

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

No	Submission	Summary	Officer Recommendation	Speak to Subm.
1	<p>Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program I'd love to know if the Belmont Ave Upwey drainage improvements are for the entire road or just the Morris Rd end. We have had issues with drainage for 20 years at #10 Belmont (see photo attached) and despite many requests, we only ever get the occasional cleaning up of weeds that have grown over the street drainage. This would be fabulous if we could finally see infrastructure in place to prevent the ongoing drainage problems. Thank you.</p> 	<p>Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Enquiry about the extent of drainage improvements to Belmont Avenue, Upwey and infrastructure for ongoing drainage issues in the area.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding drainage improvements on Belmont Avenue. The scope of the current works are just for the Morris Road end. We have arranged for a crew to attend near your property to clear the open drains and culverts in the area in the short term. Engineers are also looking at drainage improvements to control some of the run off entering your property with some minor works to the current drainage, we will contact you to provide an update on these works over the next few weeks.</p>	No
2	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re : Draft Action Plan</p> <p>While there are many strategies of merit in the 2021-25 Council Plan I believe the risk areas outlined below have been significantly undervalued.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re : Draft Action Plan Increase focus and financial allocation to environmental protection, climate</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the Climate action.</p> <p>I understand your concerns for the future generation, it is a shared concern. Council has recently developed the Liveable Climate Plan, which sets out a strategic</p>	Yes

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	<p>I note that a “Protected and enhanced natural environment” to ensure “A healthier environment for future generations” is one of the council’s five stated strategies yet proportionally accounts for very little in rates expenditure. Do we really rate the future of our children and younger generations that make up a significant percentage of our population so low in importance?</p> <p>In particular I am concerned that fire prevention, conservation and climate change risk mitigation rated so low in priority (given the significantly lesser amount of funding allocated vs other strategic objectives).</p> <p>I am extremely disappointed that Yarra Ranges council is not keeping abreast with other Victorian local councils in giving priority to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - strategies to mitigate climate change risk (education, training, research, planning, renewable energy projects, action to reduce emissions) - bushfire hazard assessment, education and control - optimising environmental health of the area (identify and protect high value habitat / threatened and protected species, educate on compliance with Wildlife Act, incorporate biodiversity protection into planning processes/permits) 	<p>change mitigation risk and bushfire preparedness.</p>	<p>direction in adapting to climate change and also provides solutions in mitigating against the associated risks presented by climate change.</p> <p>This Plan is available on Council’s website along with an action plan that outlines the approach Council will take over the next 10 years. Council has commitments under 10 themed areas of response, from renewable energy to sustainable transport to emergency management programs, along with incorporating the use of firestick treatments in land management.</p> <p>The Liveable Climate Plan has set a net zero emissions target for 2040, with an interim target of 60% reduction by 2025, this is well ahead of the state government target and in line with surrounding municipalities. We also have a renewable energy target of sourcing 100% renewable energy for Council operations by 2030 – which we are on track to achieve by 2022.</p> <p>There are a number of renewable energy groups supported by Council across the municipality, in Healesville, Yarra Glen and Dandenong Ranges. One area we are working on improving is our broad based communication and community webinars.</p> <p>In relation to your query on biodiversity, this year we are developing a Biodiversity Plan which will address biodiversity protection, compliance and provide a strategic approach to ensuring our natural environment not only is preserved but thrives for future generations to protect and enjoy.</p>	

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3	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program I often wonder where our rates go within a particular household. Focus must be on the 3 core activities Rates, Rubbish and Roads. Rubbish has a clear waste action plan but does not heavily impact large properties as they use their waste products within the property. I see little going toward roads which is the sustainable source to venture to all ongoing projects. Many of our roads particularly off main highways are disastrous and see little activity to correct. Even the gateway into Lilydale main street is dangerous. sunken sections with dangerous parking activity at shops. Backing back onto a main road needs to be addressed. I see nothing allocated. I get little for my money in my area as i wake up again to no power and an area that gets an occasional sweep of grass cutting and weed reduction. I would have been hoping for a Rate reduction as many households do council work and especially through a continuing pandemic. Everyone needs to tighten their belt.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Allocation of funding towards the core activities including roads, rates and rubbish.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>We note your comments regarding roads off main highways and request that you provide a little more detail so that we can arrange for a crew to inspect and rectify any issues. The sunken section of Lilydale main street you reported has been referred to Department of Transport for an inspection as they manage the main roads in our municipality. If there are other specific locations and issues you are concerned with, we would encourage you to please contact our customer service team on 1300 368 333 or mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au so that we can inspect and action as required.</p> <p>As an outcome of the 2019 Federal election, Yarra Ranges was fortunate to receive \$150 million in funding support for the upgrading of unmade local roads across the Dandenongs and urban areas of townships in the municipality. Through this funding approximately 180 kms of local roads will be constructed with funding support also sought from landowners that benefit from the works. The construction of these roads will provide significant improvements to the liveability of the communities benefiting from the works. More information is available on this program on Council’s website by searching Roads for the Community.</p>	No
4	<p>Re: Draft Budget If the Yarra centre pool is/has banned diving, please provide money to build a diving pool, and waterslide. How will our kids learn to dive without this (the river is not safe).</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Request to allocate funding for a diving pool</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The decision not to allow casual diving is in line with Life Saving Victoria industry safety guidelines and is</p>	No

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		and water slide at the Yarra Centre.	<p>consistently applied across all aquatic facilities in Victoria.</p> <p>Learn to swim instructors and swim clubs provide specialist supervised diving for learning and competitive purposes.</p> <p>There are no plans to build a separate specialised diving pool at the Yarra Centre due to lack of demand, high construction and ongoing operational costs (water, filtration, chemicals and separate staffing requirements).</p>	
5	<p>Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Renewal/rebuild of Mooroolbark Terrace shopping centre.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Renewal/rebuild of Mooroolbark Terrace shopping centre.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>In 2011 a long term structure plan was developed for Mooroolbark activity centre that will guide future transformation of the area.</p> <p>The plan is available on Yarra Ranges website https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public/webdocuments/build-develop/build-develop-other/clause_22.09_mooroolbark_activity_centre_structure_plan_march_2011.pdf</p> <p>This plan identifies the site as an urban renewal opportunity for the land owners to delivery extensive refurbishment of the shopping centre or redevelopment with mixed use outcomes as an important part of creating a vibrant and refreshed town centre. Given the centre is not Council-owned we can only advocate and seek to apply controls for the site.</p> <p>Over the past 12 months Council has sought to influence the landowners to commence a</p>	No

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			<p>redevelopment of the site, however to date this has not yielded meaningful plans. Council will continue to explore avenues to see this property redeveloped to contribute positively to the activity and amenity of Mooroolbark, and will work through the program of revitalising its town centres through a coordinated renewal and improvement of community assets.</p>	
6	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Cut the capital works budget further and postpone unnecessary capital works. I don't want to see my waste fees increase either, especially if council can't negotiate with the state in our best interests. Cut out all the weird advocacy propoganda you spout and focus on the essentials.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Request to reduce further capital works, prevent any waste fee increase and advocate for essential community needs.</p>	<p>Thank you for providing feedback on the Council Plan and budget.</p> <p>The Council has a considerable number of competing demands for services and infrastructure and endeavours to prioritise needs as best as possible on an annual basis. Next years budget has been successful in securing a significant amount of external funding and support for infrastructure reducing the amount of Council funding required to renew and improve our community assets.</p> <p>All capital projects are evaluated to ensure that projects with community value and benefits are prioritised.</p> <p>In response to your waste request, Council's waste charges are based on full cost recovery of the services which includes CPI increases on contracts and increases in the State Governments EPA Landfill levy which has increased substantially this year.</p> <p>The Council is also developing an advocacy framework to help prioritise any advocacy work done to ensure the views and priorities of the community are represented.</p>	No

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7	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>I am concerned about the council plan direction "Build community resilience by working together to achieve effective emergency planning and preparedness with a focus on bushfire. This will include the development a firestick program across public, private land and local training hubs." I am not sure that Firestick should be treated as a bushfire risk reduction program, I thought it was more about returning country to a healthy condition. Referring to Firestick as fuel reduction will set us up to fail, as the treatment does very little to reduce total fuel load. Perhaps this should be discussed with the MEMPC or MFPC at Council before locking it in.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Request to ensure the Firestick program is discussed with MEMPC or MFPC at Council before finalising</p>	<p>Thank you for providing feedback on the Council Plan and budget.</p> <p>In response to this submission we will change the action wording to more accurately reflect our intention.</p> <p><i>"Build community resilience by working together to achieve greater emergency planning and preparedness with a focus on building community capacity as well as traditional cultural burning practices. This will include the development a firestick program across public, private land and local training hubs".</i></p> <p>For Councillor noting: To clarify the term 'local training hubs' is referring to a number of pilot sites for this project.</p>	No
8	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Absolutely oppose to a rate rise, we already pay one of the highest rates in the outer suburbs. Yes 2020 is behind us but 2021 is still recovering. Financially so many families are still struggling, ours included, my husband is on half his usual wage as there is simply minimal work in the event / function industry. Give us all a break and hold off until workers return to normal.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Opposed to rate increase</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges over the next four years.</p> <p>Following last year's general rates 'Covid Credit', under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most</p>	No

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			<p>ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year.</p> <p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p>	
9	<p>Re: Draft Budget PLEASE..do not agree to a rate rise this year. Our rates are already so expensive and many are still suffering the financial damage of COVID. Things are the toughest weve faced in 35 years of family home ownership.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Request for no rate increase</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges over the next four years.</p> <p>Following last year’s general rates ‘Covid Credit’, under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year.</p> <p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief</p>	No

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			options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.	
10	<p>Re: Draft Budget No to 1.5 % rate increase.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Request for no rate increase of 1.5%.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges over the next four years.</p> <p>Following last year’s general rates ‘Covid Credit’, under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year.</p> <p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p>	No
11	<p>Re: Draft Budget This is not the time for a rate increase. Many in the community are struggling already. Please show some compassion and freeze rates during this difficult time.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Request for no rates to be frozen.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be</p>	No

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			<p>able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges over the next four years.</p> <p>Following last year’s general rates ‘Covid Credit’, under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year.</p> <p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p>	
12	<p>Re: Draft Budget We have all been impacted by the corona virus pandemic, yet Yarra Ranges Council is intending to increase rates next year! Rates in the Shire are already too high. Please reconsider the budget and live within your means.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Request for no rate increase</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges over the next four years.</p> <p>Following last year’s general rates ‘Covid Credit’, under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most</p>	No

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13	<p>Re: Draft Budget I oppose a rate hike for 2021 to 2022 on the grounds that many families and businesses are still in recovery from Covid 19.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Opposed to no rate increase</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges over the next four years.</p> <p>Following last year’s general rates ‘Covid Credit’, under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year.</p> <p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief</p>	No

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			options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.	
14a	<p>Re: Draft Budget RE: Draft Action Plan Council had indicated at a council meeting I spoke to that it would consider including a statement on the Value of History which could be summarized as follows: History shapes our identities, engages us as citizens, creates inclusive communities, is part of our economic well-being, teaches us to think critically and creatively, inspires leaders and is the foundation of our future generations. (Council Minutes November 26, 2019 pg 2)</p> <p>Budget 2.1 Strategic objective 1: connected and healthy communities Pg 20 your pg 18 So glad to see the staff recognize the community sees arts, culture and heritage as separate things. Well done Yarra Ranges.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget RE: Draft Action Plan Providing feedback on several areas, with specific request to complete Lilydale Structure Plan and play equipment at Ron Noble Reserve.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission. The statement on the Value of History will be included in the Council Plan 2021-25 that is currently under development. A draft version is anticipated to go out for public consultation in August 2021.</p>	Yes
14b	<p>2.2 Strategic objective 2: quality infrastructure and liveable places Pg 24 (your pg 22) 8. Aquatics. Why is the maintenance of aquatic facilities to cost \$2.023m yet there is no income set against it?</p>		<p>The running and maintenance of Aquatic facilities is externally contracted, at a set contractual annual fee. All income received goes directly to the contractor to cover costs of maintaining and running the facilities. If the income exceeds the net cost a proportion is returned to Council. This has not occurred in the duration of the contract.</p>	-

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14c	<p>2.3 Strategic objective 3: protected and enhanced natural environment</p> <p>2.4 Strategic objective 4: vibrant economy, agriculture and tourism</p> <p>Why are the services listed and the budget for 2.3 and 2.4 exactly the same?</p>		We identified the error of duplicating services in the budget in the table 2.3 and 2.4. The error has been rectified and updated copies of the budget were made available online and distributed to the Community Links.	-
14d	<p>2.3 Strategic objective 3: protected and enhanced natural environment</p> <p>pg 29 (your pg 27)</p> <p>1. This is at last a welcome recognition of heritage tourism and I'll watch to see just how committed the council and the tourism board. Well done Yarra Ranges.</p>		Your positive comments have been noted.	-
14e	<p>Pg 33 (your pg 31)</p> <p>Item 13 Capital works and strategic asset management. If there is no income and no expenditure why include this in the budget?</p>		In answer to your query regarding Item 13 under High Performing Organisation, you are correct that there is no expense or income being recorded under this objective for this service. There is actual spend and income recorded under Strategic Objective 2. Thank you for pointing out this duplication and it will be removed from the final document.	-
14f	<p>Council Action Plan</p> <p>The table of contents on page 2 does not list Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment which is on pg9.</p>		Noted	-
14g	<p>Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places</p> <p>Item 7: Lilydale structure Plan.</p> <p>I would like to see actual acknowledgement of the history of first peoples and European heritage actually listed in the</p>		Council officers have been reviewing and developing the Yarra Ranges Reconciliation Action Plan and have proposed an action to investigate adoption of the Indigenous Design Charter which outlines effective strategies to engage with Indigenous groups and	-

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	<p>actions. While it is in the Issues paper it is not actually mentioned in the action nor in the The desired Community Outcome column.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u> My Suggestion: Complete the Lilydale Structure Plan and incorporate key actions into the Planning Scheme through an amendment to provide clear direction of future land use, heritage protection, urban design, transport and access and landscaping forms for Lilydale.</p> <p><u>The desired Community Outcome</u> Fostering investment and local employment while telling the first peoples and European stories of Lilydale to ensure the preservation and enhancement of the character of Lilydale.</p> <p>10. Plan, facilitate and develop urban renewal projects Ensuring alignment with Council’s place making objectives of encouraging a vibrant, attractive, sustainable, healthy and connected community and recognizing its rich heritage.</p> <p>Please note in 9 and 10 there is no mention of heritage which, is already generating a lot of income, economic activity and tourism into Yarra Ranges. Something which seems to be missing.</p> <p>In the Place Plan itself the first of the five themes is: Culture Community and Service Needs.</p> <p>One of its aspirations for the future is: celebration of history and future (see pg7 of the Lilydale Place Plan)</p>		<p>develop projects that are meaningfully responding to the cultural values and priorities of the community. We look forward to progressing this over the coming year, however it is yet to be adopted by Council.</p> <p>With regards to European Heritage, the importance of heritage is highlighted in the Creative Communities Strategies and relevant action will be delivered as part of the implementation of this strategy.</p> <p>The Draft Lilydale Structure Plan will be ready for exhibition over the next couple of months. Once updated and adopted it would progress to a Planning Scheme Amendment as an important embedding of the outcomes. This would be a good candidate for inclusion in a four year Council Plan given the duration of Amendments, with only a minor edit of your suggestion as follows:</p> <p><i>Complete the Lilydale Structure Plan and incorporate key outcomes into the Planning Scheme through a Planning Scheme Amendment.</i></p> <p>Thank you for your suggestions, and we will consider these additional actions through the finalisation process.</p>	

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	<p>This may be implied in 7 and 10 but it should be clearly stated and recognized and by history we must be clear it is First Peoples and European history, their knowledge and stories.</p> <p>Fascinatingly, the only mention of heritage in the Council Action plan is on pg8 – Lilydale Heritage station. Also, the word Culture which council staff interpret as including heritage is not mentioned in the Action Plan.</p>			
14h	<p>On another note:</p> <p>Can council staff advise me as to whether or not there is funds in the budget to upgrade the two pieces of play equipment at Ron Noble Reserve. This is only a small reserve but is passed by thousands of vehicles everyday and to say the equipment is tired is an understatement?</p>		<p>With the Melba Park district level play space only 200m away, the play space at Ron Noble Reserve is scheduled to be closed as part of Council's adopted Play Space Plan.</p> <p>As with all Council assets, maintenance is scheduled regularly and staff will investigate as to whether a refresh of this equipment is appropriate in the meantime, but no new equipment is scheduled to be installed.</p>	-

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15a	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Submission content pasted below – attachment 1.</p> <p>Major Initiatives Work with the Indigenous community to become a culturally and environmentally sensitive world class trails and eco-tourism destination through project development, delivery, advocacy and partnerships, including the delivery of the Rivers and Ridges projects.</p> <p>Collaborate with the Wurundjeri Land Council to ensure the plants, animals and ecologies of Yarra Ranges that our community value so much, and that are a vital part of the cultural traditions and Indigenous Knowledge Systems of Wurundjeri Peoples, are supported and retained alongside us, in healthy landscapes by preparing and implementing a Biodiversity Plan that provides renewed focus for Council, the community, and partners.</p> <p>Research methods of cat management in other shires to protect wildlife eg Canberra now enforces all new cats to be registered as indoor cats only. Be willing to make brave choices for struggling wildlife.</p> <p>Build community resilience by working together to achieve effective emergency planning and preparedness with a focus on bushfire. This will include the development a firestick program across public, private land and local training hubs. Needs to specify if the firestick farming method is Aboriginal cultural burn program.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Provides suggestions/additions on various initiatives in Draft Action Plan.</p>	<p>On projects of such magnitude Council is committed to work with a wide range of stakeholders including business, not-for-profits, land managers, and importantly local communities.</p> <p>This is the same in our approach to the development of our Biodiversity plan. The Wurundjeri Land Council is a important partner and will be one of many important stakeholders we work with to establish the best plan for the future.</p> <p>In response to this submission we will change the action wording to more accurately reflect our intention.</p> <p><i>“Build community resilience by working together to achieve greater emergency planning and preparedness with a focus on building community capacity as well as traditional cultural burning practices. This will include the development a firestick program across public, private land and local training hubs”.</i></p>	Yes
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15b	<p>Connected and Healthy Communities A much healthier community overall with a focus in areas including: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health • Physical activity • Social Recovery • Climate change and impacts on health • Reduce harm from alcohol. • Health impacts of emergencies • GenderEquity • Racial equity • Age equity 		<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the request to include a focus of racial equity and age equity into the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>Council has a cultural diversity policy that focuses on ethnic diversity. The principles of equity are applied throughout the Health and Wellbeing Plan and in each of the priority areas..</p> <p>As the development of the Health and Wellbeing Plan has been occurring concurrently with the development of the Council Plan, we recommend an updated reflection of the focus areas of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health • Physical activity • Social Recovery • Climate change and impacts on health • Reduce harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs • Health impacts of emergencies • Preventing Violence Against Women and Children <p>Within the Health and Wellbeing Plan a commitment by Council to the principles of equity and inclusion and consideration of intersectionality: gender equity, disability, cultural diversity, age and LGBTIQ+.</p> <p>Intersectionality is the complex, cumulative way in which the effects of multiple forms of discrimination, based on personal identity, combine or intersect, especially in the experiences of marginalised individuals or groups.</p>	

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15c	<p>Update the Aquatics Strategy to strategically plan for the provision of aquatic facilities across the municipality that are inclusive, sustainable, well designed and positioned to improve community health and wellness. Accessible (disability, age, race, socio-economic factors)</p>		<p>Thanks for your budget submission question on Aquatics.</p> <p>All new Council buildings are designed to current standards for accessibility compliance. Through high quality building design, we aim to ensure all user groups feel welcome, can access buildings and have the opportunity to use facilities.</p> <p>Under the current contract with Belgravia Leisure and through aquatics programming, we have introduced a number of industry leading initiatives to encourage participation in user groups often under-represented in aquatics activities.</p> <p>As significant Council assets, accessibility and good building design that welcomes the community will be at the forefront of any changes made to Aquatics facility provision. This, combined with strong programming that encourages participation, particularly from under-represented groups, will continue to be a focus moving forward to help improve the health and well-being outcomes for all our community.</p>	
15d	<p>Quality Infrastructure and Liveable Places</p> <p>Amend the planning scheme by using the outcomes of the reviewed Housing Strategy to ensure housing needs of the community are met, new housing is well designed, provides for housing choice and improve neighbourhood character outcomes in residential areas. Implement a zero-homelessness policy including action plan for homelessness.</p>		<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Council is supportive of enabling vulnerable groups to find stable, appropriate and safe housing options.</p> <p>While we are unable to control the legislation to be able to commit to achieving the zero homelessness, we are able to influence policy and investigate options for</p>	

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	<p>Assess current housing requirements for victims of domestic violence and develop a support framework that fast-tracks housing options for vulnerable women and children.</p>		<p>partnering and facilitation of projects that may progress solutions.</p> <p>We would recommend two separate actions to complement the existing Housing Strategy review action to align with your suggestion, as follows:</p> <p>Facilitate affordable housing outcomes for those most in need including women and children experiencing homelessness as a result of family violence. Continue Council’s partnership and advocacy work to end homelessness through the Charter of Local Governments initiative and advocate for increased social housing through the Eastern Affordable Housing Alliance.</p> <p>We believe these will be our most effective avenues to make an impact on this community need.</p>	
15e	<p>Protected and Enhanced Natural Environment Deliver actions of the Urban Tree Canopy Strategy and deliver the parks and reserves improvement program to enhance amenity, access and participation in public spaces and places. A pro-active management of Tree Canopy where it exists on private land and especially trees vulnerable to removal through urban development and agricultural clearing pressures. Actions: Ensure Council has in place necessary resources, policy and penalty system to manage unlawful tree removal.</p>		<p>Your comments will be reflected upon as the review of the Urban Tree Canopy Strategy occurs. In relation to the waste comment, I provide the following: I don’t think a change is required here, as this is about ensuring resources to deliver the plan, and the suggested inclusion would be more suited within the waste plan where weCouncil will be documenting the ethos and objectives on how to achieve the details within the plan.</p>	

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

No	Submission	Summary	Officer Recommendation	Speak to Subm.
	<p>Assess current tree removal permit policy, practices and procedures.</p> <p>Dedicate appropriate resources to ensure the Municipal Waste Plan is completed. With an emphasis on educating for a ‘choose not to use’ approach rather than a recycle approach.</p> <p>Prepare and implement a Biodiversity Plan to provide renewed focus for Council, the community and partners, to ensure the plants, animals, ecologies and Indigenous Knowledge and cultural systems that depend on them, of Yarra Ranges that our community value, are supported and retained alongside us, in healthy landscapes.</p> <p>Council / State Government/ State Agencies / Indigenous community/ Environmental Volunteer Groups / Businesses</p>			
15f	<p>Vibrant Economy, Agriculture and Tourism</p> <p><u>Council Action Plan 2021-25</u></p> <p>Develop and deliver improvements to Council’s network of recreational trails across the municipality to support improved cultural , educational recreational, health, social, and economic needs of the community and become an ecologically-sensitive, culturally collaborative, world class trails, Indigenous cultural tourism, agritourism and eco-tourism destination, guided by commitment to ecological and cultural outcomes, and guided by the Indigenous community.</p> <p><u>The desired community outcomes</u></p> <p>Yarra Ranges recognised as a world class ecologically-sensitive, culturally-respectful trails and eco- tourism destination</p> <p><u>How will Council achieve this</u></p> <p>Work closely with relevant local providers, Aboriginal community and environment advocacy groups and, as well,</p>		<p>We appreciate your feedback to include additional wording. The areas you have mentioned are already embedded in the planning scheme in greater depth and through our project management framework.</p> <p>Council is committed to ensuring the best outcomes for the environment and cultural engagement for all projects. As you will have read throughout the Council Plan, Council has a commitment to enhancing our environment and our relationship with indigenous communities through all aspects of Council operations.</p> <p>Council is subject to statutory requirements such as Cultural Heritage Management Plans (CHMP), but in many projects of significance, engages local indigenous communities in Cultural Values Assessments, to further</p>	

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	<p>channel sufficient funding into the required initiatives Progress of the delivery of the River and Ridges Project Growth and development of ecotourism in Yarra Ranges</p> <p><u>Partners involved</u> Council / State Government/ State Agencies / Tourism Board / Indigenous community/Environment advocacy group</p> <p>Yarra Ranges is natural environment is values and supported by the right eco- tourism</p> <p>Doesn't make sense, not strong enough commitment to the fragile ecologies of the area.</p> <p>What are the criteria for 'right'? Right to whom?</p> <p>Nothing less than a 100% commitment to sustainable ecological regenerative development should be acceptable here. Too wishy-washy in regards to a commitment to fragile ecologies of the area, leaving the Shire susceptible to environmental malpractice.</p> <p><u>Council Plan Action 2021-25</u> Develop a destination management Plan with Yarra Ranges Tourism Board to support the right eco-tourism, infrastructure growth that also protects our natural environment.</p> <p><u>How will Council achieve this</u> Develop a plan for appropriate eco-tourism opportunities in consultation with environment advocacy groups and Indigenous community</p> <p><u>Partners involved</u> Council / State and Federal Government/ Businesses/ Tourism Board / Environmental advocacy groups and Indigenous community</p>		<p>inform the cultural connection in the project. The Ridgewalk Master plan is a terrific example of this work. In addition, we also look for ways to increase indigenous involvement in projects at a more local scale, such as the Birrarung (Yarra River) story telling series that features on the Warburton River Walk, indigenous story telling in some bushland reserves and play spaces (which recently won a Local Government Award), and the upcoming Indigenous Art on Water tanks program.</p> <p>Biodiversity and environmental assessments are a critical stage of the planning process for all projects, with Yarra Ranges subject to some of the strictest overlays of all Councils. The Warburton Mountain Bike Destination Project for example, is currently going through an Environmental Effects Statement (EES), the most thorough environmental and biodiversity process in Australia, while projects such as Ridgewalk and the Yarra Valley Trail are also subject to significant controls through both the planning process and land owner/stakeholder involvement.</p> <p>Council acknowledges the unique environment in which we operate and takes seriously our role as custodians of much of this environment, working with all stakeholders to ensure the best outcome can be achieved in all projects.</p>	
	High Performing Organisation		Thank you for your submission.	

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15g	<p>Ensure Council's workforce reflects the community it serves by embedding the principles of diversity, respect, listening, humility, reciprocity, access and inclusion in our day-to-day collaboration with and serving of our community and share our experience and knowledge and opportunities with the community. We acknowledge that we are guided by our community and do not seek to lead them.</p> <p>To show our commitment to our Aboriginal community, develop a series of cross-sectoral apprenticeship, training and leadership opportunities across the council workforce, for Aboriginal people. We will start with a program that addresses Aboriginal unemployment, including return to the workforce and join the workforce support.</p>		<p>Council staff uphold and live by strong values of trust, empowerment and innovation. The values of respect, listening, humility are all included in the current organisational values and guide the way staff work at Yarra Ranges.</p> <p>Council is here to serve the community. It is also Council's role to ensure that the needs of the community are met, through both reactive and proactive activities that lead the community towards better future municipal wide outcomes.</p> <p>We thank you for your suggestion regarding Aboriginal employment opportunities. Council will consider an apprenticeship and similar employment initiatives as part of the development of a new People Strategy.</p>	
16	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Stadium and Pavilion upgrade to Pinks Reserve Regional Netball Facility 310521 Pinks Reserve Netball Additional Works Proposal.pdf</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Request for additional works and funding for the Pinks Reserve Regional Netball Facility.</p>	<p>Thank you for your budget submission.</p> <p>Council invested significantly into the establishment of the Pinks Reserve Netball facility in 2015 with \$5M committed to deliver the project. Council continues to invest significantly into netball as a sport with projects recently completed, underway or in planning at Wandin North, Yarra Junction, Belgrave, Olinda, Kimberley Reserve and Seville.</p> <p>On top of the \$10M investment from the State Government, Council is investing an additional \$3.38M</p>	Yes

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			<p>to deliver a number of projects being delivered as part of the Pinks Reserve Master plan, benefitting all user groups at Pinks Reserve.</p> <p>The additional court covers form part of this work, and covers to the remaining 6 courts and a future expansion of the netball pavilion have been identified in the Pinks Reserve Master Plan as long term (10+ years) recommendations. These improvements would rely on future external grants from State and/or Federal Government to help fund these initiatives.</p>	
17	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Phase 3 Community Panel Report, Governance and Decision Making, item 1 - Increase engagement with community by establishing a community reference group around the High Performing Organisation Strategy to contribute to continuous improvement and best practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This recommendation was voted 6th highest priority at the workshop but has not made it into the Council Plan Actions for the High Performing Organisation strategy. • A community reference group has the potential to contribute significantly to improving Council performance by contributing a range of perspectives from individuals who may have substantial relevant knowledge and experience in industry in terms of process improvement, systems thinking, leading change, driving high performance, quality management systems and much more. A free resource that can assist 	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Include Community Panel recommendation to have a Community Panel to guide and provide input to the implementation of the High Performing Organisation Strategy.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission Mr Corcoran.</p> <p>Your proposal strongly aligns with the current strategy being developed to support the High Performing Organisation objective. This new document Organisational Excellence Strategy will build on the current Flexible Future strategy and is being designed to provide a road map for the next 4 years. This new document places a high value on authentic and meaningful engagement with the community and encourages greater transparency across council. We are unable to provide a firm response to your proposal whilst this work is still being undertaken but we will consider your proposal as part of the delivery of this strategy.</p> <p>Council currently uses a number of methods to gauge our community's views and opinions about our organisational performance, which this might build on including: surveying people that have been in contact with Council through written or verbal communication</p>	Yes

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	improvement in many areas if Council are open to input and challenging the status quo.		<p>or who may have interacted with us via our website in the last 6 months for comment; fortnightly customer satisfaction surveys via phone calls with recent customers; as well as specific services regularly conduct customer surveys to assess the quality of their services (e.g Maternal and Child Health, planning permits, Aged and Disability services). In terms of reporting on performance Council reports through the Annual Report and the Local Government Victoria’s “Know Your Council” website which houses service indicators and commentary.</p> <p>Council also uses several advisory groups currently to engage and talk with the community about a range of issues including the environment, disability and indigenous issues. These provide a valued forum for discussing issues and testing ideas between Council and the community.</p>	
18	One of the worst councils in Victoria you spend 27.9million dollars on rate payers money so you can have a better office . listen to the people of the yarra valley fix our roads properly actually use the money where needed instead of greed.	Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Request for funding to be directed towards road infrastructure.	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The Civic Centre Redevelopment at Anderson St Lilydale, helps address the issues caused by the offices being more than 50 years old and are no longer fit for purpose.</p> <p>The Civic Centre Redevelopment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address many of the building’s existing shortcomings, including disability access and outdated and inefficient building systems and infrastructure - Significantly reduce Council’s environmental footprint and running costs, and demonstrate Council’s commitment to sustainability and the environment 	No

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

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			<p>- Incorporate clever design to help create a modern, fit-for-purpose workplace that meets the needs of our community and employees now and into the future.</p> <p>- Provide an opportunity for the organisation to adopt a more efficient and modern working model that supports our drive to improve customer focus and efficiencies. More open style workspaces will provide opportunities for better integration and collaboration.</p> <p>- Enable all employees to be accommodated on the one site, saving on leasing costs of other buildings</p> <p>- Better accommodate the needs of our community with meeting rooms and other multi-purpose spaces.</p> <p>The final building will be modest, fit for purpose and designed to serve the Yarra Ranges community for decades to come.</p> <p>With regards to your comments on road maintenance, Yarra Ranges has approximately 725km of unsealed roads across our municipality. Maintenance of our unsealed road network is provided through an annual grading program. Unsealed roads are graded 3 – 6 times per annum based on the evaluation of the road including, but not limited to, traffic volumes and residential density.</p> <p>Council’s sealed road network is approximately 1366kms in length and is maintained using asset renewal processes and reactive service requests.</p> <p>As an outcome of the 2019 Federal election, Yarra Ranges was fortunate to receive \$150 million in funding support for the upgrading of unmade local roads across the Dandenongs and urban areas of townships in the</p>	

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			<p>municipality. Through this funding approximately 180 kms of local roads will be constructed with funding support also sought from landowners that benefit from the works. The construction of these roads will provide significant improvements to the liveability of the communities benefiting from the works. More information is available on this program on Council's website by searching Roads for the Community.</p> <p>Should you have any specific concerns or would like to report a maintenance issue on a road please contact our customer service team on 1300 368 333 or via mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au and we would be pleased to inspect and action as required.</p>	
19	<p>Why so much greed. Please consider that not everyone has employment and can pay these constant increases. Less government is the answer as you NEVER do anything for us at all really. NO footpaths, no street lighting, no sealed roads, no mail delivery, no sewage, and generally no help whatsoever apart from the "projects" you choose. Shamefull really especially in this climate of corona. And why spend so much on your fancy building in Lilydale? Shamefull. But you guys really dont seem to look past yourselves and your jobs that are paid by us and your fancy 50k company cars. Shamefull. I feel as though you have lost your grip on what people actually NEED and want.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Expressed concerns over funding towards Council's programs and infrastructure</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Council works hard to strike a balance across the services and infrastructure it delivers for the community. Council regularly invests in infrastructure such as footpaths, street lighting, drainage and sealing roads.</p> <p>In 2019 the Federal Government announced a nine-year, \$150 million funding plan for Yarra Ranges Council to seal roads within the Dandenong Ranges and surrounding areas. This funding is being prioritised to construct unsealed roads bordering schools, preschools and key community facilities.</p> <p>The Council has a considerable number of competing demands for infrastructure improvement and endeavours to prioritise needs as best as possible on an annual basis.</p>	No

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			<p>If you have any specific areas of concerns with roads, footpaths or lighting please contact us and lodge a service request and we can investigate and respond to you.</p> <p>Sewerage services are provided by the water authority and mail service is provided by Australia Post.</p> <p>Council provide many other services including aged care services, economic development, community services, please feel free to peruse the council website to learn more about these services.</p> <p>Council customer service staff are contactable on 1300 368 333 or mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au should you require any further information or assistance on your enquiry</p> <p>The Civic Centre redevelopment at Anderson St Lilydale, helps address the issues caused by the offices being more than 50 years old and are no longer fit for purpose. The new building has incorporated meeting rooms and other multi-purpose spaces to help meet community need which our current facility isn't able to provide.</p>	
20	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Re: Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>We do not support these plans. They are not in the best interest of the rate payers, consider the real requirements instead of revenue raising.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Re: Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>We have consulted extensively over the past few months with the community through various forums and methods to obtain community feedback, which has been vital in helping to set the priorities on which this proposed budget has been based.</p>	No

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		Does not support draft plans	<p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges over the next four years.</p> <p>Following last year's general rates 'Covid Credit', under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year.</p> <p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p>	
21	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Hi Yarra ranges council.</p> <p>It would be a great idea to upgrade the current bmx track at Healesville. To a bmx/ mountain bike skills area for kids to learn better bike skills. This would link in with the worburton mountain bike destination.</p> <p>There is a lack of bike tracks for kids in Healesville.</p> <p>Thanks Lachlan Armstrong</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Request to upgrade BMX track at Healesville.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Council is currently reviewing the allocation of BMX/MTB tracks across the municipality. We've seen over recent years, and particularly through recent lockdowns, the increasing popularity of bike riding. With our significant investment in Warburton, we are committed to providing a variety of opportunities across the Council. We've expanded the MTB skills park at Lillydale Lake and more recently have been</p>	No

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			successful with a State Government grant to build a new sealed pump track in Coldstream, which will be the first of its type in Yarra Ranges. This will give us a chance to test a new type of facility. Your feedback will be included in the work we are doing as part of our review. We understand BMX/MTB riding in Healesville is very popular.	
22	<p>Draft Budget</p> <p>Draft Capital Expenditure Program</p> <p>The planned road works for Selby do not target all the public buildings which are not on sealed roads. It also does not take into account the danger of entry & exit.</p> <p>The intervention of Lacy st/John's road/Selby aura Rd, Selby is dangerous. It has the Church and hall on it. It carries additional traffic during gatherings & weddings. The hill up lacy st frequently gets washed down to Selby aura road and causes cars to slip while breaking to a stop leaving John's Rd into Selby aura. It's like driving on marbles and there is frequent close calls with cars breaking on loose gravel coming from dirt to tarmac.</p> <p>There is no crossing either or foot path from Selby aura Rd to the emerald road.</p>	<p>Draft Budget</p> <p>Draft Capital Expenditure Program</p> <p>Request to upgrade road infrastructure to minimise public risk.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Both John Rd and Lacy Street are listed as priority roads to be offered for construction as part of the Federal Government's Roads for Community program, both of these roads are listed for year 9 of the 10 year program. In the meantime staff will investigate the options available for the intersection with Selby-Aura Road. Yarra Ranges Council's Infrastructure, Strategy and Investigation Team are currently developing a framework to outline a program and decision making criteria for the development, prioritisation and construction of footpaths for the next 10 years, that provide safe routes within 20 minute neighbourhoods. The key objectives of the framework is to identify routes within the built environment that are likely and have the potential to carry more pedestrians walking to key destinations and improve the quality of these routes to encourage and/or enable more walking. In regards to a footpath for Selby-Aura Road, Council recognises this as a key connection with a high potential to carry a high number of pedestrians within the Selby community. Therefore it is likely to be considered</p>	No

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			within the 10-year footpath program, and at this time, pedestrian crossing infrastructure would be considered to assist with access to Selby township.	
23	<p>Draft Budget Draft Action Plan Draft Capital Expenditure Program Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>There seems to be high council expenditure on active sport most notably the Warburton Mountain Bike proposal - a project that many in the community have concerns over.</p> <p>In comparison there is very little money devoted to climate change mitigation - whatever happened to the proposal to build a solar farm on the Healesville landfill site?</p>	<p>Draft Budget Draft Action Plan Draft Capital Expenditure Program Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>Request on what funding is allocated towards climate change mitigation, including solar farm.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Council's financial contribution to the Warburton Mountain Bike project is \$2.7M. Additional funding has been achieved through grants from the Federal Government \$5.3M, State Government \$3M, and community \$300K. The project will have a direct and positive impact on the local economy. It is expected to create 159 new local jobs and generate about \$31.2 million in economic spend within the region each year.</p> <p>Thank you for your interest in the Solar Farm, this proposal is currently being explored by Council Officers to support Council's commitment to net zero emissions by 2040 and 100% renewable energy generation by 2030 – as outlined in the Liveable Climate Plan 2020.</p> <p>We hope to firm the scope of the project and intend to actively explore funding options during 21/22.</p>	No
24	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Just a work on the compulsory nature of rates and how this affects human beings. I bought my house in 2008 and if i live the average life of 80 years this will mean i will be forced to pay "The Shire" upwards of 80 thousand dollars. This amount is HALF the purchase price OF MY HOUSE !! If i was younger this</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Opposed to the rate increase and the overall charge of rates for service provision.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Council appreciates your concern over rising costs, and the ongoing challenge is always the need to balance the level of rates with the community's desire to continue to maintain and expand service provision as well as the delivery and maintenance of Council's infrastructure.</p>	No

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	<p>amount could easily match the ENTIRE price of my HOME. I ask you is it good that a Government entity can FORCE humans to pay more in compulsory binding payments than it costs to purchase a home to live in ? (considering that the home is THE BIGGEST purchase most humans make) You, being The Shire are ok with this i presume. I really believe that you being the government ARE the problem and not the solution. This really seems like extortion to me and not democratic at all. You are a form of socialism which can be seen as theft. Really you demand almost 1500 dollars from me every year and for what? My bin being collected! Really, please consider what you are doing with rate rises and consider that your organisation does burden the people with financial hardship, fear, anxiety and quite a bit of resentment. To offer rate rises during an extended lockdown, a worldwide pandemic AND a budget surplus, seems to demonstrate just how out of touch with the average people your organisation is. Really quite sad and depressing really.</p>		<p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p> <p>While the proposed budget does refer to an accounting surplus of \$29.7m, the adjusted underlying result is projecting a deficit of \$3.8m. The underlying result excludes income that is to be used to fund the capital program and is a true reflection of Council's operating result.</p>	
25	<p>Draft Action Plan Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>How about fixing the walking track on chum creek road all the way up to Heath Road. In 31 years of walking there it still isn't safe for walkers. So damn annoying! And after 37 years it is way past time to have a walking track to Yarra Glen beside the train tracks.</p>	<p>Draft Action Plan Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>Request to improve walking rack in Chum Creek and Yarra Glen.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the walking track in Chum Creek. Council officers will inspect the track and contact you with an outcome of their inspection. Council will be in contact with you to provide an update, in the meantime if you have any queries, please contact our Council's customer service team on 1300 368 333 or mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au and quote the following request reference number 987302.</p>	No

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26	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Objection to rate increase because of hardship created by lockdowns. Alternate suggestion to reducing expenditure, to gain the same free revenue.</p> <p><i>Attached document content:</i></p> <p>I write in response to information I have received from individuals working within Council.</p> <p>I understand that Yarra Ranges Council is proposing 1.5% rates increase this year; the maximum allowable under the Cap. I also note that given that last year's 2% increase was 'rebated to almost' all Ratepayers (as claimed by Mayor Higgins), this year's increase will in effect become a 3.5% increase over what was paid by Ratepayers last year!</p> <p>Councillor Fiona McAllister (now Mayor) at Council on June 23rd 2020 stated very clearly that a carryover rate increase in the following year is <u>not</u> the way to go.</p> <p>I am concerned that residents have not been adequately notified and that this 3.5% increase will add to the pain many in the private sector are already experiencing.</p> <p>Please confirm if a mail-out detailing this increase has been implemented. It is not sufficient to expect that every Ratepayer is monitoring the YR website and Facebook entries on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>The inappropriate and insensitive thinking that has allowed this issue to surface is unacceptable. Whilst the private sector borrows money to survive, the Government sector (your executive team and staff) keep their pay increments irrespective of lockdowns.</p> <p>All businesses are essential to the people that own, operate and work in them. Many people in the community have and</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Objection to rate increase.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>In the proposed budget, we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year.</p> <p>Last year, Council adopted a budget which included a 2% increase to Council's general rate income. To recognise the impact COVID-19 was having on the community at that time, Council also decided to apply a 'Covid Credit' which reduced the amount of rates payable for 2020-21 back to 2019-20 levels or lower. Rate increases are not applied as a blanket percentage increase for every household, it is based on changes in property values relative to one another. The amount of rates for each rate payer is largely tied to the property value as a proportion of the total land values in the municipality.</p> <p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p> <p>This information will be communicated to rate payers in annual rate notices due to be issued in August 2021, as they are every year. We acknowledge your comments regarding communication to the community, and will</p>	Yes

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	<p>are continuing to make sacrifices - what sacrifice are you prepared to make?</p> <p>The private sector, including my household, have been significantly impacted by the COVID lockdowns. We all know that domestic violence and mental health issues have increased since the beginning of COVID, and that financial hardship is a major contributing factor.</p> <p>To contemplate placing more pressure on people during this time is inhumane and should result in those proposing this increase losing their jobs!</p> <p>If the council needs more money, then I would like to suggest that the CEO and senior management together with councillors take a pay cut. The idea that “we are all in this together” is constantly proven untrue as government / council employees keep all their benefits including salaries whilst private sector, small business, take all the hits.</p> <p>In addition to the above, Councillor McAllister said she was confident that the wonderful Council team “<i>..will be able to find further operational savings</i>” to allow a zero % rate increase.</p> <p>Why said then - but not given then - and not given now either?</p> <p>Please forward financial details for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra Ranges Council senior management annual remuneration packages. • Monies paid to all consultants (July 1st 2020 – May31st 2021). <p>Your suggestion that the average increase is \$43 per household, which would increase revenue by about \$2.5 million, however if all full-time staff took at 5% pay cut (given the average full-time salary seems to run at \$108,000 per annum, according to the budget) the increase in revenue would be the same and shows</p>		<p>take your feedback into account when finalising our communications.</p> <p>In response to your specific questions:</p> <p>Key management personnel remuneration</p> <p>The most recent information compiled is contained in our 2019-20 Annual Report (refer note 7 on page 188), which is available using this link. The information for the 2020-21 financial year will be made available in the Annual Report, which will be made available by September 2021.</p> <p>Consultants costs</p> <p>At the time of writing, the financial results have not yet been finalised for May 2021, however we can report that to the end of April 2021, Council has spent a total of \$2,210k towards consultants and professional services.</p>	

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	<p>much more compassion to those who are suffering financially. It would demonstrate that council has a heart.</p> <p>The last word is from Councillor McAllister (last June 23rd):</p> <p><i>“A visual show to our community of zero % rate rise is the right thing to do.”</i></p>			
27	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Re: Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>Do we really need 4 million for library’s when they have been closed most of last year, where is the surplus</p> <p>The ridiculous road side dining needs to be abandoned</p> <p>Untreated sewerage flows on Beverley drive Healesville</p> <p>Rates were raised above the maximum permitted 19-20, wages haven’t risen except for council wages.</p> <p>Give us a break, want more funds - drop council wages to the minimum wage</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p> <p>Re: Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>Clarification on funding allocated to Libraries and rate increases.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges Council operates libraries in collaboration with Knox and Maroondah City Councils, through Eastern Regional Libraries. This service includes six libraries in the Yarra Ranges, three reading rooms as well as mobile library services. Library services maintained vital connections with the community in many ways throughout the covid lockdown periods. Whilst libraries weren’t able to open their doors, they provided online, collection and delivery services.</p> <p>The introduction of outdoor dining options occurred to support business recovery through the series of lockdown and restrictions required of the community associated with COVID-19. These installations have been widely supported by the community and businesses, and will be reviewed as to whether some should remain as a permanent arrangement. Untreated sewerage flows are a concern and will be referred to Council’s Community Wellbeing team for follow up.</p>	Yes
28	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission and the link to the article, that was very interesting. Your concern for the</p>	No

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

No	Submission	Summary	Officer Recommendation	Speak to Subm.
	<p>No rate rises given the pandemic and the financial strain on community.</p> <p>I raise the lack on investment in nature.</p> <p>"The root cause of pandemics – the destruction of nature – is being ignored. Preventing this root cause of is scarcely mentioned by leaders and authorities, said the scientists behind a new independent taskforce, which will report to the coalition on Preventing Pandemics at the Source. The new taskforce is hosted by Harvard University in the US. By the end of the summer, it will produce an action plan on preventing spillovers, which will then be championed by a group of high-level figures."</p> <p>https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/04/end-destruction-of-nature-to-stop-future-pandemics-say-scientists?fbclid=IwAR0AB5ZfUZJNhx5TO6GT7zyI0oehUTuTNECTQdebRQDUaKoapfV6OcfntI</p> <p>Please don't outsource environmental responsibility to volunteers, community groups and charities.</p> <p>A global call for 30% of land and sea to be put aside for nature, for rehabilitation, revegetation and rewilding....this starts with us, at a local level. I implore council to factor in and include environment and wildlife when working on the budget - we</p>	<p>Request to include focus on environment and wildlife in budget.</p>	<p>environment is shared by Council. Council's Environment Strategy 2015 – 2025 provides a high level vision to protect and enhance our natural environment. We are in the process of developing a Biodiversity Plan that will provide strategic direction in ensuring our living asset – our natural environment thrives. The Biodiversity Plan will also detail the direction for Council in terms of collective action and advocacy. The Biodiversity Plan will complement the Liveable Climate Plan, 2020 which sets a direction for the next ten years for Council to address climate change, actions relating to your submission include Council working closely with Indigenous leaders in caring for country using firestick as one such tool and ensuring climate change impacts to biodiversity are responded to by employing a scientific evidence-based approach.</p>	

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

No	Submission	Summary	Officer Recommendation	Speak to Subm.
	cannot have an economic recovery without an environmental one.			
29	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>I disagree with the hike in rates. And while I do approve of the increase in the weed reduction, I question the way it is performed (I have seen Council workers with my own eyes spraying individual wild carrot plants on nature strips/council land while plenty of it was growing on the private properties around - it does not make any sense from a biological point of view. I also object to the use of glyphosate - please use steam instead). I disagree with the contribution to LandCare being cut down to 30% - their work is invaluable. Maybe you can refrain from increasing occupational health & safety, Human Resources, and other overhead.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Oppose the rate increase and matters relating to appropriate weed management.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges.</p> <p>Following last year's general rates 'Covid Credit', under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year. Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p> <p>Thanks for your comments regarding Steam as a weed treatment for Yarra ranges.</p> <p>We continue to review our use of glyphosate and are trialling alternatives where possible. Alternatives trialed have included organic herbicides, hand weeding, heavy mulching, burning and some time ago the use of goats</p>	No

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			<p>and biological control. We've also had a few demonstrations of weed steam technology and steam technology is part a joint MAV and Deakin University project (with several other Councils) in trialling further alternative weed control options to Glyphosate. We are hoping the results of this will continue to help us find alternative solutions. Mechanical weed control (brush cutting) and mulching continue to be the primary weed control method employed.</p> <p>Where we are using Glysohate, we do so as per the Worksafe and Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) guidelines and always aim to reduce where possible and appropriate, particularly in sensitive and highly visited public spaces.</p>	
30	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan Please keep our weekly rubbish collection- moving to fortnightly is not very healthy especially in summer. Consider more seats on walking paths to allow better access for older and injury related walkers More monitoring of overgrowth onto paths etc needs to be done. When workers remove a requested overhang or downed tree/branch they should check for other hazards in the same vicinity</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan Request to maintain current weekly waste collection.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission in regard to the proposed changes to the weekly waste collection. Council has undertaken extensive household engagement to find out community views on the proposed changes. At this point no decision has been made regarding the frequency of collections. This will be reviewed as part of the community survey data analysis and as part of the community waste plan development. The outcomes of the analysis will be provided to the community via Council's website.</p> <p>Additional seats along walking paths are often provided. If you can identify locations where these would be of benefit please send them through for our teams to</p>	No

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No	Submission	Summary	Officer Recommendation	Speak to Subm.
			investigate. With the significant length of footpaths across the municipality there are often issues with overhanging vegetation. Where this relates to private property, adjacent owners are relied on to manage their vegetation. Where street trees need trimming this can be arranged by making contact with Council's customer service team.	
31	<p>Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>I Completely disagree with an increase of home rates, especially considering Yarra ranges council is in surplus and many services weren't in use last year. I think it's in bad taste of many whom have lost their livelihoods. If wanting more money, cuts should be made within house, for instance the ludicrous wage of rangers on \$36+ per hour.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>Opposed to rate increase.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>The proposal to adopt a rate rise of 1.5% in line with the State Government rate cap for 2021-22 has taken into consideration the economic impact that Covid-19 has had on the community and the need for Council to be able to fund the delivery of over 120 services to the community, as well as build and maintain vital infrastructure and prepare for future programs and challenges.</p> <p>Following last year's general rates 'Covid Credit', under the proposed budget we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year. Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p>	No
32	Re: Draft Budget	Re: Draft Budget	Thank you for your submission.	No

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

No	Submission	Summary	Officer Recommendation	Speak to Subm.
	<p>As a resident and rate payer I object to Council's proposal to increase rates by a further 1.5%. Council currently has a surplus in excess of \$29m. The draft budget needs to be amended, with the proposed rate increase to be removed. COVID-19 has impacted and devastated many in the community, resulting in an economic downturn. How can Council justify a rate rise at this time? This proposal displays a complete disengagement with the community that you choose, and were elected, to serve.</p>	<p>Requests rate increase be removed from budget.</p>	<p>Council appreciates your concern over rising costs, and the ongoing challenge is always the need to balance the level of rates with the community's desire to continue to maintain and expand service provision as well as the delivery and maintenance of Council's infrastructure. While the proposed budget does refer to an accounting surplus of \$29.7m, the adjusted underlying result is projecting a deficit of \$3.8m. The underlying result excludes income that is to be used to fund the capital program and is a true reflection of Council's operating result.</p> <p>Rate increases are not applied as a blanket percentage increase for every household, it is based on changes in property values relative to one another. The amount of rates for each rate payer is largely tied to the property value as a proportion of the total land values in the municipality. This information will be communicated to rate payers in annual rate notices due to be issued in August 2021.</p> <p>Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p>	
33	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p>	<p>No</p>

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

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	<p>Congratulations on a very detailed set of documents that Council has made available for public comment.</p> <p>I would like to see a stronger set of guiding principles for the Draft Budget that would bring Council into line with those countries and jurisdictions that are adopting "Wellbeing Economies" eg New Zealand, Scotland, Iceland and others.</p> <p>Can I suggest that Council considers two documents that outline wellbeing and sustainable development guidelines before adopting the Draft Budget.</p> <p>These documents are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. OECD Regional Well-Being: A user's guide (www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org) which provides information on measuring 11 aspects of wellbeing including environment, access to services, civic engagement. 2. Sustainable Development Goals, a whole of government National Reporting Platform On 17 sustainable development goals (www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/D3310114.nsf/Home/2030+Agenda+on+Sustainable+Development) <p>Both these documents provide ways of defining and measuring what I believe are the principles, values and actions that YarraRanges aspires to, in a way that aligns with national and international aspirations.</p> <p>I am not able to speak on 15 June but would be happy to speak with any relevant officers and councillors who might want to discuss my comments in more detail.</p>	<p>Request to see stronger focus on wellbeing and sustainable development.</p>	<p>I am familiar with the Sustainable Develop Goals but hadn't heard of OECD Regional Wellbeing. Councils generally don't use the Sustainable Development Goals to track performance due to the large number of goals that are not within local governments sphere of control. Although having said that Captial cities such as Sydney and Melbourne have found ways to incorporate some of the goals but the major challenge is being able to localise the goals to meaningful action within a municipality.</p> <p>The other indicators you recommend align well with a project being considered which does look at ways to assess and improve on our liveability. We are looking at methodologies that are appropriate for our municipality considering our mix of urban and rural contexts. We will consider the OECD Regional Wellbeing as part of this process. Thank you for your comments.</p>	

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

No	Submission	Summary	Officer Recommendation	Speak to Subm.
34	<p>Re: Draft Budget Dear Yarra Ranges Mayor, Councillors and CEO, I note that Council has again decided to apply yet another General Rate increase during the second of two years, despite this devastating COVID virus and ongoing lockdowns. I find a number of serious concerns in this Draft.</p> <p>1. Misinformation or Deception? On Page 1. of the 'Budget Overview', Council has stated that the rate increase will be in line with the S.G. Cap of 1.5%. However; what Council fails to declare to Ratepayers (purposely kept from them perhaps?), is that they will actually be paying at least 3.5% more than they paid last year! It's not an increase of just 1.5% at all!</p> <p>2. Carry Over Rate Increase? But Council are very aware of the concept of a 'carry over rate increase.' Mayor Higgins stated; in regards to 2022, "... next year it may amount to a 4% increase we don't know.....there may not be a rate increase next year..."¹. Councillor (now Mayor) McAllister stated "I feel very strongly that a zero % rate increase which doesn't mean a carryover rate increase in the following year is the way to go."² She states very clearly, "Ultimately in my view it applies a double rate increase in the following year"³.</p> <p>3. More Deception? Also on Page 1. Council declares that the average rate rise will be "...around \$43 per ratepayer."</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Submission challenging rate increase and lack of transparency in communication with Ratepayers.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission. In the proposed budget, we acknowledge that most ratepayers would see a modest increase in their general rates in the coming year. Last year, Council adopted a budget which included a 2% increase to Council's general rate income. To recognise the impact COVID-19 was having on the community at that time, Council also decided to apply a 'Covid Credit' which reduced the amount of rates payable for 2020-21 back to 2019-20 levels or lower. Rate increases are not applied as a blanket percentage increase for every household, it is based on changes in property values relative to one another. The amount of rates for each rate payer is largely tied to the property value as a proportion of the total land values in the municipality. Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake. Council was able to identify several opportunities for cost savings and efficiencies during the year that required significant redirecting of resources to COVID</p>	TBC

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

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	<p>Does this statement further continue the deception when it applies only the 1.5% Cap to the average Rates increase? Would it be truthful to explain to Ratepayers that they will be paying more than double that amount, over what they paid last year?</p> <p>Q. Why is it that Council decides to deliberately hide these above facts from struggling Ratepayers?</p> <p>4. Value for Money?</p> <p>CEO Rose and Mayor Higgins jointly claim: “Yarra Ranges Council remains committed to providing <u>increased value for money to ratepayers</u>. We have continued our approach of <u>identifying opportunities</u> to improve processes and deliver our services in an efficient and cost-effective way”.⁴</p> <p>“We will continue to <u>identify sustainable cost reductions</u> to protect existing service levels. We will also explore <u>new approaches</u> for providing services to our community in a tighter financial environment and ensure that we engage with you on any planned changes”.⁵</p> <p>“I am very confident in the very sure hands of our great CEO and executive team <u>that we can find further operational savings</u> that will allow us to continue to do what we do well, but will send again that very clear message of support to our community, <u>we hear you</u>....”⁶</p> <p>So, what have been the new approaches, identifying opportunities to increase value, provide sustainable cost reductions, find operational savings, save money, that must be returned to Ratepayers in the form of genuine Rate reductions, to prove “we hear you”.?</p> <p>5. What’s Next?</p>		<p>community recovery, above average storm damage and escalating waste costs. Some examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint procurement opportunities with other councils to reduce time and costs; • Deferred recruitment of non-essential staff positions to redirect resources to community recovery activities; • Reduced capital expenditure program; <p>Section 94 of the Local Government Act 2020 (the Act) requires Council to prepare and adopt a budget for the upcoming financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years by 30 June each year. If Council fails to adopt its budget by 30 June, this would breach the requirements of the Act and would prohibit Council from expending any further funds until a budget is adopted.</p>	

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	<p><i>“Council will apply the rate cap over the life of the long-term financial plan, with 1.5% being adopted in years 1-5 and 2.0% in years 6-10.”⁷.</i></p> <p>Council has already stated that it intends to increase rates in accordance with the Cap, without any consideration of Ratepayers needs and wants.</p> <p>It is my firm belief that Council has deliberately tried to hide increases from the average Ratepayer. This is disgraceful for a local government to attempt to get away with this charade – against the Ratepayers that actually employ them!</p> <p><u>This Draft budget MUST be truthfully corrected and resubmitted to the Ratepayers of Yarra Ranges for a minimum of a further 28 days for their honest consideration.</u></p> <p>Hang your heads in shame Yarra Ranges Councillors and Council. You should all be sacked!</p> <p><i>“A visual show of support to our community of a zero % rate rise is the right thing to do.”⁸.</i></p> <p>¹. Mayor Higgins, Council meeting, June 23rd 2020. (@1:45:18) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wkg2pd-kzJY</p> <p>². Councillor McAllister Council meeting, June 23rd 2020. (@1:41:40)</p> <p>³. Councillor McAllister Council meeting, June 23rd 2020. (@1:38:37)</p> <p>⁴. & ⁵. “Mayor and CEO’s introduction” Council Draft Budget 2020-21 – emphasis added.</p> <p>⁶. Councillor McAllister Council meeting, June 23rd 2020. (@1:43:03) – emphasis added.</p> <p>⁷. Rates and Charges, Page 9. Council Draft Budget 2020-21.</p> <p>⁸. Councillor McAllister Council meeting, June 23rd 2020. (@1:42:48)</p>			
35	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>#4 dog park at rear of Lillydale Lake would be great if two enclosed fully fenced dog enclosures were included.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>A “Dogs and People in Parks Plan” is currently in development. We acknowledge that there are some benefits associated with fully fenced dog parks,</p>	No

Council Action Plan and Budget 2021-25 submissions – (Personal Information Redacted)

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	<p>Maroondah City Council have excellent dog parks with fantastic social areas for owners also.</p>	<p>Request to build a fence to enclose the off lead dog area at Lillydale Lake</p>	<p>however, it does come at some risk, regarding both dog and owner behaviour. There will be opportunities for the public to comment on the plan later in the year, to which your feedback through this process will also be included.</p>	
36	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan 5 seal gravel roads Could council please consider Edward Road Wandin North for sealing. The dust is terribly unhealthy during the dry months & a muddy mess when wet. It may only be small with minimal properties, however many of the homes have 4-5 drivers per household.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan Request to seal Edward Road, Wandin North</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission. We appreciate your feedback and acknowledge the importance of sealing unsealed roads for residents that live on them to help reduce dust, road corrugations and improve all weather access. The decision on which roads to be offered for construction was made by Council developing a list of priority roads to be sealed; through its road strategy with the highest on this list that share a boundary with schools, preschools and community facilities, followed by urban unsealed roads in township areas. This was followed by prioritising unsealed roads within the urban growth boundary or in townships that are typically roads with high property density. These will offer best value for the number of properties to benefit per km of road constructed. Unfortunately Edward Road, Wandin North did not make the priority list for sealing as compared to other roads it was not considered a priority that had higher abutting property density. If you wish to peruse council's website there is further information on the Special Charge Scheme process whereby residents can contribute to the cost of the</p>	No

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			sealing by preparing a petition to council. Please visit. Please visit www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au	
37	<p>Re: Draft Budget Capital works should be upgraded to include management of traffic and parking on Sherbrooke Road and include a proposal to monitor and control tourist impact on the environment and public safety especially pedestrian protection around highly busy venues e.g. Nicholas Gardens.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Request to improve traffic and parking on Sherbrooke Road and the impact of tourism in the Dandenong.</p>	<p>-Thank you for your submission. Council officers are aware of increased parking and traffic management issues on Sherbrooke Road and the surrounding precinct. Investigation on these issues has commenced, including liaison with Parks Victoria, noting that many of the attractions and parking areas in the precinct are under their ownership and management. Scoping of future capital works projects are yet to be finalised, however, future traffic and parking improvement works could be covered with appropriate operational or Works Program budgets should they be required in the short-term.</p>	No
38	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Rating and Revenue Plan Seriously you should not increase the cost of our rates so soon after the last increase. People can't afford it. The cost of living has soared while wages have decreased due to covid. Council has so much money already, and you've renovated the council offices in Lilydale twice in the last 10 years. I've lived in Olinda for nearly 30 years (same house) and in that time I've renovated my kitchen, family bathroom and ensuite just once each. Please stop wasting ratepayers money and do not increase the rates.</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Draft Rating and Revenue Plan Request not to increase the rates.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission. Council appreciates your concern over rising costs, and the ongoing challenge is always the need to balance the level of rates with the community's desire to continue to maintain and expand service provision as well as the delivery and maintenance of Council's infrastructure. Council is well aware of the financial hardship that rates and charges may have on some in our community, especially while we are in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Council can provide multiple rates relief options that customers who are struggling financially may wish to undertake.</p>	No
39	<p>Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program</p>	<p>Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p>	Yes

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	<p>I am submitting feedback as Chairperson of the Montrose Recreation Reserve Management Committee, with Julie McDonald as Vice- Chair, who represent all tenants, User Groups and the local community of Montrose. After reading this document we are unable to identify one single project for the Montrose Reserve. To say this is disappointing is an understatement, given the amount of time our group has spent working together with Council in the preparation of the recently adopted Master Plan over the last five years.</p> <p>This expenditure program covers exactly the same time period as the Montrose Master Plan. What was the point of preparing and adopting a Master Plan for the coming ten years when no money will be allocated by Council during that time? Effectively the next amount of money allocated to Montrose Recreation Reserve will be for consultants to prepare another Master Plan as the current one will have expired!</p> <p>It is also worth noting that despite five years of consultation, the adopted Master Plan is in actual fact the Draft Master Copy with NO changes to reflect any of our consultation, in particular our number one priority being storage. We were certainly of the belief that an adopted Master Plan meant that at least some projects would be funded from the Capital Expenditure Program during the extent of that Master Plan.</p> <p>The number one priority that has emerged from the Master Plan process is the dire need for extra storage for the User Groups within the Reserve. As membership and usage of the facilities has doubled for all User Groups, this priority can not wait another ten years. We implore you to reconsider at least this priority for allocation of funds.</p>	<p>Request to include funding for projects at the Montrose Reserve.</p>	<p>We appreciate your feedback and acknowledge the priorities listed. Council officers will be engaging early in the new financial year to begin developing feasibility concept designs to respond to storage and change facility needs identified in the Master Plan. Council would also like to acknowledge that we have been able to deliver new female temporary change facilities to the reserve and in recent months have delivered approximately \$60,000 of work to improve access around the reserve. In addition to this investment, Council has also delivered over \$600,000 in works to Elizabeth Bridge Reserve which includes new change facilities and access paths for the primary benefit of Montrose Football Netball Club.</p>	

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41	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Council Budget and Action Plan drafts do not prioritize the urgency of planting optimal tree cover, in preparation for lethal heat waves forecast, and the possibility of drought this decade.</p> <p>Thanks to all for the promising intentions outlined in the Budget '21 to listen and respond to community and be of best service. Here is my area of most concern.</p> <p>Council Budget and Action Plan drafts do not prioritize the urgency of planting optimal tree cover, including food trees, in preparation for the lethal heat waves forecast and the possibilities of drought this decade. Around 70% shade cover, transforming heat island effects, is an estimated ideal for the most viable habitat, which includes roof and trellised gardens as well as maximum street trees and garden space in yards, but of most impact is the area under high tree cover. The Urban Tree Canopy Strategy is mentioned but no % cover is aimed for. 'Parks, open space and streetscapes' is allocated \$18.5 M, but the area of intended extra cover is not given attention. Last year's budget planned for planting 55 extra urban trees, out of proportion to the potential extra benefit to community centres. And the budget provided no new food trees despite warnings of significant threats to food security globally because of losses through climate change events and conflicts which will cause price rises and reduce accessibility.</p> <p>One major objective is to "Activate, develop, and construct significant community facility projects across the municipality to</p>	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Request to prioritise food security as part of the budget and the Tree Canopy Strategy.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission.</p> <p>Council have been working in the area of climate resilience for a number of years with a recent focus on building a food systems program. This work has been in partnership with Eastern Health and through networks with Healthy and Active Living and local community groups which include community garden interest groups in areas such as Lilydale, Healesville, Belgrave and Warburton. Council has a number of strategies that support this approach, primarily the Liveable Climate Plan and the new draft Health and Well-Being Plan along with the Lilydale Place Plan. Surrounding municipalities such as Cardinia have established successful food security programs and we are looking to utilise these models along with evidence to inform the development of similar programs for Yarra Ranges. We are also looking to develop the right tree in the right place approach. as you mentioned, this will be critical in planning for the impacts of urban heat island we will be working across the organisation, collaboratively to achieve the most practical solution with context and community participation at the forefront. As this was also another priority area in the Liveable Climate Plan which recognised the need for shade trees lining our streets, to ensure appropriate landscape integration and management Edible-fruit bearing trees for human uses are best planted in places where they can be actively managed, for example by property owners, or by community – in community gardens/ allocated</p>	No

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	<p>respond to current and future community and social needs.” Facilitating community teams to plant trees in streetscapes and public spaces could meet many of these needs brilliantly. Many people have anxiety about having a liveable habitat and the hardships coming because of climate change and ecological pressures; and being facilitated to be able to do something most beneficial in a team is recognised as the best remedy for mind, body and spirit. How better to encourage participation and community connection than providing hot meals and co-ordination to plant shade and food trees of most benefit. Promoting communal street trees this way can be a valuable education tool and rallying point. The size of holes prepared will speed the growth of trees and science warns us we have a short window of opportunity, so we need everyone’s energy and involvement. We could promote habitat championship teams. Planting food trails need not be expensive, because they can be started on scale with seeds and cuttings. It’s the preparation which counts and deciding which trails to best concentrate team effort. Which could be by MarketPlace and along the new Railtrail from Lilydale.</p> <p>Previous concerns about planting food trees has been maintenance to control pests and disease, making good use of the produce, and ideas around “the right tree for the right place”. But if fresh healthy food becomes expensive and in short supply, as it is already for some people and this will increase because of increased storms, fires, droughts and conflicts raising prices; and relocalization becomes more understood as a survival strategy; then neglect will become less</p>		<p>community spaces for fruit tree growing. This means that they will always be managed for the best use of the produce and minimise risk of controlling fruit fly and other pests.</p> <p>Thank you for your ongoing commitment in this area, your passion and work is appreciated.</p>	

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	<p>of an issue. And we know that the more biodiversity and contact with nature the better for people, and with proper preparation, food trees can grow anywhere, and be pruned to have a high canopy or trellised and not be obstructive. Gum trees on the other hand, increase fire threat, dangerous falling branches in drought, and do not provide the needed dense shade along paths. Food trees can be low maintenance like olives, citrus and avocados and beautiful like almonds in blossom. So food trees could not be more valuable than in central public spaces and along park trails.</p> <p>Climate change is accelerating and it's not looking like the global trajectory will slow it down so kids will have to grow into a culture of the most efficient village systems for survival and the sooner the better because they are the strongest adaptation measures and the strongest mitigation measures.</p> <p>Council strategy aims to reduce ecological footprint mostly through renewable energy installations, but our food systems are a major source of the problems and urban agriculture is seen as a major solution. Cribb, 2019. Recycling nutrients and water efficiently as possible will save lives in cities and that means on site. Demonstrations of composting systems for toilet and food scraps with least steps to productive gardens will save lives. Permaculture has shown examples.</p> <p>In the drainage budget and the streetscapes budget there is no specific provision for water infiltration into soils, which will speed and strengthen growth of trees, gardens and habitats. Soil is the biggest and best reservoir for water. Frequent soak pits need not be expensive and could be done, will have to be</p>			

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	<p>done, with Habitat Championship Teams as above, digging frequent pits off gutters and stacking with a branch offcut mesh which maximises volume and supports a porous succulent bed on top to beautify and utilize the space. The branches could grow fungi.</p> <p>1.5 degrees warming could be reached before 2030 and tipping points triggering Hothouse Earth could be crossed before then, Spratt and Dunlop, April 2021, so we are absolutely in a race to rescue a viable habitat for the next generation. As climate change events extend crop losses, cities could be quickly vulnerable to broken supply chains and dependent on what is grown locally. And food trees with deep extensive roots to draw up nutrients and water are part of the strongest and most productive systems. Supporting Edible Villages in the Hills, small community gardens and learning from Cardinia’s Food Security example is good but doesn’t demonstrate proportionate emergency.</p> <p>So what is the reason for not commencing to plant food trees in public spaces ? Some people in Council say they think it’s an urgent task but don’t speak up for fear of their jobs. All democracy is longing for transparency and accountability in office and we don’t have a chance of survival without it. So who or which team is responsible for calling the shots on this and who will take responsibility for answering with more than a few recycled stock phrases? Accountability needs to be legislated. Unresponsive blockers need to be replaced at this time.</p> <p>It doesn’t have to be expensive if inspired volunteer effort is tapped. As ground preparation is the first thing, allowing</p>			

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	<p>blackwoods to be planted first, which builds fertility, could be an acceptable way to build momentum and confidence.</p>			
42	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Capital Expenditure Program Re: Draft Rating and Revenue Plan</p> <p>Overall this is a comprehensive, robust budget that has been prepared to meet the challenges of serving 160,000 people in 55 communities across a large geographic area.</p> <p>Council resources are under pressure to maintain a wide range of services, provide ongoing maintenance of community assets and invest in new and improved community facilities.</p> <p>Pressure is heightened due to a surge in construction costs which are running higher than inflation as measured by consumer prices (CPI).</p> <p>Construction supplier prices in Melbourne increased by 3.4% over the past 12 months, with an increase of 1.7% in the March quarter alone (ABS Producer Price Index). According to the ABS the cost of COVID-19 protocols is now being reflected in higher construction labour costs. This puts more pressure on new construction costs and Council will need to work harder to ensure construction projects are brought in on budget.</p> <p>The Council budget is under even more pressure over the projected 4 years ahead. Accounting entries and adjustments can “muddy the waters”, so I find the Statement of Cash Flows</p>	<p>Draft Budget Draft Capital Expenditure Program Draft Rating and Revenue Plan.</p> <p>Comment regarding the current Budget and seeking clarification on level of engagement for the Olinda Creek Trail extension.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission and your favourable comments in regard to the decisions Council has had to make when drafting the proposed Budget.</p> <p>As part of Paths & Trails Strategy preparation, Recreation and Active Living team is investigating a range of options to connect the Olinda Creek & Swansea Road Trails on Swansea Road up to Mt Evelyn Township as well as the existing trail networks of Lilydale Warburton Trail, Mt Evelyn Aqueduct Trail and the Silvan Mountain Bike Trails (via Tramway Road). The investigation is also considering the type of trail connection, i.e. whether it should be a footpath, mixed use trail or shared use path in total, or in different sections.</p> <p>There are some critical investigations underway at the moment that will help determine the most appropriate solution. They include a Traffic Study currently underway that is looking at the design of a safe road crossing on York Road to connect the proposed Olinda Creek Trail extension to Tramway Road. A separate design project is yet to commence that will look at the possible provision of a separated bridge/path over Olinda Creek beside the existing road bridge that would enable the extension of a trail further up York Road towards Mt Evelyn.</p> <p>Once we have the results of the Traffic Study and Olinda Creek bridge investigation, we will then finalise a</p>	No

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	<p>(3.4) the clearest way to assess financial direction.</p> <p>The bottom line is that Council is substantially shrinking Cash Holdings at the end of each year, demonstrating expenditure is greater than income. Council is running a deficit even factoring in a 1.5% Rate Cap in 2021/22.</p> <p>While not popular the only responsible position is to adopt the Rate Cap to ensure that Council can function effectively in supporting the community.</p> <p>Such low Rate Caps aren't sustainable as reflected in reducing cash position, flat headcount and staff costs mixed with increasing external cost. However that is a matter for the State Government's Essential Services Commission to consider in future years.</p> <p>Understanding this pressure on Council's resources it is even more important that every dollar is used to maximum benefit. Overall there is a fair mix of benefits flowing right across the community.</p> <p>The only area that stood out for me as requiring some more work is the Capital Works Budget (10 years) in the section named 505 Public Open Space Funding.</p> <p>\$699,000 has been allocated here with \$518,000 (74%) going to a single project "Extension to the Olinda Creek Trall". While this is mentioned in Council's Recreation and Open Space Strategy I can find no evidence of public engagement on this project in</p>		<p>plan for the whole connection. At this point, Council would seek community feedback.</p>	

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	<p>recent times.</p> <p>In comparison \$150,000 is being allocated to Master Plan Program. I note a number of Masterplans were adopted in the last few years. Three were adopted at Council Meeting on 10 March 2020. The following information is extracted from the Meeting Agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yarra Junction Recreation Reserve Master Plan – 10/3/2020 – 192 public responses • Seville Recreation Reserve Master Plan – 10/3/2020 – 300 public responses • Montrose Recreation Reserve Master Plan – 10/3/2020 – 182 public responses <p>These three masterplans have been developed with wide public consultation. On average 224 people engaged with draft plans that were widely promoted in the community and then tabled at Council for further review and adoption.</p> <p>Why hasn't the Olinda Creek Trail extension gone through the same process? Where is the public consultation that demonstrates that this is the best use of public money?</p> <p>There may be some as yet unexplained merit in this Olinda Creek Trail connection but it needs to be explained to the public and community consultation undertaken before it is baked into a budget.</p>			

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	<p>If this Olinda Creek Trail extension truly has merit then, given the pressure on Council resources, I believe it should be costed at 50% in the budget – \$259,000 – with matching funding sought from either Federal or State Government. They have much greater capacity to fund community infrastructure than local government.</p> <p>This model of co-funding has been applied successfully for many of Council’s other projects such as Yarra Valley Trail, Warburton Mountain Bike Destination, Ridgewalk and many community sporting facilities.</p> <p>By seeking co-funding, \$259,000 can be re-allocated in the budget to benefit many more communities including the three masterplans mentioned earlier – Seville, Montrose and Yarra Junction. I am sure the 674 people who provided feedback to these master plans would be delighted to see some increased investment in their communities.</p>			
43	<p>Re: Draft Budget Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>My submission is contextualised by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - over twenty years of engagement in the arts and cultural sector - my current employment as CEO of Burrinja Cultural Centre - recognition as a leader within the national arts context, as alumnus of the Australia Council Future Leaders program - as recipient of 2018 YRC Australia Day award for 'contribution 	<p>Draft Budget Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Draft Action Plan and Budget do not reflect the significant role that arts and culture play in our lives locally,</p>	<p>Thank you for your considered response. Thank you for your considered response.</p> <p>Yarra Ranges has placed a high value and significant investment in arts,culture and creativity over the past decade. With a capital investment of over \$24 million to develop cultural facilities and ongoing operational investment of \$9 million to Libraries and Cultural Facilities, it is a hive of professional creativity, social</p>	No

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	<p>to the Yarra Ranges community'</p> <p>My focus in this submission centres around the role of arts, culture and creativity to positively impact our lives.</p> <p>I know this first hand as an artist who has worked with, supported, collaborated and celebrated the artists of the Yarra Ranges for 10 years now. Further, my experience nationally, and internationally continues to refine my understanding of the significant power of art to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - bring people together - celebrate our shared history - navigate complex problems and solutions for a better future - speculate on citizen and human rights, and postulate solutions <p>Closer to home, we know that the Yarra Ranges is a significantly creatively place.</p> <p>You cannot walk down a Main Street or township without noticing this. From micro galleries, to public art, to yarn bombing, to music venues, to major cultural centres, art is a part of how we live in the Yarra Ranges. And it is celebrated and embraced by our community.</p> <p>Statistically, Yarra Ranges has a high proportion of creative businesses registered through the ATO - over 3000 from memory.</p> <p>These businesses contribute to the \$117b contributed annually to Australia GDP by our national creative sector - approximately 6.4% (https://www.communications.gov.au/departmental-news/economic-value-cultural-and-creative-activity)</p>		<p>connection and expression. Coupled with Creative Industry and community activity, the arts and culture ecology is one of the compelling liveability factors for Yarra Ranges.</p> <p>As you reference, social wellbeing is enhanced through participation and expression in the arts. The economy is strengthened by its presence. Marginalised and vulnerable communities engage positively with cultural life and expression. It is a thread that binds our communities together.</p> <p>Cultural activity has undeniably been hit hard, but it has also been a solace during the pandemic.</p> <p>It is important to note that the Creative Communities Strategy continues to guide Council's significant investment and actions. In line with this, Council has increased funds available to the Grants for Community program this year. Council has also funded a creative participatory initiative, <i>Art Attack!</i>, to support communities' creative expression and creative industries.</p> <p>The proposal to develop a creative brand is an important step to continue to build creative opportunities and strengthen Yarra Ranges Creative Industries.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the delivery of the River and Ridges Project includes a significant cultural</p>	

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	<p>Programs like the Dandenong Ranges Open Studios, Yering Sculpture Prize, Belgrave Survival Day, Belgrave Lantern Parade, TarraWarra Museum of Art brings tens of thousands of tourists into the region annually, as well as contributed millions of dollars into local economy.</p> <p>The major cultural venues of the region (Burrinja, the Memo, Arts Centre Warburton, Mooroolbark Community Centre, Yarra ranges Regional Museum and more) coupled with the significant work in Cultural Development across the region, provide cultural experiences to hundreds of thousands of people annually. Festivals, Music gigs, Theatre performances, exhibitions, pop up, public and playful art, are all part of our lifestyle in the region.</p> <p>Our artists are bold, brave and talented. The Yarra Ranges has a long history of creative activation by residents and artists of national and international notoriety. The region is respected as one of deep cultural and creative lineage.</p> <p>I know this, having lived in many other LGA's as a you're person (Yarra, Port Philip, Footscray, Glen Iris), that the cultural offering of the Yarra Ranges is exemplary. Within light of the proposed action plan and budget, this is not recognised in the level of attention and planning afforded by the deaf action plan and budget.</p> <p>More so, we understand that creative places are connected places. Creativity is imperative to our mental health, to our social wellbeing, and to catalyse local engagement and leadership through participation in active communities.</p> <p>The value of creativity is significant in this light.</p>		<p>project, The RidgeWalk. Ridgewalk will provide opportunities for local community participation in this world class cultural project.</p> <p>Thank you for your significant commitment and contribution to supporting Yarra Ranges in being recognised as place that values and promotes arts, culture and creativity.</p> <p>.</p>	

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	<p>In a place where creativity is celebrated, like Yarra Ranges, I find it very strange that creativity is only mentioned once in the proposed Council Action Plan, in the light of developing a creative brand for the region. Item 6.</p> <p>I would advocate that medium term council actions should articulate a position and a proposition for creative and cultural services in the region. A plan is an excellent place to articulate Council's strategy around supporting Thea artists of the region, and community participation in creative experiences. Sadly neither of these two parts are mentioned in the Draft Action Plan. Whilst I support the development of a creative brand for the region, the lack of focus on artists (the core of the industry and the generator of product) and community (those who engage in creative experiences daily) risks holes emerging in the whole ecology. Firm articulation and commitment to the creative drivers, creative practice and community participation in the local creative sector is a more considered and strategic focus, which works well in conjunction with a focus on Cultural Tourism.</p> <p>This would bring together the rich matrix of our creative ecology: the venues, the artists, the programs, the experiences, the festivals, the entertainment, the craft, the digital spaces and the incentives to visit. In short: the community.</p> <p>As it stands, the Draft Action Plan and Budget do not reflect the significant role that arts and culture play in our lives locally, nor the potential for the region to be supported and flourish into the future.</p>			

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	<p>Burrinja takes it's responsibility in supporting creative engagement, participation and creation very seriously. We do this in partnership with Yarra Ranges Council, and would be very pleased to see a stronger, clearer articulation of Council's creative actions and priorities over the next four years.</p> <p>A four year council plan (and associated budget commitments) is a significant opportunity to committ to and build a bright future for the local creative ecology. I urge Council to consider a more thorough and considered approach to their creative and cultural forecasting.</p> <p>Looking back, we have turned to the arts in our greatest moments of need: The 2019 bushfire crisis saw artists lead the fundraising efforts for local communities to recover. Our storytellers have documented the harrowing facts and personal narratives that have emerged. Our artists are currently working with bushfire affected communities in creative recovery actions.</p> <p>And more recently, COVID-19 saw a radical redefinition of how we operate on a day to day basis, with the majority of people being restricted to their homes for extended periods of time. And how did those people cope? They read. They watched screen content. They had streaming parties watching movies. They ordered clay and paints online. They reverted to, perhaps without realising, one of the fundamental characteristics of our nature: we are creative beings who express our selves.</p> <p>These two examples demonstrate the integration that arts and culture have in our daily lives. And hint at the power they hold to brings us together, to shape a future, and to navigate</p>			

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	<p>adversity.</p> <p>I am hereby advocating for council to expand upon the current actions pertaining to creativity and the arts. If more information is required, please do not hesitate to contact me.</p> <p>I hope that you may see that a more thorough and detailed action plan geared towards embedding creating in our everyday lives through the Yarra Ranges, has a rippled effect. No other industry within the social and community realm that I am aware of does this, at this level. The arts affect us all, and in the special place we live, are celebrated by all.</p>			
44	<p>Re: Draft Council Action Plan</p> <p>The Victorian Pride Lobby welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the Yarra Ranges Draft Council Action Plan 2021-25.</p> <p>The Victorian Pride Lobby is a community based advocacy group that represents lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer and same sex attracted Victorians of all ages, including those who live, study, work and recreate in the Yarra Ranges. According to the Victorian Population Health Survey, 4.2% of Yarra Ranges residents are LGBTIQ+, whom we represent. The LGBTIQ+ community faces particular health and wellbeing issues that should be addressed in the Council Action Plan.</p> <p>We know that Yarra Ranges Shire Council is committed to creating an inclusive community and that Council is developing a policy to support flying the rainbow pride flag on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT).</p>	<p>Re: Draft Action Plan</p> <p>Request for council to establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory committee and action plan.</p>	<p>Thank you for your submission regarding the request for council to establish an LGBTIQ+ Advisory committee and action plan. The organisation is committed to our focus on LGBTIQ+ communities as part of our Diversity & Inclusion Policy and strategy for the next Council Plan period. This involves increased data collection and alignment between council's Diversity & Inclusion Steering Committee and relevant council departments to further develop programs to ensure engagement, safety and visibility as an Ally to LGBTIQ+ communities and their families. The organisation is presently in the process understanding our obligations in signing the Embracing Equality Pledge, to make a public commitment to making positive change as allies. A further initiative may be to establish an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee in which</p>	No

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	<p>Council says that it has a Diversity and Inclusion policy and steering committee, but that policy is not publicly available. In any case, we believe Council should establish an LGBTIQ+ advisory committee and develop an action plan in consultation with the committee.</p> <p>Such a committee could guide Council’s policy work to fly the rainbow flag on LGBTIQ+ awareness days and also explore opportunities to work towards Rainbow Tick accreditation for Council-run services.</p> <p>We submit that the Council should include these initiatives in its Council Action Plan. We stand ready to work with the Council on implementing these actions. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or would like any support.</p> <p>We would also appreciate it if you could make Council’s Diversity and Inclusion policy available to us.</p>		<p>council will welcome the assistance of the Victorian Pride Lobby.</p>	