D R A F T

Yarra Ranges Council

Yarra Junction Place Plan

June 2024

Mountainous landscapes make up part of the Yarra Junction geography and are a spectacular backdrop to this environmentally diverse township. This service centre to the Upper Yarra contains significant native vegetation providing vibrant ecosystems for native flora and fauna. The Little Yarra River that runs through the town is a vital part of the Yarra Ranges ecosystem. These natural features are highly valued by the local community, who acknowledge the natural environment as an important part of their lifestyle and the character of the area.

Acknowledgement of Country

Yarra Ranges Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri and other Kulin Nations as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of these lands and waterways. We pay our respects to all Elders, past, present, and emerging, who have been, and always will be, integral to the story of our region. We proudly share custodianship to care for Country together.

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This document is available on our website. Hard copies of this document are available at any of our five Community Links. To request a copy, email or phone our Customer Service Centre using the details below:

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Contents

Executive Summary 2

A Vision for Yarra Junction 4

1. What is a Place Plan? 7

2. Why a Place Plan for Yarra Junction? 8

3. What is the Strategic Context for the Place Plan? 9

4. How was the community involved in developing the Yarra Junction Place Plan? 10

5. What did the community tell us? 11

6. A Plan for Action 16

7. Bringing the Place Plan to life 20

8. How will we measure progress? 21

Appendix A: Yarra Junction Snapshot 22

Glossary 30

Executive Summary

Yarra Junction is cradled by a majestic landscape and has a proud history of supporting and servicing the Upper Yarra area. Adapting to changes and always showing resilience, the people of Yarra Junction value the friendly community that they live in.

A unifying vision is needed to guide future planning, allowing balanced growth that protects the natural environment and celebrates the character of the township.

The Yarra Junction community have outlined their thoughts on what they value for their township, during late 2023. These findings were summarised in an engagement and directions paper early 2024.

A community reference group was established, which saw 22 community members attend a series of workshops and explore the feedback provided by the broader community. Their role was to identify actions that responded to the community feedback. These actions were then refined, prioritised, and supported with an over-arching vision statement.

The key themes that came through community consultation when discussing opportunities and future vision include:

A	B	C	D	E
Culture, community & service needs	**Economic prosperity & wellbeing**	**Integrated movement & spatial networks**	**Future-oriented land use & development**	**Leadership & governance**
▸ Emergency services ▸ Young people ▸ Mental health & substance abuse ▸ Community groups & activities ▸ Support services & accessibility	▸ Shopping centre ▸ Town aesthetic ▸ Diversity of business ▸ Development of industry ▸ Development of tourism	▸ Roads ▸ Community infrastructure ▸ Pedestrian movement & trails ▸ Accessibility ▸ Parking ▸ Transport	▸ Planning & development ▸ Tourism ▸ Housing	▸ Business ▸ Council ▸ Community

A Vision for Yarra Junction

Community Vision

"Yarra Junction is a proud and welcoming township uniting people, founded by nature and culture."

Council Vision

Yarra Junction will be a thriving and vibrant hub that prioritises pedestrian movement, celebrates our unique identity, and fosters community well-being. We envision a place where local businesses thrive, creative industries flourish, and our natural assets are protected. Working together with community we will create a town centre that is accessible, connected, and cherished by all.

Through advocacy and investment in maintenance and network improvements, we will have safer streets and paths that allow for accessible movement around the town centre, including parking and transport options that support the local community and visitors.

Yarra Junction will have vibrant and inclusive public spaces that prioritise community connections and activity. Through sensitive development, landscaping, public art, and lighting, we'll create accessible areas for diverse activities, fostering well-being and community culture. Our design guidelines will emphasize resilience, integration of services, and youth-focused spaces, ensuring a harmonious and thriving community.

Proudly maintaining the role of servicing the Upper Yarra, we will partner in providing a seamless network of healthcare and social services, filling gaps in service provision, enhancing cross-service referrals, and addressing critical needs. Emergency resilience will be at the forefront, with robust community infrastructure designed for communication and accessibility. Our youth will be supported with youth-focused spaces and activities, fostering development and safety.

As we plan for growth, housing diversity, training and employment opportunities, support for local and creative industries, as well as vibrant activation of public spaces, we will encourage young people to stay and thrive as valued members of our community.

Protecting the natural environment that our community values so deeply, we will balance an increase in tourism with the communities' needs. Working with a clear vision, ensuring an economic, environmental and socially sustainable future.

COMMUNICATION
BOARD
Ideal for both
&
or use
Family and Community
Support Services
What Do
You Love
about
YARRA
JUNCTION
???

1. What is a Place Plan?

Through meaningful community engagement and rigorous research Place Plans establish Council's strategic intent for a place over 20 years or more, based on five overarching principles.

Principles

Place Planning at Yarra Ranges is driven by five key principles:

Culture, community & service needs — A

Economic prosperity & wellbeing — B

Integrated movement & spatial networks — C

Future-oriented land use & development — D

Leadership & governance — E

This Yarra Junction Place Plan:

- Articulates a shared vision
- Describes the issues and opportunities for Yarra Junction and Council's strategic intent
- Creates a foundation for substantial design plans such as a Township Design Framework and detailed Masterplans, to enable projects to be delivered
- Identifies an Action Plan for Council
- Provides an evidence-based advocacy platform for Government and investment

2. Why a Place Plan for Yarra Junction?

The Yarra Ranges Council vision statement for the entire municipality states:

> "Whether you live here or visit, you will see how much we care for Country, how inclusive and connected our communities are, and how sustainable balanced growth makes this the best place in the world."
>
> *Yarra Ranges Community Vision 2036*

The Yarra Junction Place Plan takes the first step towards realising this vision in Yarra Junction. It will help guide decisions about Yarra Junction, lay the foundations for design, capture the values and qualities of the place, and direct investment for the township.

Geographically, the town is set in flat and undulating land near the junction of the Yarra and Little Yarra Rivers, flowing from sources beyond Warburton and Powelltown respectively. With the water flowing to create a physical connection between the many townships of the Upper Yarra, Yarra Junction has traditionally and will continue to be the natural connection point for the people of the Upper Yarra area.

Yarra Junction continues to play a role in emergency management today, with this service centre identified as an emergency relief hub, recreation reserve a place of last resort and hosts the Yarra Junction Country Fire Authority (CFA).

This Place Plan seeks to provide a clear understanding of this community and ensure that the values and culture of Yarra Junction are enriched as the township evolves and changes over time.

3. What is the Strategic Context for the Place Plan?

The Yarra Junction Place Plan will complement existing Planning Scheme provisions that form the basis of any decisions made regarding development within Yarra Junction.

The Municipal Planning Strategy identifies Yarra Junctions as a Large Neighbourhood Activity Centre, which is reflected in the mix of services consisting of community, civic, health related, recreational and some retail and commercial uses. These facilities serve catchment areas that extend into the rural hinterland performing a significant role in the provision of community and civic services.

In addition, the existing Design & Development Overlay 12 (DDO12) outlines guidelines and requirements for built form and township character within Yarra Junction.

The Yarra Ranges Health and Wellbeing Plan 2021–25 identifies Yarra Junction as an area of higher disadvantage than other areas in Yarra Ranges which could have flow on effects for overall health and wellbeing for this population group. This is also reflected in 2021 Census data that demonstrated higher levels of people living with mental health conditions, disability or long-term health conditions compared to State averages.

The Place Plan seeks to focus consideration of future changes to the Planning Scheme to facilitate growth in local industries providing more variety in training and employment opportunities, strengthening the character of the town, supporting diversity in housing development and strengthening the service provision to the area.

4. How was the community involved in developing the Yarra Junction Place Plan?

From September 2023 to June 2024 Yarra Ranges Council completed a broad ranging community engagement process including interviews, surveys, workshops, pop up stalls, social media and other community events to ensure that opportunities to engage irrespective of age, gender, social status or affiliations.

More than 400 people engaged directly with the process through interviews, having pop up discussions, submitting feedback to our Shaping Page, written letters and workshops. With the project team reaching out to many thousands of community members through direct mail, promotion on local radio, social media, street signage and attendance at community events such as the Cire Teddy Bears Picnic, Halloween Street Party, and Over 50's Friendship Group Lunch.

With support from the Upper Yarra Secondary College the project team were able to engage directly with youth, by providing a leadership development opportunity to six students who in turn ran a youth engagement workshop with peers.

An Engagement and Directions Paper was published in March 2024 providing an initial summary of findings from this first round of engagement.

A community reference group was established with 22 community members who attended a series of workshops during April and May 2024. This community reference group explored the broader community feedback in detail, identifying priorities and key actions to sit within the Place Plan, as well as establishing a community vision.

5. What did the community tell us?

The community have told us that they value their strong sense of community and protection of their natural environment. They want to see balanced growth, ensuring improved services and amenities to support a vibrant service centre.

The following themes came from community feedback when asked what they would like to see for the future:

- Well maintained road networks to accommodate increasing traffic and safety concerns, with increased local transport options.
- Accessible community infrastructure in the township, with a strong focus around spaces for young people.
- The town centre is accessible with a pedestrian focus, barriers are minimised, and people are encouraged to visit the centre from surrounding paths and trails.
- Revitalisation of the activity centre adds vibrancy and activation to public spaces, town pride is celebrated through attractive streetscapes, public art, and lighting.
- A strong economy that allows for diversity of business and industry development, providing opportunities for more people to work locally.
- Gaps in services & healthcare provision are filled with particular interest around local emergency healthcare.
- Youth are supported with safe spaces and activities to help them develop and young people are encouraged to stay in the community with diverse training and employment options.
- An attractive town centre and wayfinding encourages tourist travelling through the township to stop and spend time here.
- The natural environment is well cared for and celebrated by community.
- Diverse and affordable housing options in the town centre, developed with a focus on environmentally sustainable design.
- Township infrastructure such as drainage, roads and communications are working well for the whole community.

What did the community tell us?

The top five priority areas are outlined in the following table.

What is important from the research?	**What have we learnt from Community?**	**What will Council do?** *Directions*	**What will this deliver?** *Benefits*	**What is influential?** *Principles*
Culture & Character	Community value their connections in the township and to the natural environment. They appreciate the towns role as a service centre and would like to ensure services and infrastructure are accommodate for future growth.	Develop a Township Design Framework to establish design guidelines that support the revitalisation of the town and embrace the towns culture and character. Raise the profile of highly valued natural assets, ensuring ongoing protection is balanced with sustainable development of the town.	A connected and proud community, with integrated community spaces that support activity and inclusion. Diversity in housing that allows for young people and the ageing to remain in place. Ongoing protection of the natural assets that are so important to community.	▸ Culture, community & service needs ▸ Transport, movement, public space & infrastructure ▸ Future land use & development

What is important from the research?	What have we learnt from Community?	What will Council do? *Directions*	What will this deliver? *Benefits*	What is influential? *Principles*
Transport and Accessibility	Community is concerned about safe and accessible movement around the town centre. They are concerned that current infrastructure can not cater for growth in the area.	Design a pedestrian focused town centre, as well as exploring opportunities to advance delivery of missing links in footpaths leading into town. Design a pedestrian focused town centre, as well as exploring opportunities to advance delivery of missing links in footpaths leading into town. Undertake a traffic and parking review of the township. This includes assessment of current parking occupancy, and travel behaviours, investigating opportunities to reduce demand in the centre of town and explore a local network solution that may move through traffic and heavy vehicles around the town centre.	An accessible and safer town to get around with a strong pedestrian focus, quality roads and public transport infrastructure.	▸ Transport, movement, public space & infrastructure ▸ Future land use & development

What is important from the research?	What have we learnt from Community?	What will Council do? *Directions*	What will this deliver? *Benefits*	What is influential? *Principles*
Community Infrastructure	Current community infrastructure is not meeting community expectations, with a lack of understanding of what or where facilities are. There is a strong desire for accessible community spaces that encourage activation and connection as well as spaces that better cater for youth.	Complete a Community Infrastructure Options study to understand the current state of community facilities and guide direction of the Township Design Framework. Provide opportunities for youth involvement in the development of spaces to ensure positive relationships with the spaces.	A connected community with strong sense of belonging, activating quality community spaces. Infrastructure and facilities that better service the community.	▸ Culture, community & service needs ▸ Transport, movement, public space & infrastructure ▸ Future land use & development
Partnerships	Being the service centre for the Upper Yarra area, there is a strong desire to fill gaps in health and social services. There are opportunities for groups, business and services to work better together to achieve positive outcomes for community, and there is an ongoing need for community to remain resilient to emergencies.	Support the development of a Township Group. Advocate for the improvement of health and social services in Yarra Junction, as well as the connection of current services to improve referral and service needs. Continue to support community preparedness programs and develop accessible and sustainable community infrastructure.	A resilient and connected community that works together towards a shared vision. Stronger health and social services network that supports the needs of community.	▸ Culture, community & service needs ▸ Future land use & development

What is important from the research?	What have we learnt from Community?	What will Council do? *Directions*	What will this deliver? *Benefits*	What is influential? *Principles*
Business & Employment	Increase tourist visitation from trails networks and affirming the town as a destination. Providing opportunities for creative and light industry growth.	Focus on wayfinding, walkability and visual connection of the town centre to the trails network in the Township Design Framework. Identifying potential land or abandoned buildings that could be appropriate for creative or light industry growth.	Yarra Junction has increased opportunity to prosper as the town grows with a more diverse and sustainable economy.	▸ Economic prosperity ▸ Future land use & development

6. A Plan for Action

Priority 1 – Culture and Character

Action 1.1 – Develop township identity and character

Establish design guidelines to support revitalisation of the town centre and encourage pedestrian focused movement. Establish a strong connection to place through celebrating the Indigenous and European history of the area. Explore opportunities to develop the town identity in partnership with young people with a focus on community art projects.

Action 1.2 – Natural environment

Continue to celebrate and protect our natural assets, such as the Yarra River, ensuring balanced planning and development of the township that is sensitive to the natural environment and considers Environmentally Sustainable Design.

Action 1.3 – Promotion of service centre

Identify and promote community services and groups in the Upper Yarra, to ensure the community understands the services available to them. Support community events that promote health and wellbeing services, creative industries, and local business.

Action 1.4 – Sustainable development

Explore opportunities to increase housing diversity in the activity centre, ensuring that preservation of the natural environment is balanced with community needs in planning & development. Promote engagement opportunities for the local community on the Green Wedge Management Plan Review. Include design guidelines for built form and streetscapes that can be translated into Planning Scheme provisions and updates.

Benefits

- Increased activity in the town centre, creating a more vibrant environment and improved perceptions of safety
- Improves health and wellbeing, and develops connections across community
- Values and sustains our natural assets
- Increases a sense of belonging and pride of place in community
- Allowing for balanced development to accommodate growing community
- Diversity in housing that supports the young and ageing to remain in place

Priority 2 – Transport and Accessibility

Action 2.1 – Prioritise pedestrian movement

Prioritise pedestrian movement in the centre of the township with a focus on accessibility, safety and traffic management. Identify and deliver missing connections to the pedestrian network. Advocate to State Government for the addition of pedestrian crossings and traffic conditioning treatments to increase pedestrian safety.

Action 2.2 – Road maintenance & safety

Complete a traffic safety review of the activity centre and respond to identified safety hot spots with lighting, turning lanes, pedestrian crossings, and traffic conditioning treatments. Introduction of longer lasting maintenance treatments on local roads.

Action 2.3 – Transport reliability and safety

Partner with the State Government to develop innovative solutions that increase local access to, frequency and safety of public transport. Explore the opportunity for local transport services such as a Flexi Bus network.

Action 2.4 – Road network improvements

Explore a local network solution that provides alternate transport routes for large trucks and through traffic to move congestion out of the main activity centre and can alleviate traffic pressure during events and emergencies.

Action 2.5 – Parking

Develop a Yarra Junction Parking and Traffic Strategy that identifies adequate accessible and short-term parking solutions in the heart of the activity centre, and identifies a program of short, medium and long term projects for delivery.

Benefits

- Increase pedestrian and driver safety
- Reduces car dependence and congestion
- Improves accessibility for all of community
- Supports positive travel experiences for locals and visitors
- Encourage active transport and walkability
- Removes barriers that have traditionally divided the town centre
- Provides reliable movement in times of an emergency

Priority 3 – Community Infrastructure

Action 3.1 – Community infrastructure

Complete a community infrastructure review and consider the consolidation of community facilities. Establish design guidelines that include a focus on accessibility, integration of services, resilience and intergenerational spaces.

Action 3.2 – Township Design Framework

Development of a Township Design Framework, responding to the identified priorities in the Place Plan. This framework will interrogate design of built form, public realm and movement, providing a clear design intent for the township that can be used for attracting funding for individual projects.

Action 3.3 – Positive activation of public spaces

Identify design solutions and a series of projects to be delivered, that focus on reimagining public spaces to encourage positive activation through sensitive development, landscaping, public art, and lighting. Develop accessible community spaces that support a diverse range of community activities that are inclusive to all abilities and ages.

Action 3.4 - Youth focused public spaces

In partnership with young people, plan the development of youth focused spaces and potential youth activations to encourage positive relationships with the spaces.

Benefits

- Protect and enrich the character of Yarra Junction
- Encourages a vibrant and connected community
- Improve accessibility and support inclusion
- Better services the community allowing for integration of services and activities
- Increased sense of belonging for youth
- Opportunities for intergenerational connections and increased community activities and events

Priority 4 – Partnerships

Action 4.1 – Health & support services

Advocate for a strengthened local healthcare network benefiting all community members in Yarra Junction and surrounding townships. Providing comprehensive care, including medical, social, and emergency services as well as homelessness, mental health & substance abuse supports. Focusing on filling gaps in service provision and improving cross-service referrals.

Action 4.2 – Emergency resilience

Encourage emergency resilience in community by ensuring ongoing support to community preparedness programs and planning resilient community infrastructure focusing on communication and accessibility.

Advocate to local authorities for increased visible presence in the activity centre.

Action 4.3 – Township group

Support community in the development of a Township Group with representatives from community groups, clubs, businesses, Council, agencies and schools, that can ensure strong communication within the township and work together with a shared vision.

Action 4.4 – Youth focused support & initiatives

Develop youth focused community spaces in partnership with young people, while working with agencies to encourage youth focused programs to support out-of-school supervision, development opportunities and safety.

Benefits

- Stronger health outcomes for community
- A prepared and resilient community that can respond to emergencies
- Better supports for the development and safety of our youth
- A connected community working towards a shared vision
- Ensure those who need support can access it when required

Priority 5 – Business and Employment Opportunities

Action 5.1 – Balanced tourism development

Support balanced tourism development including exploring ways to increase visitation from the users of the trails network. Explore funding opportunities to develop a business case for the introduction of a visitor information centre, which may include social enterprise or maker spacers to support the development of local industry.

Action 5.2 – Industry Development

Explore opportunities to future proof areas of industrial land for the development of local light industry. Encourage the development of small business and industry through small business grants, maker spaces or workspaces.

Action 5.3 – Development of the retail/ hospitality sector

Encourage the revitalisation of the retail and hospitality sector, ensuring a focus on pedestrian movement and accessibility in the activity centre and encouraging public spaces that invite positive activation and build township character through outdoor dining, public art and lighting solutions.

Action 5.4 – Opportunities for young people

In partnership with young people, explore opportunities to respond to barriers keeping young adults from staying in Yarra Junction, including diversity in training and employment opportunities, lack of nightlife and public transport options.

Benefits

- Supports the local economy and promotes industry growth
- Increases day and night-time street activity in the town centre
- Increases local employment opportunities
- Builds the confidence of future generations to stay and thrive in Yarra Junction
- Supports a more diverse and resilient economy and community
- Encourages opportunities to increase potential benefits from tourism

7. Bringing the Place Plan to life

As a 20 year plan, the actions signal strategic intent for Yarra Junction and surrounds.

These key next steps will ensure the Place Plan progresses towards the delivery of real projects and community outcomes:

1. **Adoption**

   Yarra Junction Place Plan adopted by Council and aligned to delivery of key strategies actions included in Council's annual Corporate Action Plan.

2. **Township Design Framework**

   A Township Design Framework to be developed to translate the principles into actual designs and projects prepared for delivery.

3. **Quick wins**

   Solutions that can be readily delivered will be designed and costed in order to seek funding for construction.

4. **Annual Action Plan**

   The Actions will be integrated into Council's annual business and project planning with specific actions allocated to department and teams for delivery.

5. **Review**

   The Yarra Junction Place Plan will be reviewed and evaluated over time to ensure it is current, relevant and adapted to any changes that have arisen.

8. How will we measure progress?

Progress will include completion of physical works and positive outcomes for the Yarra Junction community, the town and natural environment. Re-collecting data once the Place Plan is under way will tell us what has been done and how effective the actions have been.

Measuring changes in economic performance

- Compare local economic profile to baseline data
- Targets
  - Increased economic activity within the activity centre
  - Increased employment opportunities for young people

Measuring changes in cultural environment

- Increased public expressions of cultural identity including events and public art
- Targets
  - Increase in community events and activations of public space

Measuring changes in traffic

- Compare traffic movement and safety compared to base line traffic review data
- Targets
  - Decrease in speed and congestion in the activity centre

Measuring changes in transport networks and environment

- Compare use of public and active transport with baseline data
- Targets
  - 20 per cent increase in the number of people walking past the same locations after major capital works are completed
  - 10 per cent increase in the number of people using public transport in Yarra Junction

Appendix A: Yarra Junction Snapshot

The following overview of Yarra Junction has been arranged around the five Principles of Place (*See section 1. What is a Place Plan?*)

Culture, community & service needs

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

Yarra Junction has experienced 25% growth over the past 10 years. (2021 census data indicates a population of 2,875 people compared to 2,297 people in 2011).

25%

43

MEDIAN AGE

A large percentage of people in the 1–14 years old and 70–74 years old age groups, with a median age of 43 years old (slightly higher than the Greater Melbourne median age of 37).

60+

HIGH LEVEL

High level of residents aged 60 plus, with concerns around housing diversity and services to allow people to age in place.

Growing concern about the limited opportunities for young people, including a lack of activities, lack of transport options and limited employment opportunities.

HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND INCOME

Yarra Junction currently has only a small supply of developable residential land, with an existing demand for smaller dwelling types.

A high level of one parent families and people living alone; and a low level of married or de facto couples.

WEEKLY INCOME

The median weekly household income is $1,302, lower than the Yarra Ranges median weekly household income of $1,881.

SOCIAL ISSUES AND SERVICE PROVISION

There is growing concern about the social and emotional well being of young people in Yarra Junction and the limited support services available to them locally.

Yarra Junction is recognised as the service centre for the broader Upper Yarra area.

SERVICE CENTRE

REQUIRING SUPPORT

Services have noted an increase in people with financial hardship and homelessness requiring support.

Anti-social behaviour, drug use and drinking culture were raised as concerns by community.

HERITAGE AND CHARACTER

There is a strong desire to tell Heritage (Indigenous and European) stories to shape place.

Yarra Junction has traditionally provided emergency support to surrounding townships in the Upper Yarra area.

The areas Natural Assets, such as the rivers and surrounding hills and bushland, are highly valued by community.

HIGHLY VALUED

Appendix A: Yarra Junction Snapshot

Economic prosperity & wellbeing

TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

TOP THREE PROFESSIONS

Top three professions held by residents of Yarra Junction:

21% working as Technicians and Trades Workers

14% working as Community and Personal Service Workers

13% working as Clerical and Administrative Workers

VERY LOW LEVEL

Very low level of residents attending or have attended tertiary education – 10.5%

10.5%

25% of households have an income of less than $650 per week

$650 PER WEEK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

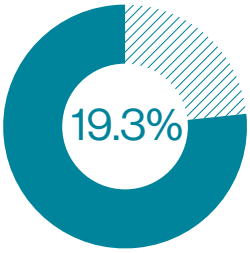
Trade workers are the predominant workforce in this area, many of these workers are travelling out of the region for their daily work.

The largest sector for economic output in Yarra Junction is the Health Care and Social Assistance sector.

The township does not currently take advantage of the economic benefits available from the regions increased tourism.

The town's role as an employment hub has declined since the 1970's, with the slowing of local industry.

HOUSING



74% of households in Yarra Junction were purchasing or fully owned their home, with **19.3% of owners** paying more than 30% of their income on their mortgage.

LIMITED RENTAL STOCK

There is very limited rental stock available in the area.

There is limited diversity in the housing available, creating pressures on young people and the ageing population.

13.7% of households in Yarra Junction were renting privately, with **45.2% of renters** paying more than 30% of their income on rent.

45.2% PAYING 30% OR MORE OF INCOME ON RENT

Appendix A: Yarra Junction Snapshot

Integrated movement & spatial networks

ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

WARBURTON HIGHWAY

The Warburton Highway acts as a barrier for movement around the town centre.

Community would like to see pedestrian movement prioritised in the town centre.

Limited public transport service provision and infrequency of bus services.

Accessibility around the centre is very poor, with narrow and inconsistent paths.

VERY POOR

Increasing traffic is causing concern to community in terms of safety and emergency management.

PUBLIC SPACE ACTIVATION

The town is lacking a central community space that connects community events with the activity centre.

Safety is a concern for some, particularly lighting, passive surveillance, and activity at night.

The activity centre lacks appeal and requires revitalisation.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

The township value the visual connection to the natural environment.

ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC SPACES

Community would like accessible public spaces that support community events and activity.

PARKING

Community is concerned about the quality of parking options around the activity centre.

There is requests for more accessible and short term parking options in centre.

Parking on Warburton Highway limits line of site and creates safety hazards.

Appendix A: Yarra Junction Snapshot

Future-oriented land use & development

ACCESS AND MOVEMENT

There are dormant sites and undeveloped Special Use Zone sites in Yarra Junction that if activated would bring economy, energy and improved access to services.

OPPORTUNITIES

Some would like to see opportunities for creative and light industry development.

VIBRANCY ON THE STREETS

Community would like to see more vibrancy on the streets, particularly with outdoor dining options to increase a nighttime economy.

COUNCIL ASSETS

There are many ageing Council facilities fragmented across the township.

The Yarra Centre is highly valued by community, who would like to see further investment in this facility with particular focus on a warm water pool.

SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Many community members do not know what services and activities run in Council owned facilities in town.

Leadership & governance

COMMUNITY

There is a perception of lack of communication or co-operation amongst community groups and clubs in Yarra Junction.

The natural environment is highly valued by community and needs continued protection.

RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

Council is committed to supporting Community Resilience programs to ensure preparedness for emergencies.

NEW INVESTMENT AND ADVOCACY

Council will continue to explore opportunities to encourage new investment in the area.

Tourism visitor numbers are expected to increase.

Community would like to see balanced growth.

BALANCED GROWTH

Council will continue with State Government advocacy for roads and infrastructure to accommodate increased population.

Glossary

Accessibility – The ease of reaching destinations. Highly accessible locations, enable a person, regardless of age, ability or income, to reach many activities or destinations quickly. People in places with low accessibility can reach fewer places in the same amount of time.

Activity centre – Activity centres are a focus for services, shopping, employment and social interaction. They are where people meet, relax, work and often live. Usually well-served by public transport, they range in size and mix of uses from local strip shopping centres to traditional town centres and major regional centres.

Aesthetic – Urban aesthetics refers to the way we perceive, asses and feel about towns and cities. This can include the buildings, the use of space, the overall population density. Urban aesthetics includes both the appearance (beauty) and the functionality (accessibility, services, etc.).

Affordable housing – Housing that is appropriate for the needs of a range of low to moderate income households, and priced so these households are able to meet their other essential basic living costs.

Collaboration – The action of working together to achieve something.

Community Infrastructure – Infrastructure provided in the public domain for community use, which is generally maintained by Council. This could range from facilities or parks through to park benches and bins.

Governance – The system by which something is controlled or operates, and the way in which authorities or people are responsible for something.

Neighbourhood activity centres – Local centres that provide access to local goods, services and employment opportunities and serve the needs of the surrounding community.

Land use – The purpose for which the land has been or is being or may be developed. The activity on the land.

Precinct – The designated area of a town highlighted due to similar land uses or defined by major edges including roads, rivers, or land uses.

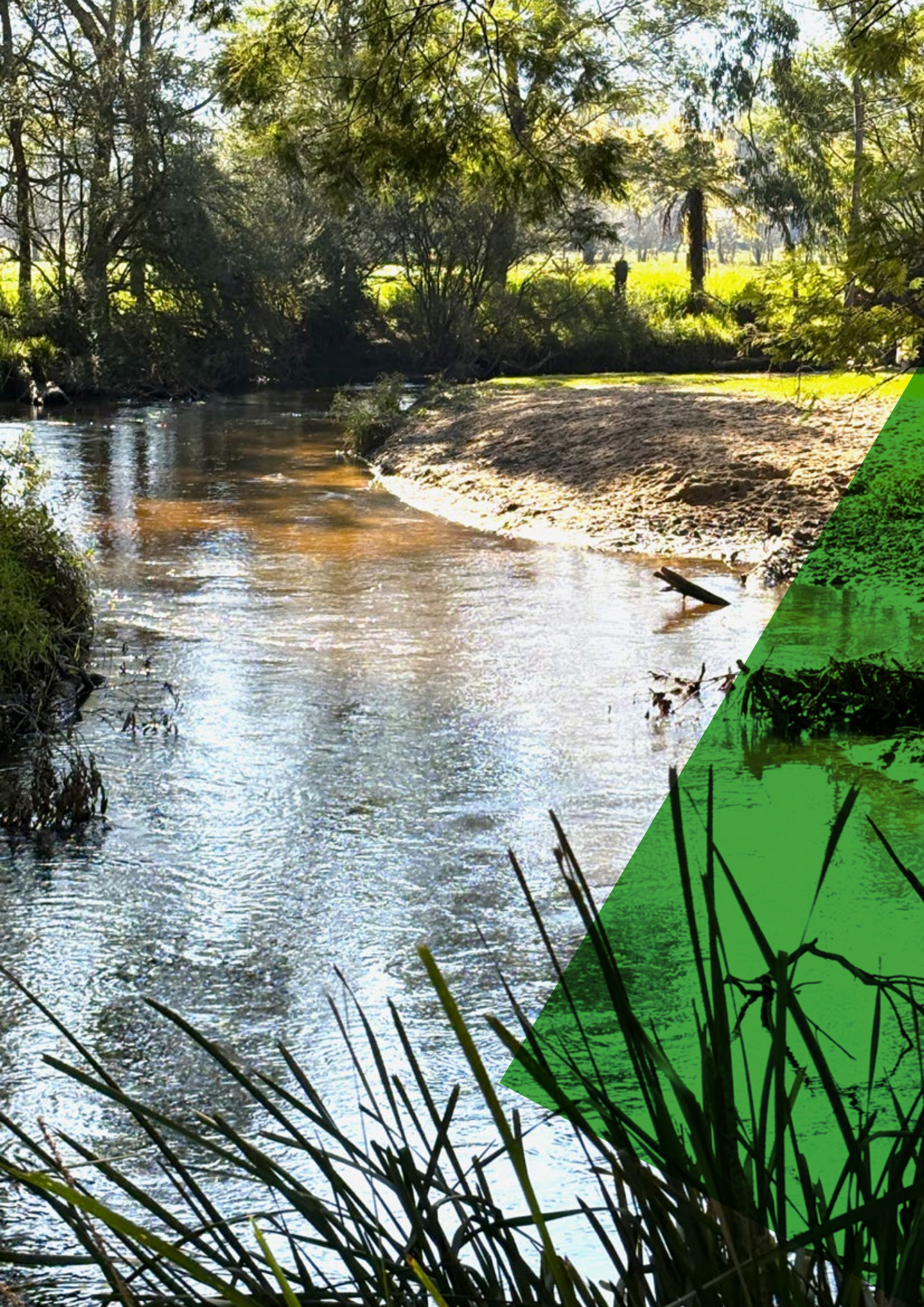
Stewardship – The job of supervising or taking care of something, in the context of Place Planning this may include working towards a shared vision established to achieve a thriving community.

Subdivision – The act of subdivision means the division of a land parcel into two or more parts. It is also a term used for the resulting pattern of blocks and lots, and streets.

Traffic calming – Devices, such as speed humps, installed in streets to slow or reduce vehicle traffic and improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists. These measures can slow cars speed to between 15 and 40km per hour.

Vision – Is a statement defining the future priorities for a township or place, it should be aspirational yet realistic. The vision sets a direction, outlining goals and priorities to be worked towards over time.

Priorities – The things that are regarded as the most important.

Quality-of-life – A perception or measure of a community's wellbeing in the context of the place that they live.

Walkability – Walking environments that best balance safety, connection, accessibility and enjoyment.