

HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS

Tuesday 1 June, 2021
6.30pm

Council Chamber
Level 1
Maribyrnong Council Offices
Corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray
and virtually via Zoom

AGENDA

Item	Title	Page
1.	Commencement of Meeting and Welcome	
2.	Apologies	
3.	Leave of Absence	
4.	Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest	
5.	Officer Reports	
5.1	Hearing of Submissions to the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years, Revenue and Rating Plan	2
5.2	Hearing of Formal Feedback on the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025	89
6.	Councillor Question Time	
7.	Urgent Business	
8.	Meeting Closure	

Agenda Item 5.1**HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS TO THE PROPOSED 2021/2022 ANNUAL BUDGET AND SUBSEQUENT THREE YEARS, REVENUE AND RATING PLAN**

Director: Celia Haddock
Director Corporate Services

Author: Mark Connor
Manager Finance

PURPOSE

To provide the opportunity for submissions to be heard in relation to the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan, in line with Council's Engagement Policy 2021 developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act (2020)*.

ISSUES SUMMARY

- Council must adopt its Budget by 30 June 2021 and submit a copy to the Minister for Local Government.
- At the Council Meeting on 20 April 2021, Council resolved to publicly display the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan and invite submissions.
- An advertisement advising of the release of the document, and inviting feedback was published in the Star Weekly on Wednesday 21 April.
- Four weeks were provided for feedback from 21 April 2021 to 21 May 2021.
- 17 submissions were received in relation to the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan.
- 9 submitters have requested to be heard in support of their submissions.
- Following consideration of all submissions received, Council will consider for adoption the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 15 June, 2021, at 6.30pm.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Budget Submissions 2021-22

Agenda Item 5.1

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Thanks all budget submitters for their comments in support of their submissions to the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan.**
 - 2. Notes the comments provided by budget submitters in support of their written submissions in relation to the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan.**
 - 3. Notes the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan will be presented to the Council Meeting on 15 June 2021 for consideration.**
-

Agenda Item 5.1**BACKGROUND**

Council, in the preparation of the proposed Budget, has continued to use its long term financial plan, which guides the development of annual budgets.

Council commenced the proposed Budget process in October 2020, and has worked through a rigorous process with the Executive Management Team and seven Councillor Budget briefings.

The proposed Budget preparation has been guided by the Council Plan. The directions of the proposed major undertakings, have heavily influenced the proposed Budget as well as considering the current financial landscape.

At the Council Meeting on 20 April 2021, Council resolved to publicly display the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan and invite submissions.

Seventeen submissions were received. Nine of the seventeen submitters have requested to be heard in support of their submissions.

DISCUSSION/KEY ISSUES**1. Key Issues****Submission Period**

Council is no longer required to implement a formal section 223 submission process in relation to its proposed budget. Under the *Local Government Act (2020)* the process is governed by Council's Engagement Policy, which was adopted in February 2021.

An advertisement advising of the release of the document, and inviting feedback was published on Wednesday 21 April. Four weeks were provided for feedback from 21 April 2021 to 21 May 2021.

Seventeen submissions were received. Nine of the seventeen submitters have requested to be heard in support of their submissions.

Sequence of Hearing of Submissions

Submissions will be heard in the order in which submissions were received.

Ref No.	Date Received	Submitter	To Be Heard Yes/No
1	29-Mar-21	Beth Ciesielski - Nick Rose Permaculture Out West and Sustain	Yes
2	26-Apr-21	Jo Canny Maribyrnong Ratepayers Group	Yes
3	12-May-21	John Guinane	No
4	14-May-21	Zac Lewis Western Chances	Yes
5	13-May-21	Dianne Ferrara	No

Agenda Item 5.1

6	18-May-21	Andrew Costa	No
7	18-May-21	Elena Pereyra	Yes
8	18-May-21	Claire Denby	TBC
9	19-May-21	Sarah Rickard Climate Action Maribyrnong	No
10	20-May-21	John Symons Bike West	Yes
11	20-May-21	Jules Griffith Westgate Basketball Association	No
12	20-May-21	Marianne Wangira - Suzzane Mosca West Footscray Neighbourhood House	Yes
13	20-May-21	Mathew Duck Western Region Football League	TBC
14	20-May-21	Judith Wright	Yes
15	20-May-21	Arthur Bregiannis	Yes
16	10-May-21	Henry Street Residents	TBC
17	21-May-21	Rob Crittenden	Yes

2. Council Policy/Legislation**Council Plan 2017-2021**

This report contributes to Council's strategic objectives contained in the Council Plan 2017-2021 by considering:

- Strategic Objective:
 - Strong leadership - lead our changing city using strategic foresight, innovation, transparent decision making and well-planned, effective collaboration.

Legislation

Local Government Act (2020).

Conflicts of Interest

No officer responsible for, or contributing to, this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to this report.

Human Rights Consideration

No rights listed in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* are engaged or, if they are engaged, actions proposed to be taken by Council will be taken compatibly with those rights.

Agenda Item 5.1**3. Engagement**

Maribyrnong City Council undertook extensive community engagement on the Proposed Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan from April to May 2021, using a variety of methods to seek feedback:

Submissions

Members of the public were invited to make written submissions to the Proposed Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan via mail, email and online at www.yourcityyourvoice.com.au.

A total of 17 submissions were received.

Webinar

Council hosted a live streamed Question and Answer (Q&A) session on the Proposed Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan via a moderated webinar session on Wednesday 28 April 2021 from 6.30 to 7.30pm, enabling residents to ask the Mayor and CEO questions about the Proposed Budget and Revenue and Rating Plan. A total of five people attended.

Questions and Answers

The community was invited to ask questions via the Your City Your Voice Platform - from 22 April to 20 May 2021. A total of 9 questions were asked and responded to by Council.

Stakeholder Engagement Sessions

Three stakeholder engagement sessions were held online via Zoom video meetings, enabling discussion and feedback on the Budget:

- Thursday 13 May from 3pm to 4pm
- Tuesday 18 May from 9am to 10am
- Wednesday 19 May from 5pm to 6pm

Social Media

Social media engagement included:

- 13 posts on Facebook, with an overall reach of 11,903 and 642 engagements
- 8 posts on Twitter with 2,401 impressions and 60 engagements

Communications

The following communications were used to communicate the Proposed Budget and invite feedback:

- Media release distributed to local media
- E-newsletter distributed to Maribyrnong News subscribers
- E-newsletter distributed to Your City Your Voice subscribers
- Website information
- News item on website

Agenda Item 5.1

- Budget Companion Document created
- Newspaper advertising
- Your City Your Voice platform/information
- Paid and unpaid social media promotion
- Video content
- Community Newsletter and City News

Key Themes

Some of the themes from the community engagement included the following:

- Funding for social housing
- Library opening hours during Covid-19
- Animal management funding
- Increase in rates
- Funding for cycling and footpaths
- Funding for indoor sports facility
- Climate emergency

4. Resources

Not applicable.

5. Environment

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

Council has conducted a formal process affording opportunity for any member of the public to provide feedback on the Proposed 2021/2022 Annual Budget and Subsequent Three Years and Revenue and Rating Plan and reinforcing their right to be heard. Seventeen submissions were received and nine submitters have requested to be heard in support of their submissions.

Once all submissions and all other relevant details have been considered, a further report will be presented to Council.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 1. Beth Ciesielski - The Australian Food Network and Permaculture Out West

From: Beth Ciesielski [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 29 March 2021 11:13 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Call to action: Maribyrnong Council on food security and local food system resilience

Dear [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I received feedback from counsellors to provide some recommendations following my community food system mapping and assessment of food security in Maribyrnong. I have worked with Sustain: The Australian Food Network and Permaculture Out West to put forward a formal call to action to the Maribyrnong City Council on food security and local food resilience. I have attached the call to action, supporting appendices and a copy of my original food system mapping and food security assessment for those counsellors not included on my original email.

If you have any questions, please contact me via email or phone on [REDACTED] and I will respond on behalf of Sustain and Permaculture Out West.

Kind regards

Beth Ciesielski

This email (and any attachments) is confidential and intended to be accessed only by the person or entity to which it is addressed. No use, copying, disclosure or forwarding of this message or any attachments is permitted without authorisation. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete or destroy all copies of this message and any attachments. Any views or opinions presented are solely those of the author and not that of Maribyrnong City Council.

Maribyrnong City Council reserves the right to monitor all email communications through its networks.

Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Call to action: Maribyrnong Council on food security and local food system resilience

We, Permaculture Out West¹ and Sustain: The Australian Food Network², call on Maribyrnong City Council to develop and adopt a health and wellbeing plan that promotes and facilitates urban agriculture and local food systems with a focus on increasing scale, uptake and access in the community.

Development of an urban agriculture and local food systems strategy would reassert the council's commitment to address this important area of community health and wellbeing, addressing a gap since its adoption of the *Food Security Policy 2011* and its acknowledgement in the *2013-2017 Council Plan* of the importance the community places on having more opportunities for local food production. This renewed focus provides an opportunity to respond to contemporary needs such as mitigating and adapting to climate change, loss of open space and arable land due to increased population and urban development, and re-localisation of food production and post-harvest processing, distribution and retail in the face of COVID-19.

An updated, fit-for-purpose strategy would align with the Victorian state government's *Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2019–2023* and could draw on existing best practice within metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria. Councils in Moreland, Greater Bendigo, Yarra, and Cardinia have food systems strategies and/or an urban agriculture strategy, as well as dedicated officers tasked with their implementation. In a preliminary ranking of all Victorian councils according to the extent and effectiveness of their policy and program commitments to a sustainable and healthy food system, conducted under the Australian Research Council Discovery Project *Strengthening Food Governance at the Local Level*, the **City of Maribyrnong has been ranked 68th out of 79**. We can and should do better.

We call on the City of Maribyrnong to take the following actions:

1. Adopt a motion to recognise the importance of urban agriculture and local food systems in the Maribyrnong City Council municipality, noting:
 - a. the City of Maribyrnong is already supportive of urban agriculture projects through its community and naturestrip garden policies,³ its My Smart Garden program, and its support of environmental volunteering groups;

¹ Permaculture Out West (POW) is a network of people living in the western suburbs of Melbourne, learning and practising permaculture. Permaculture is a science and ethics-based design framework for devising practical solutions to ecological, economic, and social issues – in the home and in the wider community. POW has a vision for a nurturing empowered and resilient western suburbs, fostering environmental sustainability and self-sufficiency through local community initiatives.

² Sustain is a “think and do” network, specialising in designing and building sustainable and healthy food systems. Sustain works with governments, councils, and community leaders to help map local food systems, and develop evidence-based and achievable policies and programs.

³ Note, it is not clear whether council has formally adopted the Community Garden Policy which was initially developed in 2016.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

- b. the findings of the Foodprint Melbourne research team (based at the University of Melbourne)⁴ about the vulnerability of Melbourne's food bowl and the importance of urban and peri-urban food production in increasing the resilience of food systems and equitable access to food in the face of factors such as climate change, urban sprawl and COVID-19; and which recommends that state and local governments collaborate on developing a food systems planning strategy;
 - c. the Victorian state government's recognition of the impact of climate change on Melbourne's most productive agricultural land and the need to adopt planning controls to protect green spaces for the ongoing environmental, economic, cultural and health and wellbeing outcomes for all Victorians;⁵
 - d. the conclusions of the IPCC in its special report, *Climate change and land*,⁶ that climate change, urban expansion and land degradation adversely affect food security; and that urban and peri-urban food production, along with urban green infrastructure, can be effective mitigation strategies;
 - e. the results from the *National Pandemic Gardening Survey* (conducted by Sustain, the Australian Food Network) that:
 - i. thousands of Australians are finding solace, satisfaction, delicious produce and connection to nature by growing their own food under the duress of COVID-19;
 - ii. over 70% of survey respondents said growing food had significantly or greatly improved their mental health, while over 80% said gardening during the pandemic had been very important to them; and
 - iii. respondents said edible gardening was important to food security during the increasingly tough economic conditions, providing access to fresh fruit and vegetables without needing to go to the shops.
2. Develop an urban agriculture and food systems strategy and a vision for a sustainable, equitable and inclusive food system that provides healthy, affordable and culturally-appropriate food. As part of the strategy development, and in consultation with the community, council:
- a. review existing council policies --and draft new ones, where a gap is identified-- to better support and provide enhanced opportunities for growing and sharing food, including through community gardens, produce swaps, and gardening in public spaces (such as along naturestrips, in laneways, near community buildings, and next to public transport facilities);
 - b. identify and map existing and potential sites owned, operated or otherwise supported by council which does or could enable urban agriculture initiatives to be undertaken including community gardening, fruit and nut orchards, and city or pocket agriculture farms;

⁴ Foodprint Melbourne policy briefings, reports and other publications are available at <https://fvas.unimelb.edu.au/research/projects/foodprint-melbourne>.

⁵ See the current public policy consultation underway by the Victorian government on *Planning for Melbourne's green wedges and agricultural land*, <https://engage.vic.gov.au/gwal/>.

⁶ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Climate change and land*, special report and summary for policy-makers, revised January 2020, <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/>.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

- c. promote awareness of portals and other resources which identify land that can be available on request for community projects, including for urban agriculture initiatives. These could include the Metropolitan Open Space Network portal, Melbourne Water's Our Space - Your Space, VicTrack community leases, and use of vacant residential land for charitable purposes (such as a charity-run temporary garden);⁷
- 3. To support the development and design of this strategy and vision, and to facilitate access to leading practitioners and best practices, council:
 - a. join the Local Government Food Systems Network⁸ facilitated by Sustain to collaborate and network with other councils who are just starting or are already advanced in designing and building strong local food systems;
 - b. become a signatory to the Milan Food Policy Pact, an international agreement among over 200 cities from around the world, committed "to develop sustainable food systems that are inclusive, resilient, safe and diverse, that provide healthy and affordable food to all people in a human rights-based framework, that minimize waste and conserve biodiversity while adapting to and mitigating impacts of climate change";⁹ and
 - c. allocate dedicated funding for a project officer to engage in consultation and resource the participatory development of the urban agriculture and food systems strategy and associated urban agriculture actions.

Context

The Maribyrnong City Council is required to prepare a Municipal public health and wellbeing plan every four years under the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008. Food is a significant contributor to the health and wellbeing of residents and the 2016 -20 council plan does not adequately acknowledge this contribution. The current food system is one of the biggest contributors to climate change, as well as a major driver of biodiversity loss. In supporting the health of residents, creating habitat for species and taking action against climate change, local councils play a critical role in developing and supporting local food systems and the food literacy of local residents.

A local food system is a collaborative network that integrates sustainable food production, processing, distribution, consumption and waste management in order to enhance the environmental, economic and social health and cultural diversity of an area. Food literacy is the knowledge and skills required to develop a healthy relationship with food. It extends beyond nutritional knowledge to understanding where food comes from and ethical issues in the food system.

⁷ <https://vpa.vic.gov.au/strategy-guidelines/metropolitan-open-space-network/>,
<https://www.melbournwater.com.au/water-data-and-education/get-involved/use-our-land>,
<https://www.victrack.com.au/community/community-leases>.

⁸ <https://sustain.org.au/articles/new-membership-benefits-for-lgas>.

⁹ <https://www.milanurbanfoodpolicypact.org/>

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

In the Municipal public health and wellbeing planning 2021-2025 Advice Note 1, the state government recognises that councils have a significant role in improving the health and wellbeing of residents in their community. In addition, VicHealth now acknowledges the central role of healthy and sustainable food systems to the effective development and implementation of council health and wellbeing plans, with a particular focus on childhood and youth obesity, and will shortly announce programs and specific resources to support local councils.

COVID-19 has highlighted the vulnerabilities of food systems and exposed many residents to food insecurity. The number of people experiencing food insecurity is expected to rise further when the Jobseeker payment reverts to pre-COVID rates, where support payments are insufficient to cover basic living expenses. In addition to COVID-19, climate change poses a significant risk to food security and the stability of the current food systems. In response to this risk, local councils critically need to build resilient local food systems. This includes incorporating food system considerations into planning to ensure land is available for urban agriculture now and in the future.

A critical aspect of strengthening local food systems and enhancing food security is encouraging and supporting edible gardening. The National Pandemic Gardening Survey, conducted by Sustain, found that gardening significantly or greatly improved the mental health of respondents and edible gardening was important to food security during the Covid-19 Pandemic. Key recommendations from the preliminary findings (refer to appendix for confidential copy) include fostering and targeting community outreach to enable successful food gardening, implement policy measures to support food gardening at a local level and undertaking research to identify and expand food gardening sites and extensions services.




[City of Sydney website](#) 

[Home](#) > [Decision details](#)

Decision details

Highlighting the Importance of Urban Agriculture in the City of Sydney

- [Find out more about this issue](#)
- [Printed decision](#)  PDF 86 KB

Decision Maker: Council

Decision status: Recommendations Determined

Decision:

Moved by Councillor Miller, seconded by the Chair (the Lord Mayor) –

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

(i) the University of Technology Sydney's 'Sydney Food Futures (2015-2016)' report states that only 20 per cent of Sydney's food comes from within the Sydney basin and the remaining 80 per cent comes from elsewhere, requiring trucks, trains, ships, and planes for transportation, thereby increasing the carbon footprint of the food we consume. We can't rely on this amount of food for our city to come from outside the city;

(ii) to achieve sustainability, progress the sustainable development goals and create resilient cities, we cannot continue to encroach upon lands that are needed for agriculture, nor can we continue land clearing and deforestation at current rates. In fact, climate action must contain a commitment to reforestation and biodiversity. As such, cities must find ways to feed their populations in sustainable ways;

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

(iii) chronic stresses brought about by our changing climate and Covid-19 have shown that our food systems are becoming increasingly vulnerable;

(iv) the **pandemic** has shown us that a high level of food insecurity exists within our city. The City, along with its partners, is committed to reducing food insecurity by making sure everyone can access food and groceries;

(v) findings from the City's 'Community Engagement Insights Report - Planning for Sydney 2050' found that environmental sustainability and management and plants, trees, gardens and urban farming are priority areas respondents want the City to focus on;

(vi) results from the 'National **Pandemic** Gardening Survey' conducted by Sustain, the Australian Food Network, found that:

(a) thousands of Australians are finding solace, satisfaction, delicious produce and connection to nature by growing their own food under the duress of Covid-19;

(b) over 70 per cent of survey respondents said growing food had significantly or greatly improved their mental health, while over 80 per cent said gardening during the **pandemic** had been very important to them; and

(c) respondents said edible gardening was important to food security during the increasingly tough economic conditions, providing access to fresh fruit and vegetables without needing to go to the shops;

(vii) the City of Sydney is already in support of urban agriculture projects through its community gardens, footpath and verge gardens, community composting and biodiversity volunteering groups; and

(viii) the City of Sydney is becoming a signatory to the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact, a pre-existing initiative signed by 207 cities around the world, to achieve a more sustainable, inclusive, safe and diverse food system; and

(B) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to:

(i) investigate opportunities to support the forthcoming Sustain Australia's Urban Agriculture Month to highlight:

(a) the City of Sydney signing the Milan Food Policy Pact;

(b) the City's existing community gardens; and

(c) the City's plans for greater opportunities to increase food security by 2050;

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

(ii) investigate roadblocks and barriers to enabling more urban food production across the Local Government Area including urban agriculture opportunities in new developments, on vacant lands and verges; and

(iii) engage in a broader conversation surrounding the City's role in supporting food security via the forthcoming lower house inquiry into food security in NSW being led by the Member of Sydney, Alex Greenwich, MP.

Carried unanimously.

S129262

Report author: Erin Cashman









Publication date: 03/03/2021

Date of decision: 22/02/2021

Decided at meeting: 22/02/2021 - Council

Accompanying Documents:

- [Highlighting the Importance of Urban Agriculture in the City of Sydney](#)  PDF 108 KB

Councillors	
Council and committees	
Calendar	
What's new	
Browse meeting papers	
Search meeting papers	
Search decisions	
Meeting procedures	

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Subscribe to updates



[City of Sydney website](#) 

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Community food system mapping & assessment of food security in Maribyrnong City Council

Community Food Security & Public Health (FDS901), Masters of Food Systems & Gastronomy, William Angliss Institute

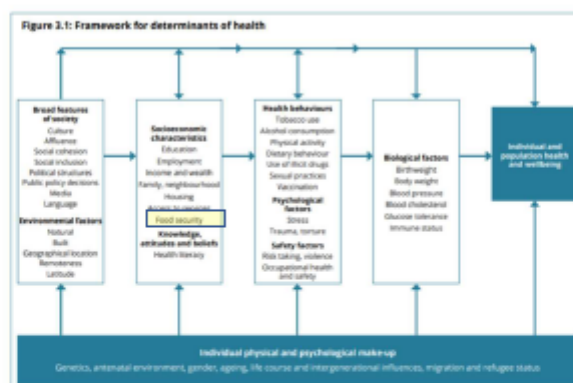
Written by Beth Ciesielski - 3 Feb 2021

This report contains a mapping of the community food system of Maribyrnong City Council and an assessment of food security in the municipality. The report contains six parts. Part one and two establish the foundations for assessing food security with a food security framework, a map of the community food system and a summary of relevant socio-economic and health data. Part 3 – 5 assess food security, its barriers and the council's ability to address food insecurity in the current council plan. Part 6 concludes with a critical reflection of the methodology employed in the assessment.

Part 1: Food insecurity: framework for assessment

Food insecurity is regarded as a “wicked” complex problem in society (Godrich, Stoneham, Edmunds & Devine, 2020). It can be assessed and framed in many different ways. I have drawn on following three frameworks or concepts in assessing food security for the Maribyrnong City Council.

1. The FAO (2009) concept of food security where “Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The four pillars of food security are availability, access, utilization and stability.” (p. 1)
2. A conceptual framework to assess the social determinants based on the *Australia's health 2020: data insights* report (AIHW, 2020, p. 81). See below:



3. The United Nations' Right to Adequate Food (OHCHR, 2010). This is a rights-based approach to food security, rather than a definition of food security. This difference has nuanced and important differences for assessing food security. For example, the distinction between the right to food versus the right to be fed and the obligation for states to ensure food is available from natural resources for current and future generations.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

One key thing to note is that COVID 19 significantly increased food insecurity from 2020 to date of writing. This analysis largely excludes the impact of Covid-19 and assesses the “business as usual” food insecurity risks within the council.

Part 2: Community food system map and socio-economic data

Community Food Map

The online version of the map can be accessed from this link:













<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/edit?hl=en&mid=1eVEhOcXYR9s0EEv86PyhhdN3c59i4ep&ll=-37.78472701226556%2C144.85860022119928&z=13>
















03/02/2021

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1















1) Supermarkets:

-  Coles Footscray
-  Coles Yarraville
-  Coles Braybrook
-  Coles Braybrook Ballarat Rd
-  Woolworths Braybrook
-  Woolworths Metro Yarraville
-  Woolworths Highpoint West
-  IGA West Footscray
-  IGA Yarraville
-  The Happy Apple
-  ALDI
-  ALDI Maribyrnong
-  Australia's Cheapest Groceries
-  Seddon Food Works
-  Food Works
-  Friendly Grocer & Liquor Maribyrnong VIC
-  City Care Storehouse
-  Ecopact Groceries
-  Eka Bulk Organic Wholefoods
-  India Supermarket
-  Casa Iberica
-  Thanh Phat Supermarket
-  Hopkins Asian Grocery
-  Nathan Thai Grocery
-  Lien Hoa Tam Vegetarian Food Store
-  Nula Multi Products
-  Shri Ganesh Reliable Groceries Footscray
-  Footscray Market
-  Chanh Hung Asian Groceries
-  Famous Halal Meats & Groceries
-  KFL
-  Inday Filipino Asian Store
-  FOOD DESERT
-  FOOD DESERT
-  FOOD DESERT
-  FOOD DESERT
-  FOOD DESSERT
-  FOOD DESERT
-  Friendly Grocer & Liquor
-  Line 2

2) Farmers markets / produce markets:

-  Footscray Market
-  Yarraville Village Farmers Market
-  Happy Receptions
-  Sabca's Fine Eggs
-  Plump Organic Grocery
-  Station Fruit Market footscray
-  Van's Organics
-  MarketPlace Fresh Highpoint - Fruit and Vegetable Market
-  Pompelle
-  Sunny Food Store
-  Angelica Farm CSA - drop off hub
-  Ceres Fair Food host pick up points
-  Melbourne Food Hub - drop off point

3) Emergency food relief

-  St Vinnies Food Van Braybrook
-  ASRC Foodbank
-  St Vinnies Soup Van - Whitten Oval Footscray
-  Foodbank Victoria
-  Footscray Outreach Mission, Wesley Outreach
-  Reaching out in the Inner West
-  Braybrook Community Hub
-  Gordon Street Pantry
-  Catholic Care
-  Western English Language School - Footscray Campus - school breakfast
-  Footscray High School - Kinnear Campus
-  Rosamond School - SBC
-  Yarraville Special Developmental School SBC
-  Western English Language School - Braybrook Campus - SBC















4) Producers:

-  Peerless Holdings PTV Ltd.
-  Soytoo Anh Lang
-  GrainCorp Foods
-  Pampas
-  Goodman Fielder
-  Mrs Tran's Kitchen
-  Gerry's Patis
-  Masarap Bakery









5) Urban Farm

-  Urban Honey Producers (multiple)







6) Community and school garden

-  Yarraville Community Garden
-  Braybrook Commons Community Garden
-  Community Garden
-  Westgate Baptist Community
-  Maribyrnong Edible Garden
-  Cross Roads Community Garden
-  West Footscray Library
-  Maidstone Community Centre
-  Murrumbidgee Community Garden
-  School garden
-  MacKillop School Maidstone SARG
-  Rosamond School SARG
-  Dinjerra Primary School - SARG
-  Western English Language School - Braybrook Campus

7) Neighbourhood house

-  West Footscray Neighbourhood House
-  Maidstone Community Centre
-  The Braybrook/Maidstone Neighbourhood House Inc.
-  Braybrook Community Hub
-  Anglies Neighbourhood House
-  Yarraville Community Centre
-  Maribyrnong Community Centre
-  27 Duke St









8) Backyard gardens / harvest swaps

-  Diana's Patch / Frog pond
-  Paul's Patch
-  Diana's Patch
-  Fairtrade/Exchange / Michelle
-  Sarah's Patch
-  Social Housing - shared garden

9) Community food networks and organisations

-  Asylum Seeker Resource Centre
-  Grasslands Gigalis
-  Kingsville Organic Group (Western Organics Co-ops)
-  Western City Goods Buying Group
-  Melbourne Unit Owl West
-  United community groups - Footscray Good Karma Network, Welfare, Seed swapping, etc

SITES CLOSED / UNKNOWN

-  ASRC Food Justice Truck
-  Food Pantry CLOSED
-  Pitt Street Community Garden CLOSED
-  Anders Park Community Garden
-  Lemli As Anything Footscray CLOSED
-  Power Plants Community Nursery CLOSED
-  Foodswap CLOSED
-  Food Swap CLOSED

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Lowest three results (less favourable to health outcomes)																						
Highest three results (more favourable to health outcomes)																						
	Victoria	Metro Vic	Maribyrnong City	Braybrook	Footscray	Kingsville	Maidstone	Maribymong	Seddon	West Footscray	Yarraville	Survey yr	Data source									
Socio-economic disadvantage																						
Seifa Score		1,021	995	828	962	1,030	974	1,052	1,060	996	1,069		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020									
Income and wealth																						
Median household income	\$	1,539	\$	1,543	\$	1,053	\$	1,293	\$	1,706	\$	1,418	\$	1,764	\$	1,428	\$	2,001	\$	2,017		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Unemployment rate		6.8%		8.3%		15.5%		9.9%		6.7%		8.3%		6.7%		5.3%		8.6%		5.2%		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
% earning below 650 pw - households		16.7%		18.1%		26.6%		23.6%		17.3%		18.4%		11.6%		18.7%		12.2%		14.0%		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
% earning more than 2,500 pw - households		22.9%		23.9%		11.0%		16.8%		30.2%		19.6%		26.9%		21.0%		34.6%		33.7%		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Housing																						
Social housing		2.6%		5.4%		16.9%		7.2%		2.7%		7.8%		0.1%		3.0%		2.1%		3.3%		Snap shots
Rental stress		27.4%		25.8%		28.4%		30.8%		20.0%		24.5%		19.3%		24.5%		14.2%		19.4%		Snap shots
Mortgage stress		11.2%		8.7%		11.2%		11.2%		11.2%		9.7%		7.4%		6.1%		3.5%		2.1%		Snap shots
Rental affordability (rental payments of \$450 or more) Average?																						Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Cultural																						
Speaking another language and English not well at all		5.7%				20.8%		9.4%		6.0%		11.8%		8.7%		5.4%		7.2%		4.2%		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Overseas born		34.0%		40.0%		56.0%		46.0%		29.0%		47.0%		43.0%		28.0%		39.0%		25.0%		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Nationality background (apart from Australian)	Vietnam, China, India, UK & NZ																					
Education and employment																						
University Qualification		27.0%		34.0%		20.0%		36.0%		39.0%		29.0%		34.0%		44.0%		34.0%		39.0%		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Top 3 employment industries	Health care and social work, retail trade and education and training																					
Transport & Accessibility																						
Households with no car access		8.5%		13.1%		13.5%		22.7%		11.3%		9.6%		7.0%		13.2%		12.6%		8.9%		Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Public Transport to Work Melbourne Ranking - Walkability score rates walkability to certain amenities		15.0%		26.0%		19.0%		36.0%		24.0%		20.0%		19.0%		31.0%		28.0%		26.0%		
Persons needing assistance		4.9%		4.7%		5.9%		5.6%		4.8%		5.1%		4.7%		4.3%		3.0%		3.6%		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Other																						
Access to internet		81.7%				69.9%		75.4%		79.9%		77.6%		83.4%		82.1%		78.0%		82.6%		Maribyrnong City Council, 2020
Population			87,355		9,790	17,536		4,151	9,594		12,975	12,152		15,772	9,594							
Population %					11%	20%		5%	11%		15%	14%		18%	11%							
Median age			33		32	32		35	32		33	34		36	35							
Age trends compared with Melbourne	Higher percentage of young workforce and lower percentage of seniors																					

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Health Behaviours & Health outcomes (2017 survey results)	Victoria	West Melbourne	Maribyrnong
<u>Dietary Behaviour</u>			
Met fruit and vegetable consumption guideline: Fruit & Vegetable	✓ 3.6%	✗ 2.9%	✗ 3.1%
Met fruit and vegetable consumption guideline: Vegetable only	✓ 5.4%	✗ 4.6%	✗ 4.4%
Never eat take away meals or snacks	✗ 14.9%	✗ 16.9%	✓ 22.7%
Consumed sweetened soft drinks daily	✗ 10.1%	✗ 10.8%	✓ 6.5%
<u>Health outcomes</u>			
Diabetes	✓ 5.5%	✓ 5.3%	✗ 8.3%
Heart disease	✓ 6.7%	✓ 6.9%	✗ 7.8%
Underweight adults	✓ 2.2%	⚠ 2.4%	✗ 2.8%
Overweight adults	✗ 31.5%		✓ 29.7%
Overweight - Men			57.8%
Overweight - Women			33.1%
Obese	✗ 19.3%	✓ 16.6%	✓ 15.3%
Obese III	✗ 2.6%	✓ 1.6%	✗ 2.6%
Self-reported poor health	⚠ 21.0%	✓ 19.6%	✗ 22.9%
<u>Psychological factors</u>			
Anxiety or depression	✗ 27.4%	✓ 25.0%	✓ 25.3%
Seeked professional mental health help (in year?)	✗ 17.6%	✓ 16.2%	⚠ 17.0%
Reported psychological distress	✓ 15.4%	✓ 15.2%	✗ 18.1%
Reported low to medium life satisfaction	✓ 20.5%	✓ 21.5%	✗ 25.9%
Data Source: Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, 2017			
<u>Food security survey data (2014 survey results)</u>	Metropolitan Victoria	Maribyrnong	
Proportion of persons who ran out of food in the previous 12 months and couldn't afford to buy anymore	5.40%	2.20%	
Worried about food insecurity with hunger	12.10%	8.30%	
Relied on low-cost food to avert food insecurity with hunger	12.20%	14.20%	
Reasons why people could not access healthy food they want:			
Can't always get variety	10.20%	7.50%	
Some foods are too expensive	20.20%	15.40%	
Can't always get the right quality	16.20%	14.40%	
Inadequate and unreliable public transport	5.30%	3.70%	
Data Source: Victorian Agency for Health Information, 2017; Victorian Department of Health and Human Services, 2008			

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Part 3: Assessment of food security based on mapping and socio-economic data

The number of Maribyrnong residents experiencing food insecurity is unclear. There is no recent population survey data to understand the extent of food insecurity currently in the community. Food insecurity is consequently assessed through key pillars of food security including the accessibility to food and the availability of healthy and affordable food. The third and fourth key pillars, food utilisation and stability were excluded due to time constraints and difficulty to assess from data available.

Accessibility of food

Three key themes emerge from the analysis of sociodemographic factors: 1) Maribyrnong residents to a small extent experience higher socio-economic disadvantage compared with the average metropolitan resident; 2) There is significant socio-economic disadvantage inequality within the council with residents in Braybrook, Maidstone and Footscray experiencing significantly higher rates of unemployment and low income earners and 3) Residents suffer from higher rates of diet related diseases and a higher proportion of residents have low life satisfaction and low health compared with Metropolitan Melbourne residents. These factors indicate a medium to high risk of food insecurity prevalence in Braybrook, Footscray and Maidstone due to insufficient income and medium to low risk of prevalence in other areas.

Availability of food

The analysis of food availability is a very basic assessment of access to food by foot. Areas highlighted in red are approximately 500m or more from a healthy food source which includes a supermarket or fruit and vegetable store. The most densely populated areas in the designated "food deserts" are of the highest concern. This map signifies high residential areas in Maidstone, Braybrook and Kingsville have poor access to shops. In these areas the percentage of households without cars are 9.6%, 13.5% and 11.3% respectively (compared with the Metropolitan average of 8.5%). This data indicates there may be some physical access issues for vulnerable residents, especially those in Braybrook and Maidstone who cannot afford a car.

The council is supported by a large number of fresh produce outlets selling affordable and culturally appropriate food. In addition, there are a large number of speciality shops selling Vietnamese and Indian food which supports key population demographics in the area. Braybrook and Maidstone are disadvantaged in this respect because the main supermarkets are not complemented with separate fresh produce or speciality shops.

The accessibility of food relief for residents in the most disadvantaged areas is a concern. Food relief is concentrated in central Footscray, with cooked meals available every day apart from Saturday. Braybrook residents have significantly less assistance, with hot meals only available Sunday, Monday & Friday.

Food available from within community food systems is relatively limited. There are no urban food growers apart from honey producers, there are also areas with no access to community gardens which is a concern in highly populated density areas. There is a distinct lack of community food initiatives in the Maribyrnong compared with other areas in Melbourne

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Part 4: Barriers to food insecurity in Maribyrnong City Council

The food security assessment suggests there may be significant levels of food insecurity within certain areas of the municipality. The social determinants of health framework highlight the multifaceted nature of food insecurity and therefore the number of barriers to food security are complex and require a whole of society approach and coordinated action at all levels of society (Marmot et. al., 2008). The principle barriers identified for the Maribyrnong council are: 1) socio-economic disadvantage and income inequality within Australia; 2) potential lack of coherence and coordination in short-term food relief to ensure all acute food insecure residents can access adequate food; 3) environmental barriers for residents accessing affordable and adequate food through the market economy; 4) environmental barriers for residents accessing food outside the market economy; 5) lack of data to understand and therefore address the problem; and 6) threats to future food supply resulting from environmental damage and poor environmental resource management. The following section will explore each of these barriers, how they might be addressed and organisations or groups already working to address them.

Socio-economic disadvantage, broadening social inequities and unequal distribution of income is the primary reasons for food insecurity (Carolan, 2013; Sen, 1981). Literature demonstrates food insecurity is intrinsically linked to poverty and therefore cannot be eliminated without addressing social inequalities (Richards, Kjaernes & Vik, 2016). In Maribyrnong, 18.1% of residents earn below \$650 (ABS, 2016), however the income inequality within the council masks the true extent of poverty in certain areas. For example, this rate is 25% in Braybrook (ABS, 2016). Barriers to income primarily exist at a federal level. Australia embraces a neoliberal political agenda and therefore relies primarily on the market, coupled with self-help and charitable response, to address food insecurity (Richards, Kjaernes & Vik, 2016). Social benefits are not universal and only provided when the market fails and there is demonstrable and abject need (Richards, Kjaernes & Vik, 2016). Social benefits for unemployed Australians are extremely low and not all members of the vulnerable community are eligible. Addressing this barrier requires reforms to welfare benefits to increase the rate and revise eligibility criteria. In addition, employment laws need to be reviewed to understand why residents engaging in paid employment struggle to pay living expenses. Advocacy is crucial at all levels of government and from the community to enact change.

A large number of Victorian and Australian wide organisations are advocating for a reform to welfare benefits and/or providing services to help people find employment. Organisations such as the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) and Jobsactive provide services to help their clients find employment. Organisations advocating for the welfare reforms include Australian Council of Social Services, Victorian Council of Social Services and various other charities calling for social justice or supporting people living in poverty. These efforts have not progressed to fundamental changes to welfare. The Newstart rate for unemployed has not increased beyond inflation since 1994, as opposed to welfare payments in other countries (Richards, Kjaernes & Vik, 2016) and the Australian pension which are indexed to wages growth (Michael, 2019). Excluding the COVID Supplement, which the Liberal government has advised will be terminated in April 2021 (Murphy, 2021), Australian unemployment payments are the second lowest among OECD member countries (Michael, 2019).

In the absence of reforms to social benefits to adequately address the right to food, assessing barriers to adequate food relief access are critically important. These barriers may include insufficient coordination between organisations, lack of targeted support to ensure accessibility for residents most at risk, lack of nutritious or culturally appropriate food and challenges for residents finding what food relief services are available. Food relief is concentrated in Footscray, however

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

other areas such as Braybrook have a higher proportion of the population potentially needing food relief but few relief services available (location and frequency). Perhaps an indication of the lack of food relief to this area, is the fact that the Williamstown Emergency Relief Centre specifically supplies food parcels to Braybrook residents in addition to Williamstown residents. It is unknown how healthy or culturally appropriate food relief packages are, however ASRC does run its own farm to provide fresh produce to its clients.

Barriers to food relief access should be addressed at a local level by, first understanding the extent of the problem and second supporting the food relief sector by supplying information, establishing a forum for actors to coordinate their efforts and developing guidelines for healthy and culturally appropriate food.

One resource to help Australians access food relief is a website called *askizy* (askizy.org.au). This online search allows residents to identify sources of food relief in their area, the type of assistance and distance from their location. In Maribyrnong, community houses are a central place for assisting residents either directly with food or with information about what is available. Online searches for food relief in Maribyrnong were difficult and I recommend the Maribyrnong council shares the *askizy* website on their webpage.

Environmental barriers for resident accessing affordable and adequate food through the market economy involve multiple levels of society. From a global and federal level, trade deals and land ownership and water rights legislation affect food availability and food prices in Australia. At state and local levels, barriers to food access relate to physical accessibility including public transport links and urban planning for retail food outlets. In the case of Maribyrnong, there are large areas of the council which are "food deserts", especially in areas of low population density. As the council approves higher density housing development, it is crucial for planners to consider the location and design of retail environments to ensure access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food. For example, minimum requirements for new shopping complexes to include green grocers and small retail outlets. This planning may require changes at the legislative level.

In the community, there are some organisations working towards supplying affordable fresh produce. For example, The Storehouse, a supermarket run by the Hillsong church sell discounted fruit and vegetable boxes and offer home delivery.

Community-based food systems can create food environments that are locally driven, culturally appropriate and meaningful to local residents (Mader & Heidi, 2011). The local government plays a fundamental role in enabling these food systems through entitlements to use land, making public land available for farming, urban planning for accessible community gardens for residents in high density living developments and training or empowering community members to manage projects and work collectively. The ASRC, located in Footscray, is one example of the barrier to land access. The ASRC farm is located in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne because there is no farm land available locally. There appears to be lack of social cohesion in urban growing in the area; there are no longer any identifiable food swaps in the council area. The council can address these barriers through urban planning and changes to land use rights and engaging residents through a participatory food system approach to food insecurity which could include a food policy council and food system strategy. Legislative barriers for land use may also exist at the state level.

There are a diverse number of groups engaging in this space including community buying groups, permaculture or gardening groups, online Facebook groups creating an informal gift and swap economy and 3000 Acres who offers support setting up community gardens in Melbourne.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

A fundamental barrier to food security at all levels of government is lack of data to understand the problem and therefore take necessary action. There are no population surveys to indicate the level of food insecurity in the municipality since 2014. The lack of data effectively hides the problem from society (Friel & Buckley, 2011). Addressing this barrier requires implementation of a government food insecurity monitoring and surveillance systems independent of the charity and food sector (Pollard & Booth, 2019). Some food relief organisations, such as Foodbank do release population surveys on food insecurity, however surveys are not comprehensive and the narrative or framing of food security in the reports are likely to satisfy the organisation's needs rather than addressing the fundamental causes of food insecurity (Pollard & Booth, 2019).

A key barrier to food security for future generations is environmental damage and resource management. In particular, policies and legislation related to water management, mining, carbon emissions and land development. This barrier is especially pertinent at the federal level, but also can be addressed at the state and local level through environmental protection authority laws, land use planning and policies addressing climate change. A number of organisations advocate for climate action and changes to water rights, however there is yet to be substantial reform at the federal level.

Part 5: Assessment of the Maribyrnong health and wellbeing plan in addressing food insecurity

The 2017-2021 Maribyrnong health and wellbeing plan is integrated in the whole council plan (Maribyrnong City Council, 2017). The council plan is summarised below. Under each of the five strategic objectives, the council highlights the specific health and wellbeing priorities. The council plan does not specifically address food insecurity and only certain vulnerable residents are referred to in the plan, however not in the capacity of food security. The plan is unlikely to improve food security for vulnerable communities. The below analysis supports this assessment and analyses different aspects of the plan that could potentially improve food security for vulnerable residents if targeted actions were taken.



Food insecurity is not identified in the council plan. The silence on the issue implies food security is not an issue the council needs to address. Food insecurity statistics are absent from the council prepared health and wellbeing handbook (Maribyrnong City Council, 2020c) which includes key demographic information related to resident's health.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

The plan does not consistently adopt *SMART* goals. Many strategies to achieve the five objectives are not specific, easily measurable or clearly actionable to readers. The plan therefore lacks accountability to residents. The plan refers to other strategies and plans which makes it difficult to assess if or to what extent barriers to food security plan to be addressed by the council. Annual action plans provide more clarity on council priorities and actions taken. The following aspects of the plan have the potential to address food security, however based on a cursory assessment of related plans and annual action plans, none are likely to improve food security for vulnerable residents.

Council objective	Council "Strategies achieving the objective"	Assessment – addressing food insecurity?
Healthy and inclusive communities	Embed social and community needs within all major infrastructure projects impacting Maribyrnong	Plan yet to be publicly released. The development of the plan was a key opportunity to consider food accessibility in the Community Infrastructure Plan. It is unknown whether this was a consideration without explicit mention of food security.
	Support and deliver community health and wellbeing initiatives	2018-20 actions focused on physical exercise and drug/alcohol. 2021 action is to develop a "health and active framework". It is unknown if this will look at social determinants of health and address barriers to healthy food for food insecure residents.
	Enable formal and informal volunteering, community leadership, civic participation and place-based neighbourhood development	The only action under this objective relates to developing a volunteering strategy. There was a community garden strategy developed in 2016, however this strategy only financially supports three community gardens and puts 100% onus on the community for setting up or managing other gardens (no identifiable actions to build capacity for community members to run community gardens or work collaboratively together).
Quality places and spaces	Increased area of high-quality open space that provides a range of leisure pursuits and experiences for active and passive participation.	Council has reviewed Open Space strategy, but no identifiable actions are included in respect to community food systems. The open space strategy document does acknowledge the link between food security and the use of open spaces to grow food and improve accessibility to shops.

The council has been highly engaged with food insecurity issues in the past. The council took a lead role in the area of food security between 2001 and 2013 and established two food insecurity plans in 2002 and 2011 (Maribyrnong City Council, 2011). This plan included Maribyrnong playing a lead role in collaborating with and advocating for state and federal governments to address food security, integrate planning to create supportive environments for food security, supporting community capacity and resilience and commitment to monitor and evaluate food insecurity in the council. This document and any reference to it is no longer available on the Maribyrnong council website.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Part 6: Critical reflection

The two key things I want to reflect on in this final section are the sources of data and the methodology or framework used to analyse the data. I drew on four key data sources for the assessment; desktop research on components of the Maribyrnong food system and sociodemographic information, participatory knowledge of the food system based on personal experience living in the municipality, academic literature on food security and suggestions from friends met through a local community food group. In assessing food security, I found the magnitude of information difficult to assess with a limited word count.

Desktop research was an extremely useful starting point, however was limited. A significant amount of data could be found using google maps, google search and governments published reports and webpages with population and health data. In terms of community food initiatives and food relief there were a number of websites that collated information and provided a map or list form which was extremely useful. The challenge was finding these websites. Other challenges with this research method included lack of nuanced information about a service/retail/initiative offering, the only data available was old and potentially now out of date or lacks relevancy, information was not on the internet and time restraints finding everything. The lack of nuanced information was particularly challenging for assessing food security, for example to what extent was healthy food available and affordable at certain stores, the size of the food relief or community food initiative and whether a business or initiative was still running. Also, food insecurity is individually embodied (Dowler & Lambie-Mumford, 2015) and therefore it is critical to understand the social environment of residents experiencing food insecurity, including perceptions about food access and prices to understand if and how the spatial food environment affects food security (Mader & Busse, 2011).

The participatory knowledge I already possessed from being a local resident was extremely useful in overcoming some of these challenges, however there were significant gaps in my knowledge due to where I live and my own socioeconomic circumstances. Asking friends who lived in the local area was also useful in finding new data sources for local food initiatives and identifying community food initiatives that had ceased in the area.

I think the assessment could be significantly improved by adopting a participatory method of assessing the food environment, interviewing local residents experiencing food insecurity to inform mapping and physically visiting locations such as neighbourhood houses, food relief locations, unfamiliar shopping areas and community gardens. Key transport data was also missing from the map, such as key public transport routes, demographic groups which don't have access to cars and transport methods used by people without cars to access food.

I adopted a hybrid method of assessment based on academic literature. The jigsaw puzzle of data available meant I had to use some high-level assumptions to draw conclusions to assess food security. The danger of these assumptions was compounded by the use of out-of-date data. One the hardest aspect of the assignment was not getting lost in the complexity of the food system and determinants of food insecurity. When I was analysing the map and socioeconomic data, I found lots of connections and insights there were interesting and relevant, but I had to exclude these from my assessment due the complexity and vastness of the problem. I think development of a very broad map covering both the supply and consumption side of the food system plus the socio demographic data was useful to give a high-level overview of the food system in the community, however analysis needs to be broken down to detailed objectives. For example, assessing the map for long term resilience versus addressing short-term food insecurity.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Lastly, the big element missing from my analysis was the effect of COVID-19 on food security, the local food system and the council and community response to the threat. I think it's important to analyse food insecurity associated with COVID-19 or other disasters separately from "business as usual" food insecurity affecting the community. It's important to learn from COVID-19 for future disaster responses, but not lose sight of the ongoing issues of food insecurity in the community.

References

- Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). (2016). Census of Population and Housing, Australia, 2016. *Australian Bureau of Statistics*. Retrieved from <https://atlas.id.com.au/maribyrnong>.
- Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. (2020). Australia's health 2020: data insights. *Australian Institute of Health and Welfare*. Retrieved from <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/australias-health/australias-health-2020-data-insights/contents/summary>
- Carolan, M. (2013). *Reclaiming Food Security*. Routledge, London.
- Department of Health and Human Services Victoria (DHHS). (2017). Victorian Population Health Survey. *Department of Health and Human Services Victoria*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems/health-status-of-victorians/survey-data-and-reports/victorian-population-health-survey/victorian-population-health-survey-2017>
- Dowler, E., & Lambie-Mumford, H. (2015). How Can Households Eat in austerity? Challenges for Social Policy in the UK. *Social Policy and Society*, 14(3), 417-428. doi:10.1017/S1474746415000032
- Godrich, S. L., Stoneham, M., Edmunds, M., & Devine, A. (2020). South West Food Community: how government and community initiatives are supporting systemic change towards enhanced food security. *Australian and New Zealand journal of public health*, 44(2), 129-136. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.12975>
- FAO. (2009). Committee on World Food Security: Thirty-Fifth Session: Agenda Item III: Reform on World Food Security Final Version. *FAO*, Retrieved from <http://www.fao.org/3/a-k7197e.pdf>
- Friel, S., Vlahov, D., & Buckley, R. M. (2011). No data, no problem, no action: addressing urban health inequity in the 21st century. *Journal of urban health : bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine*, 88(5), 858-859. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11524-011-9616-z>
- Mader, E. & Heidi, B. (2011). Hungry in the Heartland: Using Community Food Systems as a Strategy to Reduce Rural Food Deserts. *FAO Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition*, 6:1, 45-53, DOI: 10.1080/19320248.2011.549377
- Maribyrnong City Council. (2011). Food Security Policy 2011-2013. *Maribyrnong City Council*. No longer available online.
- Maribyrnong City Council (2016). Community Gardens Policy 2016-20. *Maribyrnong City Council*. Retrieved from <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/council-and-committee-meeting-papers/council-meetings/20160816-agenda-ordinary-council.pdf>

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

- Maribyrnong City Council. (2017). Council Plan 2017-2021. *Maribyrnong City Council*. Retrieved from: <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/About-us/Our-plans-and-performance/Council-Plan>
- Maribyrnong City Council (2019). Annual Action Plan 2019/20. *Maribyrnong City Council*. Retrieved from <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/About-us/Our-plans-and-performance/Annual-Council-Action-Plan>
- Maribyrnong City Council (2018). Annual Action Plan 2018/19. *Maribyrnong City Council*. Retrieved from <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/About-us/Our-plans-and-performance/Annual-Council-Action-Plan>
- Maribyrnong City Council (2020a). Annual Action Plan 2020/21. *Maribyrnong City Council*. Retrieved from <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/About-us/Our-plans-and-performance/Annual-Council-Action-Plan>
- Maribyrnong City Council. (2020b). Health and Wellbeing Data Book. *Maribyrnong City Council*. Retrieved from: <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/About-us/Our-plans-and-performance/Municipal-Public-Health-and-Wellbeing-Plan>
- Maribyrnong City Council. (2020c). Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing 2019-20 Annual Report. *Maribyrnong City Council*. Retrieved from: <https://www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/About-us/Our-plans-and-performance/Municipal-Public-Health-and-Wellbeing-Plan>
- Marmot M., Friel S., Bell R., Houweling T. A. J., Taylor S. (2008) Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. *The Lancet*, 372, 1661–1669.
- Michael, L. (2019, Nov 19). A sad and sorry history of Newstart. *Probono Australia*. Retrieved from <https://probonoaustralia.com.au/news/2019/11/a-sad-and-sorry-history-of-newstart/>
- Murphy, K. (2021, 31 Jan). Coalition unlikely to lift unemployment benefits when jobkeeper scrapped in March. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2021/jan/31/coalition-unlikely-to-lift-unemployment-benefits-when-jobkeeper-scrapped-in-march>
- Richards, C., Kjærnes, U., & Vik, J. (2016). Food security in welfare capitalism: Comparing social entitlements to food in Australia and Norway. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 43, 61-70.
- Pollard, C. M., & Booth, S. (2019). Food insecurity and hunger in rich countries—it is time for action against inequality. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 16(10), 1804
- Sen, A. (1981). *Poverty and Famines. An Essay on Entitlement and Deprivation*. Clarendon Press, Oxford.
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). (2010). The Right to Adequate Food (Fact Sheet No. 34). Retrieved from <https://www.refworld.org/docid/4ca460b02.html>
- Victorian Agency for Health Information. (2017). Challenges to Health Eating : Food Insecurity in Victoria : Findings from the Victorian Population Health Survey 2014. *Victorian Agency for Health Information*. Retrieved from: https://www.bettersafecare.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-09/190226-1_VAHI-food-insecurity-full%20report.pdf

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. (2008). Victorian Population Health Survey 2008. *Victorian Department of Health and Human Services*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems/health-status-of-victorians/survey-data-and-reports/victorian-population-health-survey/victorian-population-health-survey-2008>

Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. (2017). Victorian Population Health Survey 2017 dashboard. *Victorian Department of Health and Human Services*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/population-health-systems/health-status-of-victorians/survey-data-and-reports/victorian-population-health-survey/victorian-population-health-survey-2017>

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1




Image: Attila Siha CC BY-NC 2.0

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Preliminary findings from the 2020
National Pandemic Gardening Survey

Report prepared for Sustain
March 2021

Authored by:
[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Executive Summary

The pandemic has highlighted the urgent need to transition food systems to more sustainable and just models around the world and at multiple scales (Clapp & Moseley 2020). It also has demonstrated the import of cities in enabling (or restricting) crisis mitigation measures, whether those crises are social or environmental (FAO 2020).

This report points to key opportunities for Melbourne councils to enhance food security, increase the well-being of people and ecologies, and develop deeper ties to and within constituent communities through measures that encourage food gardening in the city. The recommendations of the report are founded on an analysis of the 2020 National Pandemic Gardening Survey. The survey was conducted by Sustain (a national food network) and received over 9,000 responses from food growers around Australia. The suggestions of this report complement the action agenda that has been laid out by Sustain, including a call for a \$500 million national fund to support edible gardening (see Donati & Rose 2020).

The overall survey results clearly show that food gardening made a significant difference in people's lives during the pandemic. Over 80% of all survey respondents indicated their food growing was vital during the pandemic, citing results like increased food security, heightened wellbeing, and improved social connections. These impacts illustrate why food gardening is so important in Melbourne, as it has been in other cities around the world (FAO 2014, Thornton 2020)

Intensification and extension of urban development in addition to ongoing environmental change present key challenges for future urban food security and growing activities. In this context, food gardeners in urban, suburban, and peri-urban contexts within Greater Melbourne who responded to the survey expressed awareness and concern about the existing food system, especially in terms of equity and sustainability. Suggested changes ranged from the micro-level (e.g., self-sufficiency) to the macro-level (e.g., a paradigm shift toward a food system that supports environmental and social well-being). Respondents also pointed to the potential of food gardening to provide multiple benefits while mitigating the impacts of future social and environmental crises.

Based on respondents' identification of the benefits and challenges involved in their food gardening during the pandemic, we highlight three key opportunities for councils, each with practical measures for implementation. The three recommendations work together to maximise the benefits of food gardening while addressing the challenges articulated by Melbourne residents.



Figure 1: The Shop and Food Gardens at CERES, City of Moreland

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Box 1: Three key recommendations and associated measures

Recommendation 1:

Foster and target community outreach to enable successful food gardening

- Create and support Community Food Hubs with plant nurseries, tool libraries, community seed saving, and food gardening programs
- Develop community education opportunities and develop/distribute communication materials about food gardening
- Work with existing community gardens and food networks to develop a city-wide mentoring program for new gardeners
- Work with Indigenous groups and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to identify and support opportunities for relevant food gardening projects and programming

Recommendation 2:

Implement policy measures to support food gardening at the local government level

- Implement policies and activities to support food gardening and food forests in public spaces
- Establish a network of council-managed community composting facilities
- Implement projects that help reduce financial barriers and incentivise food gardening on residential properties
- Establish a Food Policy Council and peer-to-peer learning forums across Greater Melbourne councils
- Integrate food growing with urban greening, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and emergency preparedness programs

Recommendation 3:

Undertake research to identify and expand food gardening sites and extension services

- Map public areas available for food gardening, including solar access, soil types and quality, and access to mains water
- Produce sunlight and water access maps for private areas in council regions
- Conduct research to identify different models and examples of providing food gardening extension services for city residents
- Investigate feasibility of developing partnerships with Universities for ongoing research about urban food gardening

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Background: Food gardening and Melbourne

Approximately 1 in 2 Australians grow some of their own food (Wise 2014), and gardening in Australia has historically ranked in the top five leisure activities undertaken by citizens within their households (Lawrence, 1997). In addition to its direct benefit of providing food, urban agriculture is recognised as having the capacity to help provide natural cooling for buildings and streets, reduce air pollution and flood risk, and improve diets and health of practitioners (Artmann & Sartison 2018; Kingsley et al. 2021). Gardens also serve as key places of biodiversity in cities, providing niches and corridors for multiple species (Lin, Philpott & Jha 2015).

Australia has one of the highest rates of urbanisation in the world, with more than 75 percent of the population living in five cities: Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide. Melbourne is projected to overtake Sydney as Australia's most populous city by 2028, with overseas migration and university student enrolments expected to underpin population growth from five million in 2019 to eight million in 2050 (Longbottom & Knight 2018, Urban 2018).

Greater Melbourne's development is expanding outward, incorporating seventeen new suburbs in 2018. A recent Australian study correlates time spent driving with cardio-metabolic health problems related to blood pressure, obesity, and diabetes, further noting that 78% of adults use a car as their main form of transport to and from work (Sugiyama et al. 2016). Further, approximately a quarter of Australia's food production is grown in peri-urban areas, including Melbourne's greenbelt (Butt & Buxton 2020). At the same time as development is spreading, an inward contraction is compounding the city's liveability challenges. Current urban consolidation policies and planning regulations are shrinking green space and compromising quality of life (Hall 2010), exacerbating already existing inequalities across the region. Climate change will intensify these challenges, with disproportionate affects for vulnerable populations.

Melbourne's food bowl can meet approximately 40% of the city's needs but that capacity is projected to fall to 18 per cent by 2050 owing to declining availability of land and the Agriculture Victoria Strategy's focus on exporting to Asia (Carey et al. 2018:67, DEDJTR 2017). As pressures mount on the traditional market garden sector to meet demand, community-based urban agriculture or community gardening has grown rapidly since 2005, especially in the inner and middle ring suburbs of metropolitan Melbourne. There has been an estimated three-fold increase of area cultivated, resulting in around 55 hectares of land in 2019 devoted to community gardening (Williams and Rayner 2016; City of Yarra 2019). Increased production in nurseries of vegetable seedlings and fruit trees suggests that food gardening on private residential land has also increased. This increase can be attributed to a combination of grassroots pressure on local government to provide more land and of public health strategy of municipalities seeking to benefit from linking food growing with increased physical activity and mental health.

Cities are vital to developing resilient and sustainable communities in the context of compounding public health, economic, food security, development, and environmental challenges. Cities and food growing can act together as agents of socio-ecological transformation. Melbourne in particular is the home to long standing and new approaches to urban agriculture led by diverse non-governmental organisations such as CERES, Cultivating Community, FareShare, 3000 Acres and the Collingwood Children's Farm. Demand for community gardens from residents led, for instance, to the City of Yarra to appoint Australia's first urban agriculture facilitator in 2012. As another innovative example, Moving Feast is a partnership of many of not-for-profits (among others) seeking to maximise charitable food production in a range of locations across the metropolitan area.

There are challenges to making the most of the benefits offered by food gardens: not everyone can grow their own food in the city; historic use and regulation means not all places are suitable for food growing given limits access to sun, water, and uncontaminated soil; and policy and programming does not always recognise the multiple benefits of food gardening, and so do not create new agendas or support its integration into existing programming. Keeping this in mind, this report points to several ways in which food gardening can be advanced in Greater Melbourne.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Data and analysis

The 2020 National Pandemic Gardening Survey was conducted through June and July by Sustain on behalf of the members of the Steering Committee for the 3rd National Urban Agriculture Forum. The survey was created in Survey Monkey. To recruit respondents, the survey link was distributed and promoted through social media (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram), Community Gardens Australia, and Gardening Australia presenter Costa Georgiadis during livestreams on Facebook and Instagram. 9,140 food gardeners around Australia responded to questions about their gardening practices and experiences during the pandemic, the value they placed on food gardening, and basic demographic questions.

A summary report based on high-level quantitative analysis was published by Sustain in 2020 (Donati & Rose 2020). The report details high-level quantitative results of the survey. It also provides an action agenda for national and local level measures based on the results and Sustain's long-standing involvement in food system transformation.

To enhance that analysis and agenda, a research project was initiated to perform a preliminary qualitative analysis of a subset of the responses. Qualitative analysis allows exploration of the meanings, experiences, values, and emotions that shape our everyday lives, and efforts at governance. The survey included multiple open-ended responses, and the qualitative analysis focused on developing an account of those responses that would deepen the already completed high-level quantitative analysis. To facilitate the research, seed funding (\$5,000) was obtained from the University of Melbourne's pandemic-focused Advancement and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research fund.

A subset of 10% of survey responses from the Greater Melbourne area was prioritised for analysis. A total of 2599 residents from all 31 local government areas that comprise Greater Melbourne responded to the survey. Survey responses from residents in six local government areas were included in this analysis (n=280). These included: Boroondara (n=38 of 116), Maribyrnong (n=61), Melbourne (n=47), Moreland (n=26 of 164), Stonnington (n=41) and Yarra (n=67).¹

To begin, Sustain provided the data for analysis in anonymised form to University of Melbourne researchers. After conversations among the research partners about potential areas of interest in the data, Dr. Aguirre-Bielschowsky, Dr. Dun, and Dr. Phillips examined a selection of responses and developed a refined list of categories considered feasible to explore. Then, in discussion and using NVivo qualitative data analysis software, a large list of descriptive codes were narrowed into four key categories to focus the preliminary analysis. After consultation with the broader research team, the data was test coded along these lines. Importantly, the selection of categories did not preclude other aspects to be noted as worthy of further attention. Dr. Aguirre-Bielschowsky proceeded with coding a total of 280 responses guided by regular discussions with Dr. Dun and Dr. Phillips.

This report focuses on two key categories of analysis: benefits and challenges of food gardening as identified by survey participants. This analysis has been used to develop recommendations for councils to advance food gardening and its successful implementation. When indicator words are used in the following discussion, 'few' refers to less than five respondents, some (6-10), several (11-29), and many (>30).

¹ Shared postcodes were included in only one council. Analysis of responses from Boroondara and Moreland remain incomplete pending further funding.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Benefits of food growing

All respondents viewed the ability to grow their own food as positive. The importance of food growing is suggested by the fact that almost all respondents had increased their food production since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Three interrelated benefits of food gardening were repeatedly identified by respondents across the six Melbourne council areas examined. These echo the broader national Pandemic Gardening Survey results. The three benefits are outlined below and illustrated by respondents' own words in Box 1.

Improved food security and self-sufficiency

The biggest benefit for residents was having food available to consume and preserve. In the overall survey, of all respondents, lower-income households were the most likely to grow their own food (Donati & Rose 2020). An economic benefit of cutting household costs featured less frequently in the subset of survey data. There were also some contrasting comments. A few respondents found the economic benefit essential; however, others cited the expense of inputs and tools as limitations, with one comment that "very few of the vegetables end up being cheaper than in the shops". Rather than emphasise cost, several responses from the sub-set of councils examined for this report appreciated growing their own food as improving food security because it strengthened their sense of self-sufficiency and self-reliance, and increased access to fresh (sometimes organic) food.

Improved mental and physical wellbeing

Several respondents mentioned food gardening gives them great enjoyment, purpose, and a sense of pride, achievement, and accomplishment. They spoke about how growing their own food is '*rewarding and nurturing*', gives them '*enormous pleasure*', '*allays anxiety*' and '*feels productive*'. Given the anxiety and pressure experienced during the pandemic, this is a significant finding. Another common benefit mentioned by respondents was in connection with their physical health, especially in terms of improving one's diet through fresh and organic produce, the physical exercise involved in gardening, and avoiding COVID-19 infection by reducing the need to leave the house.

Many respondents also expressed how being in their garden fostered strong feelings of connection to nature. Interacting and observing was an important part of their food gardening, especially in relation to plants, insects, birds, animals (dogs, rabbits, chickens), and land more broadly. Being in the garden, and nature taking a bigger role in their life, was considered a key benefit by many. For these respondents, the level of focus required on something other than oneself tended to be understood as a distraction from daily problems and worries (particularly during the pandemic), as well as providing a sense of continuity, belonging, and control. Some respondents expressed a general hope that increased gardening will help people to reconnect with nature.

Increased social connectedness

Growing food strengthened social connections for many respondents. People shared their produce, seeds, land and compost. In doing so, they got satisfaction from creating social connections and collaborations with family, friends, co-workers, neighbours, housemates, and organisation volunteers. Feeling socially connected through food gardening also related to being able to help the community and vulnerable populations during the pandemic (e.g. volunteering in community gardens, running school gardening programmes, donating food). Further, with mobility restrictions in place, several respondents noticed that their front garden attracted attention from passers-by and prompted conversations. These interactions were always seen as very positive, and often discussed as something that should be fostered. Some respondents regarded connections as an extra or unintended benefit of food gardening, while others saw it as a core benefit, particularly in relation to mental health.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Box 2: Survey respondent quotes illustrating multiple, interrelated benefits of food gardening

"Even though I don't have a lot of space it means I get a little break from the stress of life. I forget about the lockdown for a little time and it feels darn good!" - resident in Yarra City Council area

"Growing your own fresh, healthy, delicious tasting and poison free food is the only way for the future. As a bonus you save huge \$\$\$" - resident in Stonnington City Council area

"Gardening is my therapy, it gives me joy, physical exercise, fresh air, sense of satisfaction & pleasure. I think gardening is very good for mental health issues, provides a sense of purpose, company at times & at the end of the day the rewards of your work. I think more community gardens would be fantastic for lifting the anxiety & frustrations of our current situation. It may assist the feelings of helplessness about the devastating changes we are seeing & help lonely people to get together & support each other in a healthy outdoor environment." - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"This pandemic has shown the importance of localised food systems. It has also demonstrated the vulnerability of many in our community with food insecurity increasing significantly during this time. Access to healthy, nutritious food is a human right and is one that needs to be prioritised by governments." - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"It's a great comfort to know I can provide my household with fresh greens & brassica and fruit or berries, for virtually all the year. Gardening is a peaceful, therapeutic activity. Sharing a love of gardening with immediate and extended family, friends and passers by who stop to chat is source of joy and brings a sense of belonging to a community of gardeners. Passing on this love and appreciation of growing vegetables, fruit and flowers to grandchildren and others feels like a worthwhile thing to do." - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"Working in the garden, especially the front beds, have been the catalyst for many conversations with people walking by. Neighbours and other people walking by have stopped and talked. I have met people in the community that I previously had not known." - resident in Moreland City Council area

"Growing things we can eat gives me enormous pleasure. As well, I know where the food comes from. It is fresh and there is the satisfaction of growing it myself. Sometimes it's not always easy. I've been learning about seed saving from my produce and also, have had a 3 bay compost system built and am perfecting that process! Being able to garden during the covid times has been a life saver. I am never bored. There is always something to do outside. I feel for people who have an apartment and a balcony only. That is not the way to live for me. A garden full of a variety of plants is essential for exercise and mental health wellbeing." - resident in Stonnington City Council area

"my community garden - working on my plot, friends made there, and working on the communal areas - kept my mental health." - resident in Yarra City Council area

"Having fruit trees (lemons, figs, peaches) and berry vines (raspberry canes) has also been important for mental health. It has been very helpful to have things to nurture and watch changing as expected during the shift in seasons, restoring some sense of natural balance and consistency at a time when so much else has been topsy-turvy in our own lives and those of our broader communities... It is truly restorative to feel productive and in touch with nature whilst not having to leave the house. At a time when social distancing and lockdowns have meant really serious constraints on movement around the community, the garden and gardening has provided fundamentally important respite... people reconnect with fundamental things around food security and their natural environment and discover that it can be both sustainable and life-affirming. If some of this interest and focus can endure beyond the pandemic, we will be in much better shape as a society." - resident in Maribyrnong City Council area

"Practical, creative, rewarding and educational. Gardening as an act of creativity is hugely valuable. An edible garden has always been the ideal. Putting ideas into practice and watching and hoping and learning. I am very grateful to be able to do this under restrictions. It's been just the right thing in which to invest time and effort after being stood down from work." - resident in Yarra City Council area

"I think that the bushfires of 2019/20 and the Covid-19 pandemic have both highlighted our lack of resilience with providing our own food. We cannot just expect food to be on the supermarket shelves - we are too reliant on interstate food supply, as well as too limited a variety of produce. My children attend [redacted] and have the beautiful kitchen garden program there, for which I am endlessly grateful. What a way to teach these important lessons from the outset." - resident in Yarra City Council area

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Challenges for food gardening, opportunities for Melbourne

A wide range of challenges were identified by respondents as impacting their food gardening (and, in some cases, that of others). Boxes 2, 3, and 4 include illustrative quotes indicating such barriers. To address these challenges and enhance the benefits already discussed, we make three recommendations. Each recommendation is accompanied by a series of implementation measures and explanatory text.

Recommendation 1:

Foster and target community outreach to enable successful food gardening

- Create and support Community Food Hubs with plant nurseries, tool libraries, community seed saving, and food gardening programs

Food hubs are often understood as efforts to coordinate the marketing and distribution of local fresh produce. However, these places also offer a place to centre other activities relating to food such as skills training, provision of community gardening plots, demonstration sites, and services such as tool and seed libraries and/or community nurseries. Some areas in Melbourne already have a Food Hub (e.g., the Melbourne Food Hub), while other councils have conducted feasibility studies into developing one or have initiatives that might be made part of one (e.g., Northcote library's seed lending program). This survey provides further justification for a shared place that brings together key food-related activities. Respondents indicated that information and skills-building should be increased through education, workshops, direct mentoring, and networking. In addition to offering learning opportunities, these hubs would provide locations to deal with some of the material limitations mentioned by survey respondents, including not having the right tools, access to key services (shared composting, soil testing, etc.) for food gardening. It would also enhance the ability to foster social connections through shared space and opportunities to share products (seeds, compost, plants, produce) and skills with other food growers.

- Develop community education opportunities and develop/distribute communication materials about food gardening, and,
- Work with existing community gardens and food networks to develop a city-wide mentoring program for new gardeners

Many survey respondents expressed acute awareness of their limited skills and knowledge. A wide range of needs were identified in this area, leading us to recommend councils to develop – and/or more effectively distribute – food gardening educational materials (website resources, council newsletter features, and/or specific letter box drops). The 'My Smart Garden' program might provide inspiration for this kind of effort. These materials should be accompanied by workshops for hand-on-learning. This reflects many indications that, in addition to using online and hardcopy resources, survey respondents learned by doing, taking courses, and talking to more experienced gardeners. Respondents noted needs for information and/or skills in:

Seed saving	Composting and mulching	Monitoring pests and diseases
Plant propagation	Water recycling and scheduling	Greenhouse gardening
Companion planting	Soil testing and preparation	Sourcing good quality inputs
Permaculture	Attracting beneficial insects	Seasonal planning and crop rotation

Rather than reproducing what is already available, opportunities to draw together and support the expertise of those already working in this space would be of value – as examples, existing community and school gardens, food groups, farmers' markets, botanical gardens, libraries, etc. Many respondents also suggested that edible gardening skills should be integrated into school curricula to ensure people learned these skills early and well.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

- Work with Indigenous groups and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities to identify and support opportunities for relevant food gardening projects and programming

This recommendation does not reflect particular comments from respondents. Instead, it reflects some of the silences we observed in the responses and the socio-demographics of respondents. Though several respondents articulated interest in and care for Indigenous or native plants, Indigenous communities did not feature in the comments. Indigenous and CALD communities were also underrepresented. This is not uncommon, as has been noted in cultural environmental literature (Head et al. 2019). Further, other Victorian-focused studies have shown new arrivals to Australia often lack access to local, culturally appropriate foods, especially fresh produce, that they are familiar with from their countries of origin (VicHealth 2008; Dun et al. 2018). Working with the Wurundjeri Land Council and initiatives such as Cultivating Communities will facilitate this measure, as will looking for inspiration from examples such as the Mildura-based Food Next Door Cooperative.

Box 3: Example quotes from survey respondents relevant to Recommendation 1

"councils ought to establish or help community and neighbourhood groups to establish food banks, food / garden produce swap meetings, tool libraries" - resident in Melbourne City Council area

"whilst we have tried to up the amount of edibles we're growing during the lockdown, it has been a very, very slow, and very hit and miss process whilst we discover what can survive in the conditions we have during winter (it will be the same in summer when we work out what can last the all day sun / if we can set up shade for our vegie patch)." - resident in Stonnington City Council area

"I am just starting out and have to source information about insurance, food safety, irrigation, finances, retail, setting up an online shop - it would be much easier if there was a guiding group to help." - resident in Tarra City Council area

"More information is needed on creating effective composting: it's more than just piling scraps into a plastic container." - resident in Melbourne City Council area

"I struggle to plant seeds at the correct time, and I am often late in planting seedlings into the garden. I would like to see better planting guides for different localities for the general public to see. For example, early this year I created a spreadsheet for every month of the year, showing what seeds I can plant. This will assist me to forward plan and order seeds in a timely manner. I would love it if someone with good garden local knowledge could look at this and be able to edit and create similar ones for other areas." - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"water seems crucial - tips welcome! (can I use recycled water?)" - resident in Stonnington City Council area

"For our family, more kids' resources would be helpful to maintain interest and dedication." - resident in Stonnington City Council area

"I need help, sick of learning with google. I want a gardener with years of experience to talk to me. Zoom is fine if person to person not allowed... I would be much more motivated if I could learn in the context of a community garden, with regular sessions over a whole season. It is much more fun to learn with other like minded people, you learn better and it is easier to commit if you have signed up for the whole season. I have had a garden for many years, have lost most of my plants to various pests big and small and basically got discouraged and gave up. I just need a nudge and a push/shove from a knowledgeable gardener!" - resident in Stonnington City Council area

"Would like to increase my repertoire. More education about heirloom, indigenous and drought-tolerant plants including range, where to buy, how to grow, how to prepare." - resident in Melbourne City Council area

"I would like to do a course to understand how I could make better use of the garden beds that I have." - resident in Moreland City Council area

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Recommendation 2:

Implement policy measures to support food gardening at the local government level

- Implement policies and activities to support food gardening and create food forests in public spaces

In general, people struggled to access suitable land for food gardening. This was especially challenging for residents living in places where backyards were uncommon or in apartments, and was complicated by limited access to public or shared land. People also noted growing limitations with only being able to grow food in pots and raised gardens. These limitations were accompanied by wishes for more and more suitable gardening space both on respondents' own properties and in public areas. There was enormous interest in having more community gardens as well as desires to have food growing in verges and nature strips, school gardens, apartment developments (roofs, walls, courtyards, balconies), urban forests, and public edible gardens. As a useful example, we note the Sunshine Coast Council in Queensland recently developed guidelines for residents wishing to garden in verges/nature strips and Brisbane City Council introduced such guidelines in 2016. Respondents also suggested that councils could help with delivery of soil, mulch, manure and digging machinery to allow the street to use nature strips. Subsidising insurance for community gardens was also advocated. One additional limit for a select group of respondents was losing access to their gardens due to mobility restrictions during lockdown, leading to reduced access to food growing.

- Establish a network of council-managed community composting facilities

Increased food waste (Rabobank 2020) and gardening (Sustain 2020) during the pandemic seems like it would have led to increased composting. However, during the pandemic respondents struggled to compost due to restricted access to shared composting facilities – whether they were run by councils, non-governmental organisations, or community gardens. This meant putting more food (and garden) waste into regular rubbish. Currently much composting is left to individual residents. Those in apartments face particular challenges not only with establishing composting facilities, and dealing with the pests/smells in communal areas, but with using the compost that is created. Based on the limits of accessing shared composting and of home-based composting, some residents called for greater council-managed community compost facilities and the creation of more readily-accessible compost. The City of Moreland has a pilot food waste program (though it remains a challenge for apartments to engage) and Yarra City Council supports community composting at the Carlton Neighbourhood Learning Centre, which may provide inspiration for developing shared composting facilities throughout Melbourne.

- Implement projects that reduce financial barriers and incentivise food gardening on residential properties

Affordability was a limiting factor at a personal level (e.g., expensive inputs and tools) as well as at a general level (e.g., soil preparation and testing, education programs). Measures to subsidise and incentivise food gardening would counteract this limitation, and provide another opportunity to share information about growing practices. Suggestions from respondents for targeting subsidisation for private food gardening included things like: seeds, plants, and materials; soil testing; gardening labour for residents who are elderly or in poor physical health; and, guidance for installation of suitable irrigation, water capture and water recycling systems. Tax and rates incentives were also mentioned as possible measures to encourage food gardening. Respondents also suggested financial measures to fund programs for residents committed to: maintaining or expanding food gardening on verges and nature strips, developing and managing community compost facilities, and those developing sustainable urban farming initiatives.

- Establish a Food Policy Council and peer-to-peer learning forums across Greater Melbourne councils, and,
- Integrate food growing with urban greening, biodiversity, climate change mitigation, and emergency preparedness programming

These measures are intended to draw together a series of concerns and benefits articulated by respondents. Food Policy Councils act as forums to consider food issues and to develop coordinated action at local, regional, and state levels. While food policies and programs tend to be spread across multiple governmental and non-governmental

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

agencies, a Food Policy Council provides a means to consider the food system as a whole and bring stakeholders together to address the complex issues involved. Local governments often act as grounds for pilots of creative programs and policies that can become part of national agendas. A Food Policy Council across Greater Melbourne would enable peer-to-peer learning and support among councils, greater citizen involvement in agenda-setting, and more coherent consideration of the food system. This measure would complement the suggested creation of a Youth Food Policy Council (Donati and Rose 2020). According to respondents, regulations should be used to support rather than restrict urban food production. They cite issues with keeping chickens and bees and accessing land as well as desires to see community gardening and school food growing programs expanded. With this in mind, a FPC might review restrictions on access to public and private property for food growing or keeping chickens and bees, as well as develop support and incentive programs to foster increased food gardening activities and benefits. It could also serve to bring together interests in food with programming for climate mediation, biodiversity, urban greening and emergency preparedness to ensure multiple benefits across these areas. FPCs have been run – with varying success – for three decades in North America, so there is much to be learned from international examples.

Box 4: Example quotes from survey respondents relevant to Recommendation 2

"I think for people 'wanting to get back to basics' and I have heard this alot especially across the age group from about 20 to 60 (!) so alot of people, then gardening and food production will increase. I feel this could be facilitated in the city by councils allowing/encouraging verge gardening (which my council does not encourage) and by providing more easily accessible education and information. Gardening Australia is a fabulous, accessible, understandable, relatable resource and more programs and resources in this vein would be fabulous." - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"I would love to see more community gardens and food forests (low maintenance gardens based on perennial growing of food) in our local communities" - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"I can't use my Composting group facilities at the moment because of the virus so much is being wasted in our community... My council (Yarra) should expand Composting services" - resident in Yarra City Council area

"It would be good to see councils supporting individuals and communities by providing free plants on an annual basis. Friends [we have] in Perth receives free plants annually from their council." - resident in Melbourne City Council area

"councils ought to establish...community composts for each street - someone has to supervise these or the wrong things will be deposited, so council/state govt \$ is needed here." - resident in Melbourne City Council area

"I would love to see urban compost/worm farm pods in neighbourhoods, similar to the Subpod." - resident in Yarra City Council area

"I have found being able to afford, and then access materials hard. Seeds have been ok as they are relatively cheap. But getting enough compost, sustainable fertilisers or pest controls, tools etc. has been quite a challenge during the pandemic." - resident in Stonnington City Council area

"I don't have the space or infrastructure (or money) to grow much more than herbs and very small fruits (like tomatoes or strawberries)" - resident in Yarra City Council area

"I live in the inner suburbs of Melbourne. I have recently had my soil tested and discovered high levels of lead. I have grown food at every sharehouse I have lived in for the last 10 years and never thought to have the soil tested. It is highly that the soils that I have grown food in have been contaminated with lead. There is a role for local and state governments to be more proactive around this, providing guidance and support to people to learn to grow food, provide subsidies for supplies to do this, and to learn of common pitfalls and things to look out for (such as soil contamination)." - resident in Moreland City Council area

"Councils and state governments ought to actively assist people to install and maintain rainwater and greywater tanks and garden irrigation systems - most of us have no clue how to do these things, and cannot afford to spend the money hiring consultants." - resident in Melbourne City Council area

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Recommendation 3:

Undertake research to identify and expand urban food gardening sites and extension services

- Map public areas available for food gardening, including solar access, soil types and quality, and access to mains water, and,
- Produce sunlight and water access maps for private areas in council regions

The most frequent challenge identified by respondents related to accessing the essential requirements for growing food: land, sun, water, knowledge, and resources. As already noted, access to land in general was noted as a limitation. This concern was, predictably, common among apartment dwellers but it was also cited by those who had houses with small (or no) gardens and/or poor sunlight. Sunlight was frequently discussed as a challenge, particularly for those in the inner city. Water distribution and availability was cited as a crucial national problem and, less often, as a limitation to personal food growing. Lack of suitable land on which to grow food was not confined to private land. People wished they had more land available on their own properties, but also in public spaces including verges, nature strips, community gardens, housing development gardens, and public food forests and edible gardens. All participants indicated a desire to increase their food gardening, and this was often accompanied by desires to make more suitable space for food growing accessible in Melbourne.

Creating maps of available land, with suitability indicators, not only for public land but also for private land will highlight possibilities of food gardening for current and prospective residents, for whom such opportunities may factor into property purchase and use. It would also give councils the information to direct developers in ensuring suitable food gardening areas as part of new developments.

- Conduct research to identify different models and examples of food gardening extension services for city residents

Food gardening challenges can be quite site-specific, leading to a need for on-site consultation for some residents. As some survey respondents mentioned, this might be particularly valuable for those residents who are unable to access community gardens for some reason. One survey respondent noted the example of University engagement in providing extension services in the USA, and it may be useful to explore the feasibility of partnerships with educational institutions that would enable such services. Identifying and assessing the lessons of other Australian and international cases would provide useful input for Greater Melbourne councils to advance politics and programs that suit their communities.

- Investigate feasibility of developing partnerships with Universities for ongoing research about urban food gardening

There are an increasing number of initiatives intended to support private and public food gardening, yet not enough is known about their many benefits, limits, successes, and challenges. Research on initiatives across a range of places across Australia is necessary, covering a range of ecological, socio-demographic, urban/suburban/peri-urban, and governance profiles. Developing greater understanding of the breadth and depth of these initiatives will enable them to be better supported, will point to lessons that others might learn from their example, and suggest means (or desirability) of 'scaling up' or expanding such initiatives.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

Box 5: Example quotes from survey respondents relevant to Recommendation 3

"My council (Yarra) should...find land in parks for more community gardens" - resident in Yarra City Council area

"I wish I could grow more but am limited by space and conditions (apartment living)" - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"I have a very small space. I would have increased my food growing activities a lot more if I had space." - resident in Moreland City Council area

"I have created a garden that includes edible food growing outside my own property in a public area. If I was to be challenged, in theory I would have to stop this activity. The garden has provided overwhelming support, interest and pleasure to many people of all ages who walk along the footpath regularly especially since COVID-19." - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"I would grow more but my backyard is miniscule!" - resident in Yarra City Council area

"Limited by space and a shady garden" - resident in Moreland City Council area

"my city townhouse is not suitable for growing vegetables because of (i) possum plague and (ii) overshadowing from neighbours" - resident in Melbourne City Council area

"Currently renting and space is tight. Access to a private plot like in some parts of Europe would be ideal." - resident in Maribyrnong City Council area

"I've had a veggie garden at all my apartments except this one which has no space nor good sunlight. I wish my complex would give us raised beds instead of car parking spots- we have no car." - resident in Yarra City Council area

"SUN!!! Ok probably not fixable. But unit block allotments are in the dim dark damp dank shadows of the 5-story unit block and barely grows, not even weeds where my plot is. Its nice that it exists at all though. Balcony is also roofed. Have started sneaking snowpeas onto nearby council land/park, and with next to zero care, they grow better than what we can do in our plot!" - resident in Boroondara City Council area

"It would be great to see Australia adopt the equivalent of the USA university extension services to provide free, local and evidence based support for the general public growing food. Community gardens are great for educated or cohesive communities, but those that need it most are often excluded." - resident in Maribyrnong City Council area

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

The research partnership

This report has been produced from a research collaboration among University of Melbourne researchers and Sustain leaders.

The University of Melbourne team members include:

- Dr Catherine Phillips (School of Geography) is a human geographer and food studies scholar. She combines qualitative research on everyday practices with social theory to understand agri-food systems, and implications for improving governance.
- Dr Olivia Dun (School of Geography) is a human geographer with a background in environmental science and forced migration studies. She conducts research with small-scale farmers in Australia and the Asia-Pacific focusing on connections between environmental change, agriculture and human migration.
- Dr. Ikerne Aguirre-Bielschowsky (School of Geography) is a human geographer with a research focus on environmental sustainability and food systems governance.
- Professor Adrian Hearn (School of Languages & Linguistics) is an anthropologist who researches the cultural challenges and opportunities for sustainable urban food production and consumption. His research is international, including Latin American, Chinese, and Australian cities.
- Dr Chris Williams (School of Ecosystem & Forest Sciences) is a horticulturalist specialising in urban agriculture. His applied research focuses on novel food species cultivation, migrant communities, and building gardening expertise.

Sustain, the collaborating partner for this project, is a Melbourne-based not-for-profit that works for the transition to a food system that supports flourishing communities, individuals and ecosystems. The team includes its leaders: Dr Nick Rose (Executive Director) and Dr Kelly Donati (Chair).

The University of Melbourne's pandemic-focused Advancement and Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research fund provided seed funding for the research project.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Opportunities to advance food gardening in Melbourne

References

- Artman, M. & Sartison, K. (2018). The role of urban agriculture as a nature-based solution. *Sustainability*, 10, doi.org/10.3390/su10061937.
- Butt, A. & Buxton, M. (2020) *The Future of the Fringe*. Clayton, VIC: CSIRO.
- Carey, R., Sheridan, J. & Larsen, K. 2018. *Food for Thought: Challenges and Opportunities for Farming in Melbourne's Foodbowl*. Melbourne: Victorian Eco-Innovation Lab.
- City of Yarra. (2019). *Urban Agriculture Strategy 2019-2023*. Fitzroy, Victoria: City of Yarra.
- Clapp, J., & Moseley, W. G. (2020). This food crisis is different: COVID-19 and the fragility of the neoliberal food security order. *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 47(7), 1393-1417.
- DEDJTR (Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources). (2017). *Agriculture Victoria Strategy: Supporting Victoria's agriculture*. Melbourne: DEDJTR.
- Donati, K., & Rose, N. (2020). 'Every seed I plant is a wish for tomorrow': *Findings and Action Agenda from the 2020 National Pandemic Gardening Survey*. Melbourne, Victoria: Sustain: the Australian Food Network.
- Dun, O., Bogenhuber, D., Head, L., Kadhari, J., Klocker, N., Niyera, J., & Sindayigaya, J. (2018) 'Bringing together landless farmers and unused farmland: the Sunraysia Burundian Garden and Food Next Door initiative' in: Rose, N. and Gaynor, A. (Eds) *Reclaiming the Urban Commons: The past, present and future of food growing in Australian towns and cities*. UWA Publishing: Crawley.
- FAO (United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization). (2014). *Growing Greener Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Rome: FAO.
- FAO (United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization). (2020). *Cities and local governments at the forefront in building inclusive and resilient food systems*. Rome: FAO.
- Hall, T. (2010). *The Life and Death of the Australian Backyard*. Collingwood, Victoria: CSIRO Publishing.
- Head, L., Klocker, N., & Aguirre-Bielschowsky, I. (2019). Environmental values, knowledge and behaviour: Contributions of an emergent literature on the role of ethnicity and migration. *Progress in Human Geography*, 43(3), 397-415.
- Kingsley, J., Egerer, M., Nuttman, S., Keninger, L. et al. (2021). Urban agriculture as a nature-based solution to address socio-ecological challenges in Australian cities. *Urban forestry & Urban Greening*, 60, doi: 10.1016/j.ufug.2021.127059
- Lawrence, S. (1997). *The congruent garden: An investigation into the role of the domestic garden in satisfying fundamental human needs*. Sydney: University of New South Wales.
- Lin, B., Philpott, S., & Jha, S. (2015). The future of urban agriculture and biodiversity-ecosystem services: Challenges and next steps. *Basic and applied ecology*, 16(3), 189-201.
- Longbottom, J. & Knight, B. (2018, Oct 16). Melbourne's population explosion threatens to create a 'Bangkok situation.' *ABC News*. www.abc.net.au/news/2018-10-15/melbourne-will-be-australias-biggest-city-which-party-has-policy/10358988
- Robobank. (2020). *Food Waste Report 2020*. Rabobank. www.rabobank.com.au/foodwaste
- Santo, R., Palmer, A. & Brent, K. (2016) *Vacant Lots to Vibrant Plots*. Johns Hopkins Centre for a Livable Future.
- Thornton, A. (Ed.) (2020). *Urban Food Democracy and Governance in North and South*. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Urban, R. (2018, Nov 5). Victorians' concerns for fast-growing city. *The Australian*. www.theaustralian.com.au/news/nation/victorians-concerns-for-fastgrowing-city/news-story/af78fd4fc04esbd7987aff3c128855b6
- VicHealth (2008). *Food for All: How local government is improving access to nutritious food*. Carlton South, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation.
- Williams, C. & Rayner, J. (2016). Bucking the trend: Growing university enrolments in urban horticulture. *Acta Horticulturae*, 1126, 239-248.
- Wise, P. (2014). *Grow your own: The potential value and impacts of residential and community food gardening*, Policy brief 59. Canberra: The Australian Institute. australiainstitute.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/PB-59-Grow-Your-Own.pdf

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 2. Jo Canny - Maribyrnong Ratepayers Group

On 26 Apr 2021, at 10:35 pm, SH - JC SH - JC [REDACTED]
wrote:

Dear All

I'm not exactly sure of the protocol on who to address this to. I trust each councillor will receive a copy of this email.

I love this community, I have spent the last 25 years here and it is upsetting to see the divide that seems to happen b/w the community and council, I really don't see why it needs to be so adversarial, it is not a reflection of the wonderful community spirit we live in.

I am always committed to working toward a cohesive relationship with MCC and working toward solutions.

I don't want councils core services to be cut, I was disappointed the aged care workers were outsourced as I saw that as a core function of council. However, we need to look at:

- other income options,
- land banking by developers that contributes to rates pressure
- how many major projects this municipality takes on with such a small rate base to share the costs over
- fairer rates distribution
- spending (yes, that includes things like the \$237,000 Footscray park sign) and more...

It is very upsetting to hear the stories of financial distress from MCC ratepayers via my involvement with Maribyrnong Ratepayers group and I welcome and invite all councillors to join the page which has over 1300 local facebook members or feel free to get in touch, members of our core group really want to find positive solutions.

I'm especially concerned this year with rates bills given the property prices we seem to be experiencing in the single dwellings market, more than apartments, which will result in a rates burden increasing for single dwellings. I'd like to note for our green conscious councillors, that single dwelling homes provide softer and cooling landscapes within the municipality, with their established trees and gardens which is lost every time a house is demolished and replaced with multiple dwellings so it is important to preserve single dwellings.

Annual rates calculations, and receiving rates, is a very stressful time for many households as they cross their fingers and hope their rates bill has not increase by much, but Maribyrnong Ratepayers have heard of annual household rates increase of 10%, 20% with little to nothing that they can do about it. When I attended the rates review forum, there were financial counsellors who put in submissions as to the finance stress rates are causing residents.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

I have spent many years reviewing the rating system and the inconsistencies in residential rates between councils is startling. Please don't get confused with 'average rates' and have options to discuss.

It is very difficult for councillors, particularly the new ones, to understand the nuisances of council's rating systems and its impact on the community. Much council work is done at such a high level that they don't understand how it affects the 'person in the street'/individual households.

This includes, the mix of rateable properties (eg. residential, commercial etc) and the reliance on the 'rates income' as part of the budget. I trust councillors know that MCC has a very high reliance on rates for its income, around 75%, the average is less than 60% of total income revenue, so the extra financial burden is put back on MCC ratepayers which is already a small ratebase to share council costs over.

Residential rates is a peculiar household bill as you can't shop around for better prices, if you improve your home your rates increase, if a neighbour sells their home for a high price, your rates increase, the way rates are done is really unfair and I would invite councillors to better understand the issues.

I know of households paying \$3500pa in rates, with a household income in excess of \$300k (approx 1% of the household income), whilst other households pay \$4500 on a pensioner's income (approx 10% of household income) it isn't right or fair and sends a message to our low income and working-class households.

This is not a 'tax system' which looks at income and capacity to pay, it's a system that says to low income, pensions, working class households, sorry you are struggling to pay your \$4500pa but bad luck that's our system, you have a valuable home so you must pay. and yet the \$300k household don't even notice the rates bill.

MCC residential rates vary from around \$500pa to \$10,000pa, a huge variance and with no acknowledgement of a household's income and capacity to pay. With that in mind, a reminder of what the municipal charge is for; *"Municipal charge - from know your council"*

A municipal charge is a flat charge that can be used to offset some of the council's administrative costs. The total amount raised from a municipal charge cannot be more than 20% of the total raised from the combination of municipal charge and general rates.

Applying a fixed municipal charge may be a way of ensuring that all properties make a standard contribution towards a council's administrative costs. Some councils nominate which costs will be paid for by the fixed municipal charge.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

In regards to the municipal charges, it was introduced 2019/20 at \$20pa, it did not increase in 2020/21, staying at \$20pa and appears the current budget modelling is on \$30pa.

What can be done for this budget:

- look in to a higher differential rate for residential **investor** properties, who can claim rates bills as a tax expense, unlike households.
- increase the municipal charge, to \$150? per household to even out the administrative burden

It is very difficult to explain what I have learnt over the years in an email. I am more than happy to chat to any councillors that wish to understand the rates concerns better.

I wish to make it clear, after all the above, that I am requesting that the MCC municipal charge needs to be increased by more than \$10.

Another side point to make is, if the whole property market fell by 50% tomorrow, MCC rates don't go down by 50%. Everyone will still essentially pay the same. Happy to clarify this for anyone.

Kind Regards
Jo Canny

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 3. John Guinane - Council Rates remain excessively high

From: Maribyrnong City Council Online Engagement Site - Survey Now Open
<notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 May 2021 3:04 PM
To: Budget Submissions
Subject: Anonymous User completed Budget Submission form

Anonymous User just submitted the survey 'Budget Submission form' with the responses below.

Full name:

John Guinane

Address:

[REDACTED]

Suburb:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone number (during business hours):

[REDACTED]

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation?

No

Submission:

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Council rates remain excessively high - I have been comparing rates with properties that are worth more than my house in adjoining council areas such as Moreland and Moonee Valley and their rates remain significantly less than mine - I do not understand why other councils can deliver services for significantly less money. I would presume that this council is run much less efficiently than others.

Do you you want to present your submission to Council at a meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 1 June at 6:30pm at the Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray.?

No

I acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions:

Yes

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 4. Zac Lewis - Western Chances Funding

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 19 April 2021 3:48 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Western Chances

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to introduce myself as I have recently commenced as CEO of Western Chances.

Western Chances assists young people facing social or economic barriers realise their potential by providing scholarships, opportunity programs and ongoing support. We partner with talented and motivated young people from Melbourne's west to enable them to thrive.

In 2020, we provided financial scholarships (at an average value of \$988) to 27 secondary and tertiary students living in the City of Maribyrnong. As Mayor of the City of Maribyrnong, it would be great to arrange a time for my Chair Terry Bracks and I to meet with you and discuss our work – do you have any availability to meet in May or June?

I also wanted to let you know we're kicking off our 2021 Big Dreams School Pic Pledge and asking the community of the west to get on board and help spread the word about Western Chances. The School Pic Pledge is designed to build awareness of Western Chances as well as encourage donations. Our patron and former Prime Minister [Julia Gillard](#) and ABC News Breakfast presenter [Michael Rowland](#) have both got involved and we would love it if you also joined in our awareness campaign.

All you need to do is:

- Post a throwback photo on social media of you in your school uniform
- Add a caption about how Western Chances helps young people
- Include a link to Western Chances website www.westernchances.org.au (Facebook) or profile (Instagram) and use the hashtag #WCBigDreams

I have included sample captions below to make it simple and easy:

Instagram

I am posting a throwback high school pic as part of Big Dreams School Pic to raise awareness of [@western_chances](#). Western Chances supports students in the City of Maribyrnong reach their potential. Education changes lives, please help us spread the word. To find out more and donate visit [@western_chances](#) Instagram page or go to their website.

Facebook

I am posting a throwback high school pic as part of Big Dreams School Pic to raise awareness of [@western_chances](#). Chances supports students in the City of Maribyrnong reach their potential. Education changes lives, please help us spread the word. To find out more and donate visit westernchances.org.au

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,
Zac

Zac Lewis
Chief Executive Officer



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

13 May 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

RE: Request for funding for Western Chances

Thank you for meeting with Terry and I recently to learn more about Western Chances. I write to you to formally seek your support for a three year funding allocation to Western Chances.

Western Chances empowers young people who are facing financial barriers to achieve their potential. We award scholarships to motivated and talented young people facing social or financial barriers to pursue their education and career pathway. We have a strong track record of success and since first awarding scholarships in 2004, we have invested \$7.2 million in Melbourne's west, awarding over 8,000 scholarships and empowering over 3,300 young people.

Our model is simple; we provide students scholarships to pay for small items that have a big educational impact including textbooks, laptops, home internet, public transport and specialist subject equipment. **In the last three years, we have awarded 100 scholarships to students across Maribyrnong, a community investment of over \$100,000.** We provide high-value educational opportunities, a focus which is highlighted in the Maribyrnong Council Community 2040 Plan as a key factor in successfully planning for the future growth of Maribyrnong.

In addition to our Scholarship Program, we promote learning and economic outcomes by facilitating a range of excellent and life changing opportunities for our recipients that they might not otherwise be able to afford. Over the last three years, we have facilitated opportunities valued at over \$2.35M which have focused on skill development, increasing confidence and self-esteem and fostering leadership. Many of our scholarship recipients provide a valuable contribution to society by utilising their new skills for the benefit of their families and their communities, which is

WESTERN CHANCES ABN 17 110 713 865
Level 3, 3 West, 160 Gordon Street, Footscray, Victoria 3011
T: 03 8345 7812 F: 03 8345 6795 E: westernchances@wh.org.au
www.westernchances.org.au

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



in close alignment with the objectives of the Maribyrnong City Council Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (2017-2021).

COVID-19 has presented significant challenges to our Scholarship Program. The need for assistance in the community of Maribyrnong is increasing; the number of applications we have received has increased by nearly 10% already this year. Despite this, we receive very little government funding and rely on the generous support of our incredible network of community supporters to deliver our program, support which has declined as a result of the pandemic.

We request you consider providing Western Chances with a grant of \$30,000 per annum over three years (\$90,000 in total) to commence in 2021. This amount will enable us to award approximately 90 scholarships over three years to young people living in Maribyrnong aged 12-25 who are enrolled in government secondary schools, TAFE and university.

As discussed we would like to work with you to build a coalition among the six local Councils in Melbourne's west to help fund our Scholarship Program and we greatly appreciate your advocacy in this matter.

If you have any further questions about this proposal, I can be contacted by phone on [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Thank you for considering our request and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Zac Lewis
CEO
Western Chances

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 5. Dianne Ferrara - Do not raise the rates this year

From: Maribyrnong City Council Online Engagement Site - Survey Now Open
<notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Thursday, 13 May 2021 10:37 PM
To: Budget Submissions
Subject: Anonymous User completed Budget Submission form

Anonymous User just submitted the survey 'Budget Submission form' with the responses below.

Full name:

Dianne Ferrara

Address:

[REDACTED]

Suburb:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone number (during business hours):

[REDACTED]

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation?

No

Submission:

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

I understand that there will always be costs associated with a growing population, however, I seriously doubt you know how much people are still hurting!!!! I don't think you can justify a price hike even if it falls in line with the 1.5% cap. I was unemployed for a year with no income!!! Not even govt assistance. I'm sure I wasn't the only one. Do you think everything just snaps back into place? What a naive characterisation of life in 2021! I suggest you do not raise the rates this year and give people a chance to recover and breathe! Stave a few of the less urgent projects perhaps.

Do you you want to present your submission to Council at a meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 1 June at 6:30pm at the Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray.?

No

I acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions:

Yes

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 6: Andrew Costa - reallocate its budget to improve Bicycle Infrastructure

From: Maribyrnong City Council Online Engagement Site - Survey Now Open
<notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 11:31 AM
To: Budget Submissions
Subject: Anonymous User completed Budget Submission form

Anonymous User just submitted the survey 'Budget Submission form' with the responses below.

Full name:

Andrew Costa

Address:

[REDACTED]

Suburb:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone number (during business hours):

[REDACTED]

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation?

No

Submission:

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

The Proposed Annual Budget for Maribyrnong Council 2021-2022 states in the executive summary that \$1.37 million has been allocated to footpaths and bicycle paths. This is misleading as closer inspection of the budget shows that \$878,000 of that figure is allocated specifically to footpaths. There is \$500,000 for “New” and “upgrade” bicycle and pedestrian upgrades for the whole of the municipality. It is not possible to ascertain how much of this \$500,000 is allocated to bicycle infrastructure. However, assuming half of this figure is for bicycle infrastructure that equates to \$250,000 for a population of 97,454. This is approximately \$2.57 per person for bicycle infrastructure. As a point of comparison the UK government has recently allocated approximately £30 (~\$50) per person to cycling infrastructure. At this rate it will take approximately 100 years to build a comprehensive protected bicycle network. In the same Proposed Annual Budget Maribyrnong Council has allocated \$12.47mil to roads (this is 50 times the money allocated to bicycle infrastructure). This is particularly galling given Maribyrnong Council’s recent Climate Emergency Declaration with this decade being the decade of action with respect to climate change and cycling is ten times more important than electric vehicles in order to reach net zero for cities¹. Action of climate change is dependent on tech / infrastructure but also on individual and collective behaviour change. Getting more people on bikes epitomises this balance. 5 star safety infrastructure² is needed to ensure cycling is the default choice for local trips. Only when it is safe, easy, and enjoyable will it trump the dominant paradigm. Given the Bicycle Strategy was also completed before the Covid19 pandemic which highlighted the willingness of residents to get on bicycles, the Bicycle Strategy should be rolled out in 2-3 years instead of 10 with additional efforts to address the gaps in the strategy. Covid-19 has significantly changed our work and travel demands and expectations. With greater work location flexibility there are less people doing the dawn and dusk city commute, but for those that do, alternatives to public transport are desirable. Provision for CBD commuters remains important but with more people staying local it is increasingly important to ensure mobility within the municipality. More local commuting is also more likely to be the type of riding undertaken by household caregivers and managers, who are invariably women. Improving local connectivity ensures these local trips to schools, shops, sporting and civic venues can be taken by bike. It also facilitates greater economic participation in small local businesses in preference to large distributors. Given the need to ensure the economic revival of our business community this is also incredibly important to facilitate. The budget allocation is also inconsistent with Maribyrnong Council’s Transport System Hierarchy as described in Maribyrnong Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy: “In managing and developing a safe and well-connected transport system, the City of Maribyrnong will give consideration and priority to transport modes in the following order:”³ Clearly the budget allocation shows Maribyrnong follows the System Hierarchy in reverse. The way transport performance is assessed in Maribyrnong Council through its Service Performance Outcome Indicators reinforce this view. The only form of assessment relates to a satisfaction out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads⁴. No assessment is made of the safety, quality and connectedness of bicycle infrastructure. Consequently, the extremely poor quality and disjointed nature of the bicycle infrastructure is never considered. Maribyrnong Council should reallocate its budget to reflect its own Transport System Hierarchy to help achieve the many benefits that flow from more people cycling more often including: ● better physical and mental health, ● increased turnover for local traders (up to 30%), ● improved educational outcomes for school kids, ● reduced congestion, ● increased productivity and reduced days off sick, ● reduced pollution and ● stronger community links.

Do you want to present your submission to Council at a meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 1 June at 6:30pm at the Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray.?

No

I acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions:

2

Yes

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 7. Elena Pereyra - Bike West - Bike Infrastructure



Response to Maribyrnong Council Proposed Annual Budget 2021-2022

The Proposed Annual Budget for Maribyrnong Council 2021-2022 states in the executive summary that \$1.37 million has been allocated to footpaths and bicycle paths. This is misleading as closer inspection of the budget shows that \$878,000 of that figure is allocated specifically to footpaths. There is \$500,000 for “New” and “upgrade” bicycle and pedestrian upgrades for the whole of the municipality.

It is not possible to ascertain how much of this \$500,000 is allocated to bicycle infrastructure. However, assuming half of this figure is for bicycle infrastructure that equates to \$250,000 for a population of 97,454. This is approximately \$2.57 per person for bicycle infrastructure. As a point of comparison the UK government has recently allocated approximately £30 (~\$50) per person to cycling infrastructure.

At this rate it will take approximately 100 years to build a comprehensive protected bicycle network. In the same Proposed Annual Budget Maribyrnong Council has allocated \$12.47mil to roads (this is 50 times the money allocated to bicycle infrastructure).

This is particularly galling given Maribyrnong Council’s recent Climate Emergency Declaration with this decade being the decade of action with respect to climate change and cycling is ten times more important than electric vehicles in order to reach net zero for cities¹. Action of climate change is dependent on tech / infrastructure but also on individual and collective behaviour change. Getting more people on bikes epitomises this balance. 5 star safety infrastructure² is needed to ensure cycling is the default choice for local trips. Only when it is safe, easy, and enjoyable will it trump the dominant paradigm.

Given the Bicycle Strategy was also completed before the Covid19 pandemic which highlighted the willingness of residents to get on bicycles, the Bicycle Strategy should be rolled out in 2-3 years instead of 10 with additional efforts to address the gaps in the strategy. Covid-19 has significantly changed our work and travel demands and expectations. With greater work location flexibility there are less people doing the dawn and dusk city commute, but for those that do, alternatives to public transport are desirable. Provision for CBD commuters remains important but with more people staying local it is increasingly important to ensure mobility within the municipality. More local commuting is also more likely to be the type of riding undertaken by household caregivers and managers, who are invariably women. Improving local connectivity ensures these local trips to schools, shops, sporting and civic venues can be taken by bike. It also facilitates greater economic participation in small local businesses in preference to large distributors. Given the need to ensure the economic revival of our business community this is also incredibly important to facilitate.

The budget allocation is also inconsistent with Maribyrnong Council’s Transport System Hierarchy as described in Maribyrnong Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy:

¹

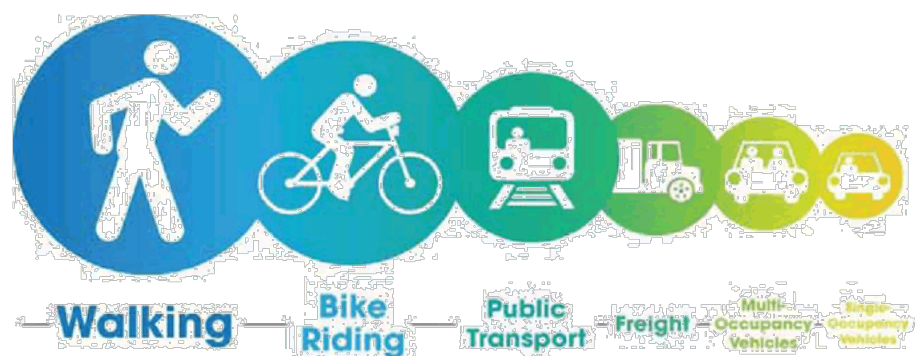
<https://theconversation.com/cycling-is-ten-times-more-important-than-electric-cars-for-reaching-net-zero-cities-157163>

² <https://irap.org/3-star-or-better/>

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



"In managing and developing a safe and well-connected transport system, the City of Maribyrnong will give consideration and priority to transport modes in the following order:"³



Clearly the budget allocation shows Maribyrnong follows the System Hierarchy in reverse. The way transport performance is assessed in Maribyrnong Council through its Service Performance Outcome Indicators reinforce this view. The only form of assessment relates to a satisfaction out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads⁴. No assessment is made of the safety, quality and connectedness of bicycle infrastructure. Consequently, the extremely poor quality and disjointed nature of the bicycle infrastructure is never considered.

Maribyrnong Council should reallocate its budget to reflect its own Transport System Hierarchy to help achieve the many benefits that flow from more people cycling more often including:

- better physical and mental health,
- increased turnover for local traders (up to 30%),
- improved educational outcomes for school kids,
- reduced congestion,
- increased productivity and reduced days off sick,
- reduced pollution and
- stronger community links.

³ Maribyrnong Council 2012 Integrated Transport Strategy p25

⁴ Maribyrnong Council

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 8. Claire Denby - Bike Infrastructure

Subject: Response to Maribyrnong Council Proposed Annual Budget 2021-2022

Dear Councillors,

The Proposed Annual Budget for Maribyrnong Council 2021-2022 states in the executive summary that \$1.37 million has been allocated to footpaths and bicycle paths. This is misleading as closer inspection of the budget shows that \$878,000 of that figure is allocated specifically to footpaths. There is \$500,000 for "New" and "upgrade" bicycle and pedestrian upgrades for the whole of the municipality.

It is not possible to ascertain how much of this \$500,000 is allocated to bicycle infrastructure. However, assuming half of this figure is for bicycle infrastructure that equates to \$250,000 for a population of 97,454. This is approximately \$2.57 per person for bicycle infrastructure. As a point of comparison, the UK government has recently allocated approximately £30 (~\$50) per person to cycling infrastructure.

At this rate it will take approximately 100 years to build a comprehensive protected bicycle network. In the same Proposed Annual Budget Maribyrnong Council has allocated \$12.47mil to roads (this is 50 times the money allocated to bicycle infrastructure).

This is particularly galling given Maribyrnong Council's recent Climate Emergency Declaration with this decade being the decade of action with respect to climate change and cycling is ten times more important than electric vehicles in order to reach net zero for cities. Action of climate change is dependent on tech / infrastructure but also on individual and collective behaviour change. Getting more people on bikes epitomises this balance. 5-star safety infrastructure is needed to ensure cycling is the default choice for local trips. Only when it is safe, easy, and enjoyable will it trump the dominant paradigm.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Given the Bicycle Strategy was also completed before the Covid19 pandemic which highlighted the willingness of residents to get on bicycles, the Bicycle Strategy should be rolled out in 2-3 years instead of 10 with additional efforts to address the gaps in the strategy. Covid-19 has significantly changed our work and travel demands and expectations. With greater work location flexibility there are less people doing the dawn and dusk city commute, but for those that do, alternatives to public transport are desirable. Provision for CBD commuters remains important but with more people staying local it is increasingly important to ensure mobility within the municipality. More local commuting is also more likely to be the type of riding undertaken by household caregivers and managers, who are invariably women. Improving local connectivity ensures these local trips to schools, shops, sporting and civic venues can be taken by bike. It also facilitates greater economic participation in small local businesses in preference to large distributors. Given the need to ensure the economic revival of our business community this is also incredibly important to facilitate.

Maribyrnong Council should reallocate its budget to reflect its own Transport System Hierarchy to help achieve the many benefits that flow from more people cycling more often including:

- better physical and mental health,
- increased turnover for local traders (up to 30%),
- improved educational outcomes for school kids,
- reduced congestion,
- increased productivity and reduced days off sick,
- reduced pollution and
- stronger community links.

Kind regards,

Claire Denby
Resident and Ratepayer

[Redacted Signature]

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 9. Sarah Rickard - Climate Action Maribyrnong

From: [Maribyrnong City Council Online Engagement Site - Survey Now Open](#)
To: [Budget Submissions](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] completed Budget Submission form
Date: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 6:15:06 PM

sarahric just submitted the survey 'Budget Submission form' with the responses below.

Full name:

Sarah Rickard

Address:

[REDACTED]

Suburb:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone number (during business hours):

[REDACTED]

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

Organisation:

Climate Action Maribyrnong

Submission:

I support Council's inclusion of action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency in the Council Plan for 2021-2025, along with allocating funds specifically towards action on the Climate Emergency in the 2021/2021 budget. For those I have interacted with through Climate Action Maribyrnong and for myself, Climate Change is the most serious and urgent issue of our time, and there is a lot that can be done at a local level. We must all take responsibility and share the load to bring our collective carbon emissions to zero as quickly as possible. This we must do, not just to limit the impact that climate change will have on our lives, but also those that are most vulnerable and who have contributed the least to the problem, as well as ensuring a safer future for our children and those to come. Maribyrnong City Council has taken the first steps to acknowledge the emergency of the climate crisis and that we all need to take action. Allocation for such action in this year's

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

budget is the next step that is needed. Council has the ability to take the lead, to raise the issue so that it is forefront in our minds driving all decision making, to show how the solutions work, and assist in making these solutions accessible for all. The benefits of a low-carbon locally-based economy are widespread and will assist in making our community more liveable, healthy and enjoyable. I would like to see Council strengthening its engagement with the community on the Climate Emergency and solutions for a zero-emissions economy. There is a limited impact that improving Council infrastructure and operations, and I do support all improvements and actions within Council, but I believe it could be taken further. Council have access to all residents, businesses and visitors across the municipality, to raise awareness and understanding of the climate emergency, and are able to assist in collective change to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

Do you you want to present your submission to Council at a meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 1 June at 6:30pm at the Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray.?

No

I acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions:

Yes

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 10. John Symons - Bike West - Bike Infrastructure

From: [Maribyrnong City Council \(Public Engagement\) <maribyrnong@city.vic.gov.au>](#)
To: [John Symons](#)
Subject: [Completed Budget Submission form](#)
Date: Thursday, 20 May 2021, 11:56:37 AM

John Symons just submitted the survey 'Budget Submission form' with the responses below.

Full name:

John Symons

Address:

[REDACTED]

Suburb:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone number (during business hours):

[REDACTED]

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

Organisation:

BikeWest Inc

Submission:

Council's budget does not allocate transport funding according to its own Integrated Transport Strategy and the Transport Hierarchy within that strategy. This also fails to address the climate emergency

Supporting documents:

https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehc-production-australia/2b9444c8b77d03b1dce4777e31e3339e9b6406/original/2621472675/51888ce3a374e36c807a1151a4dee53_Response_to_Maribyrnong_Council_Proposed_Annual_Budget_2021_20210517.pdf?1621472675

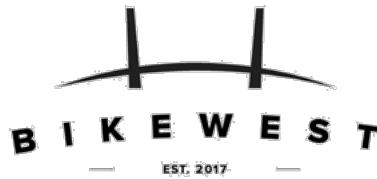
Do you want to present your submission to Council at a meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 1 June at 6:30pm at the Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray?

Yes

I acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions:

Yes

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



www.bikewest.org

<https://www.facebook.com/BikeWestVictoria>

Response to Maribyrnong Council Proposed Annual Budget 2021-2022

The Proposed Annual Budget for Maribyrnong Council 2021-2022 states in the executive summary that \$1.37 million has been allocated to footpaths and bicycle paths. This is misleading as closer inspection of the budget shows that \$878,000 of that figure is allocated specifically to footpaths. There is \$500,000 for “New” and “upgrade” bicycle and pedestrian upgrades for the whole of the municipality.

It is not possible to ascertain how much of this \$500,000 is allocated to bicycle infrastructure. However, assuming half of this figure is for bicycle infrastructure that equates to \$250,000 for a population of 97,454. This is approximately \$2.57 per person for bicycle infrastructure. As a point of comparison the UK government has recently allocated approximately £30 (~\$50) per person to cycling infrastructure.

At this rate it will take approximately 100 years to build a comprehensive protected bicycle network. In the same Proposed Annual Budget Maribyrnong Council has allocated \$12.47mil to roads (this is **50 times** the money allocated to bicycle infrastructure). This is particularly galling given Maribyrnong Council’s recent Climate Emergency Declaration with this decade being the decade of action with respect to climate change and cycling is ten times more important than electric vehicles in order to reach net zero for cities¹. Given the Bicycle Strategy was also completed before the Covid19 pandemic which highlighted the willingness of residents to get on bicycles, the Bicycle Strategy should be rolled out in 2-3 years instead of 10 with additional efforts to address the gaps in the strategy.

The budget allocation is also inconsistent with Maribyrnong Council’s Transport System Hierarchy as described in Maribyrnong Council’s Integrated Transport Strategy:

“In managing and developing a safe and well-connected transport system, the City of Maribyrnong will give consideration and priority to transport modes in the following order:” ²

¹ <https://theconversation.com/cycling-is-ten-times-more-important-than-electric-cars-for-reaching-net-zero-cities-157163>

² Maribyrnong Council 2012 Integrated Transport Strategy p25

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



Clearly the budget allocation shows Maribyrnong follows the System Hierarchy in reverse. The way transport performance is assessed in Maribyrnong Council through its Service Performance Outcome Indicators reinforce this view. The only form of assessment relates to a satisfaction out of 100 with how council has performed on the condition of sealed local roads³. No assessment is made of the safety, quality and connectedness of bicycle infrastructure. Consequently, the extremely poor quality and disjointed nature of the bicycle infrastructure is never considered.

Maribyrnong Council should reallocate its budget to reflect its own Transport System Hierarchy to help achieve the many benefits that flow from more people cycling more often including:

- better physical and mental health,
- increased turnover for local traders (up to 30%),
- improved educational outcomes for school kids,
- reduced congestion,
- increased productivity and reduced days off sick,
- reduced pollution and
- stronger community links.

Maribyrnong Council should pursue the following measures:

- The footpath, bicycle and road budgets should be consolidated
- 25% of the annual consolidated budget should be allocated to active transport infrastructure (ie walking and cycling)
- The Service Performance Outcomes Indicators should include a new measure:
 - satisfaction with safety, quality and connectedness of bicycle infrastructure

³ Maribyrnong Council Proposed Annual Budget 2021-2022

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 11. Jules Griffith - Westgate Basketball Association - new indoor multi-court facility in Maribyrnong

From: [Maribyrnong City Council Online Engagement Site - Survey Now Open](#)
To: [Budget Submissions](#)
Subject: [REDACTED] completed Budget Submission form
Date: Thursday, 20 May 2021 11:46:31 AM

WBA just submitted the survey 'Budget Submission form' with the responses below.

Full name:

Jules Griffith

Address:

[REDACTED]

Suburb:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone number (during business hours):

[REDACTED]

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation?

Yes

Organisation:

Westgate Basketball Association

Submission:

The top priority for our rapidly growing sporting association is around a new indoor multi-court facility in Maribyrnong. Council approved an indoor sports facility strategy in 2018 with a number of initiatives around site selection and design to meet short, medium and long term goals. Our members are seeking confirmation that funds will be allocated this year for further work to confirm a site and start the master planning process for a new indoor facility with at least 6 new courts. Our competition and programs are at capacity and spread across a number of venues in Maribyrnong. We were hoping to start an U8 program but will no additional capacity either we delay the launch of the program or we need to move our U21 competition to a different day/time or drop it entirely to free up court space. This isn't a great outcome for us but with competition court space limited to RecWest, Braybrook and Whitten Community Sports Stadium, it is the best we can do at this time. Our Board and Competition Committee, our 2000+ members and their families, Basketball Victoria and local Federal and State Members of Parliament are all supportive of efforts to build a new facility so if not now, when? We appreciate Council's support of Westgate Basketball and look forward to confirmation of budget and working with your team to deliver this long needed community asset to the people of Maribyrnong.

Supporting documents:

https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/e5e1bd47de07efd4f9623825592439854200587e/original/1621474133/bda78a8655c81845933c992534854623_About_Westgate.pdf?1621474133

Do you you want to present your submission to Council at a meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 1 June at 6:30pm at the Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray.?

No

I acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions:

Yes



About Westgate Basketball

Serving the Families of Melbourne's Inner West



Established in 2010, the Westgate Basketball Association is one of the fastest growing basketball associations in Victoria and Westgate was recognised by Basketball Victoria as the State's Best Small Association in 2014 with our Program Coordinator Penny Milhe recognised as Basketball Victoria's Volunteer of the Year in 2019. Westgate's mission is to provide vibrant, enjoyable and well organised basketball that is inclusive and accessible to communities across Melbourne's Inner West.

The Westgate Basketball Association is currently proud to have over **1,800 boys and girls** in our domestic and representative competitions and our youth programs, supported by over **1,000 families** and over **250 volunteer coaches and administrators**. Our growing Senior Competition also has over **150 male and female participants** and Westgate employs over **100 young people** from our area to referee our competitions and coach in our programs.

Westgate is also working closely with Council, the State Government and other key stakeholders to grow its facilities, clubs and volunteer bases to cater for the increasing numbers of youth from the inner west of Melbourne to participate in basketball at all levels.

Participating in basketball is thrilling, affirming and exciting for youth in the Inner West and Westgate has a strong track record of providing positive opportunities for kids looking for an opportunity to be active and have fun, as well as providing a pathway for promising and talented players to excel at basketball's highest levels.

Visit www.westgateimperials.com.au for more information or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. For sponsorship opportunities please contact [REDACTED]



What We Do in 2021



Our competitions and programs provide players of all abilities an opportunity to play organised basketball in an inclusive, safe and healthy environment. Our newest players can start as young as age 5 in our **Aussie Hoops program** where they train with Westgate coaches learning basic skills and drills. This program typically has over 170 kids registered each term, ranking Westgate's program regularly in the top 10 nationally based on participation.

With the introduction of adjustable baskets at our RecWest and Footscray City Primary School venues we've been able to add another junior program in 2019 with our **Mini-Ball program**. Mini-Ball targets players under 10 who want to learn the fundamentals of the game while playing in non-competitive games. This program is also run each term and was fully subscribed in 2020 with over 50 participants and further expansion planned for 2021.

In addition to these on-going programs, Westgate is actively involved in a number of other partnerships with State Government, Council and the Western Bulldogs including:

- Maribyrnong Council's *Active Maribyrnong* events such as the Get Active! Expo and Get Active Junior basketball clinics with Melbourne United
- VicHealth events such as *This Girl Can* and *Reimaging Health*
- The State Government sponsored *Sporting Schools* program across our inner west catchment area
- The Western Bulldogs Community Foundation Youth Program including the *Youth Female Leadership Program*





What We Do in 2021



Our competitions are also seeing substantial growth that is outpacing our facilities with over 183 teams across 8 area clubs in our **Junior Domestic Competition**. After almost a year away from the game due to COVID restrictions, we returned to the courts in February 2021 with increased participation with now over 1600 players registered with over 1000 families making the trip out to our venues each Saturday. We are also expanding our league to include an Under 8 age group which will provide a stronger pathway from our youth programs directly to our domestic competition.

We are also growing in our older age groups as in 2019 we launched our **Senior Competition** for men and women players over 16 years young. After only one full year of operation we have nearly tripled the number of teams from the first season with 12 men's teams and 11 women's teams with additional growth expected as we secure more court space.

For youth players looking to compete at the highest levels, our Westgate Imperials play in the **Victoria Junior Basketball League**. Since the Imperials fielded their first team in 2014, Westgate has grown to 21 boys and girls team playing in the state competition, with over 270 kids playing in the 2021 season. The current age group captures U12s to U21s and we are hoping to expand in the coming year to the next level of State Competition with the Big V semi-professional basketball league. Participation at this level will require team sponsorship and we're happy to discuss exciting opportunities for partnership with your organisation as we look to field a team in 2022!



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 12. Marianne Wangira - West Footscray Neighbourhood House - Soul House Inclusion Program

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Budget Submissions](#)
Subject: Budget Submission
Date: Thursday, 20 May 2021 1:17:10 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Budget submission Soul House 2021.pdf](#)

Hello,

Please find attached a Budget Submission from West Footscray Neighbourhood House.

Many thanks,

Marianne

Marianne Wangira
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



I acknowledge the Wurundjeri Traditional Custodians of the land on which I work, and pay my respects to the Elders, past, present and the young people that will grow our future. 🇺🇸

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



Budget Submission

West Footscray Neighbourhood House Soul House social inclusion program

West Footscray Neighbourhood House (WFNH) is committed to the vision of a connected, inclusive and vibrant community that embraces and celebrates diversity, empowers all to achieve their potential, and supports those in need. Inclusion and community participation are central to all our programs.

Soul House is a program supporting socially isolated community members to get involved in the life of the neighbourhood house and the community.

Over the past six years this program has been run every Thursday at the House, offering hospitality and conversation. Many of our community members regularly attend each week, as this is the only opportunity for them to engage with others in a comfortable and inclusive social environment. Some participants have gone on to volunteer in West Footscray Neighbourhood House's other programs, highlighting the success of the program in promoting community inclusion.

During 2020 we took the program off site, delivering over 1800 food parcels to over 50 households. Each visit included social contact, and an assessment of other needs which often resulted in additional support. The number of participants grew through the year and many newcomers have joined us as we've returned to face to face.

Due to the success of the program, we are looking at diversifying the program to incorporate more recreational outings, formal shared meals and structured activities across the week (such as bingo, board games or crafts). This will both provide enriching experiences for our participants, and encourage people who don't attend but would benefit from social interaction to join us for an activity which interests them, conversation and a hot meal.

A genuine and committed community-centered organisation, WFNH continues to work alongside local stakeholders and partners in developing events, projects and programs that respond to local need. Soul House contributes a legitimate sense of place to the City's most vulnerable, and is an integral part of the fabric of the House and our community. With so much change in people's lives and increased isolation over the past year, this program is more important than ever to reinvigorate community connection and engagement.

We believe that this program aligns well with Council's Health and Wellbeing priorities and hence make this submission for \$25,000 from the 2021/22 Council budget and request consideration be made for ongoing support for this vital program. We'd welcome an opportunity to be heard at the Special Council Meeting.

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Program budget

12 MONTHS (01/07/21 - 30/06/22)

Soul House			
INCOME	\$	EXPENSES	\$
Soul Café sales	2,940	Soul Café - Consumables <i>Milk, sugar, coffee, tea</i>	2,600
		'A Place at our Table' <i>Quarterly community meals</i>	800
		Recreational outings	800
WFNH - IN-KIND <i>Volunteer labour, student supervision, program support & development, grant submissions</i>	61,800	WFNH - IN-KIND <i>Volunteer labour, student supervision, program support & development, grant submissions</i>	61,800
		Wages 10 hrs per week plus on-costs.	23,280
		Administration cost and other support and materials	3000
Total Income	64,740	Total Expenses	89,680
Program Shortfall \$ 24,940			

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 13. Mathew Duck - Western Region Football League - Community Connection Initiative

From: Matthew Duck [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 12 May 2021 6:25 PM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Meeting follow-up - 11.05

Dear Steve & Michael

It was a pleasure to meet with you both yesterday and again, I can't express enough our appreciation for you taking the time and interest in the work we're embarking upon.

As we mentioned, there is collectively 612 years of history across the local Maribyrnong football clubs. However, a number of these clubs are on the precipice, living season to season, & history shows that once a club goes into recession for one year, it very rarely returns. The collective survival of these clubs will be dependent on their ability to truly connect & engage with an increasingly multicultural community.

Using the IP developed in the City of Greater Dandenong, we seek to run a pilot program specific to Maribyrnong that ultimately sees no less than two (& up to three) newly established & multicultural-focused football programs by year's end:

- African Football Program (Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya etc)
- Himalayan Region Football Program (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Myanmar (Burma), Bangladesh etc)
- Oriental Football Program (Vietnam, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines etc).

These would be open to all but targeted at the respective communities outlined.

While CGD-equivalent funding will see no less than two programs launched as outlined (the first two mentioned), additional funding would see two programs become three, or four, or five etc. It may also allow additional complementary activities, including school-based initiatives and/or

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Carnivals the likes of what Gary presented on. With Gary's experience and clear passion for this work, we know we have the person at the helm to ensure the work is both impactful and media-recognised, in turn driving further engagement & investment.

We'll now look to loop Ameet Bains and the Western Bulldogs into the initiative, as together with the Bulldogs and the City of Maribyrnong we believe we can deliver a program unparalleled. As Gary said, and all sentimentalities aside, this is about more than football – our indigenous game is simply the vehicle to achieving something far more meaningful and indeed generational within & for our community.

Finally, I recall there was mention of a Victoria Police contact you thought we should get in touch with – if you can provide us their details that would be great.

Again, it was great to meet you both & we look forward to working on this and other initiatives together into the future.

Thanks
Matt

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Kind regards



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



PO Box 2243, Footscray VIC 3011
Level 1 South, Whitten Oval, 417 Barkly Street
Footscray West VIC 3012
Ph: 03 9315 5400 Fax: 03 9362 7779
www.wrfl.asn.au

ABN: 48 429 867 046

20/05/21

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Community Connection initiative

Further to our meeting on Tuesday 11 May and subsequent email communication thereafter, the Western Region Football League (WRFL) seeks to introduce and run a pilot program within the City of Maribyrnong that ultimately sees no less than two (and up to three) newly established & multicultural-focused football programs by year's end (2021):

- African Football Program (Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya etc)
- Himalayan Region Football Program (India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Myanmar (Burma), Bangladesh etc)
- Oriental Football Program (Vietnam, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines etc).

These would be open to all but targeted at the respective communities outlined. Our aim is to promote unity, friendship and cooperation among the culturally diverse communities and play an active role in assisting with positive integration into our football clubs and the wider City of Maribyrnong community.

To ensure sufficient resourcing and program support, the WRFL seeks \$15,000 per annum support from the Maribyrnong City Council for no less than three years (2021-23 inclusive).

Pending confirmation of funding support, the WRFL will immediately commence work on the initiative and will provide the City of Maribyrnong with quarterly update reports.

On behalf of the six Maribyrnong clubs that participate within the WRFL, I thank the City of Maribyrnong in advance for its show of faith in this initiative and in turn in the future of all six City of Maribyrnong clubs.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me on telephone 0438 052 484.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Matthew Duck'.

Matthew Duck
Chief Executive Officer
Western Region Football League

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 14. Judith Wright - Rate Increase

Chief Executive Officer

Maribyrnong City Council

Email: budgetsubmissions@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au

Written Submission – Proposed Budget 2021/2022

I, Judith Wright, urge Maribyrnong Councillors to reject the – Proposed Annual Budget 2021/2022 for Further rate increases as proposed in the 2020/2021 budget indicates little understanding of the financial difficulties faced by many residents let alone the capacity to pay a further increase in rate charges. the following reasons.

Maribyrnong City Council Rate charges are already very high. Further rate increases as proposed in the 2021/22 budget indicates little understanding of the financial difficulties many residents continue to grapple with during the COVIC pandemic let alone the capacity to pay a further increase in rate charges. The average rate in some council wards is much higher than others and the rate in the dollar is very high compared to other councils in Victoria and needs to be adjusted down. While some residents have found employment in the first quarter of 2021, the wages and salaries being offered are much lower than they received previously and the jobs they once had no longer exist. And for many, the businesses they worked at no longer exist. The unemployment rate for the December Quarter was 7.6% in Maribyrnong – higher than the unemployment rate for Greater Melbourne, Victoria and Australia. Local retail trade in our local shopping strips while appearing somewhat busy during weekends, are sluggish during the week. Reports of dwindling building supplies is also of concern for some local tradies.

Staffing expenditure at Maribyrnong Council continues to increase regardless of the residents capacity pay. While some part time and sessional staff had their positions terminated for a period of time during the past year the Executive staff and people working in Service Administration Departments retained their employment. It is important that Maribyrnong Council not only shows true diligence in making staffing appointments but reviews expenditure annually and as vacancies arise. Their wages and salaries are paid for with hard earned money paid into the public purse by the residents in the form of rate charges. For many people in our community their ability to pay is compromised – and particularly so during the COVIC pandemic.

The proposed Annual Budget 2021/22 lists a number of million dollar projects that should be put on hold and undertaken in the next financial year. Surely at such a difficult time sporting clubs could utilise sporting facilities located within neighbouring suburbs and schools – most of these facilities have been paid for with public money – our taxes and rates. I also think that increasing rates and budgeting for a surplus of \$20m is not applicable during the COVIC pandemic when the finances and savings of so many residents have been depleted.

Yours sincerely

Judith Wright



Date: 20 May, 2021

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 15. Arthur Bregiannis - Reduce the Rates

From: [Maribyrnong City Council Online Engagement Site - Survey Now Open](#)
To: [Budget Submissions](#)
Subject: Anonymous User completed Budget Submission form
Date: Thursday, 20 May 2021 4:59:32 PM

Anonymous User just submitted the survey 'Budget Submission form' with the responses below.

Full name:

Arthur Bregiannis

Address:

[REDACTED]

Suburb:

[REDACTED]

Email:

[REDACTED]

Phone number (during business hours):

[REDACTED]

Are you making this submission on behalf of an organisation?

No

Submission:

Reduce the rates. They are more than 2.5 times what other councils are paying. This has been going on for to long to rely on promises made at meetings to raise revenue by other means to ease the rates burden. Reduce the budget now. Start with 8%, which was roughly the surplus. Talking of surplus, the budget has been in surplus by \$16m and \$8m last 2 years. You can easily find room in that alone to reduce the expenditure per property of more than \$3400 (compared to \$2800 on other similar councils). Or there are programs that need to have efficiencies improved, or even reduced in service. If the above is not enough to remedy the rates burden, then this council should have either borders redrawn, to include more population, or amalgamated with other councils where scale of service can help. Population alone is not a remedy if there are inefficiencies already, this will just magnify the problem.

Supporting documents:

https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-australia/4d547fbeb25bc8556973a841f8c2b042296b2daa/original/1621493895/07576e4b611016d0486e4687638544b6_COUNCIL_OLYMPICS.xlsx?1621493895

Do you you want to present your submission to Council at a meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 1 June at 6:30pm at the Maribyrnong Council Offices, corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray.?

Yes

I acknowledge and accept the terms and conditions:

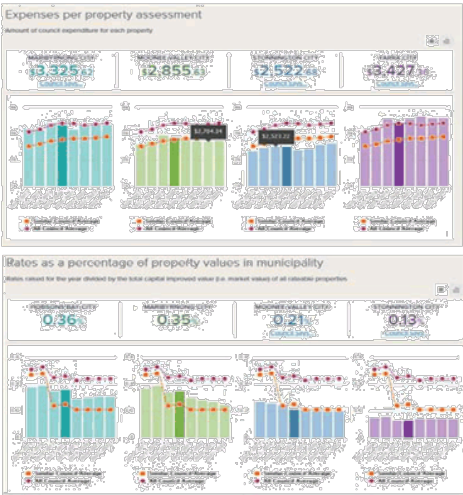
Yes

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

COUNCIL PERFORMANCE OLYMPICS - WHO GETS THE GOLD MEDALS FOR HIGH COSTS

	Maribyrnong	Stonnington	Bayside	Casey	Boorondora	Glen Eire	Kingston
	19/20						
Rates Revenue	\$ 108,110,000	\$ 117,393,000	\$ 85,228,000	\$ 226,394,000	\$ 160,050,000	\$ 82,245,000	\$ 139,367,000
Total Revenue	\$ 158,016,000	\$ 186,997,000	\$ 130,747,000	\$ 427,334,000	\$ 239,113,000	\$ 182,318,000	\$ 206,792,000
Rates as a % of total revenue	65%	59%	73%	53%	75%	51%	67%
Population	69361	116207	105718	340418	181289	158858	169481
census date year (2016, MRBNG 2017)							
% working age population (15-64)	75%	73%	62%	67%	67%	67%	65%
number of working age population	66574	84728	63797	228861	122097	102931	80664
census date year 2016							
Income (household weekly equivalised)	975	1393	1393	842	1198	1091	948
Income (excluding gov pensions)	49523	60463	56913	46719	57096	51699	49506
Land area	3122.5	2583.1	3781	40942.9	6017.7	3868.1	8136.8
number of population per employee	161	181	244	271	213	225	197
Cost per employee per population	\$ 652.20	\$ 579.26	\$ 426.28	\$ 360.89	\$ 507.21	\$ 501.64	\$ 489.26
	Maribyrnong	Stonnington	Bayside	Casey	Boorondora	Glen Eire	Kingston
average household size	2.5	2.3	2.6	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.3
cost of employee per average household	\$ 1,630	\$ 1,274	\$ 3,087	\$ 1,118	\$ 1,319	\$ 1,255	\$ 1,223
Average residential rate	\$ 1,993	\$ 1,652	\$ 1,964	\$ 1,702	\$ 2,234	\$ 1,542	\$ 1,744
% of average household income	3.93%	2.8%	2.93%	3.8%	3.11%	2.72%	3.54%
Amount of council expenditure for each property	\$ 3,156	\$ 2,475	\$ 2,360	\$ 2,590	\$ 2,576	\$ 2,842	\$ 2,471
Free income per household	\$ 937	\$ 1,361	\$ 1,268	\$ 809	\$ 1,255	\$ 1,061	\$ 912
GOLD	6	0	0	2	1	0	0
SILVER	1	2	1	1	2	0	0
BRONZE	2	2	1	1	1	0	2
MEDAL TALLY	9	4	2	4	4	0	2

1st least favourable
2nd least favourable
3rd least favourable



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 16. Henry Street Seddon Residents - Drainage & Olive Trees

From: [Nick Clarke](#)
To: [Email](#); [Cr Simon Crawford](#); [Cr Jorge Jorquera](#); [Cr Michael Clarke](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] - meeting of concerned residents
Date: Saturday, 8 May 2021 11:07:56 AM

Dear Councillors and Council,

I write in support of the correspondence you have received (copied below) from Andrew and Jane Gill. (I understand there has been a subsequent response to this and a commitment to meet with Andrew to discuss the matter, and we look forward to the outcome.)

We reside at [REDACTED] and simply wish to endorse Andrew's representation of residents' dissatisfaction at the current state of the drainage and street trees in our street, and our expectation that it will receive Council's attention.

Further to the points well made by Andrew (and the historic correspondence from Paul McMahon), it is of note that Council has seen fit to undertake works on drainage and street trees in neighbouring streets, despite drainage in Henry Street seeming to be in far poorer condition. This raises questions about the prioritisation of works, which is also undermined by the fact that we have never received any related communication when works have been conducted (even when likely to cause disruption). Whilst not directly problematic, the lack of communication does not instil confidence that issues such as poor drainage are being addressed in a proactive and prioritised manner.

We moved to Seddon from Boroondara around five years ago, and were shocked at the time to discover how much higher rates are in the Maribyrnong LGA. We understand the demands on Council services and infrastructure and the resulting pressures on budgets, but would like to see more evidence that such high rates are delivering value for residents, particularly in response to protracted issues previously raised (in this case by others in our street).

We look forward to hearing from Andrew the outcomes of discussions I understand he may have with Council in the coming week(s).

Regards,

Nick and Lauren Clarke
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 3 May 2021 8:45 AM
To: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] - meeting of concerned residents

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Dear Councillors & Council,

I write to you on behalf of ourselves and other concerned residents in Henry Street Seddon who have met to discuss issues that have previously been raised with Maribyrnong Council in recent months & years.

Issue No. 1 – Drainage in Henry Street Seddon

This concern has more than adequately been raised with Maribyrnong Council by Paul & Louise McMahon in CRM matter [REDACTED]

Whilst this concern focuses on the surrounds of 18 Henry Street, this issue & resolution thereof affects all residents in Henry Street.

This matter has been with Maribyrnong Council for more than 3 years now and needs to be resolved by Council as a matter of continuing urgency.

Please see correspondence attached for your reference to this matter.

Issue No. 2 – Olive Trees in Henry Street Seddon planter boxes

Concern with both the poor choice of olive trees and the poor vigour of many of these trees, as well as the planter box bollards falling over, has been discussed by concerned residents in Henry Street.

Please see attached photos.

This matter has been raised by Jane Gill in various phone calls and on-site discussion with Maribyrnong Council arborist Jared in Qtr 4 of 2020.

CRM Matter / [REDACTED] has been provided by Council in relation to this matter.

Our recommendation to replace the poor olive trees in Henry Street is to have non-fruiting, good canopy evergreen shrubs/trees. We have noticed that the Chinese Elm plants in William Street seem particularly good, as another suggestion.

We are concerned ratepayers paying the 4th highest average residential rates in Melbourne (ref Maribyrnong & Hobsons Bay Star Weekly 7 April 2021) who want these matters addressed with greater urgency than shown for the drainage matter raised in 2017!!

Regards,

Andrew & Jane Gill
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1



Agenda Item 5.1 - Attachment 1

Submission 17. Rob Crittenden - Active Transport

Subject: Re: Budget Response

Dear Councillors and Council Staff,

I am alarmed about the low priority of active transport in the Community Plan and the proposed budget.

The current budget allocation fails to address community needs and expectations for new and improved cycling infrastructure and amenity and lacks vision and forethought in demonstrating leadership on climate, health, environment, and Covid-19 related impacts and opportunities.

I ride to work each day from west footscray to port melbourne. To get there I catch the westgate punt, but most of the bike routes to get there and back are shockingly dangerous. About once a week I have a near miss with a truck or car or parked car door etc, thankfully I haven't been injured yet but it's been close.

Why do I ride then? because every time I ride to work I become healthier, I also prevent CO2 being released into the atmosphere, I also reduce the traffic on the roads for other road users, and not least I get a moment of calm reflection as I cross the river on the punt and ride through the wetlands on the other side.

It goes without saying that I am incredibly concerned about the impacts of climate change! Active transport - shifting local trips to bicycle - is enormously beneficial in mitigating emissions. It is also better for mental and physical health, reduces pollution, improves education outcomes and work productivity, promotes local economic activity, reduces congestion, increases the opportunity for greening and more hospitable public realm, and improves social connection and builds social capital.

Build more, build better!

Please find support for increased resourcing for bicycle infrastructure in the attached document.

|

	
--	---

Agenda Item 5.2**HEARING OF FORMAL FEEDBACK ON THE DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2025**

Director: Celia Haddock
Director Corporate Services

Author: Lauren McKenzie
Manager Customer Engagement

PURPOSE

To update Council on feedback on the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and outline the opportunity for members of the public to be heard in line with Council's Engagement Policy 2021 developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act (2020)*.

ISSUES SUMMARY

- Following implementation of the *Local Government Act 2020* councils have until 30 October 2021 to adopt their next four-year Council Plan.
- In keeping with previous cycles, Maribyrnong will adopt its Council Plan 2021-2025 by 30 June 2021. This also aligns with the adoption of the Budget.
- Community engagement undertaken between December and March informed the development of the Draft Plan which went out for formal public feedback between 21 April and 20 May 2021.
- Following implementation of the *Local Government Act (2020)* this feedback process is governed by Council's Engagement Policy, adopted in February 2021.
- This continues to provide opportunity for every member of the public to comment and to be heard.
- An advertisement advising of the release of the document, and inviting feedback was published in the Star Weekly on Wednesday 21 April.
- Four weeks were provided for feedback from 21 April 2021 to 21 May 2021.
- Feedback was provided via Your City Your Voice and by email.
- 67 people provided feedback – 51 as anonymous comments
- 11 of the 16 who provided feedback by way of formal correspondence provided the same comments relating to climate emergency
- Two submitters have requested to be heard in support of their written submissions.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Written Correspondence Council Plan 2021-2025

Agenda Item 5.2

OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Thanks all submitters for their comments in support of their submission to the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.**
 - 2. Notes the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 will be presented to the Council Meeting on 15 June 2021 for consideration.**
 - 3. Notes that following adoption of the Council Plan, officers will respond individually on the actions taken in regard to formal feedback received.**
-

Agenda Item 5.2**BACKGROUND**

Council has undertaken significant engagement with its community to support development of the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025.

Council advertised the availability of the Draft Plan on Wednesday 21 April 2021 and invited feedback on the document over a four week period from 21 April to 21 May 2021.

Feedback was provided via Your City Your Voice and by email.

All feedback and comments have been collated and the 16 members of the public who provided their contact details have been asked if they would like to be heard.

DISCUSSION/KEY ISSUES**1. Key Issues****Submission Period**

Council is no longer required to implement a formal section 223 submission process in relation to its Council Plan. Under the *Local Government Act (2020)* the process is governed by Council's Engagement Policy, which was adopted in February 2021.

Recognising the right of members of the public to be able to provide formal feedback on this key strategic document Council advertised the availability of the document and invited comment over a four week period.

The feedback period commenced on 21 April 2021 and closed on 21 May 2021.

67 people provided feedback – 16 by way of written correspondence. Two submitters have requested to be heard in support of their written submissions, those being the Melbourne Football (Soccer) Alliance and the Victorian Pride Lobby.

2. Council Policy/Legislation**Council Plan 2017-2021**

This report contributes to Council's strategic objectives contained in the Council Plan 2017-2021, by considering:

- Strategic Objective:
 - Strong leadership - lead our changing city using strategic foresight, innovation, transparent decision making and well-planned, effective collaboration.

Legislation

Local Government Act (2020).

Agenda Item 5.2**Conflicts of Interest**

No officer responsible for, or contributing to, this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to this report.

Human Rights Consideration

This report complies with the rights listed in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*.

No rights listed in the Victorian *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006* are engaged or, if they are engaged, actions proposed to be taken by Council will be taken compatibly with those rights.

3. Engagement

An advertisement calling for formal feedback on the Draft Council Plan was published in a local newspaper and on Council's website for a period of 28 days. Social media was also used to encourage engagement.

4. Resources

Not applicable.

5. Environment

Not applicable.

CONCLUSION

Council has run a formal process affording opportunity for any member of the public to provide feedback on the Draft Council Plan 2021-2025 and reinforcing their right to be heard. 67 members of the public provided feedback over a four week – 16 by way of written correspondence. Two submitters have requested to be heard in support of their written submissions.

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

Name	Feedback
1. Amanda Allisey	<p data-bbox="584 368 1814 448">Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the council plan. I can see the level of effort and consideration that has gone into creating a comprehensive view. Whilst there has been considerable effort I also feel that in one particular area, the action does not match the data.</p> <p data-bbox="584 488 1814 568">On multiple occasions both in the data, the summary of the community issues, and your analysis of community feedback you note that family violence and gender based violence are key issues. However in the plan there is one, single, poorly defined and largely meaningless action aligned to this issue.</p> <p data-bbox="584 608 1814 655">We have seen time and time again in Australia broadly and Victoria specifically, that violence against women is an epidemic. Women are being murdered, they are in fear to live a full and free life.</p> <p data-bbox="584 695 846 711">Your action plan for 2017/21</p> <p data-bbox="584 751 1308 831">Your plan for 2017/21 on this issue was to: Develop and strengthen programs to prevent violence against women and promote gender equity.</p> <p data-bbox="584 871 1675 951">The measure you proposed for this was: Annual reporting on the measures taken to reduce family violence and respond to the needs of victims. Action taken to meet the Victorian Gender Equality Strategy.</p> <p data-bbox="584 991 1335 1007">In the 2017/2018 annual report your activity was creating a gender equity strategy.</p> <p data-bbox="584 1046 1480 1062">In the 2018/2019 annual report your activity was yet again a plan, this time for gender equity 2030.</p> <p data-bbox="584 1102 1760 1150">In 2019/2020 annual report your activity was more planning via a gender impact analysis and a policy review. There was also some support for community action though minimal and largely without focus.</p>

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

2. Nevena Spirovska	<p>Re: City of Maribyrnong Council Plan</p> <p>The Victorian Pride Lobby welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the City of Maribyrnong Council Plan consultation. The Victorian Pride Lobby is a community based advocacy group that represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and same sex attracted Victorians of all ages, including those who live, study, work and recreate in Maribyrnong. According to the Victorian Population Health Survey, 6.2% of Maribyrnong residents are LGBTIQ+, whom we represent.</p> <p>We welcome the inclusion of a commitment to develop and implement an LGBTIQ+ Strategy and Action Plan by October 2022, with annual progress reports thereafter. This will strengthen inclusion and cohesion by removing barriers to participation in community life. In addition to the LGBTIQ+ Strategy and Action Plan, we recommend that Council establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee by December 2021. Such a committee can assist - and ensure that community voices are represented in - the development of the LGBTIQ+ Strategy and Action Plan, and also assist with monitoring its implementation. Council already has advisory committees for older people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability, and younger people, so it makes sense for there also to be an advisory committee for LGBTIQ+ people who live or run businesses in Maribyrnong. An LGBTIQ+ Advisory Committee should also include LGBTIQ+ people of faith and LGBTIQ+ culturally diverse people, and work to establish dialogue between LGBTIQ+, faith, and cultural groups in Maribyrnong.</p> <p>We know that Maribyrnong is an inclusive community, but our big dream is for its Council to reflect that and to support its LGBTIQ+ residents to be happy, healthy, and well. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or would like any support.</p> <p>Yours faithfully, Nevena Spirovska Co-Convenor, Victorian Pride Lobby</p>
3. Tyson Clingan	<p>Please include in the council plan and Climate Emergency Plan a commitment 'to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030'. I'm an environmental engineer and have spent my entire adult life dedicated to environmental issues, primarily climate change. We require urgent action on climate change at all levels of government, industry and in our personal lives. I hope all councillors have watched David Attenborough's witness statement! I look forward to your reply.</p>

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

4. Damien Payne	Please include in the council plan and Climate Emergency Plan a commitment 'to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030. I live and work in Footscray and have love living in the Local area for the last few years for the great bars, cafes and local culture I was born into a situation where house ownership is something I will unlikely be able to achieve soon and have lived through some of the most significant economic trials of our time. However, I am worried these issues will be nothing compared to the threat of climate change and fear my generation will be the first Australian generation to have a standard of living less than our parents. I want our council to lead the country because we cannot afford to wait for our state and federal governments to take action.
5. John Chadderton	As you know, climate change is now impacting our lives and will continue to do so in a negative way if we do not take action now. I'm deeply concerned that our community will be negatively impacted by the consequences of catastrophic climate change that we have all clearly witnessed in the recent extreme fires and floods around Australia. These consequences fall most heavily on those who are least able to withstand them economically and it is our obligation to minimise both the causes and impacts. I've lived in the West for 30 years and Footscray for 25 years. Whist I've seen many positive changes, I continue to be very concerned that our local governments are lagging behind in their action to address emissions in our community. I write now to ask you to please include a commitment 'to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030' in the Council Plan and Climate Emergency Plan. Please let me know that you will support this inclusion.

6. Elena Pereyra	<p>I urge you to include a firm ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET in the current Council Plan and the Climate Emergency Plan. I would like to see my local government show leadership and commit 'to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030'. By including this statement in these plans, it provides a clear signal of intent and a commitment to action on the climate emergency. It is important to me that the council takes swift and firm action on the climate and biodiversity emergency. In the western suburbs we are more prone to pollution (air, soil, water), urban heat island effect, and biodiversity loss. I also believe we are privileged to live in such a wealthy nation and have an obligation to drastically reduce our impact, as the outcomes of our behaviour and lifestyles adversely affect others in poorer regions far more acutely, this is particularly unfair when they did not contribute to the problem to the extent we have and are continuing to do so. We can no longer just tell our young people to not have "anxieties" about climate change. If we want them to feel safe and to be part of the change, we need to model it and create pathways for them. They cannot be the change if the barriers remain unchanged. https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-25/scott-morrison-warns-climate-change-anxiety-young-people/11546846 I want the people of the inner west to feel empowered and that they are part of the solution and not feeling like their behaviour (engineered by systemic failings) is part of the problem, and that they and their community are positively contributing to the health of our natural world, fellow humans (near and far) and the entire planetary system. We live on the best planet we have found so far, and we have an obligation to love it and protect it. My deepest concern is that we will not act quickly enough, and while the planet will evolve, we (and our young people!) will experience firsthand, or be forced to bear witness to, the most horrific period ever experienced. If you think the bushfires last year and the current floods are bad you have no idea what is still to come. If you think this is alarmist, then you are not across the science. I encourage all of you, no matter your previous knowledge, to attend this training: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/your-council-climate-change-understanding-the-risks-learning-to-adapt-tickets-141906912395?aff=eand&fbclid=IwAR2BuJIQffPfc-vu4SW1MV9V53RWhPgaRXg5Lie4iHP7sUFmn2NgIN6Efo</p> <p>I cannot urge you more forcefully to ensure the council moves immediately into emergency mode and that you are prepared to take the organisation and whole community with you on this important transition. Please do not insult me, yourselves, and the community by doing anything less.</p>
------------------	--

7. Katie Burns	<p>I've been a resident in the City of Maribyrnong for twelve years and have appreciated the improvements in general amenity like street trees and park facilities during that time. While amenity improvements are helpful (and immensely valued during lock down!!) they are somewhat superficial in the face of the broader global context we live in. I have had many conversations with neighbours, friends and colleagues in the past year about the hopelessness we feel in the face of already occurring significant climate change. Whilst we may recycle, ride bicycles, reduce our energy consumption, our efforts are a drop in the ocean compared to the emissions big organisations of every kind create. Our society is locked into systems that promote the short term outcome rather than long term sustainability and survival. Two of these things are business cases and decision making that doesn't value environmental outcomes, and the political cycle and electoral terms that dominate the risks leaders are willing to take. As we see the dramatic intensification of extreme weather events already occurring and impacting on the life of Council assets and our own well being, I implore you as elected representatives to take the long view - show leadership and prioritise climate response in the Council's strategic documents, and more importantly reflect this priority in business decisions around asset planning and services. I urge you to include a firm ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET in the current Council Plan and the Climate Emergency Plan. I would like to see my local government show leadership and commit 'to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030'. By including this statement in these plans it provides a clear signal of intent and a commitment to action on climate change. Change will require leadership across all levels of government! Local government is uniquely placed to be agile and responsive to local needs and aspirations including strong action on the climate and biodiversity emergency. I believe we need to stop mucking around, we need to get serious, we need to make serious commitments that bring about zero carbon emissions. We need to transform the way we do things, the way we live, our relationship with nature, and how we treat the earth. After the crisis year we've had, I'm even more serious about working towards a better future for the planet, for communities and for future generations. Please act upon this request and include the above statement in the current Council Plan and Climate Emergency Plan. We need to enter emergency mode, this is not a drill!</p>
----------------	---

8. Jane Toner	<p>t has come to my attention that we have a fabulous opportunity to support future generations by committing to a firm ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET in the current Council Plan and the Climate Emergency Plan. I'd love to take pride in the leadership demonstrated by my local government through their "commitment to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030". The inclusion of this statement in the Council Plan and Climate Emergency Plans provides a clear signal of intent and a commitment to action on climate change. I live in a shared household in West Footscray and my housemates have just been blessed with a new baby whom we all love dearly and wish for her to have a future where she might thrive. I love my community, the ecosystems that support us and our planet, the place that we all call home no matter where we've come from upon it. The members of my household are ardent advocates for the environment – we cycle as often as we can, we recycle our "waste", we compost, we share with our community, we engage with community environmental groups such as the Friends of Stony Creek, we care, we care a lot! I endeavour to do as much as I can to reduce my ecological impact and regenerate nature's systems but I know that is not enough without systemic change, which requires leadership across all levels of government. I believe that local government's are uniquely placed to be agile and responsive to local needs and aspirations including strong action to respond, adapt to and mitigate the impacts of the climate and biodiversity emergency we all face. I believe the time to act was last century but the next best time is now. Serious commitments are required to achieve zero carbon emissions as soon as possible and then to go beyond that to sequester as much carbon as we can. We need to transform the way we do things, the way we live, our relationship with nature, and how we treat the earth! It's time! After the crisis year we've had, I'm even more dedicated about working towards a better future for the planet, for communities and for future generations. Please act upon this request and include the above statement in the current Council Plan and Climate Emergency Plan. We need to enter emergency mode, this is not a drill!</p>
9. Paul Handley	<p>I am writing to urge you to include a firm ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET in the current Council Plan and the Climate Emergency Plan. I would like to see my local government show leadership and commit 'to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030'. By including this statement in these Plans it provides a clear signal of intent and a commitment to action on climate change. Personally it is very disappointing that at Federal and State level, action is either minimal, or negated by business-as-usual projects. Local Government has a vital role to play in changing this inertia. Please act upon this request and include the above statement in the current Council Plan and Climate Emergency Plan.</p>

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

10. Mark Kerlin	<p>I am writing to request the inclusion of a commitment to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030 in the council plan and Climate Emergency Plan. We all know by now that a transition to zero emissions is inevitable. As a resident of Footscray and someone who grew up in the west. I'm keen to see my local community step up and take a leadership role to help us work through the challenges that are on the way. As the elected representatives of our community, you will be at the forefront of this. A 2030 target will enable real, emergency action across our communities, schools, businesses, and industries throughout Maribyrnong. Several councils across Melbourne have already made such a commitment and it would be unfortunate for Maribyrnong to be left behind and miss out on the opportunity to collaborate with our neighbouring LGA's. I know Maribyrnong has declared a climate emergency. I don't think I need to go into the danger posed by a failure to act on climate. It's clear that Climate Change is the biggest threat we'll face this century and there is a growing awareness of this. Inaction from our elected representatives will only be tolerated for so long. I look forward to hearing from you about the bold plan of Maribyrnong Council to achieve zero emissions by 2030.</p>
11. Sarah Rickard	<p>I am a Yarraville resident and I am deeply concerned about the impacts of Climate & Ecological Change on us and for future generations. My passion for this great community drives my work, my lifestyle and my volunteering to highlight and address this issue locally. I appreciate the efforts that Council are making to address this issue and support any action taken to reduce carbon emissions, drawdown existing emissions and limit the impacts of Climate Change. I am conscious though, that this is an Emergency, as Council have acknowledged, and we must do all we can to collectively transition to zero emissions and a zero waste economy. I am writing to you today to ask that you please see it included in the Council Plan a commitment 'to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030'. Thankyou for you time and your work as our local Councillor.</p>
12. Fiona Hill	<p>I urge you to include a firm ZERO EMISSIONS TARGET in the current Council Plan and the Climate Emergency Plan. I would like to see my local government show leadership and commit 'to work with the community to achieve zero community carbon emissions by 2030'. By including this statement in these Plans it provides a clear signal of intent and a commitment to action on climate change. My family and I live in West Footscray and we love our community and our planet. All five of us have been involved in many local initiatives focussed on living sustainably and kindly with each other and with our planet. I believe we need to stop mucking around, we need to get serious, we need to make serious commitments that bring about zero carbon emissions. We need to transform the way we do things, the way we live with nature and how we treat the earth. After the crisis year we've had, I'm even more serious about working towards a better future for the planet, for communities and for future generations. Please act upon this request and include the above statement in the current Council Plan and Climate Emergency Plan. Sincere regards to you all.</p>

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

13. Anna Lycett	<p>As a mother and resident of Kingsville, I think it's great that the City of Maribyrnong has declared a climate emergency! The Australian climate has already warmed by ~1.44C and we are now experiencing the devastating impacts, from the bushfires and floods to the Great Barrier Reef. Our State and especially our Federal Government are not acting with the urgency required -- net zero by 2050 is too late. I am writing to urge Council to work with the community to achieve zero carbon emissions within our community by 2030. Please include this commitment in Council's four-year plan and Climate Emergency Plan.</p>
14. David Jones	<p>There are some excellent ideas in the Draft Council Plan, however I have a few comments to make and suggestions for changes to the plan which I would be more than happy to discuss with councillors and relevant council officers.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reference needs to be made to the proposed use of the former Lae St council nursery site for a community education hub involving, community herb/vegetable/fruit gardens, indigenous plantings, frog bog and related activities.2. The Stony Creek Future Directions Plan 2020 would need to be adjusted to incorporate point 1.3. An appropriate governance and management plan and budget needs to be developed in relation to point 1 and mentioned in the Council Plan.4. The plan needs to acknowledge that many residents experience food insecurity and to have practical ideas about how the council will initiate and support strategies to improve the food security and access to quality, healthy and affordable food for residents on low incomes.5. The Council plan needs to have more strategies for supporting the development of low income housing and overcoming homelessness in the municipality.6. The Council plan needs to have more strategies for supporting residents with drug and mental health issues.7. I strongly support the development of more appropriate, useful and safe cycling infrastructure and am very keen on the proposals for extending the bike path along Stony Creek from Paramount Rd to Sunshine Road and up to Duke Street. More needs to be done to develop safe commuter cycling infrastructure on major roads in the Maribyrnong municipality especially along Barkly St/Hopkins St.8. More needs to be done on practical ways to acknowledge the thousands of years of Indigenous history and occupation of the Maribyrnong municipality and the council needs to increase and support dialogue and engagement with the indigenous community in our municipality.

The council must fly the indigenous flag at half mast on January 26 and support and encourage the education of all residents, young and old, to understand that the indigenous traditional owners of Australia do not recognise January 26 as a day for all Australians to celebrate but as Invasion/Sorry Day and to further the movement to find a more appropriate day to celebrate as Australia Day for all Australians, both indigenous and non indigenous. The council plan should have a budget and opportunities for the employment of more indigenous Australians as Council officers and employees.

Regards,

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

15. Melbourne Football Alliance	<p>Maribyrnong Football (Soccer) Alliance: Vision & Partnerships</p> <p>As Football Clubs in the Maribyrnong local government area, we are deeply aware of our connections to our community and the opportunities and responsibilities this presents.</p> <p>Each of our Clubs has a local history, often rich and long, connecting us to different migrant communities, age groups, suburban history, families and the experiences of thousands of children and young people growing-up in the inner West.</p> <p>Our fundamental and united vision is to contribute to the lived experience of our communities. We think a 'liveable' Maribyrnong City needs a vibrant and diverse Football community.</p> <p>To ensure this, we need to make certain commitments as a football community, and we need our partners to do the same.</p> <p>As a football community we are committed to promoting and building:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">inclusive football clubs that involve all children and young people interested in the sportcompetitive team experiences for player developmentoptions for older age groups with a social, health and fitness focusclub programs that support the social learning and development of children and young people. <p>To do all this we need our partners in local government and sporting institutions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">support the existence of a diverse football communityprovide facilities and date and time allocations extended for more than 6 months that allow for clubs to expand membership, deliver quality training and fulfill competitive requirementsprovide fee arrangements that allow clubs to expand their junior programs and support competitive teams.
16. Beth Ciesielski	<p>I received feedback from counsellors to provide some recommendations following my community food system mapping and assessment of food security in Maribyrnong. I have worked with Sustain: The Australian Food Network and Permaculture Out West to put forward a formal call to action to the Maribyrnong City Council on food security and local food resilience. I have attached the call to action, supporting appendices and a copy of my original food system mapping and food security assessment for those counsellors not included on my original email.</p>

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

Anonymous feedback

It's s***. You just make stuff up. Doesn't actually make any sense. You couldn't give a f*** about the community just keeping yourselves in a job. A s*** job at that. Just pick up our bins and keep the streets clean. Basic amenities. All the other stuff is fluff. Absolutely f***** disgrace. You should be ashamed.

What measures are council going to put in place to divert traffic away from residential streets?

How come the master plan for Footscray Park has not been fully implemented

Can this council assure that the western lawns will remain as they are, no new infrastructure, just well kept well irrigated lawns for multiple purposes, passive green space

Please allow funds to upgrade the lights at Martin Reserve Dog Park, they are woefully inadequate and out of date being fluorescent bulbs.

It's unclear to me where the community vision comes into the process. Isn't it supposed to guide the council plan (ie. come first)? Where is it? I understand that you did lots of consulting, but wasn't the community supposed to write the vision ourselves? I just don't see this coming through in the council plan.

I really feel Footscray main streets need to be cleaned up and made more friendly and inclusive. It's very dirty and alot of shops are empty with people hanging around. I feel the state of the area attracts people you don't want just sitting around on the streets.

You forgot to add any mention of making green spaces suitable for use.

1) Mow the lawn at Martin Reserve.

2) Fix the locks at Martin Reserve..

3) Add lighting to the small dogs area so it make Martin Reserve safe for women to be inside.

4) Add a garbage bin inside the small dog area inside Martin Reserve so bags filled with s*** don't fly across the park.

Where are the elements relating to Positive Ageing and lifelong learning? The strategies and actions under the Community Development and Positive Ageing Department do not appear to relate to active seniors. Maribyrnong CC were previously involved in a Strengthening Seniors Inclusion and Participation project (SIPP) using co-design methodology to encourage seniors participation and looked at their needs and aspirations for lifestyle and wellbeing. Some feedback from participants that project:

How has MCC responded to this feedback? Why has the Older Persons Reference Group (which could have provided relevant feedback into the Plan) been disbanded?

Stay in your lane. Stop trying to solve the world's problems and just do your basic role. Health, childcare, waste management and transport.

Expansion of the reduction of speed limits across all residential streets, including Rosamond Road in Maidstone and Maribyrnong. It does not seem to be in the council's scope to make the Maidstone community safer.

I would like to see more checks and balances re urban development. Too many apartment buildings and developments are using cheap building materials that will not wear well into the future. I also think there needs to be limits imposed on high density development. Some diversity in housing should be maintained and history of Maribyrnong be respected.

Concentration on green spaces is a great thing.

It would be good if you provide more details on the old Footscray hospital redevelopment. I think planning and consultation should begin from now so that development can start as soon as the hospital has moved to make sure the old one isn't sitting around for years doing nothing (like the little saigon markets!!)

Could you please support the principles of inclusion, equity and diversity by establishing a LGBTIQ Inclusion committee as part of your Draft Council Plan for 2021/2025.

We need a GLBTIQ Committee so it can represent our marginalised community. There are many residents who live and work in this area that would like an opportunity to be represented and have an input into new developments

How about forget all the fluff and do the basics that you are required and paid by the rate payer to do as a council. The streets in the shire of Maribyrnong are a mess, tree over growth, poor private property upkeep, damaged footpaths, roads, trees planted in dangerous locations obscuring driver vision of oncoming traffic, rocks and planter boxes on public lawns, tripping hazards. Reduce the amount of subdivision in the municipality, developers are destroying this suburb and you are allowing it.

There are many good things in the Plan. The part I have deep concerns about is action. It's easy and not that meaningful to say "we'll increase bike paths in the city". It's much more useful for the council to say "we will build safe separated bike paths on Buckley street by this date, and here are the plans of what it will look like". That's meaningful and that's the part I feel MCC doesn't do well.

It looks so good and I am genuinely impressed and look forward to see us thrive in the years to come.

The only point I feel that needs reconsideration is the goal for net zero carbon emissions by 2030. If we

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

proactively push for real change, and support everyone in our district we can achieve net zero much quicker. 2025 is a better goal.

The plan needs to be put into action. Rather than rejecting proposals for social housing in Buckley street council should be supporting that project and dozens like it.

There are quite a large number of proposals that can be expressed as "greenifying Maribyrnong", as aside from the obvious benefits on climate change (including reducing pollution and improving air quality), those projects are going to allow the council to build towards creating liveable neighbourhoods for all. It would be good if the council were to prioritise those issues, as there is good thematic consistency and undoubtedly goodwill for the council if they were advanced and well-articulated.

Policy commitments to be strengthened by staff resources for gender equity and First Nations.

Go beyond RAP and commit and resource First Nations people leading and being central to any policy and action. Look at working towards a Treaty as other Councils have done.

With Gender Equity and Family Violence, Council should make strong statements and be leaders in addressing this.

Undertake audit of Council staff positions to ensure no gender pay gaps. Consider longer parental leave for men.

Support community child care and responses to family poverty

With so many new apartments being built and occupied in the area we need council to be more proactive about community amenity. More open green space and encouragement of return to public transport instead of parking permits given to apartment dwellers who clog up parking in residential streets for longer term residents.

Council must install lighting along the Maribyrnong River - all along Pipemakers Park. Lights have to be installed and it needs to be on Council Plan - as Council has invited in etc amenity and improvements of Pipemakers Park - and people need to feel safe when walking at night. It is a prime recreation area and should be treated as such..

Why don't you invite ideas for the natural restoration of Footscray Park as a nature and wetlands area blending with the Newell/s Paddock reserve

I'd like to encourage more recycling and remove the annual surcharge cost for recycling garden and food waste so everyone contributes.

Please prioritise lighting along the river from Edgewater to past Anglers make it safe for everyone to enjoy and better still solar powered lighting...great visible leadership

I'd like to see lighting along the Maribyrnong river from Raleigh st bridge at Anglers Tavern through to Edgewater

The pedestrian lights near Thomas and Williamstown Rd need to be moved to the Thomas St and Williamstown Rd intersection

Please prioritise the development of an Urban Food / Urban Agriculture Strategy for the City of Maribyrnong, and allocate adequate resourcing to this strategy. Empowering community members to participate in food growing activities helps address the climate emergency, the dietary health and mental health crisis, provides a dignified way to combat rising food insecurity, enhances the aesthetic character of all suburbs, and brings communities together.

Where do active older adults feature in this plan? Those people 55 years plus who are active contributors to their community and seek opportunities for lifelong learning and to socialise with their peers. Where is the Positive Ageing strategy?

Community gardens closer to home, more flexible policy for verge gardening, opportunities to contribute to a garden to help residents experiencing food insecurity or for an social inclusions/mental health benefits.

The use and reuse of council land for community gardens eg. The council nursery on Lae St, West Footscray VIC 3012

I would like to see a LGBTQIA+ Advisory Committee be part of the plan. We have a very large lgbtqia+ community in this area and I'd like these plans to include us.

That is my 3 cent worth, so thank you for allowing me share my views and opinion.

Our area has so much to offer, but it feels like we are limited to what can be done due how small our council area is.

I really liked the plan. It was easy to read and well set out. It seemed to reflect that the plan was based on consultation and data e.g. reflected by the headings 'outcomes/what you told us/what the data says'. This

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

showed sound decision making.

I liked the inclusion of the photo of the councillors, because it helps to build rapport and it was good to visually see the diversity of council e.g. gender diversity. The visual statistics were engaging and it was interesting to see how we 'fit in'.

I liked the strategic objectives, including the environmental focus.

I particularly liked the phrase 'a place for all' because I think it reflects the community and culture.

My main concern is, whether the strategic objectives will actually be implemented. For instance, one objective is 'a place for all' but my understanding that recently e.g. a proposal for social housing on Buckley St was overall rejected by council. It's my understanding that a report by a Council Officer recommended something to the effect that, there were no reasons for this to not go ahead. I would have thought that this would be the kind of project very much in line with this strategic vision.

So, overall, I was very excited about the plan and it made me excited about the future of the West. But this did get overshadowed a bit when I felt like already some decisions were been made that didn't seem in line with the strategic vision - and there's no point having an amazing vision if it's not actioned.

Hi there!

Good work.

Objective 1.4: strategic indicator should refer to high quality public open space to ensure well designed/ high amenity/ safe/ functional/ adaptable open space, specifically.

Objective 2.1: I think this needs to be tailored/ expanded upon, with a particular focus on buildings. The city should undertake a review of recently completed mid-rise apartment stock to determine amenity/ durability/ energy efficiency/ aesthetic value (a bit harder to quantify) and establish an infill development benchmarking document. There are some garbage apartment/ townhouse developments and I think that should be a Council focus to maintain liveable neighbourhoods.

Objective 2.3: circular economy needs more work but yes this should be a priority area for focus. MCC could be a global leader in local circular economic activity (we have all the parts: manufacturing/ residential/ retail - let's aim to make it wholly circular!

Objective 2.5: green transport plan needs to be developed with detailed design works undertaken for cycling, in particular lateral connections across Melbourne Road and the Maribyrnong River.

Objective 4: this is good. I would be interested to know how the community-initiated projects (what mechanisms/ forums exist and how will they be established for that to happen?)

Objective 4.2: strategic indicator needs to be more than 'percentage of projects delivered'. Should be linked to liveable neighbourhoods (do they add value to neighbourhoods?).

Some additional pointers: I re-emphasise comments in Objective 2.1. For example, a review of the Joseph Road precinct in terms of community benefit would be a useful one. The ground plane is disastrous (noting currently that it's still under construction). But those completed buildings along the Maribyrnong offer zero public amenity, and shouldn't be repeated. (For the record, the height is fine, but the ground plane/ streetscapes is most important and yet most neglected there).

No mention of industrial land use/ renewal/ expansion of emerging industries, which should not be neglected both in the aftermath of the West Footscray industrial fire but also that it is a much needed part of any municipality and forms a large part of West Footscray. Let's look at the heritage warehouse stock on Sunshine Road and see if we can't promote the renewal of this area. Let's think Commercial 3 Zone for mixed use/ advanced manufacturing and be really ambitious about it. It could be the new Cremorne/ Kreuzberg. It could stitch all the way down Buckley Street into the Maribyrnong Arts Precinct and connect with the Whitten Oval over the rail line, and continue through Tottenham to Braybrook up Ashley Street. Let's make this happen otherwise Hobsons Bay will get in front with the Glassworks Precinct (which would also be amazing)!

Need to start giving some serious consideration to the old Footscray Hospital Site in terms of urban

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

renewal.

Thanks and keep up the good work!

When working on the LGBTIQ+ Strategy and action plan, Council should work in collaboration with members of the community. The best way to do this would be through the formation of an LGBTIQ+ Advisory Group. Furthermore, I believe that Council should be working towards Rainbow Tick accreditation. I support Council's inclusion of action on the Climate and Ecological Emergency in the Council Plan for 2021-2025, and allocating funds specifically towards action on the Climate Emergency in the 2021/2021 budget.

For those I have interacted with through Climate Action Maribyrnong and for myself, Climate Change is the most serious and urgent issue of our time, and there is a lot that can be done at a local level. We must all take responsibility and share the load to bring our collective carbon emissions to zero as quickly as possible. I would like to see Council strengthening its engagement with the community on the Climate Emergency and solutions for a zero-emissions economy. There is a limited impact that improving Council infrastructure and operations, and I do support all improvements and actions within Council, but I believe it could be taken further. Council have access to all residents, businesses and visitors across the municipality, to raise awareness and understanding of the climate emergency, and are able to assist in collective change to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

Climate change is very important to me. I would like to buy an electric vehicle but living in Yarraville and having no off-street parking have limited opportunities to charge it. I feel council has an important role in addressing the infrastructure issues around this, as I know others have the same issues - either in a safe way for residents to use own electricity or significantly more public charging spaces. This obviously improves air quality and reduces greenhouses emissions.

Cleaning up Barkly Village, so there are a variety of shops that are useful, which will stop the need to travel to a different suburb to shop.

I would like to see LGBTIQ+ and specifically QTIPoC peoples who live, love and reside in the City of Maribyrnong to be visible, platformed and included. I would like to see this enacted by your council establishing a LGBTIQ+ advisory group to support LGBTIQ+ considerations in your council plan inclusive of actions to take for your council in the coming years to celebrate our LGBTIQ+ communities.

The plan is very detailed, however most of the actions and measures refer to the development of "strategies" and actions plans" and goals which are loosely defined and therefore their successful implementation is open to interpretation. I would really like to see measurable strategic indicators in the plan which shows the council's commitment to take action and a benchmark for success.

My second key piece of feedback relates to food security and the fact that food is integral to all three commitments:

I would like to see a council commitment, at a minimum, to quantify the rate of food insecurity within the council and revisit the 2011-13 Food Security Strategy.

Council to reconsider & review ground allocation and longer usage of facilities to cater for the demand of sport. Football is no longer a winter sport and requires access to allow participants to be more active in the sport of choice. This will create a better outcome physically, socially and mentally for the wider community

SAFE AND HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT:

WASTE MANAGEMENT: The focus on waste management and recycling is too far down the waste hierarchy. Council should explore opportunities to deliver initiatives that maintain goods at their highest value, involving reuse, repair and sharing.

The redevelopment of Footscray Library is an opportunity to host a library of things - at least as a trial project, involving low-risk items such as board games, musical instruments, home sustainability devices, hand tools.

Council should also support and encourage community centres and neighbourhood houses to host regular repair cafes.

Funding and insurance are significant ways council can contribute to these endeavours, which should not rely solely on the time and efforts of volunteers.

On-demand hard waste collections should be reconsidered. A yearly kerbside collection across the entire council provides an opportunity for residents to collect and re-home useable items, rather than have these predominantly crushed and disposed of in landfill.

Agenda Item 5.2 - Attachment 1

Council should also host community drop-off days involving community groups who could redistribute useable items to their clients and constituents. A tip shop should be considered as well.

OPEN SPACE: As noted in the Council's Plan, the municipality is severely underserved in terms of equitable access to open space. The Seddon and Footscray area are especially so, which is a concern as the housing and population density is to increase in the coming years.

More visibility is needed about how the Council addresses this issue, and how the developer contribution fund is disbursed. Parks and other open spaces need to be inclusive of the diverse ages and make up of our community, and provide for more recreational opportunities than playgrounds for children and ovals for sporting groups. Bryant Park, NYC, provides a world-class example of how this can be done (<https://bryantpark.org/>). The new Pilgrim Street campus was built on what had been open space, on the understanding that the grounds and facilities would be shared with the community after hours. More activation of this and similar opening up of public spaces should occur.

TREE PLANTING: Consideration should be given to establishing urban fruit orchards and to incorporate fruit trees in the general tree planting strategy. A register for significant trees on private land should be established, to minimise the removal of trees during a demolition or renovation project.

URBAN AGRICULTURE: The commitment to facilitate urban greening and consider urban agriculture opportunities is not good enough. I would like to see a stronger commitment and clearer action, such as commissioning a community forum to develop a vision and strategy to support urban agriculture and urban greening in our municipality, with funding to be available for pilots' projects that could demonstrate what is possible and replicable.

LIVEABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS:

NATURE STRIPS and PUBLIC SPACES The nature strip policy for growing food needs revisiting with a view to removing the permit system and promoting urban agriculture in our streets, laneways, bus stops, train stations and other public places. Collaboration with other public and private entities is to be encouraged, such as VicTrack and Western Water, to support urban agriculture and other community uses of under-utilised land.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE: Despite this issue being on the agenda for years little has been done to improve and connect the cycling paths to provide continuous and safe journeys within the municipality and to surrounding areas. We need action here, now! Especially after Covid.

A PLACE FOR ALL:

INCLUSIVENESS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: Alternative methods of community engagement should be considered to reach our diverse community. Social media and online surveys are insufficient, especially given the cultural and linguistic diversity of our communities.

I would also like to see council host cultural awareness workshops that bring indigenous, overseas-born, Australian-born and other residents together to explore, listen and understand our differences and areas of common ground.

FUTURE FOCUSED:

COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY: I would like to see participatory budgeting replace the community grants program to promote collaboration between groups over commonly agreed and shared priorities. Quick response small grants should also be available to fund projects that can be quickly delivered, capitalising on the energy and timeliness of proposed initiatives. (See here for more inspiration: <https://engage2.com.au/engagement-through-participatory-budgeting/>.)