

# Plan for Victoria Submission

Banyule City Council



This submission has been prepared in consideration of materials on the Engage Victoria website '[Developing a new plan for Victoria](#)' and the supporting document '[Big Ideas for Victoria's Future](#)'. The City of Banyule welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to Plan Victoria. Our Submission was adopted by Council on Council on 26 August 2024 and is based upon the broad themes of Plan Victoria.

Council has recently adopted its Housing Strategy which exemplifies the capacity of Banyule to accommodate population growth over the coming 30 years. In developing the Housing Strategy Council undertook extensive community consultation to identify and understand our community's perspective on change and growth.

Council is concerned about how the State has generated its population targets without community consultation. An increase in population of 86% is significant and cannot be achieved without requisite growth in community infrastructure to protect and enhance the liveability of Banyule. The housing targets cannot be set and achieved in isolation, the partnership between the community, developers and Government must be functioning effectively. The opinions of the Banyule community have not been sought by the State prior to setting the housing targets. Without the communities considered feedback on the housing targets Council fears that the ambitions of Plan Victoria will not be achieved. Council is considering undertaking consultation on the Housing Targets to solicit the views of our community to provide to the State to better inform Plan Victoria.

We note that there is limited information available to comment on. Banyule would welcome an opportunity to provide feedback on a more complete Plan for Victoria in the future.

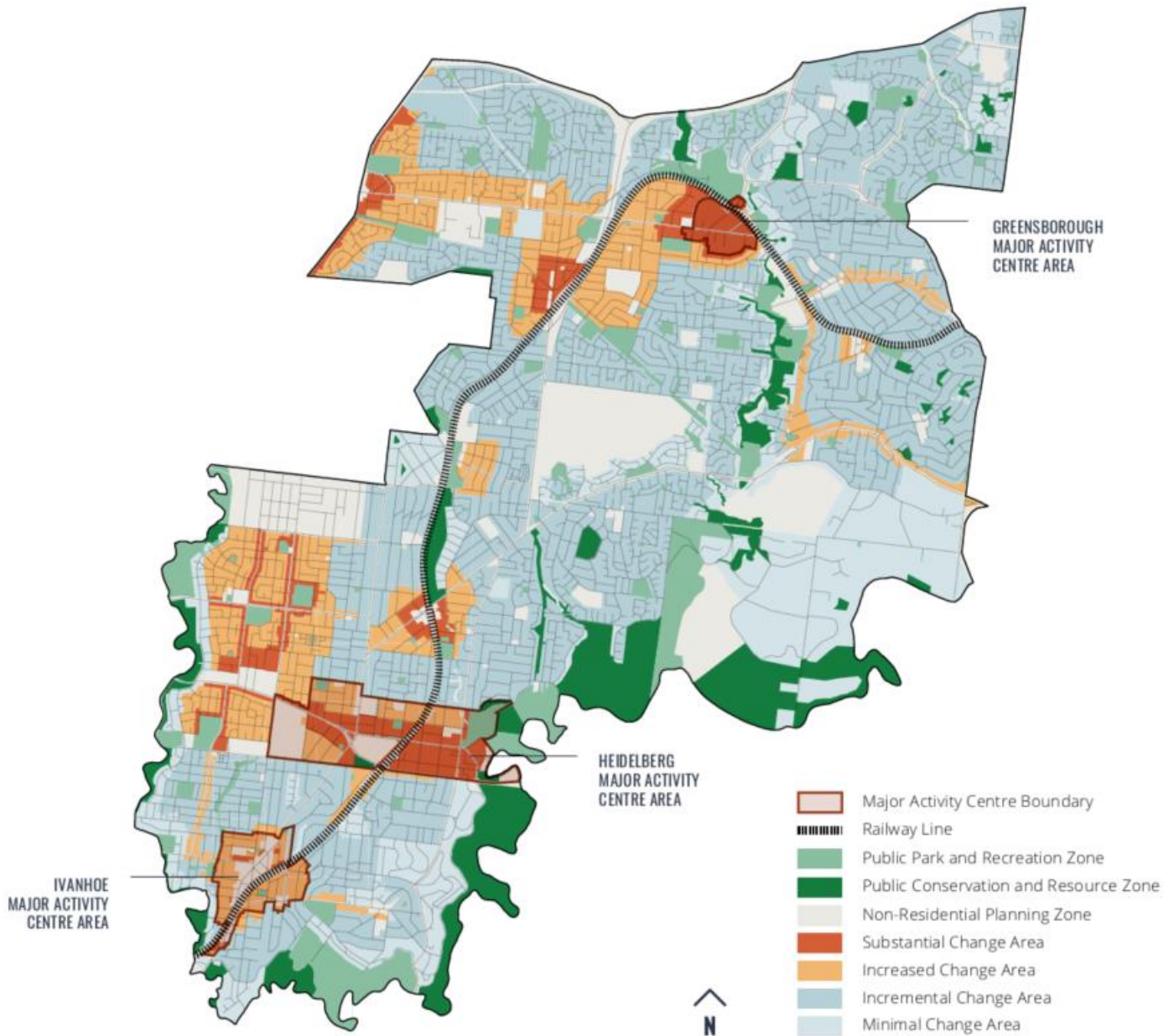
## Affordable Housing and Choice

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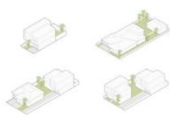
### Housing Targets and Directing Growth

- Based on information provided by the Plan for Victoria (PFV) team in a meeting between Banyule officers and the PfV team, we understand that the housing targets are capacity targets for housing in Banyule, rather than completed development targets. On this basis only, Banyule's Submission broadly accepts the draft housing targets, which are in line with Council's existing planning framework and Council's recently adopted *Housing Strategy (2024)* and *Neighbourhood Character Strategy (2024)*. However, support for the draft housing targets is subject to the targets being capacity targets rather than delivery targets, a better program of infrastructure renewal or upgrade, and a strong focus on climate action being implemented through the PfV document.
- Housing targets for councils should be based on capacity only and not measured in other ways such as completed developments. While local government has a role to play in allowing suitable capacity, and ensuring planning permit assessments are not unreasonably prohibitive, there is limited ability of local government to ensure that targets are met in completed development outcomes, since local government rarely develops land for housing under our current Victorian system.
- Subject to the housing targets being capacity based, housing capacity analysis undertaken for Banyule's *Housing Strategy (2024)* indicates that Banyule is in a position to meet the draft housing targets.
- As a separate matter, Banyule has concerns about how the housing targets have been communicated and how the community have been consulted on them. The Victoria Housing Statement set a target to build 800,000 new homes in Victoria over the next decade and Banyule questions the rational of this target and submits that the community should be given the opportunity to have a say on Victoria's future and how it is managed. Further, the draft housing targets, which appear to have come about from the Housing Statement, have been made public with limited supporting information about how the figures for each local government area have come about. Banyule notes that a future Councillor group may want more time to fully consult the Banyule community on the draft housing targets.
- A coordinated approach to supporting services and infrastructure is needed at a State level to support the anticipated housing and population growth. Banyule has identified a number of areas in which infrastructure or supporting services are needed to accommodate housing growth. In many cases the infrastructure or services are either not yet funded or outside the remit of councils. These items are important to a successful city and will be discussed further throughout this submission:

- Public transport upgrades including new bus routes along the suburban rail loop corridor while it is developed.
- An integrated transport strategy for delivery of public transport and active transport infrastructure.
- Stormwater planning reform which sees flooding overlays implemented at a State level. Additionally, a strategy which identifies regional infrastructure renewal priorities and sets out a plan for delivery.
- Investigation of alternative ways to manage waste collection in medium and high-density housing areas.
- Further support given to Council's for delivery of equitably distributed open space which also recognises a diversity in what different people need from public open space.
- Wrap around support services for social housing which support tenants.
- Climate action as a top priority. A strategy which maps a transition to zero emissions, including the electrification of public and private infrastructure.
- Banyule supports the 'Big Idea: More homes in locations with great public transport access'. Banyule's adopted *Housing Strategy (2024)* uses this same principle to direct housing growth towards train stations, tram routes and high frequency bus routes as identified in the Principle Public Transport Network (Victoria Planning Provisions incorporated document). Banyule's *Housing Strategy (2024)* also considers the activity centres for locations which can accommodate more growth, while retaining low levels of growth where there is significant biodiversity risk, heritage value or neighbourhood character value. The Housing Change Map is provided on the following page and shows locations where more homes should be located as substantial and increased housing change areas.
- A key issue with enacting housing growth and diversity objectives is underdevelopment of residential land. Planning reform which requires minimum mandatory building heights in Residential Growth Zone, Mixed Use Zone, Commercial Zone 1, Activity Centre Zone, etc., would avoid applications for underdevelopment and encourage greater housing choice in the areas designated for more housing.

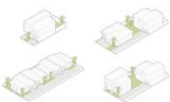


## Housing Change Areas



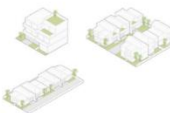
### Minimal Change Areas

In areas where minimal change applies there will be limited housing growth due to significant heritage or biodiversity values. New residential development will be retained at a maximum of two storeys and predominantly single detached dwellings. Most of these areas have already been protected by heritage and environmental overlays. However, due to vulnerability to overdevelopment, the areas will be zoned **Neighbourhood Residential Zone**. Minimal change will also apply to existing Low Density Residential Zone areas. These areas often have highly valued vegetation, but also provide a diversity of lot sizes in Banyule. There is no change proposed to these areas.



### Incremental Change Areas

In areas where incremental change applies, there is limited access to public transport, activity centres, jobs and open space. New development will provide modest infill opportunities and will contribute to housing diversity. Incremental change areas will support a range of well-designed, low and mid-scale density housing such as single dwellings, dual occupancy, and lower scale townhouse or multi-unit developments up to three storeys. Although the character of these areas will continue to evolve over time, new development will still respect existing characteristics that are relevant to the specific neighbourhood character types. These areas will be zoned **Neighbourhood Residential Zone** or **General Residential Zone**.



### Increased Change Areas

Areas identified with good access to activity centres, high frequency public transport, jobs or open space will be located in the increased change area. Increased change areas will provide a greater level of infill development, where units and townhouses will be encouraged, as well as some low scale apartment buildings. These areas may provide greyfield renewal opportunities. The character of these areas is expected to change over time, however new development will still consider the neighbourhood character objectives. These areas will be zoned **General Residential Zone**.



### Substantial Change Areas

Substantial change areas have excellent accessibility to high frequency public transport or activity centres and will experience the most significant levels of housing change. The objective for these areas is to encourage higher scale housing forms that contribute to Banyule's housing diversity and choice. Housing typologies will include higher scale density townhouses, apartment buildings, shop-top development and other mixed use developments (e.g. office space with apartments). In character areas where substantial change applies, new development will contribute to an emerging and evolving future character. While neighbourhood character objectives and garden area requirements will not apply in substantial change areas, Council is currently preparing Medium and Higher Density Landscape and Design Guidelines to ensure new development will be well designed, incorporate landscaping where possible and contribute positively to the public realm through building siting, materials and visual separation. These locations will be zoned **Residential Growth Zone**, **Mixed Use Zone** or **Activity Centre Zone**.

## Social and Affordable Housing

- Banyule supports the 'Big Idea: More housing options for all Victorians including social and affordable homes'. In some documents social and affordable housing is almost considered as a completely separate entity to market housing, however, all housing is a home, and all types of housing should be considered together for completeness in our housing landscape.
- When discussing housing options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, there should be strong partnership with Aboriginal controlled organisations such as Aboriginal Housing Victoria. Plan for Victoria should include commitments for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants.
- Banyule has also identified a gap in crisis accommodation for young people. It is especially dire for young LGBTIQ+ people who are more at-risk homelessness. Support is needed to develop short term crisis accommodation in Banyule, with a focus on young people.
- A minimum of 10% affordable housing targets in large developments 10+ storeys should be mandated through planning reform. 10% affordable or social housing is the benchmark set by the Victorian Housing Statement.
- Council is concerned that the definition of "affordable housing" is not well understood by the community, development industry and various agencies including Housing Victoria. Council urges the State to clarify with those parties through the Plan Victoria document that the definition of "affordable housing" as provided for in the Planning and Environment Act is determined from time to time under Section 3AB of the P&E Act at a maximum housing cost (rent or mortgage) of 30% of household Income for fit for purpose accommodation.
- Council sees the opportunity to increase the supply of Affordable Housing by exploring options to increase the proportion of affordable homes in a development commensurate with the overall scale of that development. Council remains supportive of the proposed minimum 10% target for affordable housing, however for larger scale development there may be an opportunity to substantially increase this proportion which Council requests should be explored, including engagement with the greater community.
- As part of the social and affordable housing discussion, Banyule considers that there should be support for more key worker housing in the Heidelberg Major Activity Centre and along the Hurstbridge train line. Heidelberg major activity centre is a key employment area in Banyule with a medical and education precinct. Banyule's census data analysis, as well as community feedback, found that many workers in the medical and education precinct are unable to afford to live near their place of work and therefore rely on their car to commute.
- Banyule considers there is significant State government land which provides good opportunities for social and affordable housing projects. A great opportunity is to place housing above train station carpark development such as the Watsonia Train Station redevelopment. In Greensborough, there has been new car parking built for train station parking and no housing is being built above the carpark in a prime location next to a major train station. State Government bodies could better coordinate to make sure all Victorian objectives are met (in this case, supporting public transport use and increased housing in appropriate locations).
- Support services need to accompany any social housing development as wrap-around services to support new tenants. Wrap around services for social housing developments would lead to more successful social housing placements and support tenants better through mental health services, alcohol and other drug programs, food relief, financial counselling, family violence services, etc.
- The Windfall Gains Tax significantly impedes Council's ability to invest in increased social and affordable housing as well as community infrastructure to support the needs of a growing population. The reasons for this include:
  - Councils do not profit from the retention or dealing in land like a private landowner. They hold land on behalf of the community they represent. Any value uplift achieved from a rezoning is of benefit to that community and not private shareholders or investors. The full benefit of that uplift is applied to community purposes. This could be to rezone land for social and affordable housing.
  - Council owned land is a form of public asset. If the value of land is increased via a rezone, it is for the benefit of the public. Land owned by a Council is often repurposed (through a rezone) to unlock and realise further value for the benefit of the community for which the land is held.

- Council continues to advocate against taxing Council's on the same basis as private landowners, developers and speculators. Taxing councils on value creation is a disincentive to realise the community value from land that could be better suited for housing.

## Good Design

- Good design is not being realised under the current planning and building system, but it is critical to the successful delivery of housing and the enjoyment of a neighbourhood. Through community consultation, Banyule council understands that much of the resistance to housing change is related to badly designed developments and poor contextual use of a site.
- Currently there is little incentive for developers to create well designed homes, and ResCode creates a "tick box" approach. If good design was better understood by both the public and developers, and developers and permit applicants are aware up front of the design expectations, it is more likely to be included at the earliest stage of the process, rather than as an afterthought later in the process.
- The need for social connection was emphasised through the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic exposed the vital role that social connections play in mitigating feelings of loneliness, anxiety, and stress. The shared experience of navigating the pandemic together highlighted the significance of community support, emphasising that social connections are not just niceties but essential components of our collective ability to endure and overcome challenges.
- The built form of both our public spaces and the interface with private property has a significant influence on social connection – the building and landscaping can either facilitate informal social connection or remove the possibility of casual encounters. High walls and hedges, blank facades, garage doors, security shutters and bedrooms facing streets with closed curtains, all remove the possibility for informal social connection. Conversely, there are specific design aspects of housing that can increase possibility of informal social connection:
  - *Low or no fences* – While high fences can create a sense of privacy and isolation, low or no fences can allow for visual connectivity and easy interaction between neighbours. A low fence can create the sense of a boundary and sub-consciously increases sense of security, without impacting on the ability to see what's happening on the street or inhibiting casual interactions.
  - *Verandah/porch that is a useable size* – The presence of a useable outdoor space increases the chance that a person spends time outside, and therefore increases the opportunities for informal interactions.
  - *Living (public) rooms facing the street* – A private room like a bedroom facing the street means that the occupant is more likely to have their blinds closed. On the other hand, living rooms and kitchens provide an opportunity for windows which are more likely to be used and the occupants can know what's happening in their street. The ability to see the street from a house is known to increase the occupants' feeling of safety.
  - *Use of vegetation and eaves* – While living room windows facing the street leads to a positive connection between occupant and the street, if the windows are too bare, it could lead to the occupant retreating e.g. with blinds. Landscaping and eaves provide a level of privacy without taking away the connection opportunity.
  - *Minimising presence of driveways and garages facing the street* – Creates a more pedestrian friendly environment and creates a more aesthetically pleasing streetscape so that people are more willing to walk in their neighbourhoods.

## Equity and Jobs

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### Employment Land

- Planning reform is needed to introduce minimum mandatory commercial floor space areas in Activity Centre Zone and Commercial 1 Zone to avoid erosion of commercial floor space with residential development.
- Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 identified the La Trobe National Employment and Innovation Cluster as a priority precinct. Banyule and Darebin Councils have since worked in partnership, along with NORTHLink and La Trobe University have begun a coordinated approach to planning for the precinct. The shared vision for the

precinct is to be “An economic powerhouse driving education, health and research innovation supported by a well-connected transport network, knowledge and economy, jobs and diverse housing for all. Underpinned by a net zero future for transformative impact.” There is a great opportunity to use the existing infrastructure (good public transport access, medical facilities and education facilities) to create a strong employment and innovation precinct. An Opportunity Statement 2024 is currently being prepared which sets out the goals and opportunities for the best future for the precinct.

### Jobs Equity

- PfV should recognise that and advocate for measures against entrenched disadvantage groups. For example there are opportunities to reduce the disadvantage gap with programs like inclusive employment programs, retail program, social enterprise cafes.
- Making education available to disadvantaged groups would support people to skill up and have a better chance of finding employment.

## Thriving and Liveable Suburbs

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### Public and Active Transport

- Banyule shares in the Victorian community response to Plan for Victoria in wanting a future that is vibrant and inclusive, and believes that this can be achieved through greater investment in and alignment of sustainable, public and active transport with jobs, homes and activity centres.
- For effective planning, and better integration of transport and planning in Victoria, there is a real need for an over arching Metro Melbourne transport strategy with a focus on public, sustainable and active travel and its integration into existing infrastructure. The absence of such a transport strategy can be seen in the delivery of major projects including the North East Link in Banyule, where the provision and connection of active travel (walking and cycling) infrastructure is often a protracted process with the ideal solution being the first to give way to the road carriageway and private vehicles.
- In the absence of Metropolitan Melbourne Integrated Transport Strategy, Council has been active in the Northern Councils alliance working on a Northern Councils Transport Strategy and sub strategies particularly in the area of Public Transport. However, a metropolitan integrated transport plan would better set State Government up to effectively prioritise projects and enable Council's to be better informed of upcoming transport projects.
- Banyule Council adopted the [Northern Councils Alliance Transport Strategy](#) and agrees that the following are the major concerns that need to be acted on in the region:
  - Public Transport being unreliable or unavailable, safety concerns on public transport.
  - Poor transport connections in growth areas, leading to more private vehicle traffic through inner and middle suburbs.
  - Inadequate and suitable bicycle infrastructure – slow completion of the strategic cycling corridor network turn the community off bike riding and back to private vehicles.
  - Poor connections from east to west – particularly in the area of public transport.
- The first plan from the Northern Councils Alliance is the Bus Advocacy Project. As previous, this document has been adopted by Banyule Council and Council endorses the following actions to improve public transport in the northern alliance area:
  - Implementation of Suburban Rail Loop bus (ahead of SRL which is decades away in the northern suburbs)
  - Review of Smart Bus – 901, 902, 903 – Routes and Frequency
  - Improvement of connections to LaTrobe University and Melbourne Airport
  - Public Transport in growth areas ie Mitchell Shire.
- Banyule Council also has a growing suite of policies, plans and strategies to address accessible and safe travel to destinations in the municipality and beyond. Each Strategy/Plan has a series of actions if/when

implemented will result in a safer, more sustainable and more active infrastructure and modes of travel. We refer Plan for Victoria to the following:

- [Banyule Integrated Transport Plan 2015-2035](#)
- [Banyule Bicycle Strategy and Action Plan 2022](#)
- [Banyule Walking Strategy 2018](#)
- [Banyule Safe Travel Plan 2016](#)
- Banyule is committed to developing and installing safer and more accessible active travel – walking and cycling – links on our roads and in our reserves. This infrastructure brings our community into the green spaces for which Banyule is well-known. In addition to this, Banyule has a \$200k Bicycle Initiatives Program which schedules a variety of bicycle skills, events, infrastructure audits and data collection; to encourage and promote cycling in the municipality. While Banyule is endeavouring to make our local infrastructure more accessible and sustainable, Council relies on the connections to the arterial road network, and a complete strategic cycling corridor network to attract more cyclists.
- In this regard, Council has adopted a [Banyule Transport Advocacy Project List](#) which is made up of priority transport infrastructure projects – the majority of which are for more accessible, sustainable and active transport. The projects have been identified through community engagement undertaken as part of our various Council transport strategies. Consultation feedback was also considered from our Council Plan and Community Plan.
- 78 projects included in the list are those that Council must advocate to the State or Federal Government for either funding assistance and/or because the project would be part of a State Government managed asset (arterial road or rail reserve) or require State Government approval. The BTAP List is used to support regular interactions with the State Government's Department of Transport as well as for advocacy efforts with local members of parliament and with the community.

### **Greyfield Renewal**

- Greyfields are residential areas where homes are aging, yet land values remain high. The existing subdivision pattern can be a key limiting factor in the delivery of housing typologies appropriate to the level of change envisaged within a neighbourhood. Many suburban lots are deep but relatively narrow. Higher density typologies can struggle to be achieved without significantly impacting the amenity of adjacent properties in terms of overshadowing and overlooking.
- Greyfield renewal is the process of lot consolidation and development of the new, larger lot which can handle mid-and higher scale housing better with improved off-site effects. Greyfield renewal opens up opportunities for improved development and design outcomes including more flexible approaches to site layout, access/crossovers and increased opportunities for canopy coverage on site. Incentivising lot consolidation as a key pathway to unlocking housing typology and scale is important in helping deliver the right types of housing in the right places.
- Greyfield renewal is currently not front of mind for most people. Support this type of urban renewal could be through education about the term, information and guidance on how it can be achieved, and funding provided for a pilot program. Swinburn University has created a [Renewal of Greyfield Precincts; Playbook for Local Government Practitioners](#) which is of great assistance.

### **Stormwater Planning and Infrastructure**

- Stormwater infrastructure needs significant investment and State Government intervention. Flood modelling and data is undertaken by Melbourne Water but is not properly integrated into planning schemes. Flooding overlays should be applied in the same way as bushfire overlays are applied as they both present significant risk to human life.
- Planning reform should also be undertaken to include higher performance standards in the Victorian Planning Provisions relating to water.

### **Waste Management**

- A significant aspect of creating thriving and liveable suburbs is ensuring effective and equitable waste management infrastructure. Often waste management is viewed as a background topic, yet it profoundly impacts daily living and community health. As our suburbs expand and the number of residents and multi-unit developments increases, the demand for waste collection services will increase. Accessibility issues arise

with multi-unit developments, basement storage, and parked cars obstructing waste trucks. Additionally, kerbside services often compete with parked cars for space, complicating the collection process and potentially leaving bins uncollected. This trend requires careful planning and coordination to ensure all residents receive adequate waste services, preventing potential public health and environmental issues.

### Open Space

- Banyule seeks support to increase open space provision through the new Plan for Victoria, specifically via funding and grant opportunities and links to Banyule’s First Nations commitment to Caring for Country. An emphasis is given in Council’s Submission to equitable distribution (to ensure all residents in Banyule have good access to quality green public open space) and the diversity of need (to acknowledge that different people have different needs when it comes to open space)
- More government grant opportunities would be welcomed, especially for projects on Council owned or managed land.
- Better project coordination between local and state government agencies to ensure quicker and cheaper outcomes for trails and parks which straddle multiple jurisdictions. Banyule acknowledges that for certain projects it may be more appropriate for government agencies and departments to run the project themselves, such as some of the trail projects that are primarily along Victrack, Melb Water or DEECA land or land managed by them, that might also cross Council boundaries.
- The Northern Trails 2022 Strategy. It is an advocacy document and was developed collaboratively between Merri-bek, Hume, Banyule Nillumbik, Whittlesea and Darebin to prioritise un-funded off-road walking/cycling trails in the northern region. It has an overall region wide top 10 trail priority project list as well as individual Council area project priority lists.

### Canopy Cover Targets

- Banyule strongly supports the idea of more trees in in public areas including streets and reserves and this aligns with Banyule’s [Urban Forest Strategy \(2023\)](#).
- The Strategy recognises that even with all the spaces planted in public areas we still have a large gap to realise our goals as illustrated in the graph:

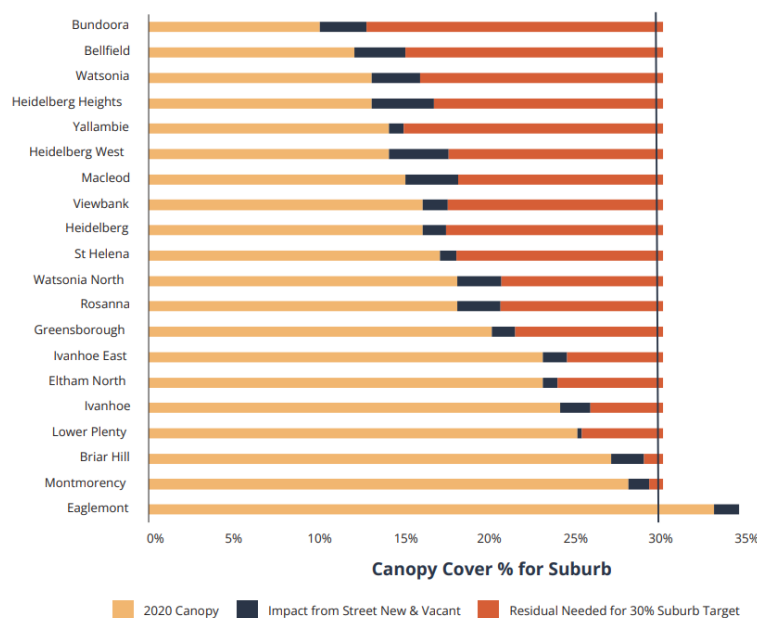


Figure 10. Suburb canopy cover - gap to 30% Target (yellow bars indicate current canopy, blue bars indicate projected canopy increase from street tree planting, orange bars indicate the gap between projected canopy cover and needed canopy cover).

- Infrastructure Victoria have previously recognised the canopy cover gap in their [draft recommendations](#). Banyule would encourage the positive message about public planting to also have some consideration in the private realm if we are to meet urban canopy objectives.
- Canopy cover objectives would be supported by stronger tree protection and deep soil planting requirements.

- Canopy trees on streets are in conflict with electricity line clearance. Banyule advocates for changes in electric line clearance regulations to better align with our Urban Forest Strategy tree canopy goals. We also support the Municipal Association of Victoria's (MAV) motions to amend the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020, particularly concerning low voltage line clearances. As part of our advocacy, Council has supported requests to ELCCC to consider reducing the standard minimum clearance around low voltage uninsulated lines in Low Bushfire Risk Areas (LBRA) from 1000mm to 300mm. Additionally, we support the efforts of other local government areas in seeking an exception to allow existing structural branches of mature street trees to be retained within 150-300mm of these lines. This adjustment would benefit Banyule's street tree population, which predominantly falls within Low Bushfire Risk Areas.

## Sustainable Environments and Climate Action

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### Climate Action

- PfV must have an emphasis on meaningful climate action and environmental protection. There are a number of items that need a strong narrative and measurable actions if Victoria and Australia are to meet our climate action goals:
  - Focus on emissions reduction and protection of biodiversity.
  - Electrification of private and public infrastructure.
  - Emphasis on protection and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat is preferred over simply planting more trees in urban areas.
  - Local level community energy projects such as renewable energy plus batteries, which also provides climate resilience.
  - Urban heat island effect mitigation standards for material selection
  - Community Gardens and organic waste disposal at local non-industrial scale

### Waterways

- Rivers and creeks are an important aspect of climate action and they need to be protected from overdevelopment. Sustainable stormwater management, local wetlands and treatment methods are needed to enhance the local environment and attract bird life.
- There are already many documents, plan and strategies which need funding and implementation:
  - Accelerating the pathways to [Integrated Water Management](#) from Water For Victoria 2016 and ensuring the significant investment required in the greater Melbourne IWM Plans arising from this strategy.
  - Delivering on [Burndap Birrarung burndap umarko, the Yarra Strategic Plan](#) including accelerating funding models and capacity building for Traditional Owners and Responsible Public Entities.
  - Funding assistance to deliver the [Healthy Waterways Strategy](#) including review of stormwater priority areas that limit investment in urban waterways with lower water quality rankings
  - finalizing the [MUSIA Review](#) to provide certainty for investment and maintenance of water assets.
  - increased investment in public education and awareness of the [EPA Act General Environment Duty](#) and better EPA resourcing to follow up pollution reports and assign them to the correct Duty Holder.
  - Supporting increased awareness about other Victorian Planning controls relating to water.

### Waste Management

- Effective waste management is critical for achieving sustainable environments and climate action goals. Victorians have highlighted the importance of effective recycling programs and alternatives to single-use plastics. However, the Plan lacks specific actions addressing these concerns. Waste Reduction and Circular Economy should be a featured consideration of this plan, and goes hand in hand with maintaining bush, forest, and river systems and maintaining open spaces. With rising populations and increased medium and high-density living, managing waste is more crucial than ever. Proper waste management is fundamental to the success of all other sustainability initiatives. Without it, efforts to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability will be undermined.
- Key considerations should include:

- Increased product stewardship approaches for priority items, including soft plastics, single-use plastics, solar panels and expanded polystyrene.
- Better redistribution of municipal landfill levy to support the management of dumped rubbish, litter and transfer stations to provide 'free' support for product stewardship and state-based recycling schemes that require local government staff and infrastructure to deliver.
- Push for regulations encouraging recyclable and sustainable packaging design.
- Encourage the exploration of new waste technologies, and innovation to recover and repurpose items currently viewed as waste.
- Considerations in future trade agreements to ensure they align with Australian packaging laws and recycling capabilities.
- As we plan for Victoria's future, it is imperative that waste management be a central focus. The effective handling of waste not only ensures cleaner, healthier living environments but supports broader sustainability goals. We urge the inclusion of specific waste management strategies in the state plan to address the growing needs and complexities of our communities.