Acknowledgement of Country

Moonee Valley City Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which Moonee Valley is located – the Wurundjeri People of the Kulin Nation; and we pay our respects to their Spirits, Ancestors, Elders and Community Members past and present.

Council also extends this respect to other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples who call Moonee Valley home.
The City of Moonee Valley has a vision: to be a city of clean, green and beautiful, vibrant, diverse and sustainable communities that people experience as friendly and safe to live in.

Through our Council Plan and our long-term strategy, MV2040, we’re working together toward that vision – but we need others to come on that journey with us to help us succeed.

That’s why we’re advocating for Moonee Valley.

The Local Government Act 1989 sets out the role of Councils, which includes “advocating the interests of the local community to other communities and governments”. In a local government context, this most often means seeking the support of State and Federal Governments for services and infrastructure that Council believes are a high priority for our community. It can mean listening to and strongly representing the views and needs of the community, seeking funding or support for major projects and even raising awareness of issues to create change.

On our own, Council often does not have the resources or means to achieve everything we want on behalf of the community. Establishing funding partnerships with other stakeholders, including State and Federal Government, helps us to supplement your rates investment as we deliver the big projects and innovative ideas our growing community needs.

Since releasing our Advocacy Strategy 2018-21 in May 2018, we’ve been successful in achieving many of the objectives we set for ourselves, with support from our partners. We’re now taking the opportunity to refresh our advocacy objectives ahead of the 2019 Federal Election campaign, and for the longer term.

We hope you’ll join us as we advocate for Moonee Valley, and invite you to find out more at yoursay.mvcc.vic.gov.au/advocacy.

Sincerely,

Cr Narelle Sharpe
MAYOR
Objectives

This document outlines key advocacy priorities Council is committed to focusing on, and seeking partnerships in relation to, over the next three years.

The projects identified in this document align with the themes and objectives of the Council Plan 2017-21 and the MV2040 Strategy, which sets out the long-term vision for the city.

Many of the projects in the agenda are chosen to recognise the ways in which Moonee Valley is changing and growing as part of greater Melbourne’s population growth. In line with Victorian Government policy, Moonee Valley is, and will continue to take on a percentage of this growth, which brings with it both challenges and opportunities. All councils face similar challenges and it is important to recognise that Council cannot, and does not, act alone – but works in partnership with all areas of society and other levels of government to deliver on our vision for the future.

Council continuously works with other levels of government, agencies and organisations to achieve its goals for the city and the community.

The projects identified in the Strategy are not the only advocacy issues for Council and the Moonee Valley community. Work will continue on a number of other advocacy issues as outlined in the Council Plan 2017-21, MV2040 Strategy and adopted policies and strategies as usual. However the Advocacy Strategy outlines our top tier asks impacting our community right now, with the February 2019 refresh providing a particular opportunity to focus on federal issues in the lead-up to the upcoming election.

Advocacy Principles

- The priorities within this document have also been identified in the Council Plan 2017-21, the MV2040 Strategy, Council’s Capital Works Plan, and other relevant policies, plans and strategies adopted by Council
• The priorities are realistic and attainable, in the short to medium term. We will stage or breakdown larger and longer-term priority projects.
• The priorities have a clear community need and benefit and are backed up by evidence.
• The priorities have broad community support.
• The priorities align with those of State and Federal decision-makers and Council will seek to work in partnership with other levels of Government, as well as candidates for election to other levels of Government, to deliver these priorities.
• Council has indicated the resources it will commit to these priorities as a partner.
• Council will also work with other advocacy organisations and local community groups where our interest align, to build support for our priorities.

**Advocacy Activities**

Council will undertake a range of activities to promote and deliver on our advocacy objectives. These activities will be undertaken by council officers, the executive team and Councillors as appropriate. Activities may include:

- Undertaking public campaigns and producing collateral to raise awareness of the issues in the community and encouraging their involvement in advocacy efforts.
- Developing partnerships with key stakeholders, local and regional organisations, and peak bodies whose interests align with the Advocacy Strategy objectives.
- Liaising with government priorities to local Members of Parliament, state and federal ministers, shadow ministers, opposition and cross bench members, and local state and federal election candidates.
- Aligning Council activities and participating in the advocacy work of peak bodies and regional organisations including the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the Victorian Local Governance Association (VLGA).
- Making submissions to government and parliamentary enquiries to advance the goals of the Advocacy Strategy.
- Identifying and applying for grants to secure funding in order to deliver on our advocacy priorities.
- Promoting commitments, where we receive them, to encourage other parties and stakeholders to lend their support.
- Engaging with media on advocacy priorities.

**Monitoring and Evaluation**

Over the next three years, Council will ask other levels of government as well as various agencies and organisations to join in developing and delivering these vital projects. The strategy is designed to be a live document and remain relevant as work on the advocacy priorities develops. Council will monitor progress towards delivery of these priorities on an ongoing basis, with regular updates provided to Council and the community through Council reports and a formal annual review.
Advocacy Priorities

Our top Tier Advocacy Priorities

- **Advocating for Infrastructure**
  - A train station for Airport West

- **Advocating for Community**
  - A new community hub for Flemington at Debneys Park

- **Advocating for Services**
  - An expanded Mental Health Service for Young People
  - A commitment to Early Years Services

- **Advocating for our Environment**
  - A Greener Moonee Ponds Creek
  - Increasing Tree Canopy

Our Second Tier Advocacy Priorities

- **Advocating for Infrastructure**
  - A plan for a safer Essendon North Intersection
  - A transport plan for the Maribyrnong Defence Site
  - A safer Moonee Ponds Junction

- **Advocating for Community**
  - Back Your Neighbour
  - A better approach to Housing
  - An Indoor Netball/Basketball Facility for Keilor East

- **Advocating for Services**
  - Support for local government Aged Services
  - A new plan for Waste

- **Advocating for our Environment**
  - Activating Maribyrnong River
A station for Airport West

There will never be a better opportunity to connect Airport West and Melbourne’s north-west to Victoria’s rail network.

Why it’s important

The State and Federal Governments have each committed $5 billion to deliver the Airport Rail Link. During the November 2018 State Election campaign, the State Government also announced its intention to deliver a $50 billion Suburban Rail Loop, linking Melbourne’s suburbs from the south-east to the west, with initial new stations proposed at Monash University, Burwood, Doncaster, Bundoora and Melbourne Airport.

Both routes are planned to pass directly through Airport West.

A station at Airport West would benefit:

- Local residents currently under-serviced by public transport
- Staff working at Westfield Airport West, Essendon Fields and in surrounding industrial precincts
- The more than 17% of Melbourne Airport staff who reside in Moonee Valley and neighbouring Brimbank
- Visitors to Essendon Airport, with suitable bus connections
- Travellers to and from Melbourne Airport seeking parking alternatives.
The Victorian Planning Authority have identified Airport West and Essendon Fields as a key aviation, technology and employment precinct. As a key regional location for retail and commercial activity, the precinct generates significant employment and economic opportunities for Melbourne’s northern and western regions. It is also home to over 7,500 residents, with more than 17,000 residents in the neighbouring suburbs of Keilor East and Keilor Park, and population growth forecast over the coming years.

But in spite of its regional significance, the Airport West/Essendon Fields precinct is currently a rail transport black hole.

Airport West and Essendon Fields have limited connectivity to the surrounding existing tram and bus public transport network due to geographical barriers including CityLink, Tullamarine Freeway, the Albion-Jacana freight line and the Moonee Ponds Creek. This lack of connectivity contributes to increased congestion on local roads and key arterials in the area.

Local major job providers such as Essendon Fields are currently forced to make private arrangements to bus staff in from Essendon station, in a different State electorate, due to the lack of local public transport.

When partnered with local connecting bus services, a station at Airport West would boost much-needed employment and services for people working at Essendon Fields, Airport West and throughout Melbourne’s west and north, and maximise the economic potential of the area. It would see this strategic hub of business and enterprise, become a thriving commercial precinct of local and regional importance.

Utilising a brief shuttle bus connection, the station would also provide public transport access for visitors to Melbourne wanting to stay near the Airport – including Hyatt Place and the Australian Events Centre at Essendon Fields.

A station at Airport West would also act as an access point for Melbourne Airport staff seeking a convenient, accessible and affordable way to get to work. The Melbourne Airport Master Plan 2018 notes that 27% of average weekday traffic demand – or 31,800 trips per day to/from the Airport – is made up of Airport employees. A station located between the Sunshine Super Hub and the Airport would provide an alternative transport option for these workers.

What we’re asking

The proposed site for a station – near Terror Street, Keilor Park, on the border of Moonee Valley and Brimbank City Councils – is already subject to a Design and Development Overlay which envisages the building of a station at this site. Its location enables ready access to the surrounding road network, existing bus routes and cycling and pedestrian channels.

Let’s get on board at Airport West.
A new community hub for Flemington

We’re seeking $20 million in external funding toward the cost of building a new community hub at Debneys Park.

Council has a plan to build a new community hub at Debneys Park in Flemington and transform the surrounding park, creating a vibrant new space for a new generation of residents.

**Why it’s important**

The Flemington community is growing rapidly. By 2041, the population of Flemington is expected to grow by 28.10%. The Travancore population has already tripled in the last decade. A significant factor in the growth of Flemington will be the introduction of 845 new public and private dwellings as part of the Flemington Housing Estate redevelopment. A further 15,000 people will move into neighbouring Arden-Macaulay.

At the same time, the Flemington community experiences high demographic diversity. 47.3% of current residents were born overseas, while 49.4% speak a language other than English at home. Flemington has a higher rate of unemployment than the Victorian average, and a lower median weekly personal income.
A modern and responsive community hub with services and facilities to meet the diverse needs of this growing population is absolutely vital. The demand for community facilities at Debeys Park is already clear, with between 1,500 and 2,000 people per week visiting the current Community Centre.

Council currently operates a range of successful social connection and job placement and career development services out of the existing Community Centre, including Flemington Works. But the current Centre was built in 1960, and is at the end of its useful life.

What we’re asking

The construction of a new community hub for Flemington forms part of a broader project to reimagine and revitalise Debeys Park.

We are seeking a contribution from funding partners of $20 million to help us realise this project. Council will match this funding to build the community hub in 2021-2023.

Our new community hub will offer a range of services and facilities, which may include:

- A range of small, medium and large multipurpose spaces. These spaces could accommodate:
  - Life-long learning and library outreach programs
  - Community cultural and arts spaces, programs and classes
  - Recreation activities
  - Youth programs

- Occasional care
- Consultation space for outreach services
- Health and community support services, including employment support services and social enterprise
- Offices to accommodate council staff and services
- Sporting facilities, including two indoor netball/basketball courts.

There is also the opportunity for the surrounding Debeys Park to be revitalised to include play opportunities for children of all ages and abilities, sport play areas, and connections to the Moonee Ponds Creek in line with Council’s Chain of Ponds.

With a new Flemington Community Hub, there are strong opportunities for the co-location of services and community infrastructure which will benefit and together people from across this diverse community.

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Phone 03 9243 8888 Fax 03 9377 2100
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An expanded mental health service for young people

Council is seeking just $600,000 per year to expand and continue to deliver our Thriving Minds program with local schools. We are also advocating for a headspace clinic for Moonee Valley, and a response to the NDIS mental health gap.

Why it’s important

Based on the 2016 Census, we project that by 2036 Moonee Valley will have a total population of 28,080 young people aged 12 to 25 – that’s a 32% increase.

Valley Youth’s Young People’s Survey 2018 identified that one of the key priorities of local young people aged 12 – 25 is mental health. While 75% of the young people we surveyed indicated that they feel comfortable talking to a health professional about their physical health, only 68% were able to say the same about their mental health, and 53% about their sexual health. This demonstrates the importance of providing local mental health services which are accessible and safe spaces for young people.

Also, 30% of the young people we surveyed indicated they felt dissatisfied with their quality of life, and 19.5% reported high levels of psychological distress. Both of these
figures are much higher than the State average.

What we’re asking

One of the ways Moonee Valley is responding to these concerns is through our Thriving Minds program. Through Thriving Minds, we partnered with three Moonee Valley schools in 2018 to deliver 51 workshops over seven weeks to 378 Year 10 students. We also delivered two, two-day workshops to 20 teachers, as well as two, two-day workshops to 23 Council staff.

The purpose of Thriving Minds is to help Year 10 students better understand mental health issues, build emotional resilience and know where to go or who to turn to when they need support.

Feedback at the end of our pilot was so positive that we are keen to expand the Thriving Minds program, offering it to all ten secondary schools across fifteen campuses throughout Moonee Valley. A $600,000 contribution per year will help us hire a Thriving Minds Coordinator and three Thriving Minds Facilitators, together with youth counselling and youth case management staffing support.

Council also currently provides a counselling room in Moonee Ponds staffed by our counselling and case management team. Demand for this service demonstrates that there is a need for more support for youth mental health services in the Moonee Valley area.

headspace centres act as a one-stop shop for young people who need support with mental health, physical health (including sexual health), alcohol and other drugs, or work and study support.

Face-to-face hub-style services like headspace clinics play a vital role in providing people with the support and advice they need in one convenient setting. However, with many of these services located in the outer suburbs where single points of high demand are focused, they can be inaccessible to people who require support in the inner metropolitan area. For a young person in Moonee Valley hoping to access a headspace clinic the closest current service is in Glenroy, which is not easily accessible by public transport from many suburbs within our municipality.

A headspace located in Flemington would provide a convenient point of access to support services for young people both within Moonee Valley, and throughout the inner west and surrounds.

Finally, in line with the Mind the Gap report produced by the University of Sydney and Community Mental Health Australia, we are concerned about the gap between who is eligible for the NDIS, and who will still need support beyond what is provided by the NDIS. The report estimates that up to 91% of people with severe mental illness will have to rely on non-NDIS community mental health services to meet their needs. This is something which requires ongoing scrutiny.

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A commitment to Early Years Services

Council is seeking a commitment to ongoing Commonwealth funding of the Universal Access Program – 600 hours’ kinder for every four-year-old. We also need the infrastructure necessary to deliver the Victorian Government’s commitment to three-year-old kinder, and an expansion of the Preschool Field Officer Program.

Why it’s important
Council currently manages 14 kindergartens, and through our Central Registration Service, supports the administration of five community-managed kindergartens. 1,068 children were registered in four-year-old kindergarten across Council’s kinders in 2018.

Kinder Hours
Commonwealth funding for kindergartens is administered through the Universal Access National Partnership. While States and Territories are responsible for the provision of preschool, under the National Partnership, Commonwealth funding contributes to a “top up” arrangement which ensures nationally consistent access to 15 hours per week, or 600 hours per year, of kindergarten in the year prior to full-time school – four-year-old kindergarten.

As a result of this program, enrolments in
kindergarten/preschool have increased nationally from 206,000 in 2008 to nearly 340,000 in 2017. The Universal Access Partnership has been successful in getting more children a quality preschool education.

Without the funding provided by the Commonwealth under the National Partnership, it is estimated that some families will pay $2000 extra per child in kinder costs.

In the lead-up to the 2019-20 Federal Budget, there was concern the Commonwealth contribution to kinder hours would be discontinued from 2020. Whilst in the end, funding was extended by a further year, this doesn’t give families and educators the certainty they need. An ongoing commitment to funding kinder hours is required.

Kinder Infrastructure

The Federal Opposition has announced that, were to form Government following the upcoming election, it would introduce a ‘National Preschool and Kindy Program’ to permanently embed two years of early childhood education, extending 15 hours of subsidised early childhood education to three-year-olds for the first time.

This proposal has been echoed by the Victorian State Government, who announced during the November 2018 State Election campaign that they would invest $5 billion to deliver 15 hours of three-year-old kinder, with the roll-out to begin in 2020.

To help facilitate this expansion of kinder, the Victorian Government has said it will build 785 new kinders and expand 170 existing services by 2028.

Our kinder services are already reaching capacity based on four-year-old demand; the introduction of universal three-year-old kinder, coupled with population growth, will mean that demand will soon outstrip capacity. Like many inner-city municipalities, our options to build new kinder infrastructure are limited, and replacing ageing infrastructure comes with significant expense. It is vital that Moonee Valley is amongst the early recipients of this investment in kinder infrastructure, including in the growing suburb of Moonee Ponds.

Preschool Field Officer Program

All Victorian State-funded kindergarten programs are eligible to receive Preschool Field Officer services to support the access and participation of children with additional needs. It also assists kinders to link families into a range of available supports and services.

Currently, the City of Moonee Valley is funded for a 0.8 FTE Preschool Field Officer resource. This support service has been heavily utilised, and in some cases, a waiting list has been required. Currently, the service is not adequately funded to provide support to students in the first three terms of three-year-old kinder. With the introduction of universal three-year-old kinder in Victoria, additional resourcing to meet the growth in demand for the Preschool Field Officer Program will be required.

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A greener Moonee Ponds Creek

Council is seeking $6 million to remove concrete channel and return the Moonee Ponds Creek at Brosnan Crescent, Strathmore to its natural state.

Why it’s important

We have a vision to revitalise and naturalise the Moonee Ponds Creek, creating a healthy, diverse waterway and open space corridor for our growing community to enjoy.

The Moonee Ponds Creek is one of Melbourne’s most urbanised and modified creek systems. In 2011, the Planning Institute of Australia described the concreting of major sections of the Moonee Ponds Creek in the mid-20th Century as one of Melbourne’s “worst planning disasters”. But it’s also a much-loved part of our urban environment, home to an abundance of plant and animal life.

What we’re asking

As part of our vision to revitalise the Moonee Ponds Creek, we are proposing an important symbolic project which would remove concrete channel at Brosnan Crescent, Strathmore and return this section of the Creek to a naturalised state. Strong community advocacy ensured that this was the final section of the Creek to be concreted.
in the 1970s; local residents today refer to it as “the Great Divide”, as it is the place where concrete channel meets natural urban waterway.

The project forms part of our shared plan for the future of the Moonee Ponds Creek, the Chain of Ponds, which has been developed in collaboration with our neighbours in the City of Moreland, Melbourne Water, and Creek users.

There is strong support for our campaign, with the Friends of Moonee Ponds Creek heavily invested in helping Council to promote our shared vision for the future of the Moonee Ponds Creek in Strathmore.
Increasing Tree Canopy

We have a goal to increase tree canopy by 30% by 2040. To help us do this, we’re seeking a partnership between all levels of Government to combat urban heat island effect, and additional funding opportunities for investment in urban greening projects.

Why it’s important
Melbourne’s western suburbs, including Moonee Valley, are experiencing rapid population growth.

These areas also have the lowest tree canopy coverage in Melbourne. As the population increases, so too does pollution, heat stress and associated pressures on the environment.

Moonee Valley has a vision to increase the tree canopy in our municipality, and was recently the only Australian organisation to be recognised as a finalist in the international Wellbeing City Awards for our Urban Greening strategy.

People in Moonee Valley place a high value on the city’s tree-lined streets, private and public gardens, open spaces and natural environments. This is evidenced by the online

City of Moonee Valley
survey we undertook as part of our 2019 Advocacy Strategy refresh, with ‘increased tree canopy and urban greening projects’ ranking highest out of the specific objectives residents wanted to see Council advocate for. These green assets contribute greatly to the city’s character and play a critical role in cooling our suburbs, filtering air and stormwater and enhancing ecology.

As the city faces the combined pressures of a growing population, a hotter, drier urban environment and more extreme weather, Council wants to halt the decline in canopy cover and significantly increase tree and other vegetation cover. Enhancing our urban forest provides much-needed shade and cooling for occupants of buildings, encourages recreation, walking, cycling and attracts people to local shopping strips.

The urban forest is also critically important to both mental and physical health as these cool, green environments encourage people to recreate and socialise outdoors, to walk, cycle and spend time at their local shops and in nature. A healthy urban forest is one of the most effective ways to mitigate urban heat and as a result, improve health outcomes in our community.

What we’re asking

The tree canopy includes all trees and vegetation across Council managed land, private properties and land held by other government agencies. Maintaining and expanding this community asset requires coordinated effort and support from other levels of government as well as Council and residents.

Council is seeking the creation of new funding opportunities and support for urban greening projects, and increased tree canopy initiatives to assist Council to meet its goal to increase tree canopy cover to 30 per cent by 2040.
A plan for a safer Essendon North Intersection

Council is seeking a plan to improve safety at the intersection of Lincoln Road, Bulla Road, Mount Alexander Road and Keilor Road in Essendon North.

Why it’s important

In the period between January 2012 and July 2017, a total of 57 crashes were reported at the Essendon North intersection, including 10 serious injury crashes. Tragically, a pedestrian fatality occurred at the intersection in November 2018.

During the development of the Fletcher, St Therese’s and Essendon North Local Area Traffic Management (LATM) studies, significant concerns were raised by the local community with regard to safety issues at the intersection of Mount Alexander Road, Keilor Road, Bulla Road and Lincoln Road. As part of our consultation for this Advocacy Strategy, concerns surrounding safety at this intersection also comprised a significant number of posts on Council’s Facebook and YourSay pages. It is clear that improving safety at this intersection is an important issue for our community.

However, during the development of the Essendon North LATM study, feedback was received from VicRoads indicating that over
recent years, a number of operational safety improvements have been made at the intersection, and that any further investigations for the signalisation would require a detailed broader corridor review.

VicRoads also provided a commitment to continue to work with Council on any future investigations and proposals.

An integrated transport improvement approach to addressing road safety, congestion, pedestrian, cycling and transport issues is required.

What we’re asking

Council is advocating for a detailed broader corridor review to address safety and amenity improvements at the Mount Alexander Road, Keilor Road, Bulla Road and Lincoln Road intersection. This review should seek to provide a safe and efficient road environment, whilst also creating opportunities to enhance cycling and walking participation in Essendon North.
A transport plan for the Maribyrnong Defence Site

Council is seeking a plan to address traffic, transport and environmental impacts arising from the development of the Maribyrnong Defence Site, including along Raleigh Road into Moonee Valley.

**Why it’s important**

The Defence Site, Maribyrnong is a 127.8 hectare parcel of Commonwealth land located in Cordite Avenue, Maribyrnong. The Commonwealth Department of Defence is currently seeking a buyer for the site on the open market with a view toward major urban renewal. It was announced in May 2017 that up to 6,000 homes would be located on the site, with the then-Assistant Minister to the Treasurer describing the site as “well-connected to public transport”.

**What we’re asking**

It is the view of Council that public transport access to the site would actually need to be substantially increased in order to accommodate an additional 6,000 residential properties at this location. Whilst the site is located within the adjacent municipality of Maribyrnong, it is surrounded by the City of Moonee Valley to the north, west and east, resulting in significant potential impacts to our residents as a result of this development.
The area in which the Defence Site is located is not serviced by train transport. There is a tram which services the site, the 57 route, but this provides a lengthy commute into the city and is already congested at peak hour. Raleigh and Maribyrnong Roads are likewise already congested by high volumes of private vehicle traffic.

Exploration of traffic and transport impacts should include consideration of opportunities to increase crossings of the Maribyrnong River by foot and by bicycle, including through the introduction of a green bridge near the Defence Site. It is also important to consider the environmental impacts of a site of this magnitude, and plan to increase open space accordingly, creating space for people of all ages to recreate and play.
A safer Moonee Ponds Junction

We’re asking the State Government to deliver the findings of the feasibility study to improve safety and amenity at the Moonee Ponds Junction, currently underway.

Why it’s important

The Moonee Ponds Junction is the worst location in Moonee Valley for pedestrian crashes and the third-worst in the State. In 2018, the Herald Sun named the Moonee Ponds Junction one of the top-ten worst intersections in the State.

Accident data shows that of the 14 reported traffic accidents at the Junction between January 2013 and April 2016, half of them occurred at the transport interchanges and half involved pedestrians being struck.

With the development of the Moonee Ponds Activity Centre, population growth of 35.9% is forecast in this suburb alone by 2041 – an additional 47,000 people. The volume of pedestrians, cyclists and public transport users accessing the junction bus and tram interchanges as well as the Moonee Ponds train station and the Moonee Ponds Creek trail, is expected to increase significantly.
What we're asking

To accommodate this growth and its impact on our road network, we need to plan now to encourage residents of Moonee Ponds to make use of public transport options wherever possible. That’s why a safer and more accessible Moonee Ponds Junction and transport interchange is so vital.

While the tram interchange was upgraded in 2016, the bus interchange remains particularly unsafe for pedestrians, and is not Disability Discrimination Act compliant.

The movement through the bus interchange leading to Hall Street is dangerous for pedestrians. The complexity and confusion of the layout of the bus interchange leads to pedestrians taking dangerous, and sometimes illegal routes to, and through the Junction.

As a result of our advocacy to date, Council was successful in receiving a commitment from our local Member of Parliament on behalf of the Victorian Government, during the 2018 State Election campaign to fund a feasibility study mapping options to improve safety and accessibility at the Moonee Ponds Junction.

Once the feasibility study is completed, we will continue to advocate for a commitment to deliver its outcomes.

Moonee Valley Language Line

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Back Your Neighbour

Council is supporting the Back Your Neighbour campaign. It calls on the Federal Government to reverse recent funding cuts and fully reinstate the Status Resolution Support Services program. It also seeks increased State humanitarian support for asylum seekers already living in the community.

The Back Your Neighbour campaign is run by the Local Government Mayoral Taskforce Supporting People Seeking Asylum, a group of Australian Councils who are speaking out against Federal Government cuts to the Status Resolution Support Services program. Moonee Valley City Council endorsed this campaign by joining the Mayoral Taskforce in September 2018.

Why it’s important

Cuts to the Status Resolution Support Services program have the potential to leave thousands of asylum seeker families already living in Australian communities, including Moonee Valley, destitute and homeless.

The Status Resolution Support Services program includes:

- Short term needs-based support to non-citizens who are unable to support
themselves while resolving their immigration status

- A basic living allowance (food, rent and medical treatment), casework support and access to torture and trauma counselling
- 89% of Newstart allowance (typically), or approximately $35 per day.

As at 28 February 2018, there were approximately 13,300 people on the Status Resolution Support Services program, of whom 4,059 were children.

What we’re asking

In Moonee Valley, there are 142 asylum seekers living in the community on bridging visas. This is the 10th highest number across Victorian local government areas. Many of these asylum seekers are concentrated within certain suburbs, with the largest number living in Avondale Heights.

With these cuts, many current recipients living in the community will be forced to rely on additional support from charitable and community organisations, as well as material aid and support services, some of which are distributed and facilitated by Council.

We are seeking:

1. Reversal of recent funding cuts and full reinstatement of the Status Resolution Support Services program (Federal)

2. Increased humanitarian support for asylum seekers already living in the community (State).

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A better approach to Housing

We’re advocating for a long-term national plan for Affordable Housing. Council is also seeking the inclusion of visit-ability and adaptability features in the National Construction Code, targets for affordable housing as part of new large-scale residential development, and improvements to existing public housing stock accompanied by an increase in the overall number of public housing dwellings.

Why it’s important
As a planning authority, Council has an important role to play in facilitating the orderly provision of housing, while at the same time ensuring that housing is well designed. We also have a role in ensuring that land is appropriately zoned.

Importantly, we must also advocate to other tiers of government for improvements to housing and related infrastructure. This can include advocating for more affordable, as well as social housing and improvements to infrastructure to meet the needs of a growing population. It can also extend to advocating for minimum design standards for apartments.
and more stringent requirements around housing accessibility.

Council considers the lack of affordable housing in Moonee Valley to be a serious issue. Indicators of housing affordability in the City of Moonee Valley are:

- The rate of households experiencing housing stress in the City of Moonee Valley is 9.1 per cent
- In 2016 there were 403 homeless persons in the City of Moonee Valley. This is a rate of 35 homeless persons per 10,000 persons
- In September 2018, there were a total of 23 affordable rental properties available in Moonee Valley, representing 2.2 per cent of all available rental properties
- There are pockets of Moonee Valley where households experience greater housing stress, with concentrations in Flemington, Ascot Vale, and Essendon (15.3 per cent, 11.5 per cent and 9.6 per cent of households respectively).

Access to safe, secure, accessible and affordable housing for all ages and life stages is critical. Without access to affordable housing, some people may be forced to move out of our community or into housing that is unsafe, insecure or inappropriate.

What we’re asking

This is why we are seeking a long-term plan for affordable housing, as well as targets for affordable housing as part of new large-scale development. These asks align with advocacy already underway as part of the Everybody’s Home Campaign, everybodyshome.com.au.

Within Moonee Valley, we have the second-highest number of public housing dwellings in Victoria, the majority of which are located in the Flemington and Ascot Vale Housing Estates. Both of these Estates have been slated for redevelopment as part of the Victorian Government’s Public Housing Renewal Program. We will continue to work with the State Government toward the delivery of this Program, which will provide improvements to public housing stock, the mixed tenure development of these Estates, and the creation of some additional stock.

It is also critical that measures are implemented to ensure accessibility within new housing builds. Including visit-ability and adaptability features within the National Construction Code is an important step toward achieving this.
Indoor Netball/ Basketball for Keilor East

Moonee Valley is the only municipality in greater Melbourne without a competition-compliant highball facility to house netball, basketball and other indoor sport.

Council has a vision to build a highball facility housing up to six courts at Quinn Grove, Keilor East. The stadium would form part of an active leisure precinct which also includes the newly renovated East Keilor Leisure Centre.

Why it’s important
Moonee Valley City Council has a strong and ongoing commitment to the provision of quality, affordable and accessible leisure facilities as part of its strategy to support development of a healthy, vibrant and inclusive community. There is strong local participation in indoor sports. Research conducted by Council in 2017 found that around 8,000 people in Moonee Valley play one of basketball, netball and/or futsal, or indoor soccer.

According to Basketball Victoria, Keilor is the largest Basketball Association in the Western Region. In December 2018, there were 343 children on the waiting list to play with Aberfeldie Basketball Club. Netball
participation in Moonee Valley is also higher than the State average. We expect that these participation levels will only increase as our community continues to grow.

A highball stadium will also help encourage stronger participation in team sports among women and girls.

A feasibility study prepared by Otium Consulting in early 2018 identified that sports facility provision and availability in the areas directly surrounding Moonee Valley is already at high demand. All of Moonee Valley’s neighbouring Councils indicated a shortfall in indoor sports court provision.

A highball stadium needs assessment completed by Council in August 2016 confirmed that in order to meet demand for indoor sports, Council would need to develop 12 indoor courts. This number is expected to increase to 15 by 2030.

What we are asking

We are proposing to develop six indoor courts at Quinn Grove, Keilor East to meet immediate demand, and to seek further opportunities to grow the allocation of indoor sporting facilities within our municipality in the future.

Council views this project as part of a broader Keilor East active leisure precinct, alongside Council’s largest-ever single infrastructure investment, the redeveloped East Keilor Leisure Centre.
Support for Local Government Aged Services

Council is advocating for appropriate funding, including the continuation of block funding, to ensure continued delivery of local high quality aged care services beyond 2020. This should include an increase in the unit cost of block funding to more closely reflect the actual cost of service delivery. We are also seeking an exemption to the National Competition Policy for Victorian Councils who subsidise the higher cost of service delivery within a local government framework.

Why it’s important
Victorian Councils have a long history of delivering aged care services, beginning in the 1950s. However, fundamental changes to the way aged services are funded by the Federal Government have had a significant impact on local government.

Moonee Valley is proud of the quality of service we provide through our aged and home care programs. Our residents value the trust and consistency that comes from local government choosing to invest in aged and home care as a priority local service. We currently deliver a range of services for
seniors and carers, including Home Care Packages, home and community care, community meals, transport and exercise programs. In 2017-18, we delivered 37,182 meals to residents over the age of 65 and provided 32,628 hours of domestic assistance.

What we’re asking

The recent Federal Budget secured a two-year extension of funding for the Commonwealth Home Support Programme, which is welcome. However, ongoing security is required. Council is an active participant in the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) Aged and Disability Strategy Group and a signatory to the MAV’s Aged Friendly Victoria Declaration, and at our Ordinary Council Meeting of 11 December 2018, Councillors voted to join the new Joint Mayoral Taskforce on Aged Care Reforms initiated by Darebin City Council. Through these groups, we are advocating for the continuation of block funding and an increase in the unit cost of block funding to ensure that Councils like Moonee Valley continue to be in a position to deliver quality aged and home care.

We are also advocating for an exemption to the National Competition Policy for Victorian Councils who deliver aged and home care. Currently, with Commonwealth funding available not covering the increasing cost of delivering aged and home care within a local government context, Councils must opt to subsidise the delivery of direct service provision. This puts Councils at risk of breaching the Federal Government’s competitive neutrality policy.

An exemption from this policy would enable Councils to continue delivering services to the existing high standard. There is the capacity for the Victorian Government to modify the application of the National Competition Policy in Victoria to exempt Council-run Commonwealth Home Support Programme Services from the requirement to comply with National Competition Policy, making this both a State and a Federal issue of policy.
A new plan for Waste

Council supports a partnership between State, Federal and Local Government, along with industry, to find workable short and long-term solutions to the recycling crisis. We are also advocating for the adoption of an Action Plan for the National Waste Policy, the introduction of a container deposit scheme in Victoria, and the release of funding from the State Government’s Sustainability Fund.

Why it’s important

Around 51,300 tonnes of waste were generated within the Moonee Valley municipality in 2016-17. Of this total, approximately 57% was sent to landfill while 43% was diverted for recycling.

The majority of waste generated in Moonee Valley comes from kerbside collections and is equivalent to annual generation of around:

- 490kg of garbage waste per household
- 216kg of recyclables per household
- 249kg of organic waste per participating household.
In line with our long-term Strategy MV2040, Council has set the following aspirational long-term waste and resource recovery targets:
- By 2040, 90% of household waste diverted from landfill to recover resources
- By 2030, zero food waste disposed to landfill.

What we’re asking

At the time of writing, Victoria is experiencing a recycling crisis, with dangerous stockpiling of recycling materials forcing the closure of facilities at one of the State’s largest recycling firms. This has left some Victorian Councils in the position of having to divert household recycling to landfill.

There is a role for both State, and Federal Governments to play in helping Councils respond to the recycling crisis. The Federal Government has developed a National Waste Policy, but there is currently no Action Plan to guide its implementation. An Action Plan would provide clearly articulated tasks, responsibilities and timeframes for the achievement of goals set out in the National Waste Policy.

We need support to encourage the community to return to the principle of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Our Moonee Valley 2018 hard waste collection demonstrated a 65 per cent increase in waste compared to 2017. By encouraging residents to rethink their waste approach, we can help to contribute to a less disposable consumer culture. The State Government’s Sustainability Fund currently contains more than half a billion dollars generated from landfill levy income. There is an opportunity to harness this funding to bolster community education around waste, and to help Councils respond to the current recycling crisis.

Every State with the exception of Victoria a Tasmania has established, or plans to introduce a container deposit scheme, and there is pressure on the Victorian Government to follow. The Municipal Association of Victoria’s Rescue our Recycling campaign calls on the Victorian Government to introduce a container deposit scheme. This is supported by Council’s MV2040 Action Plan – Draft Waste and Resource Recovery Plan.

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Activating Maribyrnong River

Time frame
Medium-Long term

Council wants to see the activation of the Maribyrnong River precinct, including a continuous walking and cycling link along the river bank.

Why it’s important
The much-loved natural environment of the Maribyrnong River – from the Angler’s Tavern to Poynton’s Nursery – is one of Melbourne’s most popular locations for walking, running, riding and many other sports and recreation activities.

Council’s long term plan for the City, MV2040 identifies the Maribyrnong River precinct as a key initiative to create a series of walkable, connected, people-friendly sport, recreation, cultural and natural places in the Aberfeldie neighbourhood.

What we’re asking
With our community, we want to create a shared vision for the Maribyrnong River as a precinct for sport, recreation, culture and nature for current and future generations.

A vision that includes playing fields, new sports pavilions, a creative gallery, community gathering spaces, botanic and wetland areas, an active riverfront, better connections and
river crossings will transform this precinct into a vibrant events destination.

Creating a vision for this unique part of Moonee Valley will protect the precinct, celebrate its heritage, enhance its status and cater for future needs, ensuring that the sports clubs and many other user groups who call the precinct home will have a strong and viable future.

We are seeking the support of other levels of Government to bring our plan for the future of the Maribyrnong River precinct to life, with funding to help us create a continuous walking and cycling link along the river bank. This will open up the river for even more people to enjoy.