leave:

- Weighted average discount rate - current	3.51%	3.17%
- Weighted average discount rate - non-current	4.07%	3.10%
- Weighted average index rate - current	2.50%	2.04%
- Weighted average index rate - non-current	2.50%	2.23%

Note 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (CONT.)

5.5 Leases

At inception of a contract, ERLC assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period in exchange for consideration. To identify whether a contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset, it is necessary to assess whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset.
- ERLC has the right to obtain substantially all the economic benefits from use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- ERLC has the right to direct the use of the asset.

This policy is applied to contracts entered into, or changed, on or after 1 July 2019.

As a lessee, ERLC recognises a right-of-use asset and a lease liability at the lease commencement date. The right-of-use asset is initially measured at cost which comprises the initial amount of the lease liability adjusted for:

- any lease payments made at or before the commencement date less any lease incentives received; plus
- any initial direct costs incurred; and
- an estimate of costs to dismantle and remove the underlying asset or to restore the underlying asset or the site on which it is located.

The right-of-use asset is subsequently depreciated using the straight-line method from the commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the right-of-use asset or the end of the lease term. The estimated useful lives of right-of-use assets are determined on the same basis as those of property, plant and equipment. In addition, the right-of-use asset is periodically reduced by impairment losses, if any, and adjusted for certain measurements of the lease liability.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, an appropriate incremental borrowing rate. Generally, ERLC uses an appropriate incremental borrowing rate as the discount rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability comprise the following:

- Fixed payments.
- Variable lease payments that depend on an index or a rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date.
- Amounts expected to be payable under a residual value guarantee; and
- The exercise price under a purchase option that ERLC is reasonably certain to exercise, lease payments in an optional renewal period if ERLC is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, and penalties for early termination of a lease unless ERLC is reasonably certain not to terminate early

When the lease liability is remeasured in this way, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

Under *AASB 16 Leases*, ERLC as a not-for-profit entity has elected not to measure right-of-use assets at initial recognition at fair value in respect of leases that have significantly below-market terms.

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Note 5 OUR FINANCIAL POSITION (CONT.)

5.5 Leases (cont.)

Right-of-Use Assets

	Property
	\$'000
Balance as at 1 July 2022	61
Additions	697
Amortisation charge	(147)
Balance as at 30 June 2023	611

Balance as at 1 July 2021	176
Additions	-
Adjustments to right-of-use assets due to re-measurement of lease liability	4
Amortisation charge	(119)
Balance as at 30 June 2022	61

<i>Lease liabilities</i>	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Less than one year	143	71
One to five years	565	-
More than five years	-	-
Total undiscounted lease liabilities as at 30 June:	708	71

<i>Current lease liabilities included in the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2023</i>	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
Current	627	71
Total lease liabilities	627	71

Short Term and low value leases

ERLC does not currently have any non-cancellable lease commitments which are short-term or low value leases

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5.6 Members' equity (ownership interest)	2023	2022
	\$'000	\$'000
The net assets of the joint venture:	3,689	3,689
<hr/>		
<i>The percentage equity shares of making up this joint venture is as follows:</i>	%	%
Yarra Ranges Council	38.72	38.72
Knox City Council	36.39	36.39
Maroondah City Council	24.89	24.89
	100.00	100.00
<hr/>		
	2023	2022
5.7 Accumulated surplus	\$'000	\$'000
Balance at the beginning of the financial year	5,242	10,258
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(180)	1,084
Distributions to Member Councils	(1,936)	(6,100)
Balance at the end of the financial year	3,126	5,242

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Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE

6.1 Plant, furniture, equipment, and library materials

Summary of property, infrastructure, plant, and equipment

	Carrying amount 30 June 2022 \$'000	Additions \$'000	Depreciation \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Adjustment \$'000	Carrying amount 30 June 2023 \$'000
Library materials	5,081	1,815	(1,800)	(22)	(220)	4,854
Furniture and equipment	985	428	(319)	(50)	(5)	1,039
Plant	36	-	(9)	(34)	37	33
Work in progress	74	-	-	-	-	74
	6,176	2,243	2,128	(106)	(188)	6,000

	Carrying amount 30 June 2021 \$'000	Additions \$'000	Depreciation \$'000	Disposal \$'000	Adjustment \$'000	Carrying amount 30 June 2022 \$'000
Library materials	5,042	1,728	(1,604)	(85)	-	5,081
Furniture and equipment	1,014	272	(287)	(14)	-	985
Plant	43	-	(7)	-	-	36
Work in progress	-	74	-	-	-	74
	6,099	2,074	(1,898)	(99)	-	6,176

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Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (cont.)

Detailed breakdown of plant, furniture, equipment, library materials and work in progress

	\$'000
(a) Library materials	
At cost 1 July 2022	12,520
Accumulated depreciation as at 1 July 2022	(7,439)
	5,081
Movements in cost	
Acquisition of assets at cost	1,815
Cost of assets disposed	(1,314)
	501
Movements in accumulated depreciation	
Depreciation and amortisation	(1,800)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	1,292
Adjustment	(220)
	(728)
At cost 30 June 2023	13,021
Accumulated depreciation as at 30 June 2023	(8,166)
Carrying amount	4,855
(b) Furniture and equipment	
At cost 1 July 2022	2,820
Accumulated depreciation as at 1 July 2022	(1,835)
	985
Movements in cost	
Acquisition of assets at cost	428
Cost of Assets Disposed	(144)
	284
Movements in accumulated depreciation	
Depreciation and amortisation	(319)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	94
Adjustment	(5)
	(230)
At cost 30 June 2023	3,100
Accumulated depreciation as at 30 June 2023	(2,062)
Carrying amount	1,038

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Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (cont.)	
(c) Plant	
At cost 1 July 2022	69
Accumulated depreciation as at 1 July 2022	(30)
	39
Movements in cost	
Cost of assets disposed	(69)
Adjustment	49
	(20)
Movements in accumulated depreciation	
Depreciation and amortisation	(9)
Accumulated depreciation of disposals	35
Adjustment	(12)
	14
At cost 30 June 2023	49
Accumulated depreciation as at 30 June 2023	(17)
Carrying amount	32
(d) Work in progress	
At cost 1 July 2022	74
At cost 30 June 2023	74
Carrying amount	74
Total carrying amount of plant, furniture, equipment, library materials, and work in progress	5,999

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Note 6 ASSETS WE MANAGE (cont.)

Acquisition

The purchase method of accounting is used for all acquisitions of assets, being the fair value of assets provided as consideration as 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 as at the measurement date.

In accordance with ERLC'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.

	Depreciation Period	Threshold Limit
		\$'000
Asset recognition thresholds and depreciation periods		
<u>Plant, furniture, and equipment</u>		
Furniture and equipment	3 - 10 years	5,000
Plant	6 - 10 years	5,000

Library materials

Paperbacks	3 years
Audio cassettes	3 years
eBooks	3 years
Audio books	4 years
Games	4 years
CD rom	4 years
Videos and DVDs	6 years
Library books and other hardbacks	8 years
Adult and junior reference	10 years

Library books

Library books and other assets withdrawn from circulation and consequently disposed are written back against accumulated depreciation and cost based on an average cost of books.

Assets contributed by Member Councils

Assets contributed by Member Councils on formation of ERLC were valued at fair value being the value assigned to the assets by those Councils.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation periods used are listed above and are consistent with the prior year unless otherwise stated.

Repairs and maintenance

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.

Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS

7.1 ERLC and key management remuneration

(a) Key Management Personnel

Key management personnel (KMP) are those people with the authority and responsibility for planning, directing, and controlling the activities of ERLC.

Details of persons holding the position of Councillor or other members of the KMP at any time during the year are:

		2023	2022
		No.	No.
Councillors	Councillor Yvonne Allred (Knox City Council) (resigned 17 November 2022)		
	Councillor Susan Laukens (Knox City Council) (commenced 17 November 2022)		
	Councillor Marcia Timmers-Leitch (Knox City Council)		
	Councillor Tasa Damante (Maroondah City Council) (resigned 21 November 2022)		
	Councillor Linda Hancock (Maroondah City Council) (commenced 21 November 2022)		
	Councillor Kylie Spears (Maroondah City Council)		
	Councillor Jim Child (Yarra Ranges Council) (commenced 13 December 2022)		
	Councillor Len Cox (Yarra Ranges Council) (resigned 13 December 2022)		
	Councillor Andrew Fullagar (Yarra Ranges Council) (commenced 13 December 2022)		
	Councillor Fiona McAllister (Yarra Ranges Council) (resigned 13 December 2022)		
Chief Executive Officer	Joseph Cullen		
Total Number of Councillors		8	7
Total of Chief Executive Officer and other Key Management Personnel		1	1
Total Number of Key Management Personnel		<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>

(b) Remuneration of Key Management Personnel

Remuneration comprises employee benefits including all forms of consideration paid, payable or provided by ERLC, or on behalf of ERLC, in exchange for services rendered. Remuneration of Key Management Personnel and Other senior staff is disclosed in the following categories.

Short-term employee benefits include amounts such as wages, salaries, annual leave, or sick leave that are usually paid or payable on a regular basis, as well as non-monetary benefits such as allowances and free or subsidised goods or services.

Other long-term employee benefits include long service leave, other long service benefits or deferred compensation.

Post-employment benefits include pensions, and other retirement benefits paid or payable on a discrete basis when employment has ceased.

Termination benefits include termination of employment payments, such as severance packages.

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Total remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	223	219
Other long-term employee benefits	-	-
Post-employment benefits	-	-
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	<u>223</u>	<u>219</u>

The numbers of key management personnel whose total remuneration from ERLC and any related entities, fall within the following bands:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
\$210,000 - \$219,999	-	1
\$220,000 - \$229,999	1	-
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

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Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS (CONT.)

(c) Remuneration of Senior Officers

Senior Officers are officers of ERLC, other than Key Management Personnel, whose total remuneration exceeds \$160,000 (\$151,000 in 2021-22), has management responsibilities, and who report directly to a member of the KMP. *

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Total remuneration of Senior Officers was as follows:		
Short-term employee benefits	341	483
Other long-term employee benefits	-	-
Post-employment benefits	-	-
Termination benefits	-	-
Total	341	483

The number of Senior Officers are shown below in their relevant income bands:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Income Range:		
\$160,000 - \$169,999	-	1
\$170,000 - \$179,999	2	2
	2	3

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Total remuneration for the reporting year for Senior Officers included above, amounted to:	341	483

* Due to a definitional change the comparative figures in this note may not align with the previous year's annual report, which included disclosure of senior officers as defined in the *Local Government Act 1989*.

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Note 7 PEOPLE AND RELATIONSHIPS (CONT.)	2023	2022
7.2 Related party disclosure	\$'000	\$'000
(a) Transactions with related parties		
During the period, ERLC entered into the following transactions with related parties.		
(i) Contributions		
<i>Monetary contributions</i>		
Knox City Council	4,500	4,433
Yarra Ranges Council	3,900	3,842
Maroondah City Council	2,799	2,758
Total monetary contributions	11,199	11,033

Contributions from the above three Member Councils are received in approximately equal quarterly instalments throughout the year. Contributions are received during the months of July, October, January, and April.

Monetary and non-monetary contributions are recognised as revenue when ERLC obtains control over the contributed asset.

(ii) Distributions		
<i>Monetary distributions</i>		
Knox City Council	924	2,000
Yarra Ranges Council	1,012	2,100
Maroondah City Council	-	2,000
Total monetary distributions	1,936	6,100

The above distributions were made during the year to Member Councils as resolved by the Board. Please refer to Note 5.7 for further details.

(iii) Financial and payroll services		
Accounting services	76	118
Payroll services	-	54
Total monetary distributions	76	172

Financial and Payroll Services were delivered inhouse from 1 July 2022.

(b) Outstanding balances with related parties

There were no reportable balances outstanding at the end of the reporting period in relation to transactions with related parties.

(c) Loans to/from related parties

No loans have been made, guaranteed, or secured by ERLC to a related party during the reporting year.

(d) Commitments to/from related parties

No transactions other than the Council contributions, remuneration payments or the reimbursement of approved expenses were entered into by ERLC with related parties during the reporting year.

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 and if quantifiable, are measured at nominal value. Contingent assets and liabilities are presented inclusive of GST receivable or payable, respectively.

(a) Contingent liabilities

Contingent liabilities are:

- possible obligations that arise from past events, whose existence will be confirmed only by the occurrence or non-occurrence of one or more uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Corporation; or
- present obligations that arise from past events but are not recognised because:
 - it is not probable that an outflow of resources embodying economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation.
 - the amount of the obligation cannot be measured with sufficient reliability.

Defined benefit superannuation scheme

ERLC 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 in Note 9.2. As a result of the volatility in financial markets the likelihood of making such contributions in future periods exists. At this point in time, it is not known if additional contributions will be required, their timing or potential amount.

Contingent liabilities arising from public liability

ERLC is occasionally met with claims and demands allegedly arising from incidents that occur on premises used by the ERLC. The ERLC carries \$600 million of public liability insurance and has an excess of \$2,500 per claim on this policy. Therefore, the maximum liability of the ERLC in any single claim is the extent of the excess. The primary insurer is MAV insurance. There are no claims that ERLC is aware of which would fall outside the terms of the ERLC's policy.

ERLC is not aware of other contingent liabilities or contingent assets as at 30 June 2022 and 30 June 2023.

8.2 Change in accounting standards

Certain new Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2023 reporting period. ERLC assesses the impact of these new standards. As at 30 June 2023 there were no new accounting standards or interpretations issued by the AASB which are applicable for the year ending 30 June 2023 that are expected to impact ERLC.

8.3 Financial instruments

(a) Objectives and policies

ERLC's principal financial instruments comprise cash assets, term deposits, receivables (excluding statutory receivables), payables (excluding statutory payables) and bank. 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 Note 1 of the financial statements. Risk management is carried out by senior management under policies approved by ERLC. These policies include identification and analysis of the risk exposure to ERLC and appropriate procedures, controls, and risk minimisation.

(b) Market risk

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of ERLC financial instruments will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. ERLC's exposure to market risk is primarily through interest rate risk with only insignificant exposure to other price risks and no exposure to foreign currency risk.

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES CONT.)

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. ERLC 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. ERLC has minimal exposure to cash flow interest rate risk through its cash and deposits that are at floating rates.

Investment of surplus funds is made with approved financial institutions under the *Local Government Act 1989*. ERLC manages interest rate risk by adopting an investment policy that ensures:

- diversification of investment product;
- monitoring of return on investment; and
- benchmarking of returns and comparison with budget.

There has been no significant change in ERLC'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 ERLC'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 ERLC to make a financial loss. ERLC have exposure to credit risk on some financial assets included in the Balance Sheet. To help manage this risk:

- ERLC only invests surplus funds with financial institutions which have a recognised credit rating specified in ERLC's investment policy.

There are no material financial assets which are individually determined to be impaired.

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. ERLC does not hold any collateral.

(d) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk includes the risk that, as a result of ERLC's operational liquidity requirements it will not have sufficient funds to settle a transaction when required or 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, ERLC:

- have a liquidity policy which targets a minimum and average level of cash and cash equivalents to be maintained;
- follows an investment policy which specifies the need to meet ERLC's daily cash flow requirements;
- 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 instruments; and
- monitor budget to actual performance on a regular basis.

ERLC's maximum exposure to liquidity risk is the carrying amounts of financial liabilities as disclosed on the face of the Balance Sheet and is deemed insignificant based on prior periods' data and current assessment of risk.

There has been no significant change in ERLC'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.

Unless otherwise stated, the carrying amounts of financial instruments reflect their fair value.

Note 8 MANAGING UNCERTAINTIES CONT.)**(e) Sensitivity disclosure analysis**

Considering past performance, future expectations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of the financial markets, ERLC believes the following movements are 'reasonably possible' over the next 12 months:

- A parallel shift of + 1% and -1% in market interest rates (AUD) from a rate of 2.5% which is ERLC's weighted average interest rate for investments for the financial year.

These movements will not have a material impact on the valuation of ERLC's financial assets and liabilities, nor will they have a material impact on the results of ERLC's operations.

8.4 Fair value measurement***Fair value hierarchy***

ERLC does not have any financial assets that are measured at fair value subsequent to initial recognition.

Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, ERLC 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.

8.5 Events occurring after balance date

Other than the matter identified in Note 1(a) Basis of preparation and presentation, no matters have occurred after balance date that requires disclosure in the financial report.

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Note 9 OTHER MATTERS	2023	2022
9.1 Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities to surplus/(deficit)	\$'000	\$'000
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	(180)	1,084
Items not involving cash		
Loss on disposal of plant and equipment	6	99
Depreciation/amortisation	2,280	2,021
Finance costs - leases	23	3
Assets written-off	265	-
Change in assets and liabilities:		
(Increase) / decrease in trade and other receivables	(105)	19
Increase / (decrease) in prepayments	(347)	186
Decrease in accrued income	-	(3)
Decrease in trade and other payables	(159)	(250)
Decrease / (Increase) in provisions	29	(54)
Net cash provided by operating activities	1,812	3,105

9.2 Superannuation

ERLC makes most 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 Operating Statement when they are made or due.

Accumulation

The Fund's accumulation category, Vision MySuper/Vision Super Saver, receives 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 2023, this was 10.5% as required under Superannuation Guarantee (SG) legislation (2022: 10%)).

Defined Benefit

ERLC 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 ERLC 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.

Funding arrangements

ERLC makes employer contributions to the Defined Benefit category of the Fund at rates determined by the Trustee on the advice of the Fund Actuary. A triennial actuarial investigation is currently underway for the Defined Benefit category which is expected to be completed by 31 December 2023. ERLC was notified of the 30 June 2023 VBI during August 2023 (2022: August 2022). The financial assumptions used to calculate the 30 June 2023 VBI were:

Net investment returns: 5.7% pa
Salary information: 3.5% pa
Price inflation (CPI): 2.8% pa

As at 30 June 2022, 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 ERLC is a contributing employer was 102.2%. The financial assumptions used to calculate the VBI were:

Net investment returns: 5.5% pa
Salary information: 2.5%pa to 30 June 2023, and 3.5%pa thereafter
Price inflation (CPI): 3.0% pa

Note 9 OTHER MATTERS (CONT.)

Funding arrangements (cont.)

ERLC was notified of the 30 June 2022 VBI during August 2022 (2021: August 2021). Vision Super has advised that the estimated VBI as at June 2023 was 104.1%. The VBI is used as the primary funding indicator. Because the VBI was above 100%, the 30 June 2022 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

(a) Regular contributions

On the basis of the results of the 2022 interim actuarial investigation conducted by the Fund Actuary, ERLC makes employer contributions to the Fund's Defined Benefit category at rates determined by the Fund's Trustee. For the year ended 30 June 2023, this rate was 10.5% of members' salaries (10% in 2021/22).

This rate is expected to increase in line with any increases in the SG contribution rate and was reviewed as part of the 30 June 2022 interim valuation. AASB 119 148 (a) In addition, ERLC reimburses the Fund to cover the excess of the benefits paid as a consequence of retrenchment above the funded resignation or retirement benefit.

(b) Funding calls

If the Defined Benefit category is in an unsatisfactory financial position at an 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%. AASB 119 148(d)(iv) In the event that the Fund Actuary determines that there is a shortfall based on the above requirement, the Fund's participating employers (including ERLC) 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 as at 30 June 1993 and at the date the shortfall has been calculated. AASB 119, AASB 119 148 (b) 148 (d)(v).

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 up. 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 2022 interim actuarial investigation surplus amounts

An actuarial investigation is conducted annually for the Defined Benefit category of which ERLC is a contributing employer. Generally, a full actuarial investigation is conducted every three years and interim actuarial investigations are conducted for each intervening year. An interim investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2022 and the last full investigation was conducted as at 30 June 2020.

The Fund's actuarial investigation identified the following for the DB category of which ERLC is a contributing employer:

	2022 (Interim)	2021 (Interim)
	\$m	\$m
- A VBI Surplus	44.6	214.7
- A total service liability surplus	105.8	270.3
- A discounted accrued benefits surplus	11.9	285.2

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 2022.

The total service liability surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category plus expected future contributions exceeds the value of expected future benefits and expenses as at 30 June 2022.

The discounted accrued benefits surplus means that the current value of the assets in the Fund's Defined Benefit category exceeds the value of benefits payable in the future but accrued in respect of service to 30 June 2022.

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Note 9 OTHER MATTERS (CONT.)

The 2023 triennial actuarial investigation

A triennial actuarial investigation is being conducted for the Fund's position as at 30 June 2023. It is anticipated that this actuarial investigation will be completed by 31 December 2023. The financial assumptions for the purposes of this investigation are:

	2023	2022
Net investment returns:	5.7% pa	5.6%
Salary information:	3.5%pa	2.5%
Price inflation (CPI):	2.8% pa	2.0%

Superannuation contributions

Contributions by ERLC (excluding any unfunded liability payments) to the above superannuation plans for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 are detailed below:

Scheme	Type of Scheme	Rate	2023	2022
			\$'000	\$'000
Vision super	Defined benefits	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	112	126
Vision super	Accumulation	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	528	501
Other funds	Accumulation	10.5% (2022:10.0%)	250	131

There were no contributions outstanding, and no loans issued from or to the above schemes as at 30 June 2022.

The expected contributions to be paid to the Defined Benefit category of Vision Super for the year ending 30 June 2024 is \$0.12m.

Note 10 CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

There have been no changes to accounting policies in the 2022-23 year.

There are no pending accounting standards that are likely to have a material impact on ERLC.

9 Supplementary Items

10 Notices of Motion

11 Urgent Business

12 Questions Without Notice

13 Confidential Items

13.1 Audit and Risk Committee

A confidential report is circulated under separate cover as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to personal information and details of a prospective committee member which would be unreasonable to disclose publicly before they are appointed.

13.2 Advanced Waste Project Update

A confidential report is circulated under separate cover as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to:

- Council business information, being information that would prejudice the Council's position in commercial negotiations if prematurely released; and
- Private commercial information that if released, would unreasonably expose the business, commercial or financial undertaking to disadvantage by revealing financial information that is not available to its competitors.

13.3 CEO Performance Review

A confidential report is circulated under separate cover as it contains confidential information pursuant to Council's Governance Rules and Section 66 of the Local Government Act 2020, as it relates to personal information, which if released would result in the unreasonable disclosure of information about the affected person and or their personal affairs. Section 125 of the Local Government Act 2020 regarding Confidential Information applies to a person who is, or has been, a Councillor, a member of a delegated committee or a member of Council staff.