



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