

Advocacy Priorities 2024



Together with our community, Council has shaped a strong vision for Yarra Ranges as a thriving and resilient municipality – the best place in Australia to live, work and visit.

In 2024, Council has launched a refreshed Advocacy Agenda that highlights key opportunities to unlock the immense potential of our region.

By working together with the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, we can generate critical investment and policy shifts that will address:



Vibrant Townships

Enhancing and celebrating our unique communities



Integrated Transport

Safe, resilient and sustainable transport for people and businesses



Resilience and Sustainability

Strengthening communities, conserving nature and achieving Net Zero



Health and Wellbeing

Investing in the foundations of thriving communities



Housing and Homelessness

Everyone deserves a safe and affordable home



Tourism and Sustainable Economic Growth

World-class experiences delivering jobs for locals



Vibrant Townships

Enhancing and celebrating our unique communities



In 2023, the Victorian Government announced significant reforms and ambitious new targets to support the delivery of more homes near transport, job opportunities and essential services in **vibrant, liveable, and sustainable neighbourhoods**.

This included new targets to build 70 per cent of new homes in established areas, alongside the release of the Housing Statement and major planning reforms, including the evolution of Plan Melbourne to *Plan Victoria*.

Further, the Commonwealth Government has enhanced its focus on supporting quality infrastructure across inner and outer suburban areas, including through the **Thriving Suburbs Program**.

Yarra Ranges: Opportunities and Challenges

As Victoria continues to grow, interfacing regions like Yarra Ranges – positioned at the **gateway to the Yarra Valley** – will continue to play an important role in **connecting regional and metropolitan communities** economically and socially.

In light of reforms to the Victorian planning system, Yarra Ranges Council has worked with its partners across the sector to provide input and expertise on how the system can be improved to meet the needs and potential of local communities.

We continue to plan for the needs of our diverse local residents, and with the development of the region's Destination Management Plan, our townships must also prepare to welcome 9 million visitors per annum by 2033.

More broadly, Council continues to deliver strategic planning work that sets the direction for long-term investment by state and federal governments to deliver community infrastructure that supports people to stay **connected, healthy and active, and to mobilise in times of emergency**.

Yarra Ranges Council	Victoria Government	Commonwealth Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan 2021–25 • Housing Strategy • Economic Development Strategy • Integrated Transport Strategy • Recreation and Open Space Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Statement • Active Victoria 2022–2026 • Plan Victoria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THRIVE 2030 • Thriving Suburbs Program • Local Govt Financial Assistance Grants

The following initiatives would cement Lilydale as a welcoming hub for visitors and residents alike, and deliver much-needed community infrastructure to maintain the vibrancy of townships across Yarra Ranges.

Initiative	Requirements (Investment and Policy)
★ Lilydale Revitalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duplication of the Lilydale railway line between Mooroolbark and Lilydale; construction of a new station at Cave Hill to reduce bottlenecks and provide for an increase in users with 3,000 new dwellings to be developed in the 800m catchment area. • Lilydale Bypass, which would divert traffic from Main Street, transforming it into a safer, quieter, high-quality 'green' environment, with more transport options. • \$300,000 seed funding for Lilydale Recreation Reserve engineering design and detailed costings. • \$2.5 million for redevelopment of the Croquet Club facility • \$2 million for the Heritage Station project, to create a facility fit for leasing to community groups (*state-delivered project) • Strategy & vision for future of Lilydale Show (costs to be determined)
Wandin North Pedestrian and Streetscape Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$1.7 million to deliver improvements to pedestrian crossings and streetscapes in Wandin North, including: 2 signalised pedestrian crossings across Warburton Highway; on-street car parking, footpaths, street furniture, roadside (kerb and drainage) and street tree planting, along Warburton Highway.
Community Pavilions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Road Recreation Reserve – Healesville • Warburton Recreation Reserve – Warburton • Belgrave Recreation Reserve – Belgrave • Wesburn Community Recreation and Education Centre – Wesburn <p><i>Lilydale Recreation Reserve Pavilion is also a priority project - further detailed planning and costings must be completed ahead of any funding commitments.</i></p>
Aquatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lilydale – funding to develop business case for a potential integrated facility – \$250,000 • Healesville Outdoor Pool – heating and minor improvement works – \$1 million • Monbulk Aquatic Centre Electrification and Sustainable Building Upgrades – \$2.4 million
Other community assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upwey Oval #1 – Upwey • Gateway Oval #2 – Lilydale • Belgrave Lighting (#1 Oval) – Belgrave • Don Road Lighting (#1 Oval) – Healesville • Morrison Reserve Netball Courts – Mt Evelyn • Don Road Netball Courts – Healesville • Montrose Tennis Court – Montrose • Belgrave Cricket Nets – Belgrave

★ Priority initiative

For more details, visit
yarraranges.vic.gov.au/advocacy



Integrated Transport

Safe, resilient and sustainable transport for people and businesses



The flood damage that has occurred to Victorian roads in recent times has highlighted the need to proactively invest in critical infrastructure – both for day-to-day use and in times of emergency.

With extreme weather events increasing in frequency and intensity, communities are seeing roads deteriorate faster, creating serious safety hazards for users – particularly unmade roads.

The Commonwealth Government's increased investments into local roads is welcome, and will contribute to **building safer roads** that are more **resilient to natural disasters**. This includes increases to Roads to Recovery, Black Spot Program, Safer Local Roads and Infrastructure Program.

Further, the Victorian Government has taken welcome steps to achieve better connectivity through activity hubs that provide for **greater uptake of more sustainable transport options** – including public transport, cycling and walking.

Yarra Ranges: Opportunities and Challenges

Yarra Ranges' Integrated Transport Strategy (ITS), *Connected*, sets the direction for Council to work with other levels of government over the next 20 years, to deliver transport infrastructure that is **safer, healthier, well-connected, sustainable and inclusive**.

Our region covers the largest area of any metropolitan council in Victoria, and so reliance on roads is significant. Sealing our extensive network of dangerous unmade roads remains a priority.

To ease pressure on the road network, Council has also developed a range of programs through the ITS to provide more attractive options for trips to be taken by foot, bicycle and/or public transport, as well as traffic management projects to make our roads safer.

Together, these programs will provide accessible transport options, promote physical activity and make our communities safer.

Yarra Ranges Council	Victoria Government	Commonwealth Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Transport Strategy • Liveable Climate Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 • Victorian Cycling Strategy 2018-2028 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 • National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy • Infrastructure Investment Program

The following initiatives have been developed in line with the strategies of Yarra Ranges Council and the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments. They provide for greater connectivity around key townships, expanded transport options, and a more resilient and reliable road network and drainage system that supports our freight industries and community emergency preparedness.

The proposed scale of each program is designed to maximise efficiencies in cost and delivery, however, programs can be tailored to any level of funding commitment.

Initiative	Requirements (Investment and Policy)
★ Road sealing and maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding to seal Yarra Ranges' network of dangerous unsealed roads, which account for 40% of the Council-managed network Maintenance and upgrades of state-managed roads – including Monbulk Road, Warburton Highway, York Road and Canterbury Road – that support freight and emergency preparedness
★ Drainage and flood mapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a Flood Information Framework and release of flood mapping data by state agencies and water authorities, to support effective and consistent infrastructure planning Investment in flood mitigation and drainage infrastructure
★ Lilydale Revitalisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Duplication of the Lilydale railway line between Mooroolbark and Lilydale; construction of a new station at Cave Hill to reduce bottlenecks and provide for an increase in users with 3,000 new dwellings to be developed in the 800m catchment area. Lilydale Bypass, which would divert traffic from Main Street, transforming it into a safer, quieter, high-quality 'green' environment, with more transport options.
Footpath program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$27 million to deliver approximately 52km of priority footpath links across Yarra Ranges would improve access to key destinations such as aged care facilities, community facilities, schools, public transport, and shopping precincts.
Pedestrian Crossing program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6 million to deliver key pedestrian crossing upgrade projects would support the Footpath Program and key trail networks that underpin Yarra Ranges' tourism offerings. This includes links across ngurrak barring (formerly Ridgewalk, part of Yarra Ranges' world-class Ridges and Rivers project); Warburton Rail Trail; and one key link in Healesville.
Traffic Management program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$1 million to deliver priority traffic management projects across Yarra Ranges would reduce traffic speed along local streets and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Includes: installation of road humps, raised pavements, raised school crossings, pedestrian infrastructure upgrades as well as parking and road upgrades.

★ Priority initiative

For more details, visit
yarraranges.vic.gov.au/advocacy

Resilience and Sustainability

Strengthening communities, conserving nature and achieving Net Zero



Australia is one of the most disaster-prone regions in the world, with many communities – including Yarra Ranges – experiencing rolling extreme weather events that are increasing in frequency and intensity.

Whole-of-nation effort and cooperation is needed to **reduce disaster risks** and **strengthen resilience** of our communities, economies, and natural and built environments to ongoing shocks and stressors.

Concurrently, Australia’s commitment to **net zero by 2050** is key to protecting natural resources and building the long-term sustainability and reliability of energy resources that communities depend on every day and in times of emergency.

Alongside Australia’s renewed targets for **biodiversity conservation**, there is clear direction and fresh opportunities for collaboration, partnership and investment between governments and community to adapt to our changing climate, protect our unique assets and create a thriving, sustainable future.

Yarra Ranges: Opportunities and Challenges

Due to the population and natural landscape, Yarra Ranges is rated as one of the **highest risk areas for natural disasters in Australia**, and our critical infrastructure systems are extremely vulnerable.

However, with deep community relationships and an expansive asset portfolio, Yarra Ranges Council actively supports community to better prepare for disasters, protect our natural environment and transition smoothly to a Net Zero economy.

In particular, the **Resilient Yarra Ranges** program, delivered with \$10 million support through the Australian Government’s **Preparing Australian Communities** program, has enabled Council to deliver a wide-reaching program of work in partnership with the community to reduce emissions, care for Country, and prepare for and reduce the risk of fires, floods, storms and landslides.

Yarra Ranges Council	Victoria Government	Commonwealth Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Plan • Environment Strategy • Liveable Climate Plan • Nature Plan • Reconciliation Framework and Action Plan • Economic Development Strategy • Integrated Water Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victoria’s Bushfire Management Strategy • Resilient Recovery Strategy • Victoria’s Climate Change Strategy • Renewable Energy Action Plan • Protecting Victoria’s Environment – Biodiversity 2037 • Digital Inclusion Statement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Disaster Resilience • The Second National Action Plan • Closing the Gap Implementation Plans • National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy 2021 – 2025 • Australia’s Strategy for Nature 2019-2030 • Net Zero 2050 • Powering Australia Plan

With continued investment and targeted policies, Yarra Ranges Council is well-placed to expand its work to enhance liveability and emergency preparedness, safeguard our natural resources and contribute to the achievement of Australia's emissions reduction targets.

Initiative	Requirements (Investment and Policy)
★ Resilient Yarra Ranges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommit to Preparing Australian Communities program and Yarra Ranges' place-based resilience project • Small business resilience program • Indigenous cultural asset mapping
★ Telecommunications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand Commonwealth Government program funding location eligibility • Fund industry projects to address mobile blackspots • Upgrade NBN in key peri-urban locations • Strengthen network resilience across the region
★ Firestick Cultural Burning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200,000 to build capability with local indigenous organisations • \$100,000 research project to support expansion of Firestick at local, regional and state level
Greening the Suburbs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$9.5 million to plant and establish 130,000 trees over four years, increase tree canopy, increase habitat and mitigate urban heat island effect.
Fire Risk Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$300,000 per annum for 5 years for woody weed removal
Biolinks and Invasive Species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$450,000 establishment, \$350,000 per year for 10 years to address invasive plant and animal species and strengthen habitat corridors
Energy Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3.6 million over 4 years for zero emissions facilities • \$2 million over 4 years for zero emissions fleet and plant • \$1 million over 4 years for community climate adaptation program
Resilient Living Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2 million over 4 years for Integrated Water Management • \$400,000 over 4 years for Sustainable Food Systems Program • \$200,000 for 4 years for Sustainable Living Festival

★ **Priority initiative**



Health and Wellbeing

Investing in the foundations of thriving communities



The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments are delivering bold reforms to better support the health and wellbeing of families across the state, including through the overhaul of the mental health service system and the *Best Start, Best Life* changes to early years services.

Alongside this, the Victorian Government’s adjustments to the Maternal Child Health services have been welcome, although funding challenges remain for this service as well as the School Crossing Supervisor program, immunisation program, and in the Environmental and Public Health space.

Yarra Ranges: Opportunities and Challenges

To better understand local needs in light of these ongoing challenges and changes, Yarra Ranges Council conducted a wide-reaching analysis of human services needs across our region in 2023.

The **Human Services Needs Analysis** (HSNA) provides insight into the main issues and trends affecting services, including shifting community needs, access to services, workforce challenges, funding and infrastructure.

Most services have experienced rising demand over the past four years, with nearly two-thirds of services experiencing demand that they had been unable to meet. People are now needing more services per person, have more complex health issues, and are deeply affected by issues such as housing and family violence.

Services with the most increases in demand since 2019 were **emergency and food relief, housing and homelessness support, social connection and support, mental health, and financial counselling.**

These findings have helped to shape Council’s advocacy priorities, as outlined over the page.

Council will continue collaborating with local service providers to expand our collaborative advocacy efforts, including opportunities to work with other levels of government and close these critical service gaps.

Yarra Ranges Council	Victoria Government	Commonwealth Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Plan • Municipal Recovery Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-27 • Royal Commission into Victoria’s Mental Health System • Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Disaster Resilience • Early Years Strategy • Vision 2030: Blueprint for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

With continued investment and targeted policies, Yarra Ranges Council and its local partners can enhance the delivery of critical health and wellbeing services and safety programs to the community.

Initiative	Requirements (Investment and Policy)
★ Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanded resourcing for integrated mental health services, including for headspace Lilydale Funding for mental health outreach service through Anchor (min. \$130,000 per annum), including outreach through schools to reduce homelessness and early school leaving
Emergency Relief Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a funding model that provides for ongoing support officer roles to oversee operations, as well as core staff to develop strategic partnerships
Early Years services and infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Estimated \$8.7 million to redevelop Rolling Hills facility in Mooroolbark, including 3 x playrooms for 33 children, 2-3 Maternal Child Health and allied health consult rooms, refurbished community room. Establishment funding for Central Registration and Enrolment Scheme
Maternal Child Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a framework that provides flexibility for targeted service delivery to families most in need; and direction and support to deliver services through other innovative means e.g. reallocation of some Key Age and Stage responsibilities to kindergarten services through the expansion of 3-year-old kinder Review of MCH funding model by State Government in partnership with MAV and Local Government representatives to include all service delivery costs and asset renewal costs
School Crossing Supervisor Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad strategic review into the School Crossing Supervisor system, including the overarching service model, funding, technology and workforce challenges.
Immunisation services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review into immunisation service funding, to ensure state government funding keeps pace with the growing cost of service delivery
Environmental and Public Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding and support to enable the effective implementation of new Environmental and Public legislation and regulations

★ **Priority initiative**

Housing and Homelessness

Everyone deserves a safe and affordable home



The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have strengthened their focus on tackling Australia’s housing crisis, including an ambitious reform agenda aimed at increasing housing supply, improving affordability, and addressing homelessness.

The **National Housing and Homelessness Plan** sets a 10-year vision and provides direction for collaboration across all levels of government, and with the private and community sectors.

The Victorian Government’s **Housing Statement** was released in 2023, and broadly welcomed by the local government sector.

It commits to increasing supply with 800,000 homes to be built in Victoria over the next decade, and provides a strong focus on concentrating housing in vibrant and liveable areas, close to transport, employment opportunities and community services.

Yarra Ranges: Opportunities and Challenges

Housing needs in Yarra Ranges are diverse, and tailored solutions are needed to meet the distinct needs of our urban and regional communities.

The Eastern Metropolitan Region alone is facing a shortfall of 11,7000 homes by 2032.

There is significant potential in townships on the urban fringe, such as Lilydale and Mooroolbark, which have been recognised as regionally important hubs through the Victorian Government’s investment in level crossing removal projects and the Lilydale Revitalisation project.

Lack of supply and affordability is creating a multitude of pressures in Yarra Ranges, including rental blackholes in the Hills and Valley townships and the inability of businesses to attract workforces – particularly in the agriculture, hospitality, and health sectors. Innovative solutions, such as tiny homes, and the re-instatement of the Dependent Persons Unit definition in the planning scheme will help to ease some of these pressures.

Further, short term rental accommodation (STRA) is a key challenge that requires a strong policy response and leadership by the state government to balance the opportunities for tourism and other short-term rental needs, with the need for available and affordable housing for permanent local communities.

Yarra Ranges Council	Victoria Government	Commonwealth Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Wellbeing Plan • Housing Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Statement • Victoria’s homelessness and rough sleeping action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Housing and Homelessness Plan

Council is working on land identification and viability, innovation SAH models and with a range of partners to support an increase in supply of social and affordable housing, given the significant investments being made through both the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments. This includes consideration of innovative housing approaches, underpinned by strong community engagement to support tailored, sustainable and successful housing models.

Council is also working closely with local housing and homelessness service providers to develop targeted responses to local challenges.

The following investments and policy shifts would support stronger provision of housing and homelessness services in Yarra Ranges.

Initiative	Requirements (Investment and Policy)
<p>★ Short Term Rental Accommodation (STRA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 (the Act), to update or expand the purpose of the Act to provide for the establishment of a short stay accommodation or short stay rental register. <p>The Act considers minimum standards associated with rental properties, regardless of if they are rented for a short or long period of time. The Act requires compliance with the Residential Tenancies Regulations 2021, which covers minimum standards under Schedule 4 requiring the general minimum safety standards for a house.</p> <p>With STRAs currently being exempt from registration, it is extremely difficult for Council to: regulate and ensure community health and safety standards are being complied with, monitor the number of STRAs, monitor impact on communities, identify gaps within the planning scheme.</p> <p>An amendment to the Act to establish a state-wide register for STRA would allow for consistent standards to be regulated across Victoria.</p>
<p>Social and Affordable Housing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Release suitable government land in Yarra Ranges for social and affordable housing. Provide investment to urgently increase the number of social housing dwellings, and crisis accommodation units in Yarra Ranges. Increases to Commonwealth Rental Assistance to assist those struggling in private rentals. Amend Victorian legislation to better enable the provision of social and affordable housing including: the introduction of 'inclusionary zoning', controls around underutilised properties, and controls to improve the safety and affordability of rooming houses. Council will advocate for the Cerini Centre Social and Affordable Housing project which is being led by the Warburton Advancement League to build social housing in the Upper Yarra Valley.
<p>Homelessness services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund local homelessness services to provide a homelessness outreach case management service, and a drop-in service in Yarra Ranges.

★ **Priority initiative**

For more details, visit
yarraranges.vic.gov.au/advocacy



Tourism and Sustainable Economic Growth

World-class experiences delivering jobs for locals



The long-term sustainable growth of the visitor economy is increasingly a priority for the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments, and must be achieved in balance with the needs of local communities.

There continues to be a strong need to recover and strengthen tourism industries following the pandemic, and leverage competitive offerings for the economic benefit of local communities that were hit hard.

The Commonwealth Government's **THRIVE 2030** strategy, and the Victorian Government's **Experience Victoria 2033** both focus on diversifying markets – particularly in urban fringe and regional areas – including through First Nations and epicurean experiences.

Building on the unique strengths of our local industries, our communities and local businesses are well-placed to attract local, interstate and international markets, which in turn provide opportunities for jobs and economic growth.

Yarra Ranges: Opportunities and Challenges

Sitting at the interface of Melbourne's metropolitan and regional areas – the gateway to the Yarra Valley – Yarra Ranges plays an important role in maintaining precious Green Wedge land, providing tourism opportunities to domestic and international visitors, and fostering agricultural industries.

There are more than 13,000 businesses across the Yarra Ranges, employing more than 41,000 people locally. By 2032, Council aims to **grow its economy to \$9.1 billion, supporting more than 57,000 local jobs**.

Visitors to the region are expected to double to over 9 million per annum in the next decade. This presents a significant opportunity, but it is one that must be supported and realised carefully and strategically to ensure that locals residents reap the benefits, and our precious environment is protected.

Yarra Ranges Council	Victoria Government	Commonwealth Government
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council Plan 2021-25 • Economic Development Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience Victoria 2033 • Visitor Economy Recovery and Reform Plan • Native Timber Harvest Transition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THRIVE 2030 • Ag2030 • Plan Victoria • Local Government Financial Assistance Grants

Investment in flagship precincts and projects, as well as workforce skills and accommodation, will be key to attracting and retaining both local and overseas workers, driving sustainable economic growth and developing competitive tourism offerings.

Critically, local industries on the urban fringe need certainty that government co-investments and grant opportunities will be available to them ongoing, in order to develop a pipeline of impactful projects and infrastructure.

Initiative	Requirements (Investment and Policy)
<p>★ Ridges and Rivers world-class trail network</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warburton Mountain Bike Destination – with planning delays and escalating costs, ongoing support and investment of \$6.5 million is needed to deliver Stage 1 as scoped in funding agreements with the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments. • Yarra Valley Trail – ongoing collaboration to deliver on Stage 2A, with \$4.9 million being delivered through the Commonwealth Government’s Priority Community Infrastructure Program. • ngurrak barring (formerly RidgeWalk) – further investment to deliver car parks in hills townships to facilitate visitors to ngurrak barring trails and ease broader parking pressures for locals: Falls Road, Mount Dandenong \$240,000. Pound Creek, Sherbrooke \$420,000.
<p>Regional Development Victoria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide consistent access to Regional Development Victoria funds targeted to tourism, agricultural and cultural industries, to support diversification of local economies and transition of timber industries.
<p>Regional Centre of Excellence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding to develop a feasibility study for a Centre of Excellence for food and beverages of the Yarra Valley and Dandenong Ranges, akin to industry-leading examples in the Barossa Valley. (To be developed and run by industry bodies).
<p>Workforce skilling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for local hospitality, wine growing and producing businesses to train and upskill existing and new workers. (Developed and delivered via industry bodies)
<p>Workforce accommodation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment in housing to address workforce accommodation needs, particularly across growing industries of health, aged care, hospitality and agriculture. This should include permit exemptions for Rural Worker Accommodation in the Green Wedge Zones, and release of other reforms from the Planning for Melbourne’s Green Wedge and Agricultural Land Review, as well as access to the Regional Worker Accommodation Fund.

★ **Priority initiative**