



CITY OF
MONASH



Monash Council **ADVOCACY PROJECTS**





Acknowledgement of Country

Monash Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands on which we meet, the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong People, and recognises their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People.



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Our City

Monash is a culturally diverse community in Melbourne's south-east and is home to close to 200,000 residents. We're the largest employment destination in Victoria outside of Melbourne's CBD with a Gross Regional Product of \$17 billion and will be the future home of three stations on the Victorian Government's Suburban Rail Loop project.

Half of the jobs in Monash are located within the Monash National Employment and Innovation Cluster around Clayton, Mulgrave and Notting Hill, with a mix of education, health, research, technology and industry. This includes the Australian Synchrotron, Monash University, the CSIRO, Monash Medical Centre and the Victorian Heart Hospital. This cluster is nationally recognised and in 2023 was featured in *The Age* as a potential future second CBD in greater Melbourne.

We believe Monash is the most liveable city in Victoria. Our vision, created with our community, is for Monash as a city that gives more than it takes. That it:

- ▶ Shares its surplus
- ▶ Thrives through its rich diversity
- ▶ Empowers its community to live healthy, connected lives
- ▶ Nurtures innovation and prioritises sustainability
- ▶ Is a liveable place where we all belong.

Advocacy is how we seek action from politicians, government departments and key stakeholders. We do this through lobbying, submissions to Australian and Victorian governments, community engagement and public campaigns.

There are many opportunities to enable current and future generations to enjoy work, lifestyle, transport and community experiences in Monash. We need other levels of government to support future growth by investing in the infrastructure and services that our community needs.

This document sets the scene for Monash's advocacy efforts. It outlines key projects, shaped by community need and consultation, where we are seeking investment from other levels of government.







What we do

Monash provides a range of infrastructure and services that support the wellbeing of the local community.

We run community centres and libraries, maintain local parks and reserves and assist with early years and maternal health programs. We collect rubbish and dispose of waste, maintain local roads, support young people through youth programs and run activities and programs that engage and support our older residents.

What makes Monash liveable is our safe neighbourhoods, the ease of getting around, pride in our local areas, and a significant range of local employment opportunities.

Our Council Plan (2021–2025) sets out our strategy for how we continue to enjoy the things we love about Monash, how we can address the pressures our city faces and make the most of the opportunities that come from being a popular place to live, learn, work and play.

We wrote our plan in consultation with our community. It sets out clear goals to deliver our vision for:

- ▶ A sustainable city
- ▶ Inclusive services
- ▶ Enhanced places
- ▶ Good governance.





OUR PROJECTS



**Promoting
the best
start in life**



**Supporting
female
participation
in sport**



**Encouraging
active
lifestyles for
community
health and
wellbeing**



**Strengthening
community
services**



**Taking
action on
climate
change**



**Connecting
our City**



**Glen
Waverley
upgrades**

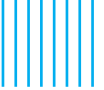


**Policy, social
advocacy, and
cost shifting**

PROMOTING THE BEST START IN LIFE

BACKGROUND

Monash is a Child Friendly City where we have several strategies making sure we view and interact with children as active residents. One of these strategies is our Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–2025 which sets out strategic health and wellbeing priorities focusing on community health, happiness and wellbeing. Our priorities include actions around mental health, fair for all abilities, and lifelong learning



Four-year-old kindergarten

What we are asking

Full Victorian Government infrastructure funding to support the increase of four-year-old kindergarten (Pre-prep) from 15 to 30 hours per week, by 2036.

We are also seeking that the Victorian Government provides policy proposals for single unit kindergarten services that are unable to effectively respond to the capacity drivers of the Best Start, Best Life reforms within existing infrastructure. It is not possible to deliver two 30 hour 4 year old kindergarten programs and a 15 hour kinder program in a single unit. This can be achieved in a double unit. The only option, therefore, is to run a mixed group, which is not preferred by families and does not alone address the numbers of kindergarten places that will be required in some areas of Monash.

When

Until at least 2036, aligning with the Best Start Best Life reform.

How much

The Kindergarten Infrastructure and Services Plan (KISP) 2025 will identify the required capital investment to accommodate the increase in four-year-old kindergarten (Pre-prep) to 30 hours per week by 2036.

Why

The Best Start Best Life reforms (four-year-old kindergarten / Pre-prep) has effectively halved the capacity of Monash kindergartens. Most Monash kindergartens will only be able to run a single four-year-old kindergarten (Pre-prep) program per week, rather than two four-year-old programs and one three-year-old programs, as previously rostered. Single-unit services (one kindergarten room) will be unable to accommodate both a stand-alone 30-hour kindergarten (Pre-prep) program and a stand-alone 15 hour per week three-year-old kindergarten program.

We are seeking a commitment from the Victorian Government to fully fund the infrastructure required to support the full introduction of Pre-prep / four-year-old kindergarten by 2036.

Benefit

- ▶ Access to lifelong learning opportunities for young children
- ▶ Equitable, inclusive and accessible services for all abilities
- ▶ Supported participation in community life through our services and support networks.



Maternal and Child Health (MCH)

What we are asking

- ▶ A commitment to sharing the cost of the universal MCH service 50/50.
- ▶ Update the name of the service to be more inclusive and reflective of contemporary family structures and service expectations.
- ▶ Improvements to the CDIS (the service software) to enable clients to make online bookings, significantly reducing the administrative cost / burden to MCH operators.

When:

As soon as possible, and ongoing.

How Much

50 per cent of total costs of service, including the costs related to program management and leadership.

Why

Victoria's maternal and child health program is recognised as providing high-quality support and advice to families and children. The cost of the service was designed to be evenly split between the Victorian and local governments. While the Victorian Government has recently committed to a short-term increase in funding, an ongoing commitment is required to ensure a 50/50 split is achieved in real terms.

Benefit

- ▶ Provision of high-quality service for families and children, particularly those most vulnerable
- ▶ Improved health, wellbeing, safety, learning and development outcomes for children and their families
- ▶ Availability of online booking system for families facilitated by Victorian Government
- ▶ Equitable, inclusive and accessible service.

SUPPORTING FEMALE PARTICIPATION IN SPORT

BACKGROUND

In Victoria, we know female participation rates in sport and active recreation remain lower than males, particularly in community sport and recreation club settings. Appropriate sport facilities and supporting infrastructure are key factors in encouraging female involvement. The relatively 'young' age profile of our community (i.e. high proportion of 15-19 years and 20-24 years age groups), including a high proportion of females, will contribute to demand for access to sport and recreation participation opportunities.

These age groups, and 65+ year olds, will drive demand for access to appropriate female-friendly infrastructure and participation environments in Monash. Although there's no one definition for female-friendly infrastructure, there's an important need to improve many of our facilities. This would consist of a range of factors and attributes (not limited to) like unisex change facilities, inviting, flexible and safe community/ social spaces, clean and easily accessible facilities, and family-friendly amenities.

Upgrades to Gladeswood Reserve, Mulgrave

What we are asking

Design and delivery of facility developments detailed in the Gladeswood Reserve Masterplan, this includes:

- ▶ Relocation and upgrade to a district-level playspace
- ▶ Picnic area including shelter, BBQ, park furniture and landscaping
- ▶ Outdoor exercise equipment nodes
- ▶ Multipurpose active recreation space
- ▶ Amphitheatre and events space
- ▶ Stand-alone public toilet facility
- ▶ Dog drinking bowls and waste bins.

When

12–24 months, including design and construction.

How much

\$2.5 million for design and construction.

Why

The Gladeswood Reserve Masterplan establishes the priorities for the development of Gladeswood Reserve over the next ten years based on identified community needs and consultation with key stakeholders and the community.

Community play and active recreation will create new opportunities for participation and activation, and improve reserve amenity and landscape character. Development of a district-level playspace and multi-use active recreation hub space will provide intergenerational play and physical activities opportunities for all and deliver safe and inclusive spaces for women and girls.

Benefit

- ▶ This work will increase activation of the site and that will encourage increased patronage and participation, increase opportunities for physical activity by retaining the existing organised sports facilities, increasing the provision of infrastructure for active recreation and play, and create safe and inclusive spaces for women.





Gardiners Reserve Pavilion Redevelopment

What we are asking

Undertake consultation and design works identifying scope, scale and cost of pavilion redevelopment to contemporary standards.

When

12–24 months.

How much

\$400,000 (design).

Why

Currently the home of the Eastern Lions Football Club, the pavilion is ageing and inadequate for the needs of the tenant clubs and broader community.

Council buildings are fit-for-purpose, multi-use and are designed according to community need using evidence-based principles of service delivery.

Benefit

- ▶ Pavilion design to comply with female-friendly and relevant facilities design standards suitable for National Premier League.
- ▶ Accessible, safe and inclusive pavilion design that provides enhanced participation opportunities for women and girls.

Waverley Women's Sports Centre

What we are asking

Improve pedestrian safety, accessibility and lighting within the Waverley Women's Sports Precinct and Jells Park.

When

12–24 months, including design and construction.

How much

\$5 million (design and construction, Victorian Government land).

Why

New path connections with bollards and lighting will increase safety, confidence, deter anti-social behaviours and reduce barriers to female participation in sport and recreation.

With the recent construction of a new \$5.9 million 5km trail, Jells Park will be even more popular. Increasing the importance of upgrading the car park to improve safety and accessibility.

Benefit

- ▶ Increased participation in sport, active and passive recreation activities
- ▶ Safe and inclusive spaces for women.

ENCOURAGING ACTIVE LIFESTYLES FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING

BACKGROUND

Our Active Recreation Opportunities Strategy guides the future enhancement of local parks and reserves encouraging healthy physical activity in the community. Evidence shows that these types of activities support and encourage increased activity and socialisation, especially in women. The strategy provides a roadmap for the development of new and improved outdoor recreation infrastructure. Fitness stations, climbing walls, basketball half courts, circuit paths and tennis hit-up walls are some examples that will provide the community with a range of active participation opportunities.



Djerring Trail

What are we asking

Upgrade three sections along Djerring Trail – Hughesdale to Oakleigh, Oakleigh to Huntingdale and Huntingdale to Clayton.

When

Three plus years to deliver. With approvals required from multiple stakeholders, including Metro Trains Melbourne, VicTrack, Department of Transport and private properties.

How much

\$5 million.

Why

To provide better pedestrian and cyclist accessibility to public open space and provide consistency of standard with the high-quality sections delivered as part of the recent Level Crossing Removal Project along the Dandenong - Cranbourne/ Pakenham line. Full-length upgrade to 3m wide with lighting is proposed.

Djerring Trail is a Victorian Government designated 'strategic cycling corridor'. Through the YourGround Victoria project, local women and gender-diverse members identified the trail as a key activity area that is perceived as unsafe. Parts of the trail are poorly lit and maintained with limited ability to see what, or who, is ahead. Appropriate lighting and path standards are critical to perceptions of safety with this area. The Eastern Transport Coalition also supports this complete upgrade (three sections of total 2,750m) as part of its advocacy priorities..

Benefit

- ▶ Pedestrians: Improve pedestrian safety and accessibility. Provide a safer and more comfortable walking experience.
- ▶ Cyclists: Enhance safety and reduce conflicts. Improve path connection thus making cycling a viable commuting option.
- ▶ Community: Improve access to local areas and public transport options. Provide a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Promote healthier, more sustainable modes of transportation.





Scotchmans Creek Trail

What are we asking

To widen and improve pathways along 900m of the Scotchmans Creek Trail from Waverley Road to Blackburn Road to meet increasing demand for pedestrian and cyclist access. This would complement the upgrade of the section of the trail from Cole Crescent to Warrigal Road that has previously been supported by the Victorian Government.

When

Can be delivered within two years, subject to investment and engagement with stakeholders, including Melbourne Water and adjacent properties.

How much

\$950,000

Why

A key action from our Integrated Transport Strategy is to review and implement improvements to this trail.

The shared path is a Victorian Government designated 'strategic cycling corridor' and its usage has grown by 75 per cent compared to the previous year.

Benefit

► Pedestrians

Improve safety from mode conflict (path will be upgraded with improved safety, quality, width and pavement surface).

► Cyclists

Accommodate increased demand. Currently, these trail sections are unable to safely accommodate expected growth in cycling due to its narrow width. In these sections, the path is between 2.2-2.5m wide. This is narrower than best practice design. Condition of these trail sections has also deteriorated.

► Community

These improvements will encourage more participation and use of the trail, promoting sustainable transport options, and encouraging community health and wellbeing.

Two new parks for Clayton

What are we asking

Support Clayton as a priority precinct to undertake additions of open space provision. This includes within employment areas in the area through the identification and acquisition of appropriate land or social and/or recreation parks.

When

12–24 months, including design and construction of each park.

How much

\$8 million.

Why

Our Monash Open Space Strategy outlines that Clayton is significantly under provided in terms of community open space provision. There's currently 0.6 hectares of open space per 1,000 residents with no social/family recreation parks.

Benefit

- ▶ Local community access to active recreation opportunities in their neighbourhood.



Waverley Hockey Club and Victorian Sikh Association

What are we asking

Establishment of a second hockey pitch to meet the needs of the Waverley Hockey Club and broader community, including the upgrade of the Victorian Sikh Association pavilion to be fit for purpose premises.

When

12–24 months, including design and construction.

How much

- ▶ Hockey pitch - \$2.5 million (minimum).
- ▶ Upgrade of Victorian Sikh Association pavilion - \$500,000

Why

The Melbourne Outer East Hockey Feasibility Study (2018) found that there's a shortage of synthetic hockey fields in Melbourne's eastern region. It recommended that a second field be developed at Ashwood Reserve, where the club is based. Redeveloping Ashwood Reserve North to provide a second synthetic hockey field and larger car park is feasible from a site suitability, demand, and usage perspective.

Benefit

- ▶ Local community access to active recreation opportunities in their neighbourhood
- ▶ Council buildings are fit-for-purpose, multi-use and are designed according

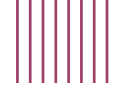




STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SERVICES

BACKGROUND

We have a wide range of customer focused services which are relevant, of high quality and accessible to all residents of Monash. Some of which need extra support to better service our growing community.



Integrated cultural precinct at the Museum of Australian Photography (MAPh)

What are we asking

The redevelopment and expansion of the current gallery to create MAPH, a cultural centre of regional significance.

When

Preliminary plans and a comprehensive business case have been finalised. Funding would allow for detailed design and documentation and ultimately construction to proceed.

How much

Capital construction cost: \$60 million.

Why

MAPh fulfils a compelling need for major cultural infrastructure in Melbourne's fastest growing region. It's a new cultural experience in Melbourne within a unique landscaped sculpture park that celebrates Australian artists, stories and our identity. MAPH will be a world class institution that preserves and showcases our heritage through photography, books, and architecture. As a major photography destination in Australia's network of galleries and museums, MAPH will contribute to the creation of a rich cultural life for Victorians and those who visit.

Benefit

MAPh provides an opportunity for the south-east region to:

- ▶ Collaborate on strategic infrastructure that contributes to liveability
- ▶ Deliver jobs and investment
- ▶ Connect the education and skills sector to the economy
- ▶ Achieve a more connected community
- ▶ Position the region as a destination for cultural tourism and visitors.

Investment in our library service

What are we asking

Increase in recurrent funding for our library services.

When

Ongoing.

How much

\$150,000 per annum.

Why

We're a growing municipality with a diverse population and a range of vulnerable communities. Current funding contributions from the Victorian Government is inadequate and fails to meet the intent of shared funding for our library services.

Benefit

- ▶ Community is supported and has access to lifelong learning opportunities across the lifespan.



TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

BACKGROUND

We're committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2025 as part several strategies tackling climate change. These actions form part of our long-term consideration of climate change and focus on determining a strong and comprehensive response to this issue.



Reducing our community centre carbon footprint

What are we asking

Funding to retrofit existing community facilities to reduce greenhouse gas emission and running costs and meet Council's Zero Net Carbon target by 2025.

This will improve building resilience during extreme weather through improved shading, window coating and insulation and include solar panels, insulation and LED lighting changes. Cost savings through improved efficiency can allow for the redirection of funds to important community activity and provide sustainable leadership action for the community.

When

Can be delivered within 1–2 years.

How much

\$3.5 million.

Why

The main cause of carbon emissions is buildings and these are costly and challenging to retrofit. However, action on addressing building stock is critical and this requires Australian Government funding on this national issue.

Benefit

- ▶ **Operator**
Provides financial return to operator since more efficient to run.
- ▶ **Federal and State**
Supporting action on climate change.
- ▶ **Council**
Reduction in emissions and moves towards achieving 2025 target.

Solar panel installation on our community buildings

What are we asking

Installation of solar panels at nine kindergartens.

- ▶ Appletree Hill Preschool
- ▶ Brandon Park Children's Centre
- ▶ Brentwood Preschool
- ▶ Highvale Preschool
- ▶ Hughesdale Kindergarten
- ▶ Jells Park Preschool
- ▶ Syndal Preschool.

When

Six months per site to install.

How much

\$150,000

Why

These buildings have high energy demands and are costly to run. Solar panels will reduce operational costs and improve environmental impact.

Benefit

- ▶ **Federal and State**
Supporting action on climate change.
- ▶ **Council**
Reduction in emissions and moves towards achieving 2025 target.

CONNECTING OUR CITY

BACKGROUND

Our Monash Integrated Transport Strategy 2017 provides a clear framework for the future planning and development of the transport system to 2037 and beyond. The Westall Road extension and Oakleigh Station redevelopment contribute to an accessible and sustainable transport network that supports the safety, health and prosperity of all members of our community. The Westall Road completion is a much-needed link accommodating our population and employment growth in the area and will improve network connectivity. With the Oakleigh Station upgrade now complete, we're now keen to see the public space around it benefit so the area remains a vibrant, safe, enjoyable and prosperous centre.



Oakleigh Station redevelopment

What are we asking

The transformation of Portman and Station Street and Oakleigh station public realm, including footpaths, roads, bus stops, new furniture, trees, lighting and public artwork.

When

As soon as possible.

How much

\$6 million.

Why

The redevelopment will increase connectivity in Oakleigh central and improve public realm.

Benefit

- ▶ Enhanced outdoor trading
- ▶ Increased connectivity in the area with the flow of people from the station and bus stops to the popular Eaton Mall.

Westall Road extension

What are we asking

Extension of Westall Road as a new transport link connecting Princes Highway, Clayton, to the Monash Freeway.

When

2022 onwards.

How much

\$900 million.

Why

This missing link is critical to ease congestion diverting traffic from overloaded roads, including Blackburn, Clayton and Springvale roads. It also opens the opportunity for increased public transport on these roads and accessibility for Monash residents, businesses and visitors.

Benefit

- ▶ Improved access to the National Monash Employment and Innovation Cluster for the 75 per cent of workers who commute to this area every day for work
- ▶ Additional 23,000 jobs for the region within the cluster
- ▶ Better freight movement through and beyond the region.

● Safer cycling conditions in Oakleigh

What we are asking

Consultation in 2023 showed significant community support for a safe cycling connection between Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail which is to be provided along Atkinson Street and Hanover Street in Oakleigh. The third stage of the project, heading north along Atkinson Street from Dandenong Road to Scotchmans Creek Trail, would include an signal upgrade at Dandenong Road and raised pedestrian/cyclist crossing points to improve safety.

When

This project is currently in detailed design, with construction funding for the first two stages committed by Council for the 24/25 and 25/26 budgets.

How much

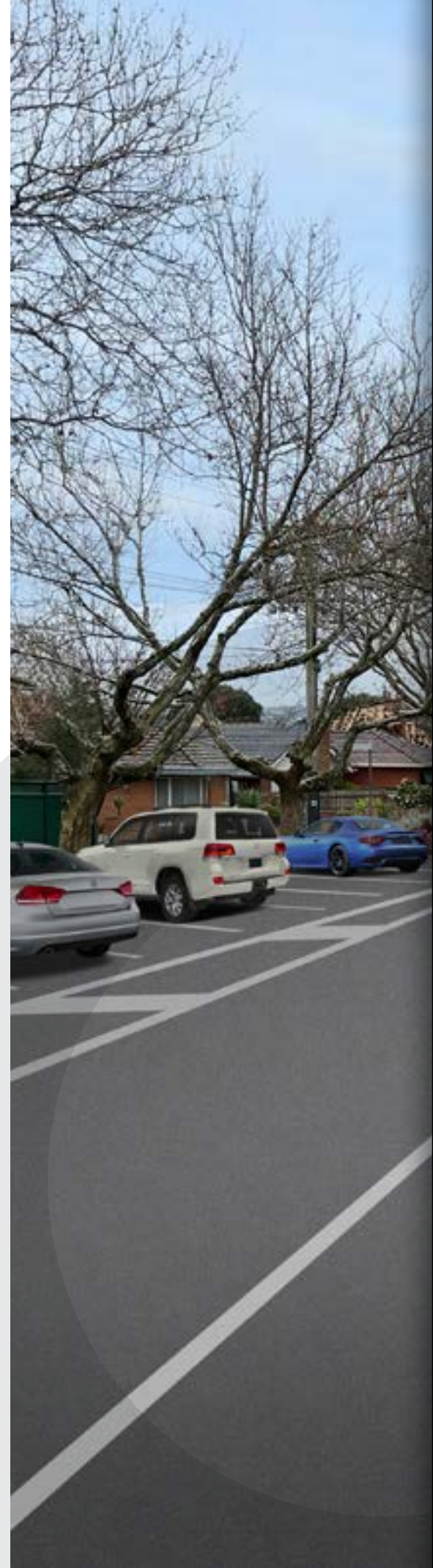
\$1.5 million to support construction of Stage 3 of the cycleway between Dandenong Road and Scotchmans Creek Trail. Additional funding to upgrade the Dandenong Road signals to enhance safety for all users.

Why

At present, there is no protected cycling connection between two of our major trails: Scotchmans Creek Trail and Djerring Trail. This project will address this and responds to strong community support in consultation during 2023 and local appetite and interest in improved and safe active transport options.

Benefit

- ▶ Safer cycling routes that encourage active transport and takes cars off our local roads. Monash's Integrated Transport Strategy indicates that providing a safe and efficient cycling network in Monash is integral to achieving a sustainable transport system that enhances quality of life for all residents.





GLEN WAVERLEY UPGRADES

BACKGROUND

We're seeking funding toward critical projects for Glen Waverley, particularly the Glen Waverley Civic Precinct. This precinct incorporates the Glen Waverley library, Bogong Car Park expansion and Kingsway revitalisation, a busy shopping precinct with specialist grocers, and great cafes and restaurants.

The precinct provides for Council offices (an architecturally significant building designed by Harry Seidler), the Glen Waverley Library that's nearing the end of its useful life and parking. Following community consultation, design work is starting in 2024 with construction timelines to be confirmed.

Kingsway Precinct redevelopment, Glen Waverley

What are we asking

A project to revitalise Glen Waverley's major shopping precinct as a dining and food destination.

This includes the full reconstruction of approximately 400 metres length streetscape, and removal of kerbside car parking creating widened footpaths for pedestrian and outdoor trading. The estimated \$20 million project also includes looking at vehicular pavements, new furniture and lighting, tree planting and public artwork.

When

Community consultation expected in 2025, with construction timelines to follow.

How much

\$20 - \$30 million.

Why

The Glen Waverley Activity Centre is one of Monash's premier dining and retail centres with Kingsway at its heart. It is nearly 40 years since the last major upgrade of Kingsway and the street is due for a major overhaul to bring it in line with activity centre requirements.

There's an opportunity to revisit the role of Kingsway, shifting the balance from a street dominated by car movement and parking to a safe and welcoming environment for pedestrians and cyclists. Including making sure that the SRL East project and Kingsway complement each other, rather than compete.

Benefit

- ▶ A redeveloped Kingsway will have major economic, community and social benefits to Glen Waverley and the greater Monash region. This will be provided through the increased ability for street trading, high levels of public amenity and a physical link between the two major anchors at each end of the street. These being The Glen shopping centre and Glen Waverley Station to the north and the Civic Precinct to the south.
- ▶ Providing permanent opportunities for enhanced outdoor dining and sustainable transport will benefit the community and local business in the activity centre.



Monash Civic Centre

↖	Glen Waverley Library	1 min
↖	Customer Service Centre	1 min
→	Bogong Car Park	3 min
↷	Glen Waverley Station	7 min

- Library
- Customer Service Centre
- Bogong Car Park
- Glen Waverley Station



A civic precinct for Glen Waverley

What are we asking

The redevelopment of the Glen Waverley Precinct site in Kingsway will include a new library, community meeting spaces, civic hall, event spaces, office accommodation, and improved public realm right near the busy Kingsway commercial area. This project has community support following a consultation process in 2023 and will be central to the reinvigoration of the Glen Waverley precinct, as the Victorian Government moves forward with its Suburban Rail Loop project and its new Glen Waverley station.

When

Design work starting in 2024, with construction timelines to be confirmed.

How much

\$110m+ total cost, with significant investment committed from Council.

Why

This project is a key part of Council's transformation and reinvigoration plans for the Glen Waverley Activity Centre to capitalise on the growth of Monash's marquee commercial, retail and hospitality precinct. We want to create a library that meets the needs of everyone in our growing and contemporary community and create new flexible indoor spaces for large community events and community group meetings.

Benefit

- ▶ A library that delivers on the needs of its users now and into the future
- ▶ Community events and meeting spaces which are flexible and configurable to cater for both large events and small meetings
- ▶ A large function room that addresses a demand and supply gap within Monash
- ▶ Long-term cost savings with removal of requirement of leased premises for Council staff, and potential income from commercial space
- ▶ Economic uplift within the Glen Waverley Activity Centre.

POLICY, SOCIAL ADVOCACY, AND COST SHIFTING

BACKGROUND

Council also has several social advocacy priorities, as well as significant concerns about the ongoing cost shifting from other levels of government to local government.

These include the rectification of buildings with combustible cladding, creation of a new model for Victorian school crossing supervisors, addressing harm from gambling in our community and addressing the recycling of soft plastics.

Social Housing

What are we asking

Support for council's goal to implement Monash Social Housing Framework 2020 – 2025 and the Regional Commitments of the Regional Local Government Homelessness and Social Housing Charter 2020 in particular:

- ▶ Increase the provision of social housing and respond to homelessness in east and southeast Melbourne
- ▶ Introduction of mandatory inclusionary zones to ensure social housing is built near transport, services and open space.
- ▶ Ensure that Social Housing units in Monash are at minimum upgraded via refurbishment ensuring they remain suitable for accommodation and provide an improvement in their quality and standard
- ▶ Commitment to no net loss of social housing dwellings In Monash
- ▶ Explore the opportunity to increase density on these sites so that more people can be housed and;
- ▶ Provide assurance that existing public land will be used to build more public housing, not sold off to private developers.

When

Immediately.

How much

Seeking investment from all levels of government to address this.

We ask that Public Housing units in Monash are at minimum upgraded via refurbishment to ensure they remain suitable for accommodation, provide an improvement in the quality and standard and ensure no net loss to beds.

Why

There is a significant housing crisis in Monash, with increasing levels of homelessness and housing insecurity. Significant population growth, cost of living pressures and a strong property market has led to increases in housing stress for home buyers and renters, large social housing waiting lists, and growing levels of homelessness locally as demand for housing services significantly exceeds supply.

Council has a longstanding commitment to addressing homelessness and the housing affordability crisis. The lack of housing security directly impacts on an individual's health and wellbeing, playing a critical role in health, education, employment, and safety outcomes.

Recognising that Council cannot solve all of the problems alone, the Council seeks to partner with the Victorian and Commonwealth governments to increase investment in social housing, and advocate for important policy reforms.

Benefit

- ▶ Social and affordable housing developments contribute towards improved social inclusion, mobility and access to jobs. This is a key element of maintaining income equality and sustainable economic growth.

Family violence

What are we asking

Funding to extend the Free From Violence Local Government Program for an additional three years.

When

July 2025 – June 2027.

How much

\$190,000

Council will continue a co-contribution to provide additional staff time and resources towards the program.

Why

To stop family violence, violence against women and gender-based violence before it occurs, we need social, cultural, and structural change. This type of change takes time and ongoing long-term commitment and investment.

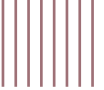
We have made improvements over the initial three years of The Free From Violence Local Governments Program (2022-2025), however we believe that an additional three years of the program will allow us to have a greater focus on working with our community and service providers, that will bring real progress and sustainable outcomes for safer and respectful City of Monash.

By extending the tenure of a dedicated Free From Violence Officer we can build on our existing work and continue to embed a whole-of-council approach and associated activities under the program.

This would also allow more time to test the appropriateness, useability, and effectiveness of The Local Government Guide for Preventing Family Violence and All Forms of Violence Against Women and contribute to building the evidence base for the Victorian Government.

Benefit

- ▶ Increased community awareness and understanding of the drivers of family violence, all forms of violence against women and gender-based violence, and how to stop this violence before it starts.
- ▶ Stronger community awareness about available support services for those impacted by family violence, violence against women and gender-based violence.
- ▶ Strengthened intersectional approach and reaching out to diverse communities (LGBTIQA+, First Nations Peoples, refugee and migrant communities, people with disabilities) to ensure that our primary prevention initiatives meet needs of our diverse communities.
- ▶ Increase in positive attitudes, behaviours and culture change in the workplace and in the community.
- ▶ Ability to track social and cultural change over a longer time period, contributing to the Victorian Government's efforts in collecting evidence on the best practice in primary prevention and community engagement.
- ▶ Ultimately the aim is to contribute to a reduction in family violence, all forms of violence against women and gender-based violence.



● Cladding rectification

What are we asking

The VBS must remain the appointed MBS for all extreme and high risk buildings.

We have been advised that the State Government are planning to hand back responsibility for these buildings to Council. We are in no better position than the authorities to do this work, especially given their involvement over the last five years. State authorities are best placed to finish the work and resolve the issues with these buildings in conjunction with the land owners. There is very little benefit that will arise for the owners of these buildings by putting them back into Council's responsibility, and not only will it take more time for these building to be rectified, the lack of qualified building staff available in the market to undertake this work presents a real risk to resolve this issue.

There is no clear reasoning or change in thinking that has been presented as part of this consideration, and it appears to be simply based on the fact that the VBA has not delivered and resolved the issue, sending back to Council's to resolve. This is not the answer, supporting the VBA and requiring them to discharge their statutory responsibilities is where the focus must be.

When

Immediately.

How much

The cost and implication of handing these buildings back to Council has not been calculated. The costs however, will run into the hundreds of thousands given staffing requirements, expert advice such as structural and fire engineering that are required.

Why

The VBA has had responsibility for these rectification of these building for almost five years, since December 2017, when the State Government appointed the VBA the lead authority with Cladding Safety Victoria.

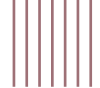
This included a \$600M program to make Victorians safer by reducing the risk associated with combustible cladding on residential apartments and publicly owned buildings.

Five years later, many cladding issues on extreme and high risk buildings (32 in Monash) have not been addressed and property owners and residents have been left in limbo.

It makes no sense to return these buildings to Council after five years for us to essentially start again with assessments and action. The authorities and in particular, the VBA, as the appointed MBS has to fulfill their statutory responsibilities and resolve the issues at these buildings.

Benefit

- ▶ The authorities finishing their work and fulfilling their statutory responsibilities will lead to a quicker resolution. It will also avoid confusion and unnecessary angst with owners and occupiers of these buildings who will be back to the start, now dealing with Council, re-inspections and new notices and orders and timeframes for compliance.



Public health approach to gambling harm

What are we asking

Support for Council's goals under Monash Council's Public Health Approval to Gambling Harm. In particular:

- ▶ Reduced and set opening hours for all pokies venues
- ▶ Reform to pokies design, including \$1 maximum bets
- ▶ No gambling advertising during sports broadcasts.

These priorities were informed by our community, who are increasingly concerned about gambling harm, long opening hours, venue design making pokies too widely accessible, and the normalisation for gambling through excessive advertising.

When

Immediately.

How much

This is a policy change rather than a financial ask of other levels of government.

Why

Monash Council has long been a leading advocate for reducing gambling harm in local government, and now we are looking for help and support from our state and federal colleagues.

The gambling industry has developed powerful and persuasive tactics to promote gambling and gambling participation, resulting in our communities experiencing significant losses. A coordinated approach involving all levels of government, businesses and community is required to combat gambling harm.

Preventing gambling harm is not just the responsibility of a few. Council plays a direct role in preventing gambling harm and has a proud history as a leading change agent for reducing gambling harm in our community.

Benefit

- ▶ We know that the financial impact of gambling affects our community's financial and mental health, relationships, work, study, and connection to culture. In 2021/22, \$84.9 million was lost to pokies in the City of Monash, despite COVID-19 lockdowns and venue closures.
- ▶ Prior to this, an average of \$110 million was lost each year.

Soft plastics recycling

What are we asking

For a reliable, long-term, sustainable solution for soft plastics recycling in Australia, and an approval to minimising their production when not necessary.

Like all councils, Monash was disappointed in the unexpected suspension of the RedCycle soft plastics recycling program at Coles and Woolworths in November 2022. This program provided an option for people to redirect items like plastic bags away from landfill and into the recycling system.

A long-term solution is required involving federal, state, and local governments, as well as companies that produce soft plastics.

When

Immediately.

How much

Seeking investment from all levels of government to address this.

Why

Monash Council has established collection points for Monash residents who want to continue recycling their soft plastics following the suspension of the RedCycle soft plastics program. These collection points are a short-term solution as we await further information from government and industry about easily accessible and long-term programs. It is not sustainable for different councils to run standalone soft plastic recycling programs.

Benefit

- ▶ Soft plastics generally can't be recycled through the recycling bin systems in Australian communities, unlike other types of harder plastics.
- ▶ The rapid growth of soft plastics collection, before the suspension of the RedCycle program, demonstrates the willingness of consumers to recycle soft plastics.
- ▶ Recycling these plastics also provides the opportunity to reuse this waste for other useful products. Plus, it prevents it from ending up in landfill.



CITY OF
MONASH

Monash Civic Centre | 293 Springvale Road, Glen Waverley, 3150 | 8.30am to 5pm | Monday to Friday
Oakleigh Service Centre | 3 Atherton Road, Oakleigh, 3166 | 8.30am to 5pm | Monday to Friday
9518 3555 | www.monash.vic.gov.au | mail@monash.vic.gov.au | NRS 1800 555 660

Monash Interpreter Service

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